

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the  
UNEP  
(Nairobi, 12-16 October 2020)**

**Agenda item 3. Programme performance review of UNEP's Programme of Work 2020-2021**

*Comments by the European Union and its Member States*

**General Comments on PPR**

- The EU and its Member States wish to thank the Executive Director and the Management of UNEP for the comprehensive update on current programme performance and congratulate the staff of UNEP for the progress achieved during the first half year of the current biennium.
- The EU and its Member States express their appreciation and support for UNEP's systematic efforts and contributions across sub-programmes to the UN's system-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, as well as to building back better following the crisis, in line with UNEP's mandate.
- The presentation outlined, across the different sub-programmes, that COVID-19 had – and continues to have – wide-ranging impacts that effect not only environmental policy and its implementation but also the realization of UNEP's activities.
- In this regard, the EU and its Member States would wish to inquire how UNEP estimates the risk of COVID-19 impacting the overall implementation of the Programme of Work for the biennium 2020-2021 and what risk mitigation strategies are being considered to adapt to the continued development of the pandemic, in order to ensure an effective programme delivery?
- In this context, we note that it is positive that the contributions to the Environment Fund, so far, have not declined to a degree as might have been expected. At the same time, we are cognisant of the risk that such impacts might materialise with a delayed effect and wish to call on all Member States to continue to support UNEP, as well as call on the Secretariat to monitor the financial situation and envision risk management and mitigation strategies.
- The EU and its Member States underline the importance of allocating sufficient resources to UNEP's core mandates and underfinanced sub-programmes (especially the Environmental Governance and the Environment Under Review).
- Lastly, we wish to highlight, that in order to make best use of our exchanges around the programme performance updates, we think that receiving information on and discussing challenges and lessons learned merit particular attention.

**Comments by sub-programme**

**Resilience to disasters and conflicts**

- The EU and its Member States would be interested in receiving more information on how the sub-programme will be mainstreamed in the new MTS and respective programmes of work.

### **Healthy and productive ecosystems**

- The EU and its Member States would be interested to hear more information on current progress regarding the implementation of the marine and coastal strategy, which was prepared for and noted in the UNEA-4 ministerial declaration.

### **Environmental governance**

- The EU and its Member States appreciate visible progress in greening UN country frameworks and encourage UNEP to further strengthen such engagement in the future.

### **Chemicals, waste and air quality**

- The EU and its Member States reiterate the importance of the implementation of the Action Plan “Towards a Pollution-free Planet” and welcome UNEP’s efforts in this regard.
- For the EU and its Member States crafting the beyond-2020 framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste will be an essential factor for this sub-programme, and in this context, we thank UNEP for the work of the chemicals and waste programme (Special Programme).
- Lastly, we also wish to reiterate the need for continued and effective support by UNEP to the work of the Ad-hoc Open-ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics with a view to fulfilling its mandate by UNEA-5.

### **Resource efficiency**

- Given the information presented in the context of the climate sub-programme regarding the adequacy of COVID-19 investments, the EU and its MS call on continued efforts to work on building back better and welcome UNEP’s approach to work through UNCTs in this regard.
- We would be interested to hear UNEP’s view regarding the uptake of more sustainable components in recovery efforts and on what potential avenues might it be to strengthen impacts in this regard?

### **Environment under review**

- The EU and its Member States wish to thank UNEP for creating the website on the World Environment Situation Room, which is very important. At the same time, we are of the view that the WESR needs to go beyond simply being an information repository, through which products can be accessed, but needs to enable an easy user experience in accessing and linking relevant data and presenting it visually. We therefore encourage UNEP to continuously improve the service provision and functionality around the WESR in this regard.
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