

Meeting of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly
Monday 5 December 2016
04:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY BUREAU**

1. The Joint Retreat of the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which took place from 27 to 28 October 2016, decided that a consultation process on the theme would be launched with the Member States through the Committee of Permanent Representatives with the support of regional offices, and through UN Environment Assembly Bureau members, as appropriate, in order to build consensus on the theme for the 2017 Environment Assembly, taking into account the suggestions and selection criteria received from the Secretariat.¹
2. As follow up to this decision, the Committee held three Sub-Committee meetings on 17 November, 24 November and 29 November 2016, to discuss the theme. Written comments were received from Member States, Regional and Political Groups. Member States and other Stakeholders, not resident in Nairobi, were able to participate and provide contributions to these meetings through remote means in order to build consensus on the theme for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly. An Extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representative was held on 5 December 2016 to formally endorse the recommendations.
3. This report presents the key outcomes of the consultative process with Member States as agreed during the Committee of Permanent Representatives at an extraordinary meeting held on 5 December 2016, which were as follows:
 - a. There would only be one theme for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly.
 - b. Theme one on pollution was selected in its generic form. Details would be agreed at a later date.
 - c. Member States would decide on a title as soon as possible.
 - d. Member States with an interest in themes two and three could look into relevant elements of these themes that could be included in the concept paper for theme 1 on pollution.
 - e. The Secretariat would prepare a brief document on the process and timelines for work on the themes to be considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Bureau of the Assembly as appropriate.
 - f. The Secretariat would present in time for the Fourth Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives a first draft outline of

¹ UN Environment Preparatory Retreat Summary as attached.

the Report and possible key-recommendations regarding the theme of the 2017 Environment Assembly taking into account the inputs received from Member States and stakeholders. The presentation would further introduce how the process for the sixth edition of the Global Environmental Outlook will complement the preparations for the Report.

4. I thank all Member States, Regional and Political Groups as well as other Stakeholders for their contributions, constructive engagement and flexibility during this consultation process, which augurs well for preparations for the 2017 Session of the UN Environment Assembly. I commend the recommendations to the Bureau and I hope they will receive its positive consideration.