Comments by China

PART B: INPUTS TO SUBPARAGRAPHS 10 a) - c)

Operative Paragraph 10 of decision 4/2 reads as follows: “Decides that the scope of the consideration during the review process will be:

(a) The preparation, working arrangements, and scheduling of sessions of the Environment Assembly and the objectives, preparation, working arrangements and the scheduling of meetings of its subsidiary body, namely the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the regular and annual meetings of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives;”

Guiding questions for subparagraph 10 (a):

1. How can UNEA and its working arrangements be leveraged to further enhance its ability to take strategic decisions and provide political guidance?
2. What steps can be taken to meaningfully enhance stakeholder engagement, including from the scientific community, at UNEA?
3. Are the designations of the subsidiary intersessional bodies – i.e. OECPR and the annual subcommittee – adequately reflecting their roles and functions?
4. Should the respective roles of the OECPR and the annual subcommittee be further clarified and reinforced? If so, how?
5. Are the timing and duration of the meetings of the different UNEP governing bodies optimal, or should they be reconsidered, including with respect to facilitating meaningful stakeholder participation? If so, how?

Provided inputs:

1. UNEA resolutions negotiation has been so time-consuming and focus elusive.
2. The nation–proposed approach for drafting resolutions should be revisited.
3. Capacity–building, improvement of the policy and technologies, particularly the reference by the developing countries to the know–how and support for improving their environment has been neglected.
4. Resolutions development could not turn into a display of negotiation while finalization of negotiation of the resolution should not be the end of the practice. How to implement and how to secure resources for their implementation could be equally important if not more important.
5. UNEA is an intergovernmental body. While the stakeholders are important for their contribution, but its meaningful participation should be subject to the acceptance of all the member states of the UNEA. Rationale is simple, i.e. the member states will be responsible for implementation at national or regional level.
(b) The respective roles and responsibilities of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including those related to interactions with their respective constituencies;

Guiding questions for subparagraph 10 (b):

1. Should the respective roles and responsibilities of the CPR and UNEA Bureaux and their Chairs be more distinguished and clarified, including with regard to representation of regional constituencies?
2. Should the two Bureaux further strengthen their working relationship? If so, how?
3. How can individual Bureau members contribute to enhancing the visibility of UNEA as the leading global environmental authority in other international fora?

Provided inputs:

1. More coordination of the regional constituency by the bureau member through progress report, views collection, and formation of regional positions and most importantly, the information from the bureau discussion should be fully shared with the region.
2. It would be unlikely for all the bureau members of the UNEA to play a role of representing the UNEA but they could be in the position to be tasked to disseminate the information based on the resolutions of UNEA on appropriate occasions.

(c) Criteria, modalities and timing for presenting and negotiating draft resolutions and decisions;

Guiding questions for paragraph 10 (c):

1. What should be the key criteria and focus for draft UNEA resolutions and decisions, and how should they relate to the theme of the Assembly?
2. How to better ensure that informal deadlines for submitting draft resolutions are respected?
3. How to ensure that resolutions and decisions are complementary and not duplicative to the UNEP programme of work and budget?
4. How can the secretariat better support the chairs of the working groups that negotiate resolutions including through possible submission of proposals for suggested action?

Provided inputs:
It is advisable for the Secretariat to develop a succinct but operational guidance to the member states for proposing the draft resolutions:
1. Format, particularly the length of a resolution,
2. Themes relevant to draft resolutions for each session of UNEA, 3. Binding deadline even if informal for submission of the drafts and stringently observed by all.