

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Tuesday 24 April 2018,
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Executive Office Boardroom
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri

MEETING SUMMARY

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:

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members:

- H.E. Mr. Young-Dae Kwon, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, 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;
- 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 Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly was represented by:

- Ms. Aire Rihe, representing H.E. Mr. Siim V. Kiisler, President of the UN Environment Assembly

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. Gary Lewis, Acting Director, Policy and Programme Division

2. The meeting welcomed H.E. Mr. Young-Dae Kwon, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea as the new Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, representing the Asia-Pacific Group.
3. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda.

2. Debrief of the 1st Joint Preparatory Retreat of Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representative

4. It was recalled that the decision by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the date of Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives should be taken in consultation with the UN Environment Assembly Bureau, and the meeting agreed that the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives would inform members of the UN Environment Assembly Bureau in writing on the latest developments.
5. The meeting was informed that the President of the UN Environment Assembly intends to send a letter to all member States on preparations of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

3. Preparations for the 24th April Subcommittee meeting

6. The meeting decided to combine agenda items 2-5 of the subcommittee of 24 April 2018, with a view to ensure effective use of the time and facilitate and consolidate the Secretariat's presentations and member States interventions.
7. The meeting underlined the strong interest by member States to actively engage in the development of a new programme of work and budget, as well as on the UN Secretary-General's proposal on reforms, and considered the possibility of establishing an informal working group with a mandate to advise the Secretariat on these and other relevant topics.

4. Preparation for the 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

8. The Chair recalled that the Committee of Permanent Representatives is mandated by the UN Environment Assembly to take a decision on the date of the Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives by the 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, scheduled to take place on 10 May 2018, at the latest.
9. Members of the bureau reflected on the different regional and political group positions on the proposed date of the Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and agreed that continued informal consultations will be necessary on the matter, with a view to find consensus ahead of the 142nd meeting of the Committee.
10. The meeting agreed to recommend to the Committee that the 5th Annual meeting of the Subcommittee should be held 29 October – 2 November 2018.
11. The meeting urged the Secretariat, in cooperation with the UN Office at Nairobi, to speed up the development and distribution of draft minutes of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to allow for timely review of the minutes by the Rapporteur.
12. The meeting requested the Secretariat to consider establishing a virtual space for member States, with a purpose of posting information requests to the Secretariat ahead of Committee meetings, to improve accountability and transparency of such requests and to help the Secretariat to provide feedback to these requests before or during the Committee meeting.

13. The meeting requested the Secretariat to attribute statements made on behalf of regional & political groups in the minutes of future meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, while retaining the current practice of not attributing statements from individual member States.

5. Organization of work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

14. The meeting requested the Secretariat to updated add in the Tentative Roadmap for the UN Environment Programme Governing Bodies with regard to planned future Subcommittee meetings on Private Sector and on management and support of Multilateral Environment Agreements, and to consider whether the Global Environment Outlook summary for policy makers summary document can be released already in November 2018, to allow for timely initiation of negotiations.
15. The meeting noted that further consideration and consultations regarding the division of work between the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the UN Environment Assembly bureau with regard to ensuring timely preparatory negotiations on draft resolutions and decisions will be necessary.
16. The meeting considered the difference between a subcommittee meeting and a Secretariat Briefing, noting that the former is considered a meeting in which the Secretariat provides an update on a formal agenda item under the Committee of Permanent Representatives or the Environment Assembly, whereas a Secretariat Briefing may address matters which are not be directly linked to the to the agenda of a Governing Body.

6. Date of the next meeting of the Bureau

17. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Tuesday 10 May 2018 at 8:00 a.m., at a venue to be communicated by the Secretariat at a later date.

7. Other matters

18. The meeting was reminded of the request from Switzerland to provide a short briefing on the International Environmental Governance Workshop held in Glion, Switzerland, at the end of the Subcommittee meeting on 24 April.
19. The meeting agreed that in order to provide the Secretariat with guidance on reporting on the implementation of paragraph 88 (a-h) of Resolution 66/288: "The future we want." A discussion on the matter be scheduled in May 2018 and written inputs be provided by member States thereafter.

8. Closing of the Meeting

22. The meeting closed at 11:30 a.m.