

USA Intervention
Agenda Item 5b - Draft Action Plan on Paragraph 88
October 14, 2020

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The United States thanks the Secretariat for preparing this document. We are supportive of many of the suggestions contained within the document but would like to request a few specific changes. I will share them verbally and will then submit them in writing.

Within the document, there two references (para 2.1 and 17.3) to the CPR-based review process and its outcome. The Paragraph 88 Action Plan should not pre-judge what is or is not included in the 4/2 recommendations and we ask that all references to the CPR-based review be removed from the text.

Paragraph 5.2 - The United States does not support “making the VISC more binding” as suggested in the text. Here we must point out that the first word in the VISC is voluntary. If it’s voluntary, it can’t be binding, and further calls as such undermine the spirit of the VISC. While we recognize that UNEP and the UN would prefer unearmarked Environment Funds, it would be better to recognize international funding trends and that donors increasingly align UN voluntary contributions with national foreign assistance goals.

Paragraph 6.0 - We request that the document clarify the process by which information is conveyed to HLPF and how agreement should be reached on the messages to the HLPF. Our view is that all messages to the HLPF should be based on agreed language and reviewed by MS prior to submission to New York.

Paragraph 9.1 - Suggested wording change: continue to systematically ~~involve~~ invite the MEAs

Thank you very much Mr. Chair.