

The EU and its Member States interventions on Agenda items 8 and 9 of the 9th
Annual Subcommittee Meeting

“Agenda Item 8: Status of the implementation of the outcome of the consensual
process for reviews by the CPR”

Ad a) Overall status of implementation of the outcome:

- EU + MS thank UNEP for the update regarding the implementation of the CPR based review.
- Many recommendations apply to future UNEA preparations which we will need to start in not so distant future, we welcome this opportunity to remind ourselves on what we had agreed on.
- We are largely pleased with the progress made in several areas, including on the process and timelines prepared to agree on the theme for the next UNEA.
- We welcome the continued collegiality and cooperation between the CPR and UNEA bureaus and within the bureaus. We thank all Bureau members for their active engagement and the Secretariat for their support in preparing for our meetings.
- We also encourage implementation of the recommendations of the UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50 lesson learned document, in particular, recommendations on preparation of resolutions and their timelines, which is also outlined in paragraph 13 of the CPR based review.
- EU + MS would like to draw the attention to paragraph 6 of the CPR Based review, which recommends to include in the agenda of UNEAs an item on the “Cooperation with MEAs”. The provisional agenda for UNEA 6, that was agreed at UNEA 5.2 does not include such an agenda item. We invite the UNEA 6 bureau to take that recommendation into account and propose an amendment to the provisional agenda of UNEA 6, to include an agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements”.
- This will offer an opportunity for UNEP Member States and the parties to MEAs to discuss and promote collective programmatic and administrative efforts between UNEP and MEAs to promote coherence between the UNEA resolutions and the MEAs governing bodies’ decisions.
- We remain grateful to UNEP for its efforts to continue organizing meetings in a hybrid format as that allows wider participation of Member States in various meetings.
- Finally, we encourage the Secretariat to continue and further strengthen efforts to prepare for our meetings strategically and in a timely manner. This of course includes timely development and provision of documents, but also

having clear purpose to those meetings, and conclusions. They need to be results based meetings.

- In that regard, we call on the Bureau and the secretariat to provide comprehensive overview of future briefings on the implementation of resolutions and the POW, supported with the explanation on how they will contribute to the implementation of the MTS.

Ad b) Consideration of the performance reporting of the United Nations Environment Programme (paragraph 14 (c)).

- EU+MS thank the secretariat for the note and the presentation outlining the current reporting mandates and practices for the Secretariat, including the recommendations to rationalize reporting, ensuring efficient and effective oversight by Member States in response to paragraph 14 c of the recommendations of the CPR based review.
- Following this overview, EU + MS understand the request of the Secretariat to reduce the reporting burden on the Secretariat and wherever this is possible, EU+MS agree to streamline reporting to be used for multiple purposes, as well as to align the meetings where possible with the reporting timelines.
- EU+MS therefore agree with:
 - Recommendation 1: that reporting on the Programme of Work (Programme Performance Reporting (PPR) should take place annually, not bi-annually.
 - Recommendation 2: that the Quarterly reports to the regular meetings of the CPR should focus on quarterly highlights. However, we still consider useful to receive reporting on the results framework of the Programme of Work, because this would allow us to follow the progress over the course of the year.
 - Recommendation 3: on the online UNEP Monitoring and Reporting Portal being the primary source of information on resolutions. But it is still important that briefings on specific aspects of the implementation of the Programme of Work and UNEA resolutions will continued to be provided to the CPR at our request.
 - We also agree with the Recommendation 4 on the alignment of dates of the annual subcommittee meeting with UNEP's programme reporting cycle. We indicated that already in a previous agenda item. We are open to consider different scheduling of the annual subcommittee in odd years as compared to even years, if we intend to use them to prepare for UNEA.

- On Recommendation 5: on engagement with CPR and performance reporting: we continue to believe that more emphasis should be placed on identification and analysis of the links between projects and their results, the resolutions, the PoW and the MTS. It is good practice to develop lessons learned and to present the next steps for implementation.
- EU and its MS also support Recommendation 6: To encourage funding partners to make use of existing reports and Recommendation 7: to explore opportunities to harness digital technology to better communicate UNEP performance results while being mindful of the digital divide.
- With regards to this last point, we would encourage UNEP to provide easily found and open access to the monitoring portal to enhance its user friendliness.

“Agenda Item 9: Consultation on the theme for UNEA-6”

- First I thank the Executive Director for presenting us the options for the theme.
- The EU and MS also welcome Her Excellency the President of UNEA 6 in this meeting and thank her for her leadership and for enabling a clear and transparent process of consultations.
- In our view, the theme should ideally fit within the frame of the UNEP mandate, the UN system, Agenda 2030 as well as MEAs, and key UNEA resolutions.
- We find it important that stakeholders and youth in particular, have the opportunity to meaningful participation in the considerations regarding the theme.
- The theme should be strongly informed by science.
- In this context, the EU and its MS are supportive of a theme that can contribute to addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- However, keeping in mind how wide reaching scope that is, the EU and its MS would prefer to have a somewhat more focused theme.
- Looking at the three proposals, we believe that all three proposed themes would resonate with the objectives of the Summit for The Future (2024) – which we appreciate. And they are a good basis for discussion.
- Option three strikes a balance between relevant cross-cutting environmental issues, making the link between the three planetary crises more visible and material.

- We believe that this proposal could be slightly adjusted to say: “addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution by aligning commitments”.
- EU + MS also believe that the third theme proposal could both accelerate system-wide transformations and address circular economy practices in high impact sectors.
- The second proposed theme (towards the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable development) offers unique opportunity for a focused and impactful UNEA-6 as this human right has crosscutting dimension and is linked also with the effectiveness of the environmental governance.
- This Annual Subcommittee Meeting is the first exchange of views on the theme, in order to select and improve theme options, to make them strategic and important from environmental perspective, and capable to lead us towards the better implementation of UNEP mandate.
- The EU+MS are ready to have a constructive dialogue on the theme with other UNEP member states, both the Bureaus of the CPR and UNEA and the UNEP Secretariat to reach a final agreement on the overarching theme by February 2023.