

Reference: UNE-2022-01886

29 September 2022

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in relation to [resolution 5/12](#), “Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management”, which was adopted at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) that took place in Nairobi from 28 February – 2 March 2022.

Resolution 5/12 requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), subject to the availability of resources, to convene transparent and inclusive intergovernmental regional consultations to feed into a global intergovernmental meeting. The resolution calls for the strengthening of, inter alia, scientific and policy knowledge on sand; and the development of a gap report on mine tailings.

There are several important milestones and outputs that the Secretariat will have to meet in 2023 to ensure the effective and successful implementation of this resolution 5/12. Central to these milestones and outputs is the convening of the intergovernmental regional consultations in-person in all six regions. The aim of the intergovernmental consultations, tentatively planned to be held in-person from January to April 2023, is to develop non-prescriptive proposals to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full life cycle, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNEP invites governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide extra-budgetary resources at the earliest to support the implementation of the resolution 5/12. The costs for the implementation of the resolution are to be met exclusively by voluntary contributions. While some resources already exist, there is a funding gap of 36.5% of the total estimated costs, or US\$ 359,755, to conduct the regional consultations and to enable the full implementation of the resolution. Please see Annex 1 budget summary. The requested funds will contribute to meeting the secretariat’s milestones, most importantly the convening of the consultations and associated assistance to developing countries to attend the consultations and global meetings. Financial support to developing country national focal points will be subject to United Nations rules and regulations and standard practice and will consist of economy-class airfare and corresponding daily subsistence allowance.

In order to support the process most efficiently, our request is for resources for the resolution 5/12 to be received without any specific focus area. Should earmarking within the process be necessary, I ask for maximum flexibility.

Pursuant to the request in paragraph 2 of the resolution, Member States are invited to nominate one national focal point to participate in the intergovernmental regional consultations. The national focal points will collaborate with and guide UNEP in the implementation of resolution 5/12. National focal points should preferably be senior government representatives with expertise in the environmental aspects of minerals and metals management. In addition, two Co-Chairs will be appointed to lead the consultations. The appointment of the two Co-Chairs will be coordinated by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under the leadership of the President of UNEA-6, taking into account the need for geographical balance and gender parity. In accordance with paragraph 2, the intergovernmental regional consultations will also include the participation of other United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organisations, secretariats of regional and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as relevant stakeholders as observers.

To: Ministers responsible for the Environment

Member States are invited to 1) nominate a national focal point to be engaged in the regional intergovernmental consultations and global meeting, 2) submit expressions of interest for the role of co-chairs, 3) indicate an interest to host any of the regional intergovernmental consultations, and, 4) pledge additional resources towards the convening of the regional intergovernmental consultations and the effective and successful implementation of resolution 5/12.

My colleagues in the secretariat, Ms. Angela Kariuki (angela.kariuki@un.org) and Ms. Charlotte Ndakorerwa (charlotte.ndakorerwa@un.org), stand ready to provide any additional information your team may require. Member States are welcome to submit the requested information to the secretariat at the earliest but no later than 31 October 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Inger Andersen
Executive Director

cc: Permanent Representatives to UNEP