

Committee of Permanent Representatives to the
United Nations Environment Programme
Sub-Committee Meeting
Thursday 8 December 2016
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 4

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania, welcomed members to the meeting. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda.

Agenda Item 2: Update on the consideration of theme for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

2. The Chair recalled that the Bureau Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly held on 5 December 2016 had endorsed the five recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the theme for the 2017 Environment Assembly. She informed the meeting that communication had been sent out requesting Member States to submit further inputs on the theme and its title by 12 January 2017. A joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to further discuss the theme would be held, tentatively on 15 February 2017. The meeting agreed not to substantively consider agenda item 2, Update on the consideration of theme for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Agenda Item 3: Update on progress of work on marine and coastal ecosystems.

3. The Chair invited Ms. Mette Wilkie, Director, Eco Systems Division to update the meeting on progress of work on marine and coastal ecosystems. At the request of Ms. Wilkie, Ms. Lisa Emelia Svensson, Head of Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Branch, made a presentation on progress of work on marine and coastal ecosystems. The presentation covered areas such as: the value of oceans and efforts to protect them; engagement of various international

organizations including UN Environment; ocean governance; partnerships, The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA); communication and; ocean-related UN Environment Assembly resolutions.

4. In the discussion that followed, further information was requested on the place and role of UN Environment in the complex patchwork of ocean governance and on the status of UN Environment's Marine strategy. Other issues highlighted included: the lack of national capacity in areas like data and investment in ocean-related programmes and the need for resources; the importance of strengthening work and partnerships on oceans, and the link of oceans to regulating climate. Questions were also raised on the management and effectiveness of the regional seas management and on ongoing negotiations on the sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), including the plans of UN Environment on this issue.
5. Concern was expressed over the fact that the scope of Global Programme of Action covered only pollution from land based activities. Pollution through sectors like shipping was the responsibility of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and was not covered by Environment Ministers. Members also called for more briefings particularly on those of science-based nature.
6. The meeting welcomed a proposal to establish a Friends of oceans group in Nairobi with an advisory mandate. It was expected to discuss link to the theme of the 2017 Environment Assembly, follow up ocean and marine-related programmes, support the oversight role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and look at possible outcomes on oceans at the 2017 Environment Assembly.
7. In response to the comments and questions, Ms. Wilkie informed the meeting that regional collaboration has been facilitated, through exchange of knowledge and experience on oil spills protocols, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and marine literature. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), had been dealing with marine litter, nutrients and wastewater. Its Fourth Inter-Governmental Review Meeting would tentatively be held in 2017. UN Environment also collaborated with a number of organizations, like International Maritime Organization on issues such as shipping and lead paint, the Food and Agricultural organization on fisheries and the Secretariat in New York on legal inputs and regional seas. Regarding biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), there was a meeting to discuss the issue. As for ocean-related resolutions of the 2016 Environment Assembly, the Secretariat would be happy to provide update on implementation progress and relevant information.
8. Ms. Svensson highlighted the need to strengthen the Regional Seas Programme and to advance the use of the existing regional ocean governance framework in supporting Member States with the implementation of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals. In-depth discussions were expected on how ocean and marine-related issues could be linked to the

theme of the 2017 Environment Assembly and lead to action plans. Pollution in the shipping sector was basically dealt with International Maritime Organization (IMO). However, it was also connected with other sectors such as transportation and infrastructure. It therefore required engagement and ownership of different ministries. Regarding the United Nations Environment Programme Marine and Coastal Strategy 2011, a gap analysis and identification of priorities and partnerships for ocean was in progress.

9. In response to a request from a member state, the European Union undertook to share information on its partnership with the UN Environment on the marine environment and ocean governance. The meeting was informed that UN Environment had a long-standing partnership reflected in a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Union. It also had partnerships on the marine environment with other Member States and international bodies.
10. A representative of a Major Group and Stakeholders highlighted potential negative impacts of communities living at the coast, through marine plastics and overfishing. She emphasized the need to raise their awareness on marine environment by distributing relevant information.
11. Following a request by some Member States, the Chair requested the Secretariat to provide an update on implementation status of resolutions of the UN Environment Assembly. She encouraged Member States to send inputs on possible topics for briefings. The Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment informed the meeting that the Secretariat would provide a brief on progress in the implementation of all resolutions during the Fourth Annual Sub-Committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Agenda Item 4: Update on the UN Environment Organogram.

12. At the invitation of the Chair, the Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment provided update on Agenda item 4. He highlighted two changes in the UN Environment Organogram: the renaming of divisions and regional offices and changes in the executive office which did not constitute restructuring. As communicated during the 136th meeting of the CPR, the Executive Director had renamed all divisions to simplify language and capture the functions in a manner that the public could more easily understand.

Changes in Names of Divisions and Regional Offices:

Former	Present
DELC (Division of Environmental Law and Conventions)	Law Division
DEWA (Division of Early Warning and Assessment)	Science Division
DTIE (Division of Technology, Industry and Economics)	Economy Division
DEPI (Division of Environmental Policy Implementation)	Ecosystems Division
OFO (Operations and Corporate Services)	Corporate Services Division

RSO (Regional Support Office)	Regional Presence Office
DCPI (Division of Communication and Public Information)	Communications Division
SGB (Secretariat of Governing Bodies)	Governance Affairs Office
ROE (Regional Office for Europe)	Europe Office
ROA (Regional Office for Africa)	Africa Office
ROAP (Regional Office for Asia Pacific)	Asia and Pacific Office
ROWA (Regional Office for West Asia)	West Asia Office
RONA (Regional Office for North America)	North America Office
ROLAC (Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean)	Latin America Office

13. On changes in the Executive Office, a Strategic Programme and Policy Division had been established by emerging functions of two divisions; Programme Strategy and Planning Team and Regional Presence Office. The strategic planning and programme coordination would integrate the programme monitoring, gender and social safeguards functions. On policy coordination, functions related to regional strategic presence will be integrated with strategic engagement with the wider United Nations System and implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. There were no major implications for staff and the changes were budget neutral. The changes were expected to enhance a number of key functions.
14. In the discussion that followed, Member States thanked the Deputy Executive Director for the transparent presentation. Some requested the Secretariat to circulate the new UN Environment organogram reflecting reporting lines and allowing for comparison with the existing organogram. Clarification was sought on the fate of the Caribbean region given the name change. One member requested for information about implications of the structural change on programme delivery, continuity and efficient delivery. One representative appreciated the changes and hoped they would enhance his country's representation in staffing at UN Environment.
15. In response, the Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment informed the meeting that the new UN Environment Organogram would be submitted to the Secretary-General of United Nations for approval. It was expected to be effective on 1 January 2017. The establishment of a new division would enhance coordination. Furthermore, it would have a positive impact on programme implementation without any financial implication. On the Caribbean region, he informed the meeting that two sub-regional offices had been opened in the Latin American and Caribbean Region to address the gap.
16. The meeting was informed that the first discussion with the chief of new division on implementation of 2030 Agenda would provide a first glance of the evaluation of implementation of resolutions.

17. The meeting closed at 11:27 am.