United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

141st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, 20 February 2018,
10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Agenda Item 9

Chair's Report of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. Since the 140th meeting of Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 31 October 2017, there have been thirteen meetings of the Subcommittee. Eight Subcommittee meetings were held on 6 November 2017, 7 November 2017, 9 November 2017, 14 November 2017, 15 November 2017, 16 November 2017, 6 February 2018 and 15 February 2018. In addition, five briefing sessions by the Secretariat were held on 2 November 2017, 16 November 2017, 21 November 2017, 16 January 2018 and 15 February 2018.

2. At the Subcommittee meeting of 7 November 2017, a revised organization and structure of the Third Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was endorsed, with the view to conclude plenary sessions as soon as possible and thereby enable delegations to maximize the limited time available for negotiations of resolutions and decisions. Following a request by several delegations, the meeting reached a compromise to accommodate additional dates for informal consultations on draft resolutions and decisions.

3. Bureau members of the Committee facilitated additional informal consultations on 11 draft resolutions and 4 draft decisions, with support from the Secretariat. Merged texts of the draft resolutions on water pollution and air pollution were introduced during the informal consultations. Furthermore, two informal consultations on the Ministerial Outcome Document were convened on 6 November 2017 and 15 November 2017, in preparation for the third Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The Secretariat organized several informative briefings for Member States, covering the following topics: a communication strategy for the UN Environment Assembly; Leadership Dialogues; a Global Coalition for Pollution-Free Planet; logistical arrangements for the third session of the UN Environment Assembly; the Global Pact for the Environment; a progress update on the Sixth Global Environment Outlook; and efforts to promote environmental sustainability within the UN system. Furthermore, a briefing by the Kenyan Mission to the UN Office at Nairobi was held, during which

delegations received a comprehensive briefing on logistical arrangements for the third session of the UN Environment Assembly.

5. On 6 February 2018, the Subcommittee met to assess the third session of the UN Environment Assembly with a special focus on areas to be improved. This assessment was based on the lessons learned document that was produced by the Secretariat and shared separately with the bureaux of the Assembly and the Committee. Delegations were also invited to have initial discussions on how to improve reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget, as well as on the Assembly resolutions.

6. At the meeting of 15 February 2018, the Subcommittee exchanged preliminary views on the selection criteria and the proposed thematic areas for a theme of the next Assembly. Further to the two thematic areas proposed by the Secretariat, namely: i) sustainable consumption and production; and ii) food and nature/biodiversity, the Africa Group supported the proposal on innovation for the environment put forward by one of the JUSSCANNZ Member States. As follow up to the meeting, the Committee requested the Secretariat to revise concept proposals in light of discussions.

7. I wish to thank all members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their hard work, active engagement, support and cooperation during this period. I also appreciate the continued guidance and support from the Secretariat which has enabled me and my Bureau as well as the Committee of Permanent Representatives at large to deliver on our responsibilities.