

Committee of Permanent Representatives to the  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Informal Briefing Session  
Tuesday 24 January 2016  
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.,  
United Nations Office at Nairobi Gigiri,  
Conference Room 3

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. The Secretary of Governing Bodies, Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, opened the meeting and welcomed members.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Briefing by Dr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Secretariat the Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Convention on the organization of the triple Conference of Parties**

2. The Secretary invited Dr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariat. He made a presentation on the organization of the Conferences of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, which will take place on 24 April to 5 May 2017. The presentation covered areas such as: overview of back-to-back meetings of the triple Conferences of Parties; High-Level Segment; tentative schedule; technology fair and side events; regional preparatory meetings.

#### **Agenda Item 3: Briefing on implementation of Chemicals and Waste Sub-programme by Mr. Achim Halpaap, Head, Chemicals and Waste Branch, Economy Division**

3. Mr. Achim Halpaap, Head, Chemicals and Waste Branch of the Economy Division made a presentation on sub-programme of Chemicals and Waste. The presentation covered areas such as: Resolution 2/7 of the United Nations Environment Assembly on sound management of chemicals and waste; global trends and linkage with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; key trends of chemicals and waste; Global Chemicals Outlook II; special programme on institutional strengthening for chemicals and waste management; Minamata Convention on Mercury; lead pollution; strengthening the platform for chemicals management beyond 2020; opportunities and challenges of chemicals management.
4. In the discussion that followed, questions were raised on expectations and possible contributions on how the triple Conferences of Parties could lead to actionable outcomes for the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Further information was

requested on engagement of the chemical industries; update of the Global Chemicals Outlook II; review of synergies arrangements among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Questions were also raised on efforts of United Nations Environment on lead regulation and the approach to promoting actions in international fora.

5. In response to comments and questions, Dr. Payet informed participation of diverse ministries in the triple Conferences of Parties and high-level discussions would create awareness on important issues. With regard to engagement of the chemical industries, he said that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have been engaging with the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) of the United Kingdom, the United States, India and China. He highlighted meetings with the Executive Director of UN Environment to discuss key issues on the triple Conferences of Parties and the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The meeting also highlighted close coordination with the Chemicals and Waste branch of UN Environment and the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. One of partnerships of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions with the Global Environment Facility helped ensure implementation of policy and decisions made by the Conferences of Parties and allocated resources to countries for this purpose. On the review of the synergies arrangements among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, e-surveys were under way.
6. Mr. Halpaap provided further information on comments and questions from members. He took note the importance of strengthening national systems and identifying priorities in order for the international community to work together as a part of regulation system works and inter-sessional process. The meeting was informed that the Secretariat would be sending out the survey to promote awareness on sustainable chemistry as the global definition of sustainable chemistries does not exist. In addition, the first edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook would be updated with new study results and methodological challenges in quantifying actions for sound management of chemicals. Regarding contributions to the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, he stressed that the Chemicals and Waste Branch has been putting efforts into identifying interlinkages of chemicals and the theme of the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
7. With regard to Private Sector Engagement, the meeting noted that UN Environment signed the Memorandum of Agreement with the global chemical industries in 2016, which covers the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) beyond 2020 capacity development activities. He thanked Member States for their awareness and efforts on lead in paint despite of the limited resources on the issue. Furthermore, he said other areas such leaded petrol, lead in ceramics and lead acid batteries could receive attention as they are reflected in UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/7.
8. The Secretary added comments on views of Member States on presentations. He said that the Secretariat has been discussing preparations and engagement with forthcoming triple Conferences of Parties with the Law Division. He highlighted three points as follows: i) the

Secretariat intended to increase the level of dialogue and presence of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly. It would provide messages for Bureau Members to the triple Conferences of Parties and feedback from Bureau members; ii) The Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly has been looking forward to further engagement with the triple Conferences of Parties as it is considered as a good opportunity; and iii) the Secretariat has been making efforts to step forward to identify specific types of commitments and pledges to bring companies. Lastly, he highlighted the importance of synergies between the United Nations Environment Assembly and the triple Conferences of Parties.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Briefing on integrative approach to the 2030 Agenda**

9. At the request of the Secretary, Mr. Munyaradzi Chenje, Chief Policy Coordination Office, Strategic Programme and Policy Division of UN Environment, made a presentation on the integrative approach to the 2030 Agenda. The presentation covered areas such as intergovernmental processes on the 2030 Agenda; UN Environment contribution to the 2030 Agenda; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Sustainable Development Goals; types of integrated approach; responses to integrative approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at national and UN integrated country level.
10. As an example of an integrative approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Ms. Victoria Luque, the Poverty Environment Initiative of UN Environment made a presentation on the Poverty and Environment Initiative. The presentation covered areas such as the Poverty-Environment Nexus; a case study of the integrated approach in Rwanda; an integrated approach to agriculture; the gender gap in agricultural productivity; new agricultural policy in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda. It also included lessons learned from the Poverty and Environment Initiative and the way forward.
11. In the discussion that followed, questions were raised on solutions to increase women's access to labour and agricultural activities and the connection of an integrative approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the High Level Political Forum.
12. Mr. Munyaradzi informed the meeting that the New York Office of UN Environment was supporting Member States in their preparations for the High Level Political Forum. He also recalled a meeting, held in December 2016 in Vienna which discussed how six Sustainable Development Goals including gender and industrialization could be addressed in the context of the High Level Political Forum and Member States can contribute to the process.
13. With regard to contributions of the Poverty and Environment Initiative to the High Level Political Forum, Ms. Luque informed the meeting that the lessons and experiences of the Poverty and Environment Initiative would be shared by UN Environment. The Poverty Environment Initiative would share toolkits for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. On methodology, she informed the meeting that the Poverty Environment Initiative used data from the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study – Integrated Surveys

on Agriculture. She highlighted the Poverty and Environment Initiative had made efforts to address male and female labour issues and cultural issues which may prevent women's accesses to labour. Publications providing details on her presentation including methodology and data were available.

14. The meeting highlighted the importance of a holistic and integrative approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting was informed that the next Subcommittee meeting would take place on Tuesday, 7 February 2017 and would provide updates or briefings on environment under review and environmental governance, particularly the Environment Management Group.

15. The meeting closed at 4:43 p.m.