



UNEA-5 Bureau

Written elements

1. How the 2020 "super year for nature" can support the theme of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly

We are looking forward to preparing efficiently the UNEA-5 Vice-Presidency in February 2021 under the theme "Strengthening actions for nature in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". This theme is a continuity of the actions undertaken this year as "Super year for Nature 2020". I also keep always in mind that France but also the EU want a stronger promotion at UNEA level of "Nature Based Solutions".

We still expect 2020 to be a key-year with a succession of milestones for biodiversity. We all share the same concerns as regards the COVID-19 pandemic and hope that we can nevertheless keep the momentum on biodiversity and confirm the adoption of a new post-2020 biodiversity framework this year.

I know we share the same level of ambition and we will support any opportunity to make it possible. The French government reaffirmed few weeks ago our ambitious national objective to bring protected areas to 30% of the national territory (marine and terrestrial) by 2022.

For France, the new global strategic framework has to bring to transformative changes in order to quickly stop the decline in biodiversity. This is why we want that the main objective is to move back the curve of biodiversity loss by 2030, at global level. We will support any opportunity to enable and facilitate our ambition.

2. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The draft constitutes a good basis for discussion. We should focus on specific **key recommendations to the HLPF** and in particular **action points for the HLPF**. **Key policy recommendations** and the successful **initiatives of the UNEP** should be highlighted as a mean to deliver on the ten points outlined in the political declaration adopted during the SDG Summit 2019. The regular presentation by the UNEA Presidency at the annual HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC has been an important factor **in ensuring the voice of the world's environment ministers** is heard.

In this context, we would be grateful to UNEP for providing information on whether there has already been some **concrete planning** with regard to this **year's role of the UNEA President at the HLPF**. At the same time, we want to draw attention to the fact that informal consultations on the review of the HLPF have begun in New York. We will support such advocacy through our missions in New York.

3. Consultations on General Assembly Resolution 73/333

We would like to see the draft roadmap for consultations on follow-up of General Assembly resolution 73/333 endorsed.

As proposed, the consultation process would be placed under the auspices of the CPR with regular coordination between the CPR Bureau and UNEA Bureau, and be led by **two co-facilitators**. That's why the EU and its MS commonly **designated Ado Lohmus, head of the Estonian delegation, as a candidate to be one of the two co-facilitators**.

The preparation of substantive elements of a political declaration for the 2022 high-level meeting, mandated by resolution 73/333, **should begin promptly and it should be organised efficiently, transparently and inclusively**. Indeed, the text for UNEA-5 should contain **at the very least the building blocks or preferably the draft declaration itself**.

In order to send a strong political signal and address commitments, the foreseen declaration needs to be both ambitious, concise and consensual. In addition, it should provide concrete and actionable responses to the recommendations and the objectives from the UNGA Resolution 73/333. To achieve this, **we support having three substantive meetings in Nairobi**, in June and October 2020, and late January/early February 2021, as proposed in the roadmap. We are also ready to work with you on all adaptations needed and to adapt our way of working in the international pandemic context. These meetings will be funded on a voluntary basis by my members. EU will give a support, France will also add a € 250.000 contribution to the fund.

The EU and its Member States suggest that the co-facilitators, in collaboration with the UNEP Secretariat, at least six 6 weeks before the first meeting provide an input analysis on concrete declaration content, including on actions, in following up on the recommendations and objectives from resolution 73/333.

4. Preparations for the joint retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Oslo, 9-10 June 2020

The draft agenda gives the opportunity to discuss of all relevant items to prepare the next steps . Due to the pandemic, have any other option been considered to enable this strategic meeting?