

## I. CPR/SC2019/3 Programme performance review for January 2018 – June 2019

Montenegro expressed its supports to the adoption of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2020–2021, by requesting for PoW to accommodate a conclusion of the Ministerial Conference on Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe related to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme sub-regional presence to facilitate exchange of information and creation of partnerships and furthermore implement national environmental protection and sustainable development policies. On that occasion, we invited UNEP to analyse implications of this approach to the region of South East and Southern Europe in order to put in place optimal institutional arrangements and deliver the PoW at this (sub-)regional level.

Considering PoW of UNEP for the biennium 2020-2021 as the most important programmatic framework, we suggested addressing those priorities that are in line with the Implementation Plan of the Ministerial Declaration “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet“, including the following:

- i) strengthening of national capacities to implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- ii) meeting the obligations under respective multilateral environmental agreements;
- iii) facilitating an access to innovative partnerships to enhance efforts to implement policies, legislations and programmes;
- iv) waste prevention, reuse, recycling and resource recovery to minimize environmental impacts, reduce costs and increase green jobs in the transition to circular economy;
- v) creation of public-private partnerships in the field of pollution prevention, monitoring and reduction;
- vi) reduction of all type of marine litter.

With the view to our position expressed during UNEA-4, **I would like to ask for information if the financial means are settled in PoW for the biennium 2020-2021 with the aim to support the achievement of the de-pollution objectives of the Ministerial Conference on Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe.**

## II. CPR/SC2019/4 Translating our “Roadmap for Mainstreaming UNDS Reforms” into action and results

Montenegro welcomes the key steps which UNEP undertakes in line with the (UNEA) resolution 4/1 as to respond to the repositioning of the UN development system. In particular, we express support to the **Roadmap for Mainstreaming UNDS Reforms** that provides an assessment of internal policies, guidelines and regulations that are needed to be adjusted in order to implement the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 71/243 and 72/279.

We strongly support efforts aimed at increasing UNEP’s engagement in outreach to the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) system. Within Reinigorated Resident Coordinator System, **we would like to call for appointment of UNEP representative within Resident Coordinator Office (RCO)**. This would facilitate UNEP’s technical expertise and environmental advisory support to Resident Coordinators/UN Country Teams as to support integration of UNEP PoW and UNEA’s Resolutions into UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. To that effect, Montenegro would like to propose amendment of the bullet point 3, section 3. Reinigorated Resident Coordinator System, on page 1, as to read as follows: **“In the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, we used a virtual connection to contribute to the ECA regional RC meeting (September 2019). Furthermore, an interest of ECA countries should be explored with regards UNEP’s representation in the UN Country Teams”**. (blue highlighted text marks amended text)”.

(page 2) With regards to Funding the Resident Coordinator System, I would like to ask for more detailed explanation if 1% levy or 15% of non-core resources to joint UN activities may support representation of UNEP in the Country, namely i) to support implementation of project activities under UNEP portfolio; ii) to partially contribute to financing of at least one post in Resident Coordinator Country Team who would act as UNEP's in-country representative.

(page 2) I would like to ask for an explanation of the sentence: "We are undertaking measures to put forward candidates who have passed the UNRC assessment to deploy as RCs". Does it refer to efforts aimed at ensuring UNEP's staff members who passed the UNRC assessment to be deployed as Regional Coordinators?

(page 3) Considering explanation provided with regards to UNEP's in-country representatives reporting to the Resident Coordinator, **we would like to propose Montenegro to pilot UNEP's presence at UN Resident Coordinator Country Team.** The main purpose of this proposal is to ensure UNEP priorities are defined and included into the new Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development, as well as to extend project activities under UNEP portfolio.

Considering proposed **conclusion** (page 6) that refers to the importance of opening UN Reform process for UNEP with a view to strengthen coordination of environmental policies and strategies at global, regional and national levels, as well as to create a more engaged partnership with national governments and partner organizations, I would like to propose amendment as follows:

**"• UNEP looks forward to a continued open and constructive engagement with our CPR to help deliver better, as well as through engagement of UNEP's in-country representative within RC Country team".** (blue highlighted text marks amended text).

(page 5) **Reviewing the profile and structure of country and regional assets:** Appreciating UNEP's intention to further strengthen partnership with UN Regional Commissions and Regional UN Sustainable Development Groups (RUNSDGs) as to promote policies and good practices at regional level to be translated into concrete actions at the country level, we would like to **underline crucial importance of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean region.** At recently organized 18th meeting of MCSD in Montenegro, in June 2019, it was agreed to strengthen cooperation of this regional forum with UN regional commissions, namely with UN-ECA, UN-ECE and UN-ESCWA with the aim to provide substantive inputs to their respective annual Regional Forum for Sustainable Development. Namely, a need to strengthen peer learning and experience sharing among Mediterranean countries was emphasized, including peer review of the national strategies for sustainable development and VNRs presentation at the HLPF.

The members of MCSD agreed on monitoring implementation of MSSD, not only through the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard of selected indicators but also via Flagship Initiatives and exchanges of good practices, which will in turn significantly contribute to the achievement of the synergies among national, regional and global processes related to sustainable development.

In such a manner UNEP will be better positioned to provide significant contribution to collective efforts aimed at addressing regional and sub-regional priority issues in line with new Cooperation Framework Guidelines, respectively to implement decisions of the regional Forums of Ministers of Environment and UNEA's resolutions.

To that effect, I would like to suggest amending the sub-chapter "Reviewing the profile and structure of country and regional assets" as follows: **"We will closely follow up on the activities of the**

**Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development as to ensure optimal coordination of UNEP/MAP and UNEP's efforts in delivering environmental dimension of UN Agenda 2030"** (page 5-6).

I also would like to express support to UNEP's active engagement in discussions on the regional UN Reform process, which includes an option to establish UN Regional Collaboration Platforms that would merge the Regional Coordination Mechanism and R-UNSDG mechanisms into one.

### **III. 7 UNEP.CPR.SC2019.7 Note on implementation of resolution UNEA.4Res.22**

With regards to the Note on implementation of resolution UNEA.4Res.22 related to implementation and follow up of UNEA resolutions and related activities, Montenegro would like to recall written suggestions provided on 1st July 2019 in a follow up of the 146th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 20 June 2019.

Montenegro expresses its appreciation for the work of the Secretariat related to development of three options that are aimed at responding to a request provided in paragraph 5 of UNEP/EA.4/Res.22 (L.26). All three options are proposed considering a need to provide regular comprehensive indicator-based reporting on implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget, as well as to ensure integration of the implementation of the resolutions in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Duly considering comparisons of pro and cons findings for each of the three proposed options, Montenegro finds that the Option 2 provides the optimal relationship between mandates given in the resolutions and declaration with the activities mandated through the approved Programme of Work and Budget. This option will result with standardized reporting process that in turn will motivate greater feedback and guidance from the Member States. It is particularly important that the Option 2 eliminates any overlap between Programme Performance Reporting and quarterly reports to the regular meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

If the feedback of the Member States would indicate a risk of increasing reporting burden for the Secretariat, in particular on a medium-term basis, Montenegro recommends implementation of the Option 1 "Improved Status Quo". In such a manner a clearer monitoring of the resolutions' implementation will be ensured, before optimal conditions for establishment of the option 3 are provided.

Furthermore, Montenegro would like to use an opportunity of the Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the CRP to express its support to proposed road map for establishment of the monitoring mechanism to track and assess UNEP's implementation of the resolutions in the framework of the Programme of Work and Budget. This road map as presented in Figure 3 to cover period from October 2019 to October 2020 is well designed to ensure operationalization, development and assessment of phase one towards phase two, with regards to both voluntary reporting components along with the mandate analysis and technical ICT components. We are looking forward to its operationalization by February 2020 as to make it capable to generate system analysis and reports, that will in turn make a positive contribution to the quality and effectiveness of future UNEA's decisions, while tracking the UNEA's decisions integration into PoW and furthermore UNEA's impacts on delivering environmental pillar of the UN Agenda 2030.

### **IV. UNEP.CPR.SC2019.6 Note on implementation of UNEA Decision 4.2 – Commemoration of the creation of UNEP (UNEP+50)**

UN Environment must continue having a prominent and irreplaceable role in changing our habits and choices in the management of natural, human and social sources, as well as in producing goods and services. The commemoration of UNEP's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is not only an opportunity to look at key milestone achievements, but to propose forward - looking recommendations aimed at increasing impacts of UNEP's short- and long-term actions in international environment and sustainable development policy fora.

To that effect Montenegro would like to support proposed provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the UNEA along with the proposal for the commemoration of fifty years of the creation of UNEP in 1972 as to take stock of progress made to protect the global environment and most importantly to propose concrete actions to achieve environmental sustainability within implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, including further strengthening of the institutional set up and financial resources to deliver UNEP's mandate established in 1972 and build upon over past five decades.

The commemoration should especially contribute to paving the way towards future progression in protection of the environment and human health and strengthening science policy-interface to guide informed policy decision making, whilst keeping global environment under permanent review and looking forward for the optimal synergies with Multilateral Environmental Treaties and UN entities in the course of ongoing reform of the UN system.

We find all options for the commemoration in 2022 are well proposed, and any of them, in particular combination of a few, may be an adequate format to increase global environmental awareness and define strategic and focused oriented action plan for consideration by UNEA-5, taking into account the changed governance landscape and opportunities arising from UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and ongoing UN reform.

In particular, Montenegro appreciates option related to organization of the commemoration event under umbrella of the UN General Assembly in New York, preferably with a political outcome. Organization of UN conference at the highest political level in a dedicated host country may alternatively provide an adequate format to achieve the outcomes comparable with those from the Stockholm Conference in 1972.

To that effect, Montenegro would like to support proposed possible political outcome, along with the initiatives proposed by Executive Director, roles and responsibilities of CPR and UNEA's Bureau, as well as proposed work arrangement and scheduling.

Relying on lessons learnt during UNEA4, and in particular on the one related to the importance of regional environmental ministerial meetings as to provide valuable contribution to UNEA, Montenegro expresses its readiness to provide the greatest possible support to further increasing of UNEP's visibility and strengthening of the UNEA's executive capacities. Namely, all relevant national mechanisms should be considered to generate stronger interrelationship of national authorities with UN Environment, such as present institutional capacities established to support implementation of 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development (e.g. National Councils for Sustainable Development), as well as wherever possible capacities of UN Country Teams which include UNEP's in-country representatives.