

United Nations Environment Programme
Joint meeting of the Bureaux of UN Environment Assembly and
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Wednesday 22 March 2017
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Office of the Director-General Boardroom (3rd level of R Block)
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri

Agenda Item 2:

Outcome of the Fourth Annual Sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Thank you Mr. President,
Good afternoon colleagues, Please allow me to avail this opportunity to express my happiness to see you again in this meeting, as a matter of fact, unfortunately I was unable to participate in the Fourth Annual Sub-committee meeting which took place in Nairobi on 6-9 March 2017, owing to some prior scheduled engagements, and I'm sure this meeting was vital in tackling the diverse environmental issues and in terms of participation and relevance, but I'm quite satisfied that our DPR in Nairobi Mr. Husham Alfityan has done a good job.

Mr. President, Madam Chair, Executive Director, Dear colleagues,
Regarding this Agenda Item, and first of all, I want to express my gratitude for Ms. Julia Pataki for her efforts in providing the report dated 13 March 2017 and also for the joint efforts with the Secretariat for providing the document CPR/SC 2017/2/6*Rev5 dated 14 March 2017, regarding the Chair's summary for the 4th Annual Sub Committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme.

In this vain I have some remarks,

1. Regarding the **Budget and Programme Performance including implementation of the Assembly's resolutions**, I want to express gratitude to secretariat for providing the detailed and informative reports regarding the funding strategy, and the Programme's annual performance review and the important results that have emerged to date, which are showing an urgent need to provide secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources.

Dear colleagues, as you know most of the countries of the Asia Pacific group are developing and least developing countries and some of them are suffering from budget deficit, In this regard they are counting on

extra-budgetary contributors, to facilitate implementing the Programme's projects.

Asia-Pacific Group appreciates financial contributions made so far towards the Environment Assembly by Member States, and our regional group reiterates its concern regarding limiting the participation of Developing Countries to UN Environment Assembly due to lack of funding.

Asia-Pacific Group highly values the generous contributions of the European Commission, Nordic Council, France and Finland, towards the support for developing countries participants.

and regarding the implementation of resolutions adopted at the second session of the Assembly, we are grateful from secretariat for providing the report without foreword regarding this issue, I want to emphasize on the resolution no. 2/6 of Supporting the Paris Agreement, as Asia Pacific Group sees a need to increase support to Developing Countries to access climate funds to accelerate the transition from INDCs to NDCs implementation. And regarding the resolution no. 2/15, we see that the programme's efforts are praiseworthy regarding Supporting Ms. **Marie G. Jacobsson** the Special Rapporteur on the Protection of the Environment in the preparation and presentation of her third report, and it's clear that there is a need to scale up the resource mobilization in order to enable UN Environment to fully implement this resolution, in this regard and subject to extra-budgetary resources and a clear authorization from the assembly, we may start thinking about establishing an environmental crises response fund to facilitate the rapid and predictable response and deployment to environmental crises, and this can increase the coordinated and consolidated joint efforts with UNISDR and other agencies. And regarding resolution NO 2/21, our regional group highly value the partnership with World Meteorological Organization, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and academia.

2: regarding the Theme for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly

Asia-Pacific Group received with appreciation the endorsement of the proposal of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives by Member States of “Towards a Pollution Free Planet” as the wording for the title of the theme of the 2017 Session of the UN Environment Assembly. And by the same token, the Group sees the ED's report will be useful for the catalyzation of the outcomes of the Assembly.

3: regarding the Timelines for submission of draft resolutions

We consider the idea of organizing a timetable for the draft resolutions submission, which has been developed by the Secretariat as a smart response to the lessons learned from UNEA-2, and we would like to request the secretariat to issue a legal note for whether the exercise of this timetable will be without prejudice to the Rules of Procedure or not, to secure bringing all member states to the same understanding. While we do believe that this proposal is aligned with the Conclusions of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly, Asia-Pacific Group Prefers October 2017 as deadline for the submission of draft resolutions.

4: regarding the Structure of the High-Level Segment

Asia-Pacific Group Supports the adoption of non-contentious resolutions on Day 1 of UNEA-3 in order to positive momentum and allows time for draft resolutions that need further negotiation.

We still stick to some remarks that concluded by the following:

there is a need for limiting parallel sessions to no more than two to cater for effective participation of small delegations, clarification from Secretariat is required on how the Dialogues would be run during the High Level Segment and providing more information on the commitments and pledges. We welcome The Committee's desire that Ministers need to have the opportunity to deliver statements and make their positions known globally. We also prefer a limited number of side events which should not clash with the negotiation process.

Agenda Item 3:

Update on the Expected Outcomes of the third session of the 2017 Environment Assembly

1.The Group Supports a Chair's Summary instead of a negotiated document or an action plan, we see that some member states in other regional groups expressed skepticism on the possibility to achieve a negotiated ministerial outcome document and expressed a preference for a chair's summary, as they explained they don't prefer to face the same scenario during UNEA-2, and there is a call that CBDR need to be included in this document if member states agreed upon, as it's agreed language we can find in Principle 23 of Stockholm Declaration, Principle 7 of Rio Declaration,

Article 3 Paragraph 1 and Article 4 Paragraph 1 of UNFCCC, Article 10 of Kyoto Protocol and Paragraphs 15 and 191 of the document entitled "The future we want" of the UNGA Resolution **A/RES/66/288**

And as you know this contentious visions make the possibility to reach consensus upon globally agreed outcome document difficult

2. on the resolutions drafting negotiation process, we see that adopting a lesser number of, but more impactful, resolutions shall assist Member States making concerted efforts to achieve tangible outcome that leading to preserve the voice of UNEA as the highest political environmental authority.

we see that increasing follow-up on protecting environment in areas affected by terrorism is very important and could lead to added value to the performance of the UN Environment, by reducing the negative and trans-boundary impacts of the environmental crises which may caused by the terrorist acts.

Agenda Item 4

Update on the Consultative Dialogue on Oceans and the Environment Assembly preparatory retreat to be held from 8-10 June 2017 in Costa Rica

Listening to the updates from Secretariat and may interact later.

Agenda Item 5

Other matters

Agenda Item 6

Closing of the Meeting