

Committee of Permanent Representatives to the

United Nations Environment Programme

Thursday 13 April 2017

10:00 am – 11:00 pm

United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri

Conference Room 4

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The Secretary of Governing Bodies, Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, welcomed members and called the meeting to order.
2. The meeting welcomed Amb. Makena Muchiri, Permanent Representative of Kenya to UN Environment to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Agenda item 2: Briefing on group of technical experts on ascertaining and documenting the current status of knowledge of crimes that have serious impacts on the environment

3. The Secretary invited Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Director – Law Division and Mr. Arnold Kreilhuber, Head - International Environmental Law Unit. The presentation focused on the experts process on crimes that have serious impacts on the environment within the ambit of operative paragraph 7 of UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/14. In particular, the presentation covered: (i) the mandate of the proposed experts group; (ii) purpose of the experts process; (iii) approach and steps taken so far and those still to be undertaken and; (iv) composition of the experts group.
4. In the discussions that followed, a member objected the formation of the experts group on grounds that UN Environment Programme is not the lead UN Agency on crime, and that there is no resolution to support the establishment of the experts group. The member was also concerned about the independent nature of the experts appointed to the group. In view of these concerns, the member requested that the process of establishing the experts group be suspended and that the secretariat reconsiders the approach to ensure it receives the relevant political backing by all.
5. A majority of members present expressed support for UN Environment's mandate to go forth with the experts process.
6. Participants also requested the Secretariat to work in close collaboration with Member States and consult on how the Executive Director will present the findings of the group for consideration of the Assembly.
7. A member pointed out that UN Environment can add value and provide leadership without taking on the expert responsibilities of other International Non-Governmental Organization and other UN agencies by serving as the leader through this experts process as it is pegged on environmental matters.
8. The Secretariat upon request from a member, briefed the meeting of the progress of activities supporting the African Elephant Action Plan.

Agenda item 3: Other Matters

9. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.

10. The meeting closed at 11:40 a.m.