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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme

Nairobi, 29 November to 1 December 2017,

Third Meeting

Agenda Item: 4

Chair's Report to the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. I am pleased to present my report to the Third Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The report highlights the work done by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in fulfillment of its mandate as the inter-sessional body of the UN Environment Assembly. A significant part of this report is devoted to the preparations of draft resolutions and decisions for consideration by the UN Environment Assembly.
2. At the Fourth Annual Sub-Committee meeting held from 6 to 9 March 2017, Member States considered at length the process of preparing of resolutions for the Assembly. They agreed on: the need for stricter deadlines in the Rules of Procedure for submitting resolutions, in order to ensure timely availability in all official languages; the needs for a single online platform for reviewing and updating documents to avoid confusion; the importance of timely distribution and translation of background documents, critical for the preparations of all meeting and for the interactive engagement of high-level participants.
3. The Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed to set deadlines for intentions to submit and for actual submission of resolutions, without prejudice to the Rules of Procedure. There was general agreement that the number of resolutions for the consideration of the Assembly should be limited in light of the fact that it was a short transitional Assembly. It was also agreed that resolutions should be related to the theme of the Assembly, global in focus and actionable. Nevertheless, the Assembly would be open to consider critical emerging issues.
4. The Committee agreed on inter-sessional work arrangements at its Sub Committee meeting on 7 September 2017. Bureau members would serve as facilitators for the consultations on the resolutions. Consultations on resolutions begin on 19 September 2017 and the sendoff for resolutions would be on 140th Committee of permanent Representatives. In light of the limited texts actually submitted, no clustering would take place, but resolutions would be assigned to facilitators as they became available. The date for the 140th meeting of the Committee would be postponed allowing for inputs from the regional meeting Latin American and Caribbean States and the Arab States.
5. Between 19 September 2017 and 24 October 2017, bureau members of the Committee facilitated consultations on 16 draft resolutions and 3 draft decisions, with support from the Secretariat. Most resolutions were subjected to two readings. Delegations were encouraged to consider merging resolutions addressing similar topics such as those on air and water pollution. Informal consultations among the proponents and interested delegations continued.
6. In compliance with the emphasis on relevance to the theme, "Towards a pollution free planet", many draft

resolutions address different types of pollution such as air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, marine litter and microplastics, or chemical pollution, specifically lead in paint and batteries. Others focus on the link between pollution and other spheres. These include: Environment and health; pollution prevention in areas affected by armed conflict and terrorism as well as; pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity. Some seek to promote innovative solutions for sustainable development. Others address institutional and administrative issues, from lofty goals like greater visibility for the Environment Assembly at the High Level Political Forum and synchronizing the objectives and activities of multi-lateral environmental agreements and protocols to practical matters like the deadline for the submission of the Sixth Global Environmental Outlook, management of Trust Funds and the details of the Assembly.

7. Some of the general issues raised in the consultations included: respect for respective mandates of different entities and degree of inter-agency cooperation and partnership; feasibility, including the capacity of UN Environment Programme to implement the requests made; scope national or regional versus global and; sensitivities such as transboundary environmental issues and treatment of aspects like terrorism.
8. The results of the Committee's work during the inter-sessional period constitute the package that the 140th meeting of the Committee is transmitting to the third Open ended meeting of the Committee, which consists of the following draft resolutions and decisions.

	Symbol	Draft Resolution or Decision
		Draft Resolutions
1	UNEP/EA.3/L.7	Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
2	UNEP/EA.3/L.20	Marine litter and microplastics
3	UNEP/EA.3/L.6	Pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors;
4	UNEP/EA.3/L.10	Enhancing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote the development and strengthening of water quality monitoring programmes and to encourage data sharing
5	UNEP/EA.3/L.9	Clean water for all, leaving no one behind
6	UNEP/EA.3/L.15	Accelerating efforts to address water pollution and to protect and restore water-related ecosystems
7	UNEP/EA.3/L.	Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems
8	UNEP/EA.3/L.8	Environment and health
9	UNEP/EA.3/L.11	Strengthening health and environmental action in Asia and Pacific and supporting the initiatives of the Asia-Pacific regional forum on health and environment
10	UNEP/EA.3/L.4	Calling for the synchronization of objectives and activities, especially the meetings of the governing bodies, of the multilateral environmental agreements and protocols thereto, for the efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and monitoring thereof, for cost reduction and for the effective participation of States Members of the United Nations
11	UNEP/EA.3/L.2	Eliminating exposure to lead paint
12	UNEP/EA.3/L.21	Promoting environmentally sound management of used lead acid batteries (ULABs)
13	UNEP/EA.3/L.5	Pollution prevention and control in areas affected by terrorist operations and armed conflicts
14	UNEP/EA.3/L.23	Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally
15	UNEP/EA.3/L.13	Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
16	UNEP/EA.3/L.14	Managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development
		Draft Decisions
1	UNEP/EA.3/L.16	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
2	UNEP/EA.3/L.2	Extension of the delivery date for the sixth Global Environment Outlook
3	UNEP/EA.3/L.18	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
4	UNEP/EA.3/L.22	Improving communication on the environment

9. As the table shows, we now have 16 resolutions and 4 draft decisions. Three resolutions on air pollution have been merged into a single draft. Consultations continue on three drafts of water and on two drafts on environment and health. Notwithstanding the difficulties, prospects for mergers are encouraging. If the resolutions on water, lead as well as environment and health are successfully merged we expect to have 12 draft resolutions and 4 decisions. Proponents will update the Open ended meeting of the Committee about progress in the informal consultations.
10. I hope that given the fact that all the drafts are uploaded on the resolutions platform, delegates including those from capital will agree to work on the basis of the amended drafts where progress has been by proponents and interested delegations. Let us all work together to attain consensus on this package of drafts that moves us in the right direction towards a pollution free planet.
11. I wish to thank all members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their hard work, active engagement, support and cooperation during this time. I pay special tribute to non-resident representatives who participated in process by remote means sometimes at ungodly hours and to all who submitted comments through the resolutions platform. I am grateful to my colleagues, members of the Bureau who continue to serve as facilitators and to the Secretariat for its support.