

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Tuesday 19 June 2018
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Executive Office Boardroom

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. H.E. Mr. John Moreti, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, chaired the meeting, in which the following participated.

Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members were represented by:

- H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia, Vice Chair, Group of Latin America and Caribbean States;
- H.E. Mr. Young-dae Kwon, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, Vice Chair of Asia- Pacific Group;
- Mr. Toni Sandell, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland, representing H.E. Ms. Tarja Fernandez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland, Vice Chair, Western European and Other States Group;
- H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland, Rapporteur, Eastern European Group;

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

- Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director;
 - Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies;
 - Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;
 - Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Senior Legal Officer
2. In his opening remarks, and as part of his last address as the Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives H.E. Mr. John Moreti expressed gratitude to Bureau for their

collective cooperation and collaborative partnership in mobilising and motivating member States to address global environmental challenges.

3. The meeting adopted the proposed agenda.
4. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment Programme, briefed the meeting on ongoing recruitment processes for senior management positions, including Directors of the New York Office, the Corporate Services and Ecosystem Division and the Regional Office for.

Agenda Item 2: Possible contributions to the Meeting of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly.

(a) Preparations for the inter-sessional period, with a focus on the draft agenda of the 5th Annual Meeting of the Subcommittee of 22-26 October 2018;

5. The Secretariat presented the status of preparation for the inter-sessional period, with a focus on the draft agenda of the 5th Annual Meeting of the Subcommittee of 22-26 October 2018. It also proposed that the 144th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives should be held on the afternoon of 26 October. The Bureau welcomed the draft proposal, and considered that the 144th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives should be held at a later date before the end of the year, preferably in December.

(b) Exchange views on the revised concept note for the theme of the next Assembly;

6. The Secretariat presented an update of the Concept Note on the theme of the Assembly, which had undergone several iterations following wide consultations with different regional groups and member States. The meeting agreed that this revised concept note should be presented to the UN Environment Assembly Bureau for further consideration on 20 June with the understanding that it is a Secretariat document generated for purposes of guiding the discussion and scope the theme of the Assembly.

(c) Progress update on the zero draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document;

7. Mr. Ado Lohmus, Special Envoy for the President of the UN Environment Assembly, presented a roadmap for the development of a “zero draft” of the Ministerial Outcome Document, taking into account the comments received from several member States and Stakeholders.
8. The Chair, supported by other members, underlined the importance of the draft to be concise and actionable. On behalf of member States, he thanked the Presidency for undertaking early consultations to ensure broad ownership of the document.
9. The meeting underlined the need for appropriate guidance to member States on how to table draft resolutions for the next session of the Environment Assembly. Such guidance may include

submission deadlines, consideration of financial requirements, as well as guidance in relation to the agreed theme of the Assembly.

Agenda Item 3: Preparations for the Second Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of 6-7 September 2018 In Tallinn, Estonia

10. The Secretariat provided an update on the preparations for the Second Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, scheduled for 6-7 September 2018. The Secretariat presented the agenda of the meeting, and noted that events planned prior to the retreat itself, such as a preceding International High Level Conference on the Environment hosted by Estonia in Tallinn on 5 September.

Agenda Item 4: Organization of work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

11. The Secretariat presented an updated Roadmap for meetings with the governing bodies, which is a living document. The Secretariat mentioned several key upcoming meetings, including the 143rd meeting of the Sub-Committee planned for 18 September, the 5th Annual Subcommittee meeting of Committee of Permanent Representatives planned for 22-26 October, and plans to organize regional preparatory meetings for the fourth session of Assembly to be held in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Agenda Item 5: Date for the next meeting of the Bureau.

12. The meeting decided to consult with the incoming Chair to decide on a date for the next meeting of the Bureau, preferably by the end of August, before the retreat in September.

Agenda Item 6: Other Matters

13. One Bureau member enquired about the Bureau decision to redesign the web portal of the Committee to include a specific platform to place information requests from member States to the Secretariat, with a view to improve transparency and accountability. The Secretariat confirmed plans to include such a platform on the very soon.
14. The meeting underlined the need to consider Term of Reference for the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to clarify issues of participation and leadership, and requested the Secretariat to present a draft for further consideration at an upcoming meeting.
15. The meeting closed at 4:15 p.m.