

# Summary of the Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme

7 January 2019

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On 7 January 2019, Bureaux members of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme held a meeting via video-conference. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Siim V. Kiisler, President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment of the Republic of Estonia and H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey -Odunton, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana. A list of participants is made available in the annex to this summary.

The Joint Bureaux meeting addressed the following topics:

- Organization of work of the Bureaux;
- Agenda and structure of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives
- Preparations for the UN Environment Assembly
- Date of the next joint Bureaux meeting of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

This summary summarizes the key decisions and points of discussion during the joint Bureaux meeting.

The meeting welcomed H.E. Mr Choi Yeongham, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the republic of Korea as nominated new member of the bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives representing the Asia Pacific Group.

## Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting adopted the agenda.
2. The Acting Executive Director provided an update on the implementation of the internal audit relating to official travel stating that steps were in place to implement all 40 recommendations, and on the vacancy of the Executive Director which is handled directly by the UN Headquarters in New York.

## Agenda Item 2: Organization of Work of the Bureaux

3. The Secretariat provided an update on nominated co-facilitators for negotiations of draft resolutions to date and presented an overview of initiatives to table draft resolutions by member States, including with regard to possible grouping of draft resolutions, and national and Secretariat Focal Points. To date, 36 initiatives had been registered, of which 28 concept notes and 7 actual resolutions were submitted to the Secretariat.
4. The meeting agreed to nominate H.E. Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil in Nairobi, as chair of the Committee of the Whole of the fourth UN Environment Assembly.
5. The meeting reconfirmed the need to nominate 10 co-facilitators (two from each regional group, both Nairobi-based and Capital-based) to facilitate the negotiations of draft resolutions in preparation for the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and to explore the potential consolidation of similar resolution initiatives.
6. The meeting invited H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and H.E. Mr. Coimbra, to facilitate the appointment of co-facilitators for negotiating draft resolutions by 21 January 2019.

7. The meeting underlined the importance of respecting the agreed informal deadline for tabling of all draft resolutions, 21 January 2019.
8. The meeting underscored that member States need to take full responsibility and ownership for tabling draft resolutions throughout the upcoming consultations and negotiations.
9. The meeting agreed to make every effort to finalise the negotiations of resolutions by the end of the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.
10. The meeting was invited to provide comments on the terms of reference by 18 January 2019, with a view to agree on draft ToRs for further consideration by Member States at a later stage.
11. The meeting decided to appoint an informal drafting working consisting of members of the Bureaux to consider a possible draft resolution on putting in place an intersessional process between UNEA 4 and UNEA 5 on governance, for consideration at UNEA-4.

### **Agenda Item 3: Agenda and structure of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives**

12. The Secretariat presented the draft agenda and structure for the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, in view of further consideration by the of Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 144<sup>th</sup> meeting on 8 January 2019.
13. The meeting had an exchange of views on the draft agenda and structure, including with regard to the appropriate number of working groups that may work in parallel at the meeting.
14. The meeting requested the Secretariat to adjust the agenda in accordance with the discussion, also taking into account comments that may be given by member States at the 144<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and considered that the structure may need to be revisited at a later date, closer to the OECPR meeting.

### **Agenda Item 4: Preparations for the UN Environment Assembly**

15. The Secretariat briefed the meeting on the status of preparation of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly, including with regard to The Science Policy Business Forum, Leadership Dialogues and Side Events.
16. The meeting requested the Secretariat to review the events with due regard to the following considerations:
  - The briefing note on the Science Policy Business Forum needs to be revised to capture aspects of technological innovations and practical solutions for society;
  - The Leadership Dialogues need to include key messages that carry practical solutions to environmental problems, and the background information needs to be better balanced to consider poverty eradication, health and education;
  - The idea to have three breakout groups for each Leadership Dialogue will need further reconsideration;
  - The proposed draft theme for the Multistakeholder Dialogue (Sustainable Living) may need to be reconsidered.
17. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the selection of side events was in its final phase, and that the Bureaux and event organizers would be informed shortly.

### **Agenda Item 5: Dates of the next joint Bureaux meeting of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

18. The meeting agreed that the next Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be held on 5 February 2019 in Nairobi.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Other Matters**

19. The Bureau member from South Africa, on behalf of the Africa group, requested an extension of the funding request deadline for Member States participants.
20. France and Kenya provided an update on the preparations for the One Planet Summit that will take place concurrently with the United Nations Environment Assembly on 14 March 2019 and that the Summit will be co-hosted by the President Emmanuel Macron of France and President Kenyatta of Kenya, on the basis of briefing note on the One Planet Summit provided by the French Delegation.
21. The meeting expressed enthusiasm as well as concerns over the plans to organize the One Planet Summit noting, including with regard to the potential need to postpone the opening of the high-level segment of the UN Environment Assembly and other logistical challenges, and requested the Secretariat to regularly provide information on the preparations for the One Planet Summit.

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Annex: List of participants

**List of participants Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the  
Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, 7 January  
2019**

<b>UN Environment Assembly Bureau</b>	
<b>COUNTRY REGIONAL GROUP</b>	<b>NAME DESIGNATION</b>
<b>Estonia</b> Eastern European Group	<b>H.E. Mr. Siim Valmar Kiisler,</b> President, Minister of Environment
<b>Brazil</b> Latin America and Caribbean Group	<b>H.E. Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra,</b> Vice President, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
<b>Czech Republic</b> Eastern European States	<b>H.E. Mr. Vladislav Smrž</b> Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment
<b>Switzerland</b> Western European and Others Group	<b>H.E. Mr. Felix Wertli,</b> Vice President and Head of Section, Global Affairs, Federal Office of the Environment of Switzerland
<b>Pakistan</b> Asia Pacific Group	<b>H.E. Raza Bashir Tarar,</b> Rapporteur, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative
<b>Finland</b> Western European and Others Group	<b>H.E. Erik Lundberg</b> Ambassador and Permanent Representative Representing <b>H.E. Mr. Kimmo Tillikainen,</b> Minister of the Environment, Energy and Housing
<b>South Africa</b> Africa Group	<b>H. E. Ms. Nomvula Mokonyane</b> Deputy Permanent Representative representing <b>Ms. Shakira Parker</b> Environmental Affairs of the Republic of South Africa
<b>Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau</b>	
<b>Ghana</b> Africa Group	<b>H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton</b> Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative
<b>Colombia</b> Latin America and Caribbean Group	<b>H.E. Mrs. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay</b> Vice Chair and Ambassador - Designate and Permanent Representative
<b>USA</b> Western European and Others Group	<b>H.E. Ms. Lori Peterson Dando</b> Vice Chair and Permanent Representative
<b>The republic of Korea</b> Asia Pacific Group	<b>H.E. Mr Choi Yeongham</b> Ambassador and Permanent Representative
<b>Poland</b> Eastern European Group	<b>H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki</b> Rapporteur and Ambassador and Permanent Representative
<b>Nairobi Based Representatives</b>	
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>H.E. Ms. Rose Makena Muchiri</b> Permanent Representative
<b>France</b>	<b>H.E. Ms Aline KUSTER-MENAGER</b> Ambassador and Permanent Representative