

USA Intervention

UNEA-5 Format and Timing

At the Oct 1 subcommittee meeting, the U.S. delegation detailed its preference for postponement of UNEA-5 until 2022. However, in a spirit of compromise, we are supporting the adoption of the MTS and PWB at the first segment of UNEA-5.

Nevertheless, for reasons that we conveyed on October 1, the United States continues to firmly oppose the negotiation of a Ministerial Declaration or any other items that would require substantive negotiations, including draft resolutions associated with UNEA decisions 4.2, 4.6, and 4.23 as well as the 73/333 and Global Program of Action processes.

Given our expectation that only the MTS and PWB will be considered in February 2021, we frankly cannot justify the need for weekly subcommittee meetings beginning November 23; a week's long OECPR; or a 3-day first segment of UNEA-5.

This week's ongoing technical difficulties and proceedings demonstrate that even reaching virtual consensus on the MTS and PWB will be challenging enough.

Given U.S. flexibility on the question of postponement, and to avoid lengthy open-ended processes, we would ask other delegations to show a similar spirit of compromise and forgo discussion on a Ministerial Declaration, a high level segment, or any other topic requiring substantive negotiations at this time. In our view, detailed discussions on those items should resume at next year's Annual Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, the U.S. delegation wishes to express its concern that pushing a more ambitious agenda for UNEA in February 2021 will be counterproductive and renew calls for postponement, driving us further from consensus.

Finally, the United States supports Sweden's wish that Stockholm+50 and UNEP@50 complement each other, and we look forward to the discussion about whether that means a celebration within the context of the first or second segment of UNEA-5.

Thank you for the floor.