

Update on the preparations for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the UN Environment Programme

Presentation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives
30 April 2020

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The presentation addresses following elements:

- Status of consultations held by the Executive Director
- Proposal to kick-off the commemoration of UNEP@50 during UNEA-5
- Engagement and outreach after the kick-off
- Update on the Science-Policy input
- Consultations with Member States

Status of consultations held by the Executive Director

During February 2020, the Executive Director held consultations with regional and political groups on the implementation of UNEA Decision 4/2, specifically paragraph 8. The consultations were supported by Kenya and Sweden's agreed joint points on a UN High-Level political meeting in Stockholm in the spring of 2022.

The main conclusions of the first round of consultations were:

- The 50th anniversary of the establishment of UNEP, (UNEP @ 50) should be held at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya;
- Use the opportunity to kick start UNEP's establishment commemorations during UNEA 5 in February 2021;
- Launching of the commemorations of UNEP's fiftieth anniversary should not preclude other events reaching out to different stakeholders and drawing from UNEP's family of multilateral environmental agreements;
- A UN High-Level political meeting is distinct from the commemoration of UNEP as mandated in Decision 4/2. To this end it is understood that for the High-Level political meeting to go forward an enabling mandate needs to be provided by the UN General Assembly;
- UNEP (including its CPR and UNEA) are well positioned to support preparations and discussions regarding the UN High Level political meeting as well as of UNEP @ 50 commemorations to ensure coherence and consistency;

Proposal to kick-off the commemoration of UNEP@50 during UNEA-5

Opportunities provided by launching UNEP 50th anniversary during UNEA :

- Reflect on how to promote a more systematic approach to many of the environmental challenges that the world is facing today;
- Provide elements on how to further strengthen UNEP with a long-term vision in the context of the Rio+20 Outcome Document;
- Promote the science policy interface by using science to catalyze action at a global scale;
- Reflect on the importance of international environmental law and international environmental governance through implementation of 73/333;
- Re-examine how global environmental governance can be modernized and move with the times, including through the ongoing process of review of UNEP's policy-making organs.



Engagement and outreach after the kick-off of UNEP@50

It is important to ensure that people and civil society have full ownership of UNEP@50

- In order to increase the ability to engage UNEP is strengthening capacity building and engagement programs to contribute to building up a new generation of environmental leaders ([UNEP](#)) and [TED-Ed](#), Earth School as well as www.youthenvironment.org are some examples);
- The commemoration of UNEP@50 could take place drawing on World Environment Day-related campaigns and digital and presential events throughout the year (“**A World Environment Year**”);
- Specific competitions/challenges will be launched to find and publicize solutions;

Environmental footprint

- UNEP@50 will minimize its environmental footprint, by “gathering few and connecting billions” through the application of the latest information and communication technology and artificial intelligence solutions for meeting;

Multilateral Environmental Agreements and UNEP affiliated institutions will provide a platform for systemic action

- MEA’s are committed to support and be part of UNEP@50. Modalities are being planned in light of COVID-19 calendar disruptions;

Update on the Science-Policy input

The Executive Director is preparing a proposal for science-policy inputs on the global environment, in consultation with Member States. These include the following:

State of the Global Environment 2022

- A State of the Global Environment 2022 could provide a collaborative synthesis of the key findings and messages from a series of recent environmental assessments, such as the GEO-6, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), IPCC Special Reports, IPBES Reports such as the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Global Resources Outlook 2019 by the International Resources Panel (IRP), UNEP's Emissions Gap Reports, UNEP's Frontiers Reports, and UNEP's Global Chemicals Outlooks, among other thematic assessments United Nations Environment Programme.

Review of Fifty Years of Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface (1972-2022)

- Such a review could provide an overview of progress made over the past half a century at the environmental science-policy interface focusing on milestones and successes.

Global Assessments Dialogue (GAD)

- UNEP could continue to use such a platform which brings together worldwide environmental assessments undertaken by UN agencies and secretariats with support from Member States and hundreds of scientific authors. The GAD aims at increasing coherence and consistency across those major assessments.

- **UNEP recommends to Member States to support the proposal to launch UNEP@50 during UNEA-5;**

The Secretariat also proposes to organize a fully dedicated sub-committee meeting as soon as practicable given current constraints to achieve the following objectives:

- Consider the detailed proposal for a Science-Policy input;
- Provide feedback on engagement and outreach initiatives;
- Allow Member States to share ideas/proposals regarding the High-Level Political meeting in Stockholm in 2022 (Stokholm+50) on the basis of a joint proposal for the high-level political meeting to be submitted in advance by proponent member States;

In the meantime to the Subcommittee the Executive Director will continue to consult in informal settings with Member States



Thank you