

Comments by the Permanent Mission of Mexico on the “Note by the Secretariat on the Structure and Organization of the 2017 Environment Assembly”

- Mexico welcomes the early preparations towards defining the structure and organization of UNEA-3.
- Furthermore, Mexico is encouraged that the note by the Secretariat reflects that UNEA must allow for interactive discussions and provide a link to the HLPF. Such issues have been underlined by the Permanent Mission in a verbal manner due to their importance.
- Regarding the section entitled “Considerations”:
 - While parallel meetings will be unavoidable, experience from UNEA-2 calls for limiting the number of parallel negotiation groups to a maximum of 2. This is especially relevant for smaller delegations and for delegations with no permanent missions in Nairobi.
 - Time management considerations should not involve the use of the word “strict”, as Ministers and other high-ranking officials will be participating and engaging their counterparts on global issues. Such discussions and common understandings are at the heart of the high-level segment to produce political direction at the highest level. Limiting an interactive engagement on the basis of strict timing is not conducive to achieve this result.
 - Regarding the impact of funding constraints on interpretation services, it is important to consider that no violation of the rules of procedure of UNEA occur, as they are clear on the availability of the six official UN languages for interpretation and translation of documents. During the discussions of the change of cycle of UNEA and its approval, the Mexican delegation reiterated a number of times that no financial or political implications should arise in order to support the change and to hold UNEA-3 in 2017.
- On the matter of the universality of the Assembly, the note should also include the provisions through which non-resident missions and capitals are engaged early on in the negotiation processes.
- Regarding the outcomes of UNEA-3:
 - They should provide timely, clear, and actionable inputs for the HLPF.
 - A ministerial negotiated outcome with clear political messages is preferred.
 - A Global Action Plan could result in important recommendations on a wide array of environmental issues that require urgent and decisive actions.
- The Mexican delegation is inclined to scenario 1, as it provides a clearer and more efficient structure for the Assembly in the understanding that most resolutions and final outcomes will have been negotiated prior to the beginning of UNEA-3.
- Finally, Mexico urges the Chair of the CPR and the Secretariat to produce an agenda and proposed structure for the Open-Ended CPR, as well as a draft chronogram of the intersessional period to initiate negotiations, where possible, of draft resolutions and the potential outcomes.