

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Based upon the input received, the following guiding questions are set out below.

### I. Guiding questions concerning the preparatory process

#### 1. The outcome reads: “Forward these recommendations to UNEA for its consideration”.

- a. *Under which agenda item should UNEA 5 consider these recommendations?*
- b. *One option being under the inclusion in the already established item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues” or by recommending the establishment of a new item?*

Canada: As a general principle, we should be cautious not to overload UNEA 5 and avoid creating new agenda items. We do not see this process as an ongoing item. It is a discrete mandate given to UNEA. We prefer that this topic to be addressed under an existing provisional agenda item.

#### 2. The outcome mandates: “to prepare, at its fifth session (...) a political declaration (...):

- a. *What level of detail should a text have in order to be considered by UNEA 5?*  
Canada: see reply to question 2b) below
- b. *When should the “preparation of a political declaration” begin and what should be the recommended format, leadership and timeline of the preparatory process before UNEA 5?*

Canada:

- The recommendations in UNGA resolution 73/333 do not entail that UNEA 5 would finalize the political declaration. More specifically, the political declaration is presented in these recommendations as the outcome of a “United Nations high-level meeting in the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP”. The high-level meeting would happen in 2022 which is the year of the commemoration. The political declaration does not need to be finalized at UNEA 5 i.e. in early 2021, for a meeting taking place in 2022.
- We understand that the UNEA Bureau and the CPR Bureau have proposed possible meetings during the course of 2020 to work on this. We support a light process before and at UNEA 5. There is no need for intensive discussions and negotiations on this given the negotiating agenda for UNEA is already packed.

- c. *How can accredited stakeholders be involved, and member States without representation in Nairobi participate, in the process?*

Canada supports an inclusive and transparent process that would involve input from member States not represented in Nairobi and stakeholders, including through, but not limited to, written consultations, as well as participation in person when the opportunity arises (for example around the Annual Subcommittee

meeting). Once a process is defined about what is to be negotiated and when, this question can be addressed more specifically.

**II. Guiding questions related to the a “United Nations high-level meeting [...] in the context of the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP**

**3. The outcome speaks about “a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (...)”.**

- a. *What is meant by “a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment”?*
- b. *Who is expected to convene the UN high-level meeting? What should its format be?*

Canada’s joint answer to questions 3a); 3b) and 4c) below:

- Based on the report from the ad hoc open-ended working group as endorsed by UNGA, it is our understanding that the political declaration will be an outcome of the meeting to be convened to commemorate the creation of the UNEP i.e. the UN high level meeting referenced in resolution 73/333.
- Paragraph 8 of UNEA resolution 4/2 provides for a process to prepare the commemoration of the creation of UNEP in 1972. These questions will be addressed as part of that process.
- Under this process, it is our understanding that the Secretariat is currently preparing a questionnaire as the basis of informal consultations with regional groups. We also acknowledge that Sweden has offered to host a high-level meeting in 2022 in Stockholm for the commemoration and that Kenya has offered its collaboration.

**III. Guiding questions regarding the content of the political declaration and the support by the UNEP Secretariat**

**4. The outcome also signals that the objective of the political declaration is “with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’”.**

- a. *what ‘elements’ or ‘building blocks’ in the objectives guiding the recommendations and in the substantive recommendations contained in the Annex to Resolution 73/333 could be identified for inclusion in the political declaration to achieve the overall objective of “strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development”?*
- b. *How should the political declaration relate to the five objectives guiding the recommendations and to the thirteen substantive recommendations of the ad-hoc*

*open-ended working group established pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 72/277 and endorsed in UN General Assembly resolution 73/333?*

- c. Should there be a substantive connection between the political declaration and the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment?*
- d. How should the political declaration be in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development?*
- e. What kind of inputs should the Secretariat prepare in order to best assist member States in the preparation of the political declaration?*

Canada:

- As a general principle, it is our view that the substantive recommendations from the ad hoc open-ended working group, as transmitted in resolution 73/333, are the framework for the political declaration. There was a due process under this ad hoc open-ended working group to negotiate these recommendations which were endorsed by UNGA.
- On the last point, we are open to suggestions from the Secretariat or Member States regarding what inputs from the Secretariat may be relevant to assist in the preparing the political declaration, though we think it is somewhat premature at this stage until there is a clearer path forward and process on the declaration.