

United States of America Input for CPR Sub-committee Meeting on June 4, 2020

Program Performance Review:

The USA congratulates UNEP on its achievements as documented in the program performance review but we suggest that future performance indicators be more ambitious. The stated level of achievement contrasts with the dire predictions from GEO, Emissions Gap Report, IPBES report, and Environmental Rule of Law report. While we recognize that short-term achievements can contribute to long-term progress, there seems to be a disconnect between what the organization is achieving and the state of the global environment. We also took note that that each subprogramme did not receive the Environment Funds envisioned but earmarked contributions exceeded budgeted amounts and we therefore conclude that funding does not seem to be a critical constraint.

Medium-Term Strategy:

The USA thanks UNEP for conducting the discovery sessions and attempting to use innovative means to development the next Medium-Term Strategy (MTS). Care should be taken in interpreting the discovery sessions and concluding that consensus exists without undertaking the normal MS engagement mechanisms like the CPR and CPR subcommittee meetings.

Message 8 suggesting that UNEP be the “docking station” for MEAs merits additional input from MS. The discussions held in the context of the so-called “Global Pact for the Environment” revealed widespread recognition of MEAs’ distinct and independent legal mandates and authorities. Unlike UNEA, the MEAs do not have universal membership and only the Parties to the MEAs make decisions about an MEAs’ future work. Message 8 suggests that UNEP and UNEA would take on roles that would undermine the independent decision-making authority of the COPs. Such a role would not be acceptable to the United States.