

## **Algeria's Comments**

### **On the Timing and Format of UNEA-5**

Following the discussions at the subcommittee meeting of the CPR, especially those held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, regarding the timing and format of UNEA-5, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, Algeria provides the following inputs:

- Aligning itself with the statement delivered, respectively by the African Group and the Group of G77+China, Algeria is of the view that, in order to hold a successful and an inclusive Assembly, there is a need to identify the challenges facing Member States, whichever the format is chosen.

- The challenges concern mainly, but not exclusively, different time zones, internet connectivity difficulties for developing countries, as well as interpretation issues in the six official UN languages. These challenges have a direct impact on equal, effective and inclusive participation of Member States.

- Negotiations regarding substantive matters require in-person participation of Nairobi and Capital-based delegates, not only for UNEA but also for other important meetings.

Though Algeria is willing to proactively contribute to building consensus regarding the most relevant format of UNEA-5, it deems it indispensable to take into consideration the following:

- Abide by the rules of procedure, even if the latter does not provide for virtual meetings.
- Set out and agree on modalities to be applied for the conduct of business during virtual meetings, based on the rules of procedure.

Consensus being the most sought out mode in face of divergent stances, Algeria believes that once the challenges are identified and the definition of guiding principles to rule the meetings and modalities for their efficient conduct, chances are great to hold a successful and inclusive Assembly.

