

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Friday 1 December 2017
8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.,
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 8

SECRETARIAT NOTES

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;
- 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;

2. The Secretariat was represented by:

- Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme;
- Ms. Rosemary Mukasa, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies, UN Environment Programme;
- Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Legal Advisor, UN Environment Programme

2. Update on the Third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives

a) Contact groups

1. The Chair invited the facilitators to update the meeting on the progress of negotiations in the Contact Groups.
2. The facilitator of Contact Group 1 reported that they only managed to partially discuss the draft resolution on marine litter without making much progress. He also predicted that the draft resolutions on water pollution could successfully be merged, given commitment

from the African Group and other delegations to do so.

3. The facilitator of Contact Group 2 reported that remaining draft resolutions on 1) environment and health and 2) lead in paint were progressing well, and requested an afternoon session to complete both resolutions.
4. The meeting was updated by the facilitator of Contact Group 3. She reported good progress on both draft resolutions on air pollution and on pollution in conflict areas. She raised issue of anticipated new draft resolution from the Kenya delegations.
5. The Chair expressed the likelihood of a need for weekend sessions, while emphasizing the need to avoid three parallel sessions. With regard to the Plenary Group, he reported that the only outstanding issue was the date of the next Assembly. He added that the draft decision on management of trust funds decision was clean, the draft resolution on the High-Level Political Forum was very close, and the draft decision on communications of UN Environment Programme was expected to be withdrawn.
6. The members were paid attention to the need for the Bureau to make a decision on allocation of Contact Groups for the anticipated new draft resolutions.
7. A member pointed out it was standard practice for not-yet-finalized resolutions to be taken up directly at the UN Environment Assembly, that the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was not compulsory. He expressed reluctance to the idea of spending the weekend in negotiation.
8. The Chair reminded the members of Member States' right to submit new draft resolutions right up until the beginning of the UN Environment Assembly, that they cannot be forced to withdraw their proposals.
9. The Deputy Executive Director shared with the meeting his view on the procedure for selecting dates for the next Assembly, which begins by considering other important international meetings, and suggested either the first or last quarter of 2019. Regarding the draft decision on communications of UN Environment Programme, he informed the meeting that the Executive Director had agreed to withdraw the decision, in order to allow more extended consultations with Member States. In regard to the anticipated new resolutions, he noted the procedure of how they should be tabled at the afternoon plenary and be assigned to the Contact Groups.
10. One representative expressed his disagreement, highlighting proponents should be strongly encouraged to withdraw them by their Regional Groups as it would not be recommended if they were tabled at this late time due to the amount of work involved.
11. The Chair re-emphasized Member States right to table new draft resolutions up until the opening plenary of the UN Environment Assembly. He also sought guidance as to how to assign these new resolutions to the Contact Groups.

12. The Secretariat advised that the Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representative would need to decide whether to push the closing plenary of the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives or determine another way forward for the weekend. He put forward that the closing plenary be officially postponed to allow the Contact Groups to continue negotiations up until 5:00 p.m., at which time the Joint Bureaux meeting would take place with the primary agenda item being the organization of work for the weekend.

b) Ministerial Outcome Document

13. The Secretariat, on behalf of the President of the Assembly, reported on the progress of the Ministerial Outcome Document, which has progressed well during the previous evening and would be released in final form shortly, ready to be presented to the plenary.

3. Other matters

14. The Legal Adviser presented that Ambassador of Poland regretted for his absence, due to a meeting of the European Union meeting.

15. The Chair reported on behalf of Ambassador Garztecki that his draft resolutions were progressing well. Further to his report, the Deputy Secretary reported that the draft resolution on soil pollution had issues raised around the concept of technology transfer, asked for alternative wording or formulations that could be more unanimously acceptable.

16. The meeting closed at 9:15 a.m.