

MEXICO'S COMMENTS – UNEP SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 15 MARCH 2018

INPUTS OF UNEA TO THE HLPF (JULY 2018)

- The Permanent Mission of Mexico has taken note of the draft inputs of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the July 2018 meeting of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
- The following are preliminary comments, as Mexico is still reviewing in further detail the contents of the draft proposal.
- Mexico suggests that, in addition to the responses to the different sections of the template provided by the ECOSOC, an **introductory synthesis** is added to summarize the **overarching environmental perspective** of sustainable development (including challenges and opportunities), which can be easily replicated in the synthesis report of the 2018 HLPF.
- A suggestion is also made to include relevant emerging issues, which could support the panel discussions on the same matter at the HLPF, which take into account specific and cross-cutting issues that do not necessarily relate to a particular SDG.
- Mexico further suggests that the role of international cooperation (in its different modalities) is also highlighted throughout the document.
- As per the guidelines of the UNEA-3 resolution “Contributions of UNEA to the HLPF”, the answers on the template should not only focus on the Third Environment Assembly but build upon relevant information dating back to the first UNEA, as appropriate.
- Pertaining to section (a) *An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level*, Mexico suggests that the specific references to the spearheading activities of UNEP be reflected as UNEP acting under the guidance of the Assembly as the document speaks of UNEA as a whole, while it is understood that UNEP will have its separate input as a specific agency of the UN system.
- Pertaining to section (b) *The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges*, estimates of the approximate financial costs and pressures on the health sector in different countries and regions could serve to showcase the inter-linkages between the environmental dimension and the social and economic dimensions of the health-environment nexus.

THEME OF THE 4TH UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

- The Permanent Mission of Mexico has taken note of the Summary of the Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme of 27 February 2018.
- Mexico could support the overarching theme of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), however it is suggested that biodiversity issues are clearly reflected as one of the sub-themes.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into key productive/economic sectors, in collaboration with the private sector and civil society, can be fundamental to understand (and create awareness of) the

positive and negative impacts of consumption and production patterns in the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- The proposal of innovation as an additional possible theme merits further consideration, as there is also opportunity to consider in the subthemes issues of mainstreaming biodiversity into key productive sectors, as well as issues related to exponential technological change and its implications for sustainable development.
- Furthermore, taking into account the SDGs that will be under review during the 2019 HLPF, efforts should be made to promptly identify convergence (where possible) with said SDGs and the broader UNEA theme and its subthemes. This will aid in successfully delivering on the 2030 Agenda from the environmental perspective, as well as prepare more substantive contributions to the HLPF and better inform the agenda item of UNEA that will be dedicated to said contributions.

MODALITIES FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD

- Mexico aligns itself with the GRULAC common position on its flexibility of holding the next OECPR “back-to-back” with UNEA-4 on an exceptional basis, taking into account the short time available before the fourth Environment Assembly.
- However, after UNEA-4, going back to regular procedures must be ensured, as the adjustment of the biennial cycle of UNEA will have concluded.
- Holding the 4th OECPR “back-to-back” with UNEA must be accompanied with an efficient and effective use of the **intersessional period**, especially through meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and its Subcommittee well in advance of the OECPR.