

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday 24 April 2018
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
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, noting that agenda items 2-5 would be combined into one single agenda item.

Agenda Item 2: Overview of the UN Secretary-General's proposals on the reform of the United Nations Development System

Agenda Item 3: Overview of the UN Secretary-General's proposals on the reform of the Management of the United Nations

Agenda Item 4: Way forward towards a strengthened and reformed UN Environment Programme

Agenda Item 5: Draft roadmap for developing the Programme of Work and Budget for the period 2020-2021

3. Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, provided an introduction to the discussion on proposed reforms of the UN Development System and of management of the United Nations, a strengthened and reformed UN Environment Programme, and the draft roadmap for developing the Programme of Work and Budget for the period 2020-2021. He also highlighted his initiatives and priorities, indicating that he considered changes in the culture of the organization more important than in its structure.
4. Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Assistant Secretary-General for Enterprise Resource Planning of the Department of Management updated the meeting on the roll-out and implementation of the Umoja system. Mr. Ramathan informed the meeting of the second phase of the UMOJA system which is designed to provide programme managers with better tools for programme implementation and reporting, complementing the current administrative functions.

5. Ms. Martha Helena Lopez, Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Human Resources Management informed that the Office of Human Resource Management is currently focusing on efforts to improve staff morale within the UN system, including through increased decentralization and tailor-made solutions. She also informed the meeting that gender and geographical diversity is being assessed across all UN entities, noting that transparency is being reinforced within the organization to strengthen staff management.
6. Mr. Jamil Ahmad, the Interim Director of UN Environment Programme's New York Office gave an overview of the process to reform the UN Development System and UNEP's engagement in drafting a System-Wide Strategic Document as well as its membership of the "Core Group" of the UN Development Group.
7. Mr. Gary Lewis, Interim Director, Programme and Policy Division, and Mr. Ebrahim Gora presented key elements of the 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 Programmes of Work and explained how the associated projects align with the UN 2030 Agenda, and outlined a roadmap for developing a new Programme of Work for the period 2020-2021.
8. The meeting welcomed the efforts made by the Secretariat to improve transparency and accountability, such as the distribution of an informative memorandum on the 2018 Corporate Budgets Allocation to Member States.
9. The meeting noted the potential challenges related to the timing of adopting future budgets, such as the annual deadline of 15 January for submission of the Annual Budget and Performance document to UN Headquarters in New York, bearing in mind that the UN Environment Assembly can only approve the same documents in 11-15 March 2019.
10. The Secretariat was invited to provide additional information in writing, including a note for the 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives outlining the key messages relevant for the strengthening of the UN Environment Programme in the context of UN reform. In addition, relevant information relating to some of the questions from Member States relating to, for example, the strategic focus areas, expenditures for the period 2017-18, and formal documentation from UN Headquarters relating to annual budgets.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration of the draft contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

11. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Director of Law Division, informed the meeting of the latest revisions made to the draft contribution to the High-Level Political Forum, based on recommendations from the Committee of Permanent Representatives, noting that the deadline for submission to the High-Level Political Forum is Friday 27 April 2018 pre-dates the formal endorsement by the Committee at the 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be held on 10 May 2018.

12. The meeting provided a limited number of additional comments to be taken into account in the final draft contribution and accepted that the Secretariat would submit the document to the High-Level Political Forum on 27 April 2018 as amended.

Agenda Item 7: Update on a draft implementation plan for the outcome of the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly

13. Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director of Economy Division, provided a brief update on the draft implementation plan for the outcome of the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly, outlining suggested building blocks and areas where complementary analysis will be necessary, and proposed a consultative process with member States, stakeholders and private sector in the future development of the plan. Ms. Noronha further suggested and urged the use of open data, to reduce the burden of reporting and replication through streamlining of submissions to Multilateral Environment Agreements on the *InforMEA*, amongst others, including national reports. Ms. Noronha further informed that a note on the implementation plan will be shared for consideration at the 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, scheduled for 10 May 2018.
14. The meeting underlined the need to demonstrate implementation of all relevant decisions and resolutions and recommended alignment between the previous sessions of the UN Environment Assembly and the upcoming session, as well as effective monitoring and evaluation and strengthened partnerships for implementation with other UN agencies and stakeholders.

Agenda Item 8: Other Matters

15. The representative of Switzerland informed the meeting on the availability of the final report of the International Environmental Governance Workshop held in Glion, Switzerland, 20-22 June 2017, and noted that this report will be made available through the online portal for the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
16. The Swiss representative, further informed the meeting of a second Workshop on International Environmental Governance scheduled for 6 – 8 June 2018 at a venue to be communicated at a later stage, which will specifically focus on the functions of UN Environment Programme's governing bodies.
17. The meeting closed at 5:40 p.m.