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REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on International Environment Issues (Global)
Subject:	WPIEI (Global) Réunion du sous-comité CRP du 27 janvier - Document support première lecture sur la résolution de l'UE et de ses États membres sur les solutions fondées sur la nature pour l'ANUE-5.2 - APPEL A COMMENTAIRES/ CALL FOR COMMENTS

En vue de la réunion du sous-comité du CRP du 27 janvier, les délégations trouveront ci-joint un document support première lecture sur la résolution de l'UE et de ses États membres sur les solutions fondées sur la nature pour l'ANUE-5.2.

Les délégations sont invitées à partager leurs commentaires à la Présidence

[REDACTED], avec copie au
Secrétariat du Conseil ([REDACTED])
[REDACTED], avant vendredi, le 21 janvier 2022
cob.

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Version of 20th January 2022

**Support Document – First reading (paragraph by paragraph) on
the draft EU+MS resolution on Nature-based solutions**

CPR Subcommittee meeting of 27 January 2022

Messages in the framework of the call for comments should be sent to the Presidency

([REDACTED]) with copy to
the Council Secretariat ([REDACTED]), by Friday
21 January 2022, COB.

- **State of play of the draft resolution:**

On 14 October 2021, during the CPR subcommittee meeting, the EU and its MS announced its intention to propose a resolution on nature-based solutions to be examined at the resumed session of UNEA-5. A concept note to present the resolution was agreed by the EU+MS on October 25, 2021 (WK 12721/2021 ADD 1) and submitted to the CPR at its 8th ASC meeting (25-29 October 2021).

During the following month of November, outreach meetings were conducted by the representative of Estonia in Nairobi with the declared supportive countries (Colombia, Norway, Costa Rica, Pakistan and the UK). In order to secure their co-sponsorship, some of their comments were examined by the EU lead expert group to adjust and update the draft text of the resolution accordingly. A final version of the draft resolution was agreed by the EU and its MS through an Informal Silence Procedure on the Delegates Portal on December 15 (WK 15384/2021 ADD 1). It was officially tabled to the UNEP Secretariat on December 16 and made available on the UNEP Portal [here](#).

The EU+MS resolution is officially co-sponsored by Costa Rica, Colombia, and Pakistan.

On January 12th, 2022, the Secretariat of UNEP [published](#) a technical note to facilitate consultations among Member States and assess the relations of the resolution with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work, its legal aspects, and budget implications.

The draft resolution was presented to Parties during the CPR subcommittee meeting on January 18th. At this occasion, UK and Norway supported the draft resolution. Norway expressed preference for IUCN definition of NbS but suggested deletion of operational paragraph 1, if a definition cannot be agreed. Informally the US indicated support to NBS resolution, and promised to share comments soon.

The first reading paragraph by paragraph of the text is scheduled to take place during the subcommittee meeting of **January 27th**.

- **General presentation of the draft resolution :**

The resolution emphasizes the importance to scale-up and implement nature-based solutions (NbS) as they provide the greatest benefits to biodiversity while also addressing other environmental challenges and major socio-economic and societal challenges. It aims to land on and confirm a common understanding of the essence and benefits of NbS in order to promote further its successful implementation.

The operative elements of the resolution aim to:

- Land on and confirm a common understanding of the concept of the essence and benefits of NbS (**OP1**),
- Recognize that ecosystem-based approaches (EbS) can be considered under the wider umbrella of NbS and agree that NbS do not replace the necessity for urgent action climate change and decarbonization (**OP2**),
- Underline the need to enhance their understanding and step up implementation (**OP3**),
- Call on UNEP to (**OP4**) :
 - Map best practices and lessons learned of NbS,
 - Provide guidance and evidence to Member states on the integration of NbS in sectoral policies, the role of women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities in NbS, the economic case for NbS, the acceleration and mainstreaming of NbS and to further develop a global knowledge platform,
- Support the uptake of relevant knowledge and methods of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent (**OP5**),
- Invite Member States to invest in education, communication and awareness-raising for leveraging innovation in NbS (**OP6**),
- Invite UNEP to support Member States in accessing sustainable financing for NbS and to map possible economic and financial instruments (**OP7**),
- Recognize the Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land Use and the corresponding Global Forests Finance Pledge (**OP8**),
- Stress the importance of improving the monitoring of NbS (**OP9**),
- Link NbS with green recovery plans post-COVID-19 (**OP10**).

- **Supportive argumentation on the draft resolution :**

The first reading paragraph by paragraph of the text by Parties is scheduled to take place during the CPR subcommittee meeting of January 27th. To prepare for the first reactions of third countries to the text, the EU and its Member States would need to support the elements and language put forward in the draft.

In this regard, the table below aims to develop a preliminary supportive argumentation on each paragraph. The EU and its Member States are kindly asked to provide their comments and suggestions to strengthen and complement the argumentation suggested in the second column.

PARAGRAPHS	EU+MS argumentation/comments
<p>PPa) <i>Underlining</i> the importance of strengthening actions for nature for achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, as well as the ultimate objectives of the Rio Conventions, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and for addressing the planetary emergency and welcoming the Leaders' Pledge for Nature: United to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This first preamble paragraph makes a necessary reference to the 2030 Agenda as nature-based solutions can make significant contributions to the achievement of many of the SDGs, including SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact), SDG14 (Life below water) and SDG15 (Life on land). • This paragraph also includes a reference to the objectives of the Rio Conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, since the transversal and integrated nature of NbS have a positive impact across different sectoral objectives to address the planetary emergency.
<p>PPb) <i>Recognizing</i> the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, as well as the interdependencies between biodiversity loss, climate change and human wellbeing, including health, and the interlinkages with pollution and the need to address these issues in a holistic and integrated manner in national and local policy and planning decisions, as well as within the Regional Seas framework and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), including in the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU+MS could recall that NbS contribute to developing an integrated and holistic approach that overcomes traditional sectoral approaches to environmental issues and is paramount to effectively address the interdependencies of the three planetary crisis and ensure the integrity of all ecosystems. • UNGA Resolution 73/284 on the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) was adopted by the General Assembly on 1 March 2019. Ecosystem restoration is one of the three main forms of NbS (the two being ecosystem protection and sustainable management of ecosystems) and the success of the UN Decade will make a major contribution to scaling up the use of NbS [Source: <i>Technical Note of UNEP Secretariat</i>].

<p>PPc) <i>Stressing</i> the urgency of tackling multiple sustainable development-related challenges, especially biodiversity loss, terrestrial and marine ecosystems' degradation, climate change and its related disasters and impacts, deforestation, forest degradation and fragmentation, pollution and the emergence of new zoonotic diseases, as well as increasing poverty, injustice and instability of our economic systems.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph provides a non-exhaustive overview of the sustainable development-related challenges and recalls the need for urgent international action.
<p>PPd) <i>Emphasizing</i> that a key area for cooperation and for strengthening actions for nature is the implementation of nature-based solutions, which simultaneously deliver multiple benefits such as, but not limited to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, promoting sustainable use of ecosystems and climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience, as well as for water security and management, sustainable land management, coastal and marine protection and resource management, human wellbeing, food security, sustainable food systems, improving risk management for resilience-building, preventing, reducing and managing impacts from natural disasters, both in rural and urban contexts.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph links the resolution to the UNEA-5 theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. It establishes that the implementation of NbS is a key area for cooperation and recalls their multiple benefits. As a reminder, the EU+MS could emphasize that these benefits have been in various ways implicitly endorsed in other international texts.¹ They could also argue that a number of UN entities, including but not limited to, UNDP, UN Habitat, FAO and UNESCO have undertaken significant work on NbS [<i>Source: Technical Note of UNEP Secretariat</i>]. • The EU+MS could underline that this list is non-exhaustive, given the variety of benefits and applications for NbS.

¹ For references **[to be completed]**: **UNEA/** RES 1/8 “Ecosystem-based adaptation” ; RES 3/5 “Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs” ; RES 4/10 “Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation”, RES 4/12 “Sustainable Management for Global Health of Mangroves” ; RES 4/13 “Sustainable coral reefs managements” ; RES 4/15 “Innovations in Sustainable Rangelands and Pastoralism” ; RES 4/16 “Conservation and sustainable managements of peatlands” ; **UNGA/** Res 73/220 “Harmony with Nature” ; RES 75/219 “Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development” ; RES 74/240 “Nature fibers and sustainable developments” ; **CBD/** DEC XIV/1 ,XIV/6 and XIV/8.

<p>PPe) <i>Stressing</i> the importance of the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity to achieve sustainable development, fully aware of the necessity of resilient ecosystems for securing and enhancing biodiversity, mitigating, adapting to and building resilience towards climate change and its impacts, and human wellbeing, including health, and <i>stressing</i> the need to scale up and use nature-based solutions.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are currently developing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This Framework is expected to be finalized and adopted at COP15 in Kunming. Nature-Based solution will play a major role in its implementation.
<p>PPf) <i>Recognizing</i> the cost-efficient and effective nature of nature-based solutions to provide solutions to the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph emphasizes the cost-efficient and effective nature of NbS. EU+MS could put forward that this statement is supported by numerous scientific documentation and reports by international organizations and UN Bodies.² • The EU+MS could argue that the mention of “ensuring social and environmental safeguards” emanates from the discussion for the Glasgow Climate Pact.
<p>PPg) <i>Supporting</i> the need for stepping up the implementation of nature-based solutions as a vital component for jointly achieving the objectives of UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, UNCCD, CBD and UNDRR, supported by the outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26), and addressing multiple connected crises of climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss and pollution, and related health impacts, which are urgent and shared challenges for the international community.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph makes an explicit link between the implementation of NbS and the achievements of objectives set in the Rio Conventions, in order to reinforce their unique position as a cross-sectorial tool to address the variety of crises.

² For references **[to be completed]** : United Nations Environment Programme and International Union for Conservation of Nature (2021). Nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation. Nairobi and Gland ; WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme)/UN-Water (2018). The United Nations World Water Development Report 2018: Nature-Based Solutions for Water. Paris: UNESCO ; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2020). Nature-Based Solutions for Adapting to Water-Related Climate Risks. OECD Environment Policy Papers. Paris.

<p>PPh) <i>Reaffirming</i> the need for having green and resilient COVID-19 recovery plans that support sustainable management of the environment and nature.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph recalls the importance of green recovery plans post-COVID-19. It parallels the call made in OP10. It could be relevant for EU+MS to link these provisions with OP2(b) of the draft resolution on Green recovery presented by the African Group.
<p>OPERATIONAL PARAGRAPHS</p>	
<p>OP1. <i>Agrees</i> that nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem resilience and biodiversity benefits. They are designed to address major societal challenges, such as biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, food security, disaster risks, urban development, water security, as well as social and economic development, human health and a large range of ecosystem services, while applying social and environmental safeguards, building on existing relevant safeguards, including those under the Rio Conventions.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph proposes to agree on a common understanding of the essence and benefits of NbS in order to promote further their successful implementation. • The EU+MS could argue that the text proposed is the most accurate and comprehensive, as it allows for a practical understanding of the concept, objectives and design of NbS. The definition put forward forms a logical and coherent whole and alterations of its language could result in loss of understanding and operability. • Is there a strategic opportunity for EU+MS to explicitly reference the 2016 IUCN “Definitional Framework on NbS” and the 2020 IUCN “Global Standards for NbS”? <i>[To be noted that Norway, during the CPR subcommittee meeting expressed preference for IUCN definition of NbS but suggested deletion of operational paragraph 1, if a definition cannot be agreed.]</i>
<p>OP2. <i>Recognises</i> that specific ecosystem-based approaches can be considered under the wider umbrella concept of nature-based solutions and agrees that nature-based solutions do not replace the necessity for urgent action on decarbonisation, reduction of emissions, and adaptation and resilience to climate change and its impacts, but are needed alongside and in support of these efforts.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph aims to articulate the related concept of ecosystem-based approaches (EbA) and NbS, which are often referenced jointly or opposed, notably by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The wording proposed aims to emphasize the synergies and complementarity of the two concepts.

<p>OP3. <i>Underlines</i> the need for enhancing the understanding and stepping up the implementation of nature-based solutions, on land as well as at sea.</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph reinforces in the operational part the need to accelerate the implementation of NbS in diverse ecosystems. • The EU+MS could emphasize the importance to scale-up and implement NbS as they provide the greatest benefits to biodiversity while also addressing other environmental challenges and major socio-economic and societal challenges [from the 25/10/2021 Concept Note].
<p>OP4. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Director of UNEP, building on existing work, initiatives and platforms by collaborating closely with relevant organizations and institutions,</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft resolution relates to all three of the thematic subprogrammes on nature, climate, chemicals and pollution since nature-based solutions can make substantive contributions to the objectives in all three areas. • The resolution is related to Paragraph 33 of the Medium Term Strategy (UNEP will support an integrated and balanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will continue to build the capacity of Member States and partners to integrate the environment into all aspects of sustainable development, leveraging the interactions and co-benefits of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals), since nature-based solutions can make a significant contribution to the achievement of many of the SDGs. The resolution is also related to Paragraph 41 of the MTS (Special attention will be paid to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030) since nature-based solutions can contribute significantly to the reducing the risk of disasters. • If the question is raised, the EU+MS could explain that the UNEP Secretariat has estimated to USD 2,6M the overall extra budgetary financial requirements for implementing this resolution during the period of two years. Further information could be requested on it if needed as NbS is already clearly indicated in the POWB. [Source: Technical Note of UNEP Secretariat].

<p>(i) to map best practices and lessons learned of nature-based solutions at local, national, regional, global levels and share innovative solutions, including green and blue infrastructures, that are scalable, replicable and adaptable to a variety of urban or rural environments;</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall aim of the following paragraphs is to mandate UNEP to help accelerate the implementation of NbS through a series of operational measures in order to better involve multiple stakeholders, develop economic and scientific data, provide capacity building and disseminate knowledge on NbS globally. • It could be relevant to provide a brief definition of grey, green and blue infrastructures to other countries to illustrate this paragraph.
<p>(ii) to address the role of gender equality and empowerment of women, youth and indigenous and local communities, in processes to identify, design, implement and monitor nature-based solutions, as well as local application of the nature-based solutions ;</p>	
<p>(iii) to provide guidance to Member States on possibilities to integrate nature-based solutions into sectoral policies at all levels, including with regards to urban and rural development and planning;</p>	
<p>(iv) to raise awareness of nature-based solutions by including innovative methods and building capacities for effective implementation;</p>	
<p>(v) to provide further evidence on the economic case for the scaling up of nature-based solutions;</p>	
<p>(vi) to develop recommendations for Member States for accelerating nature-based solutions' implementation, mainstreaming and interdisciplinary collaboration, building on already existing guidelines and UN resolutions and best practices, taking into account the cross-cutting nature of nature-based solutions;</p>	

<p>(vii) to develop further a global knowledge platform for sharing nature-based solutions' innovation and best practices that builds on existing nature-based solutions platforms¹, and <i>requests</i> the Executive Director to submit a report on the findings for the consideration of the Members States by [UNEA-6];</p>	
<p>OP5. <i>Calls upon</i> the Member States and the Executive Director of UNEP, in collaboration with other relevant UN agencies, to support the uptake of relevant knowledge and methods of indigenous peoples and local communities that have proved effective in maintaining a balance between conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and human wellbeing, with free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities;</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph underlines the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to help design NbS that respect the integrity of ecosystems and are informed by traditional knowledge. • It underlines the importance of working together with free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with the obligations enacted in the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the 2010 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
<p>OP6. <i>Invites</i> Member States to invest in education, communication and awareness raising, research and development, and enhance regional cooperation for leveraging innovation in nature-based solutions, particularly with regard to multi-scalar planning for functional green and blue infrastructure, including replacing grey infrastructures with green and blue ones and integrating urban and rural planning and infrastructure management;</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph recalls the importance of leveraging innovation in NbS to develop and implement sustainable infrastructures. • It could be relevant to provide a brief definition of grey, green and blue infrastructures to other countries to illustrate this paragraph. • A link could also be made with the resolution on sustainable infrastructures proposed by Mongolia.
<p>OP7. <i>Invites</i> the Executive Director of UNEP to support Member States in accessing sustainable financing for nature-based solutions and propose criteria for supporting sustainable investments in nature-based solutions, and <i>calls upon</i> the Executive Director of UNEP to map possible economic and financial instruments (subsidies, grants, investment schemes) to promote widespread</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph recalls the importance of accessing sustainable financing to accelerate the implementation of NbS and mandates UNEP to help operationalize this target by proposing criteria and mapping possible economic and financial instruments.

<p>implementation of nature-based solutions, including in collaboration with financial mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF), as well as with the private and the finance sector, and <i>stresses</i> the importance of mobilising and increasing the quality, accessibility, and quantity of financial resources from all sources, including public and private, to deliver benefits to nature such as through nature-based solutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It could be relevant to recall that UNEP produced in 2021 a report on the “State of Finance for Nature: Tripling Investments in Nature-based Solutions by 2030”.
<p>OP8. <i>Recognizes</i> the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use and the corresponding Global Forest Finance Pledge for supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation and enhancing collaboration to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and land degradation by 2030, including by addressing the systemic drivers of forest loss, and enabling the conservation, sustainable management and use, and restoration of forests in ODA eligible countries through, <i>inter alia</i>, funding for results-based payments and technical and financial cooperation for capacity building that support and strengthen:</p>	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following outreach on the Concept note, Costa Rica proposed to introduce the following paragraphs which replicates the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use. • Depending on reactions from third States, EU+MS could be opened to a shorter, more streamlined paragraph.
<p>i) Forest and land governance and clarifying land tenure and forest rights for Indigenous Peoples and local communities;</p>	
<p>ii) Deforestation-free and sustainable agricultural supply chains including systems for transparency, traceability and integrity, the development and effective implementation of sustainability standards – building on already existing international agreements and certification schemes - and increasing the availability of finance for smallholders and community forestry, to improve livelihoods, support a transition to long-term forest investments and sustainable practices;</p>	

iii) Deforestation-free and sustainable financial markets and leveraging significant private investment in sustainable forest management, forest protection and sustainable deforestation free agriculture;	
iv) Large-scale landscape restoration and forest conservation; and	
v) Actions to reduce forest crime and forest fires; all of which are critical for protecting people and livelihoods, preserving critical ecosystems, and halting and reversing biodiversity loss.	
OP9. <i>Stresses</i> the importance of improving the monitoring of nature-based solutions, including applying cost-effectiveness and other relevant assessments that fully capture environmental, societal and economic benefits, in synergies with existing environmental and climate change monitoring systems, and invites UNEP, all relevant UN agencies, scientific institutions and Member States to enhance coordination on this matter by cooperating on innovative social, technological and digital solutions, including using data and spatial analysis in an integrated manner.	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph recalls the importance of monitoring the effects and results of Nature-based Solutions, in order to assess that they fully deliver their targeted benefits. To that aim, it provides that innovative social, technological and digital solutions offer a great opportunity to reinforce the success and effectiveness of monitoring operations.
OP10. <i>Calls for</i> the development of green, inclusive, sustainable and resilient post-COVID-19 societies, taking into account the necessity to prevent further increase in risks and conflicts connected to climate change, direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, urbanisation, overconsumption and overexploitation of natural resources and the need for integrated and sustainable ocean and land management that promotes resource efficiency, biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, by including use of nature-based solutions.	<p>Suggested argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paragraph recalls the importance to include NbS in green recovery plans post-COVID-19. • It could be relevant for EU+MS to link this provision with OP2(b) of the draft resolution on Green recovery presented by the African Group.