

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Wednesday 2 August 2017
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
United Nations Office in Nairobi
Executive Office Boardroom

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. H.E. Mr. John Moreti, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana, chaired the meeting, in which the following participated:

Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members

- H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Vice Chair, Asia-Pacific Group
 - Mr. Raphael Medina, Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia, representing H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia, Vice Chair, Group of Latin America and Caribbean States;
 - H.E. Ms. Tarja Fernandez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland, Vice Chair, Western European and Other States Group
 - H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Permanent Representative of Poland, Rappporteur, Eastern European Group;
2. The Secretariat was represented by:
 - Mr. Naysan Sahba, Director, Communications Division, presenting as the Officer-in-Charge of the Executive Office, UN Environment Programme;
 - Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies, UN Environment Programme;
 - Ms. Rosemary Mukasa, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies, UN Environment Programme;
 - Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Senior Legal Officer, UN Environment Programme;
 3. The Secretariat informed that a brief on the online registration would be postponed to a later date.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of work of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

4. The Secretariat briefed on the revised organization of work of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Main changes which considered comments and recommendations from the previous Committee Bureau meeting included such as a) compression of clusters from three to two; b) Start of actual consideration of draft resolutions has been rescheduled to 19 September 2017; c) Chair would coordinate consultations on sensitive issues and the Ministerial Outcome Document; and d) 140th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives would be rescheduled to 12 October 2017 and it would be a full-day meeting in order to finalize draft resolutions.
5. On questions raised on the deadline for draft resolutions and expected numbers of draft resolutions, the Secretariat informed that two draft resolutions and two proposals for draft resolutions were so far submitted. The draft resolutions were not expected to be more than 10 in line with recommendations from member States. The numbers would be determined by member States. In terms of the deadline, the meeting was reminded that the agreed deadline was 15 July 2017 and actual submission of final texts should be done by 22 September 2017.
6. The Chair further indicated that at least four more draft resolutions were expected with submissions from Palestine, Iraq and the African Group. He therefore agreed that 9 to 10 draft resolutions including procedural resolutions might be considered.
7. One member proposed the change of date of the 140th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on account of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held on 11 to 13 October in Bogota, Colombia, noting that outcomes of the that meeting will be shared with the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
8. On proposals for a soft deadline for submission of draft resolutions and the change of date of the 140th Committee meeting, the Secretariat took note of the proposals, indicating that outcomes of the Second Forum of Ministers and Authorities of Environment of Asia-Pacific which will take place on 5-8 September in Bangkok, Thailand will also be shared with member States. The importance of delivering a political message reaffirming the final deadline for submission of draft resolutions and highlighting the need to submit draft resolutions before the 140th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was emphasised.
9. It was agreed that member States would be encouraged to meet the deadline for submission of draft resolutions. In line with the agreement, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a letter addressed to Regional Groups on the timetable for submission of draft resolutions.

10. The issue of clustering the resolutions came up and some members cautioned that the clustering would create unnecessary pressure to fill them up. Following a discussion on this matter, it was agreed that the clustering issue was to create organization of work and order for the resolutions and not to impose that the resolutions must fit into a specific cluster.
11. In concluding the issues of clusters, the Chair proposed the lead coordinators of each of the draft resolutions so far received, highlighting that there would be flexibility in defining roles as more resolutions are received. He suggested that the Secretariat should make plans for early allocation of resource persons for each of the draft resolutions.

Lead coordinators	Resolutions and function
H.E. John Moreti	Overall leadership and coordination; Ministerial Outcome Document
H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar	Eliminating exposure to lead paint
H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay	Marine litter and micro-plastics; Environment and Health
H.E. Ms. Tarja Fernandez	Substantially improve air quality in cities to within healthy levels for human consumption

12. The Secretariat announced the intention to prepare three procedural resolutions: a) Date and agenda of the 4th Session of the Assembly; b) Decision on amendment of the date of release of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook to 2019; and c) Organizational modalities of the regular sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
13. On organizational modalities, the Secretariat emphasized its importance in terms of the budgeting process for the Programme and better access to the resources allocated by the United Nations to servicing the meetings of the Assembly as referenced in resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.22.
14. In the ensuing discussions, the meeting considered the possibility of a binding decision on the deadline for submission of draft resolutions to be considered by the UN Environment Assembly. In response to the suggestion, the Secretariat's senior legal officer suggested that the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives could adopt a political agreement which could lead to a procedural decision at the beginning of the Assembly based on the joint decision. Further to the legal advice, the Chair suggested that the issue be referred to the next joint meeting of the bureaux for consideration.

15. On coordination of procedural draft resolutions during the inter-sessional period, the Chair indicated that he will further liaise with the Rapporteur for possible division of responsibilities between the two of them.

Agenda Item 3: Preparations for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly

16. With regard to the structure of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Secretariat advised that the suggestions for possible amendments made by the Latin American and Caribbean Group at the sub-committee meeting held on 6 July 2017 were still to be received in writing.
17. The Secretariat further indicated final structure of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives could be endorsed at the next sub-committee meeting together with the issue of organizational modalities of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Secretariat further underscored that conference services will be provided for one plenary session in parallel to two working groups in the morning and afternoon.
18. The Chair pointed out that the structure of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives needed to be in line with the previous Committee decision to hold two working groups in parallel to the plenary session. He stressed that there would still be flexibility exercised during the actual meetings taking into account the constraints faced smaller delegations.
19. With regard to the letter from the President of United Nations Environment Assembly dated 21 July, 2017, on the Ministerial Outcome Document, the Chair indicated that feedback on the roadmap and the consultation process for the Outcome Document will be shared at the joint meeting of the Bureaux to be held in September 2017.
20. The Chair reported on a tele-conference that he had with the President of the UN Environment Assembly on 28 July 2017. The President expressed regret that he was not able to get a slot to address the High-Level Political Forum which took place on 10-19 July 2017 in New York.
21. On the other hand, the President expressed satisfaction with the number of preparatory meetings on the next United Nations Environment Assembly. The Chair summarized those meetings as follows: i) He was informed of an informal group of friends for pollution and its plans to hold monthly meetings in order to support the agenda of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The group was initiated by the UN based Permanent Representatives of Germany, Norway and Kenya; ii) The President received affirmation of support for the UN Environment Assembly in a meeting with H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations; iii) The President also interacted with Representatives of Major Groups and other Stakeholders in New York to make them aware of the 3rd session of the UN Environment Assembly and its theme of pollution; and iv) The President also met with a limited number of representatives of the Group of 77 and China, as well as the Environment Minister of Luxembourg to create

awareness and understanding of the plan for the UN Environment Assembly to agree on a Ministerial Outcome Document as one of the key outcomes of the Assembly.

22. The Chair further indicated that the President of the Assembly was expecting the Committee of Permanent Representatives to take the initiative in providing helpful input to the strengthen President's efforts to conclude his consultations on the Ministerial Outcome Document.
23. The meeting was further informed by the Chair that the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly had made reference to France's initiative of the Global Pact for the Environment and its potential linkage to the United Nations Environment Assembly.
24. A member brought up the following points for consideration: With regard to the Ministerial Outcome Document, he emphasized that the President or his representative should be involved in the consultation process requesting further clarification on the consultation process. He also underscored the value of the expertise of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders to the Assembly, recalling that their participation was not substantive at the previous session. He highlighted the need to identify the reasons why the Assembly President was not recognized at the High Level Political Forum and to work towards addressing these for the future.
25. In response to the matter of participation of Major Groups and other Stakeholders the Secretariat suggested that the nine coordinators of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders could be invited to informal consultations on draft resolutions to be held in September and October with a view to providing them with an opportunity to present their positions to aid preparations for the Assembly.
26. The meeting expressed its disappointment at the handling of the matter of the participation of the President of UN Environment Assembly at the High-Level Political Forum in New York. The meeting agreed that consideration should be given to a follow up letter to the relevant authorities in New York after further discussion of the issue at the Joint Bureau Meeting
27. The Secretariat's senior legal officer underscored the need for strategic actions at an early stage with legitimate arguments and tools based on the Rules of Procedure in order to address this issue.

Agenda Item 4: Date of next meeting of the Bureau

28. Bureau members agreed to be flexible on the date of the next meeting so as to accommodate different logistical issues raised by some members. It was suggested that the next meeting be held before the joint meeting of the Bureaux tentatively scheduled on 14 September 2017.

Agenda Item 5: Other matters

29. On a possible meeting on the use of “UN Environment”, the Chair suggested that the first week of September would be ideal as most members will be back from summer holidays.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting

30. The meeting closed at 1:00 pm.