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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**138th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**
Nairobi, 10 March 2017, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Chair's Report of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. Since the 137th meeting of Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 16 January 2017, there have been four meetings: a Subcommittee meeting on 7 February 2017, the Fourth Annual Subcommittee meeting held from 6 to 9 March 2017; a meeting of the Informal open-ended working group held on 16 February 2017 and a briefing and Orientation for new members of the Committee that took place on 24 January 2017.
2. The meetings focused on monitoring performance through updates on UN Environment work, preparations for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly and briefings on topical issues and Orientation for new members. Issues discussed included: update on Environment Under Review Sub-programme; update by the Environment Management Group; budget and programme performance including implementation of the Assembly's resolutions; contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum; and themes and organizational arrangements for the third session of the UN Environment Assembly and Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.
3. Following agreement on pollution as the generic theme 2017 UN Environment Assembly, Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders sent additional inputs on the theme of Pollution, specifically on the wording of the title, priority areas and possible outcomes. The Secretariat prepared a synthesis of inputs that formed the basis for further discussion.
4. At the Informal Open-ended Working Group meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 16 February 2017, Mr. Stadler Trengove, Senior Legal Officer, Office of Legal Affairs provided an informative and comprehensive briefing on the Rules of Procedure of the UN Environment Assembly. It focused on issues such as decision making including voting procedures and quorum as well as; translation of official documents. Additional briefings and training on the Rules of Procedure were proposed in the lead-up to the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly. It was agreed that a mock exercise would take place during the last day of the Fourth Annual Sub Committee Meeting. Members of the Bureaux of Committee and of the UN

Environment Assembly would also receive training on the Rules of Procedure.

5. The Informal Working Group discussed the structure and organization on the 2017 UN Environment Assembly. Member States shared preliminary comments on two proposed scenarios for the structure and organization and exchanged views on possible outcomes of the 2017 Environment Assembly.
6. The Fourth Annual Sub-Committee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was held from 6 to 9 March 2017. Its main conclusions are reflected in a Chair's summary, which will be annexed to this report.
7. The Secretariat organized a briefing session that covered: the organization of the triple Conferences of Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention; implementation of Chemicals and Waste Sub-programme; and an integrative approach to the 2030 Agenda including the Poverty and Environment Initiative.
8. The Friends of Oceans held its first meeting and is expected to report on the outcome at the next Sub Committee meeting.
9. Through these meetings, the Committee progressed in preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly. It also monitored the work of UN Environment in line with its mandate and helped enhance UN Environment's visibility through inputs for the contribution of the President of the UN Environment Assembly to High Level Political Forum. I wish to thank all members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their hard work and active engagement during this period.