



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Ref: 2016/SGB/JL-C/mm

18 November 2016

Excellency,

I wish to make reference to the preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly which will be held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that preparations have begun in earnest through the first joint meeting of the bureaux of the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme held from 27 to 28 October 2016, with the participation of Regional and Political Groups in observer capacity.

As stated in the joint summary, which was sent to all Member States on my behalf and that of H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 4 November 2016 (available in the portal of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (web.unep.org/about/cpr), there is agreement that the 2017 Environment Assembly should address a theme that leads to actionable outcomes.

To this end, I am pleased to inform you that a consultation process on such a theme has been launched amongst Member states through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and through UN Environment Assembly Bureau members, as appropriate, taking into account the suggestions and selection criteria received from the Secretariat.

In this regard, I wish to inform you that a first consultation on this important topic took place in Nairobi on the 17 November 2016. This consultation was ably chaired by H.E. Mr. Raza Tarar, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan. It resulted in the following points:

There is broad support for building consensus on one theme for the 2017 Environment Assembly and initiating a successful preparatory process for the Assembly. The Bureau of the Assembly is expected to consider the recommendation from the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its next meeting scheduled on 5 December 2016.

Of the suggested themes and selection criteria received from the Secretariat, the proposed themes provisionally titled "Pollution free planet: delivering a deal to detoxify the world" (theme 1) and "Planet 2.0: how to prepare the planet for 3 degrees and 9 billion people" (theme 2) are considered more viable by most Member States, notwithstanding that all other proposed themes are highly relevant.

There is also support for focusing and adjusting the headings of the themes and several Member States have made proposals to this end. These proposals are captured in the revised note by the Secretariat attached for your information.

Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders

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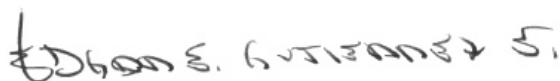
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In order to ensure the widest possible ownership, I wish to invite you to share your views and preferences on the proposed themes, by:

- (a) Submitting your distinguished opinion to the Secretariat to the email address (unep.sgb@unep.org), if possible, by the 23 November 2016;
- (b) Ensuring the participation in person or by electronic means of your representative in Nairobi in the next round of consultations to be held in Nairobi on the 24th of November 2016 from 09:30 to 12:30hrs (East Africa Time) in the context of a subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Kindly note that the Secretariat has set in place an interactive platform which enables the virtual participation in meetings in preparation for the 2017 Environment Assembly of those countries that do not have a Permanent Mission in Nairobi. More information on how to participate virtually is also available in the portal of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (web.unep.org/about/cpr).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta
President of the UN Environment Assembly
Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica