

*Process for review by the Committee of Permanent
Representatives* **Emerging consensual elements by
the co-facilitators** *Version I, 30 December 2019*

Written submission by the EU and its Member States Emerging consensual elements

I. The preparation, working arrangements and scheduling of sessions of the UN Environment Assembly and of the objectives, preparation, working arrangements and the scheduling of meetings of its subsidiary body, namely the meeting of the Open-ended CPR and the regular and annual meetings of the subcommittee of the CPR. (Decision 4/2, subparagraph 10 (a))

Preliminary conclusions and recommendations:

1. Under the guidance of the UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat, **ensure that the UNEA theme provides a framework for the political debate at high-level segment as well as for other UNEA-related events and campaigns**, and that it provides “soft guidance” for Member States in their preparation of draft UNEA resolutions, while fully respecting Member States’ right to table draft resolutions on any subject in accordance with the UNEA Rules of Procedures and established practices.

The EU and its MS support Canadian comment on the lack of clarity of "established practice" and would welcome a brief summary by the Secretariat of the established practices referred to in relevant paragraphs.

We also support the Canadian suggestion to provide an overview of the activities that the UNEA theme is guiding on: Science Business Forum, Side Events, Sustainable Expo, High Level segment, Major Groups/Stakeholder Forum etc.

2. **Organize, as a general practice and unless otherwise decided by UNEA, meetings of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives back-to-back** with the UN Environment Assembly, while ensuring effective, participatory and inclusive intersessional preparations.
3. **Designate the meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives as a “Preparatory Committee for the UN Environment Assembly” (UNEA PREPCOM) [under the auspices of the UNEA Bureau]**, while keeping its current mandate, as established in UNEP Governing Council decision 27/2 under paragraph 10, unchanged.
4. **Designate the Annual Subcommittee meeting as a “Review and Oversight Committee”**, while keeping its existing mandate, as established in UNEP Governing Council decision 27/2 under paragraph 11, unchanged.
5. Under the guidance of the UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat, **create an optimal balance between political negotiations, the UNEA high-level Segment, and official and non-official UNEA events**, to ensure political ownership and to enable, as far as possible, all Member States to participate in the negotiations on UNEA resolutions. This may entail limiting the number of side events and other events, and minimizing overlaps in the scheduling and structure of UNEA sessions.

The EU and its MS agree with Canada that this paragraph should also be applicable to the OECPR.

6. Under the guidance of the UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat and in close cooperation with the MEA

Secretariats, **strengthen the contributions and active participation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to UNEA with a view to promote coherence and synergies**, while fully respecting their respective mandates, including through a standing invitation to take part in the deliberations of the meeting, and the involvement of MEA Secretariats in consultations on draft resolutions, where relevant. This may improve synergies in the development of the resolutions and avoid duplication and contradiction between the UNEA resolutions and the MEAs governing bodies' resolutions.

The EU and its MS do not agree with the US proposal to replace "coherence and synergies" with "cooperation".

7. **Strengthen preparations for UNEA at regional level**, including by encouraging Members of the UNEA Bureau to participate in regional ministerial environmental forums and regional forums on sustainable development, to identify relevant regional contributions and inputs to UNEA sessions.
8. Under guidance of the UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat, **strengthen science-policy interface at UNEA**, including by strategic scheduling of the Science-Policy-Business Forum and the Sustainable Innovation Expo, making best use of flagship scientific environmental assessments, and by facilitating science-based decision making through the provision of dedicated briefings and consultations on the theme of UNEA and/or proposed resolutions.

The EU and its MS agree with Canadian reflections on para 8 and 10, in particular that the result of this exercise should be more explicit and concrete.

9. In accordance with the UNEA Rules of Procedures and established practices, and under guidance of the UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat and subject to the availability of financial resources, **strengthen the contribution and participation of Major Groups representatives to UNEA and its preparatory process**, including in the context of selecting the UNEA theme, by encouraging stronger participation from local, indigenous communities and small and medium-sized enterprises, and by offering relevant Secretariat trainings and briefings for stakeholders.
10. Under the guidance of the CPR Bureau and the Secretariat, **improve the identification and formulation of decisions and conclusions from CPR meetings**, including through strategic and timely scheduling of CPR meetings and high-quality and timely submission of documentation from the Secretariat, such as annotated agendas, background documentation and meeting summaries.
11. Under the guidance of the CPR Bureau and the Secretariat and subject to the availability of resources, **consider how to further broaden ownership and inclusiveness of CPR meetings** through the facilitation of remote participation of member states without representation in Nairobi, and of online access to documents and crucial information on meeting portals and the UNEA website.

As a final comment, the EU and its MS would like to reiterate that it is necessary to keep the discussions in the review process focused on the objective to improve efficiency and effectiveness. If the review process leads to the conclusion that changes in the RoP are necessary, it is important that the recommendations from the process remain at the core of the discussions and the changes in the RoP are limited to the extent that they serve that purpose.