

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting (Morning Session)
Thursday 19 April 2018,
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi
Conference Room 4

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Mr. John Moreti, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana welcomed members to the meeting.
2. The meeting adopted the agenda.

Agenda Item 2: Follow-up on the 1st Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux on the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives

a) Theme of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly

3. The Chair informed the meeting of the deliberations of the 1st Joint Preparatory Retreat of Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of the Whole, held in Nairobi on 22 -23 March 2018. At the Joint Retreat, the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly decided on the theme for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly as: “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”. The Joint Bureaux further requested that the Secretariat develop a concept note and a communications strategy on the agreed theme to be considered at the 142nd meeting of the CPR.
4. The Secretary of Governing Bodies, Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis informed the meeting that the Secretariat is currently working on the development of the communications strategy and concept note on the theme of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly, noting that the Economy and Science Division are leading the work on the concept note and that they are aiming at providing an advance copy to member States prior to the 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. He further informed the meeting of the need for a link (a continuum) between the third and fourth sessions of the UN Environment Assembly.
5. The meeting noted the President of the UN Environment Assembly efforts towards a consensus on the theme of fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly. Although some member States, expressed caution on the complexity in the length of the title of the theme, they nevertheless encouraged the Secretariat to work on a SMART communications strategy that will capture both public and political attention.
6. The meeting noted that the theme will provide an opportunity for enriched discussions, pointing out the need to use the 6th Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6), 10-Year Framework of

Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, satellite data and the Global Chemicals Outlook II as key references. The meeting further pointed out the need for the Environment Assembly to revisit and discuss the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), implementation of the Bali strategic plan for technology support and capacity building, marine plastics pollution, resource efficiency, mainstreaming of biodiversity, technology access and transfer.

7. The meeting advised that in future Joint Bureaux meetings, participation of all regional and political groups should be equal, and requested the Secretariat to provide the final list of participants to the 1st Joint Preparatory Retreat of Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of the Whole and a list of participants who took part in the informal working group on the theme of the fourth session during the 1st Joint Preparatory Retreat of Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly.

b) Organization of the inter-sessional period up to the Assembly

8. The meeting was inconclusive on the preferred date for the 4th Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the 5th Annual meeting of the Subcommittee, with different members expressing preferences for either options proposed by the Secretariat.
9. The meeting reiterated the need for the 5th Annual Subcommittee meeting to only address the Programme of Work & Budget and existing resolutions and not negotiations of new resolutions. The Secretariat was urged to consider the dates of other relevant meetings in the future prior to suggesting dates for important meetings such as the UN Environment Assembly, Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Annual meeting of Subcommittee so as to ensure optimum participation from all member States and Stakeholders.
10. It was noted that in the future discussions should be held on the goals and objectives of the Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. A member state proposed to reconsider its very name as the current one is not inspiring the capitals' participation. The meeting agreed that informal consultations will continue on the matter of the dates of the meetings, with the aim of empowering the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to make a decision on the date as mandated by paragraph 2 of decision 2017/2 on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly. The decision requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to deliberate on this issue, in consultation with the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and decide, no later than its 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

c) Structure of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly

11. The meeting suggested that the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue be held during the day on either Thursday 14 March 2019 or Friday 15 March 2019 and that they also benefit from full official languages interpretation to allow for universal participation. It was also suggested that a summary of its outcomes be considered at the Wrap-up Plenary session.
12. A member State expressed concern at the parallel scheduling of the Committee of the Whole and the Global Environment Outlook session, stressing the need for efficient organization of the inter-session period to allow the Committee of the Whole to have ample time and space for their decisions. The Secretariat was urged to ensure that fair and equal ample time was provided to all participants issuing National Statements.

Agenda Item 3: Update on the Sixth Global Environment Outlook

13. The core team working on the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6), provided the meeting with an update on its progress towards developing the Outlook and its accompanying Summary for Policy Makers in time for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly. The team informed the meeting of its budget situation where the current deficit (un-secured budget) is USD \$2,451,624, noting that it is expected that the amount will be at least partially secured, pending confirmation of sufficient extra-budgetary allocations for 2018 and at a later stage, additional core and extra-budgetary funding for 2019. Nonetheless, they pointed out that additional resource mobilization efforts are on-going.
14. The meeting congratulated the GEO-6 core team on their good work and noted that the Global Environment Outlook is considered the key flagship of the UN Environment Programme that will be presented at the fourth UN Environment Assembly and called for the management of UN Environment Programme to prioritize the Outlook and to adequately finance it through the Programme's core budget.
15. It was noted that only the Summary for Policy Makers publication will be available in all the six official UN working languages prior to the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly. The team also clarified that stipends will only be provided to co-Chairs of the assessment, the Scientific Advisory Panel, the coordinating lead authors and one of the co-chairs of the High-Level Advisory Group , as done in prior editions. A call for regional and language balance and enhanced outreach was also noted. The generous contributions of several member states in support of the GEO process were also well noted.

Agenda Item 4: Other Matters

16. The Chair invited Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director- UN Environment Programme to bid farewell to members of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as he leaves UN Environment Programme after his tenure of 11years and thanked him for his service. Members expressed their appreciation of Mr. Thiaw's work and commended his dedication to the environmental agenda, stating that he shall be greatly missed and wished him all the best in his future endeavors.
17. Mr. Thiaw expressed pride in the evolution of UN Environment Programme's governing body, into being of universal membership. He invited member States to consider building a stronger relationship with countries of the Sahel as it is a strategic region for peace, security, sustainable development and urged the UN Environment Programme through the UN Environment Assembly to bring contributions to the region in areas of energy, agriculture, food and environment issues.

There being no other business, the chair brought the meeting to a close at 12:30 PM.