

Meeting of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly

Thursday, 14 September 2017,

4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri.

Executive Office Board Room

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Edgar Gutierrez, President of the UN Environment Assembly Bureau and Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica.

The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly:

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- Barbados (VP) Mr. Travis Sinckler, Ministry of Environment and Drainage, representing H.E. Mr. Dennis Lowe, Minister of Environment and Drainage, by audio link
- Czech Republic (VP) Mr. Lukas Pokorny, Ministry of the Environment representing H.E. Mr. Vladislav Smrž, Deputy Minister, of the Environment
- H.E. Mr. Vladislav Smrž, Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment, Vice President, Eastern European Group (Czech Republic) via video-conference.
- H.E. Mr. Ramon J.P. Paje, Senior Advisor to the Climate Change Commission, Vice President, Asia-Pacific Group (Philippines) via video-conference.
- Mr. John Matuszak, Senior Advisor, Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Vice President, Western European and Others Group (United States of America) via video-conference.
- Iraq (VP) Mr. Mohammed Husham Malik Al-Fityan, Deputy Permanent Representative, representing H.E. Mr. Jassim Humadi, Acting Minister of Health and Environment
- H.E. Ms. Roxane de Bilderling, Ambassador, Rapporteur, Western European and Others Group (Belgium).

Other representatives:

- H.E. Ms. Marta E. Juarez Ruiz, Ambassador on Special Mission of Costa Rica, Nairobi.
- Mr. Vincent Willekens, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium, Nairobi.

- H.E. Mr. Pavel Řezáč, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Czech Republic via video-conference
- Mr. Filip Vrlik, UN Environment Assembly Focal Point, Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic via video-conference.
- Mr. Mohammed Husham Malik Al-Fityan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Iraq, Nairobi.
- UN Environment Ms. Majella Cristy U Pua-Diezmos, Deputy Permanent Representative of Philippines, Nairobi
- Mr. Joel B. Hansen Deputy Permanent Representative of United States of America, Nairobi.

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

- Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, Executive Office.
- Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies, Director, Governance Affairs Office.
- Ms. Rosemary Semafumu Mukasa, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies.

The meeting adopted the provisional agenda.

1. Preparations for the Committee of the Whole

- 1) The President informed the meeting that the Eastern European Group expressed interest to chair of the Committee of the Whole; though they shall provide the specific candidate upon further consultation with their regional group.
- 2) The meeting was informed that Mr. John Matuszak, Vice President, Western European and Others Group is also interested in the position.
- 3) Members agreed that a decision on the identification of Chair or Co-Chairs should be made early so as to have a smooth and well-coordinated Committee of Whole.
- 4) The President proposed a deadline of end of September for regional groups to consult and bring forward nominations for the chair.
- 5) The Deputy Executive Director proposed that the meeting to have a political agreement with the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on who will serve as the chair of the Committee of the Whole followed by a formal election by the Bureau of the Assembly.

2. Preparations for 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly

a) Update of the Ministerial Outcome Document

- 6) The President informed the meeting that the Secretariat has received 27 inputs from member states and 19 inputs from major Groups and Stakeholders; mentioning that the feedback received was positive and constructive and thanked everyone who participated.
- 7) The President further informed the meeting that he will engage in bilateral consultations with different Member States as well as engage in open discussions with the Committee of Permanent Representative via video conference on 4 October and 2 November 2017.

3. Date for the next meeting of the Bureau

- 8) The meeting agreed to hold its next meeting on 6 November 2017 via video conference.

4. Other Matters

- 9) A member requested clarity on whether the Committee of Permanent Representative is engaging in line by line negotiations of draft resolutions, and advised against it.

5. Closing of the Meeting

- 10) The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.