

## Implementation of UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration

### EU/MS comments

#### CPR subcommittee meeting September 12th

##### General comments:

- The EU and its MS thank the secretariat for its presentation of the background document on implementation of UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration.
- We support a wide and engaging consultation process to ensure ownership of all member states, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to fully implement actions in UNEA-4 ministerial declaration, including development of global environmental data strategy.
- Innovation was a central theme in the Ministerial Declaration and we welcome the observation or intention shared by UNEP that, by embracing the key enablers of an innovative culture (creativity, openness and participation), MS can be supported to scale up successful approaches and innovative solutions.
- Follow-up and review of commitments, including those set out in UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration would contribute to achieving SCP and scale up development and implementation of innovative solutions to overcome common environmental challenges. We would like to stress, however, the importance of the follow-up and review of all the decisions, resolutions and commitments made in UNEA and we would like to refer to the resolution that we also agreed at UNEA-4 on this issue.
- The EU and its MS underline the importance of the monitoring, and the access to relevant data and information, which are key for evidence-based policy making.
- We also agree that one of the requests highlighted in the Ministerial Declaration is the development of a global environmental data strategy. The EU continues to support that there is a need for that and we are positively open to further elaborate proposed three strategic objectives for the Global Environment Data Strategy.
- However, the document raises some questions, both on subject, content and structure:
  1. From the outset it is unclear to us what the document is addressing precisely:
    - the setup of a framework to monitor implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and/or other decisions, resolutions and commitments by UNEA,
    - a Global Environment Data Strategy,
    - or both?
    - **In our view, these are distinct issues, that should be addressed separately.**
    - We do however agree, that a Global Environment Data Strategy should take into account the agreement to monitor implementation of commitments and may eventually contribute to monitoring the implementation in an adequate and cost-efficient manner.
  2. On the Global Environmental Data Strategy, the EU and its MS understand that 2 transformative pathways are proposed:
    - Internally: to bring together all relevant units within UNEP to develop an integrated approach towards the collection, analysis of data, etc.;
    - Externally: through a One Global Partnership, digital transformation platforms and World Environment Situation Room.
    - The EU and its MS welcome the initiative to form a task team internally to ensure a more integrated approach and assume that this will improve and lead to more efficient data management.

- On the intention to develop a One Global Partnership, we would welcome further information, in particular on its objectives. Furthermore, we would like to understand how this Partnership, the digital transformation platforms and the World Environment Situation Room are related to the Global Environmental Data Strategy.
  - We would therefore like to request the Secretariat to present in the next subcommittee meeting in a comprehensive manner how a Global Environmental Data Strategy will be developed, its objectives, key partners involved, including the milestones towards its development.
3. On section 5 "A monitoring framework towards implementing a Global Environmental Data Strategy":
- The EU and its MS understand that that section is in fact describing a Monitoring Framework for monitoring progress on implementation of the Ministerial Declaration.
  - In that respect we welcome the approach to take in the best use of relevant existing regular environmental reporting systems, and improve, where it is necessary.
  - We would like to seek a clarification on the term „key performance indicators“. Will there be new indicators in addition to the SDG indicators that have been identified relevant to the MoD commitment?
4. On the next steps:
- As indicated earlier, the EU and its MS welcome the consultation on this issue and would like to continue to be engaged in the 2 subjects related to the follow-up of the Ministerial Declaration:
    - The development of a monitoring framework for the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration (and possibly other resolutions);
    - The development of a Global Environment Data Strategy.
  - In our view, these are distinct processes and should be developed and presented separately, while recognizing their interlinkages.
  - We would also like to get a clear explanation on the proposed advisory and coordination mechanism
  - We therefore would like to request the Secretariat to revise the document in light of our comments and of other MS and present a revised version to the next CPR subcommittee meeting.
  - Furthermore, we would like to request the Secretariat to include in the next presentation an overview of the estimated budgetary implications and the related sources of funding.

**Detailed comments:**

On section 2 "Principles guiding the overall implementation":

- The EU and its MS would like to note that the guiding principles mentioned here seem to be mixing those principles that are relevant to the implementation and a follow up of the Ministerial Declaration (by MS, International organizations, including UNEP, and other relevant stakeholders) with those that are relevant for developing a monitoring framework for the the Ministerial Declaration. Therefore we find the title of this chapter „Principles guiding the overall implementation“ misleading.

- We would therefore suggest that the Secretariat reassesses this section in light of the general comments made above to provide a comprehensive set of principles.

On section 3 "Why a Global Environmental Data Strategy matters in tackling environmental challenges":

- This section provides an overview of projects/initiatives by UNEP, relevant to data collection, data sharing and reporting on relevant goals and commitments. However, it is unclear what is the purpose of this information in relation to the 2 subjects that seem to be addressed. We would appreciate if UNEP could specify more thoroughly, why environmental data matters in tackling environmental challenges.

On section 4 "Two Transformational Pathways in a Global Environmental Data Strategy":

- The EU and its MS would like to seek clarity what is behind „One Global Partnership“, including its partners and responsibility to establish a strategy and roadmap until 2030.
- What are the objectives of this strategy and how it is related to a global environmental data strategy, digital transformation platforms and World Environment Situation Room.

On section 5 "A monitoring framework towards implementing a Global Environmental Data Strategy"

- Titles of paras 5.1 and 5.2 refer to implementation of a Global Environment Data Strategy, where in fact an overview is provided on how to fulfil to request to the Executive Director to track the implementation of the actions set out in the UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration, through a regular assessment processes.
- Where it is mentioned „The Ministerial Declaration thus expresses a desire to use existing systems rather than to develop new ones“ gives a rather wrong impression that there may be no need for new systems, solutions, technologies for making available of quality, accessible, open, timely and disaggregated data. In our view, this statement applies to the development of a monitoring framework for the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration. However, the EU and its MS assume that one of the outcomes of the Global Environment Data Strategy could be that new solutions for data management may be required/desirable.
- We also would like to seek clarification on term „key performance indicators“. In annexed table 1, we can find relevant SDG indicators next to each actions of ministerial declaration. In section 2 it is said that for each and every global Key Performance Indicator there will be defined a baseline and targets. Will there be new indicators in addition to SDG's? Or UNEA-4 ministerial declaration implementation will be measured through SDG indicators? If this is the case, then there would be less confusing to use term „SDG indicators“.