

146th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
Thursday 20 June 2019
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 1

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Note: All pre-meeting and post-meeting documents, including statements provided in writing by member States, are available [here](#).

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

1. The meeting was opened by Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
2. The meeting welcomed Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UN Environment Programme, who took office and assumed her duties on 17 June 2019. The meeting also welcomed newly arrived Representatives to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and bid farewell to departing Representatives.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the agenda of the 146th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. The provisional meeting agenda was adopted after agreeing to move agenda item 6 to be addressed immediately after agenda item 3.

Agenda Item 6: Report of the Executive Director

4. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UN Environment Programme provided introductory remarks, followed by a presentation by Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director. The statements are available in full on the meeting portal.
5. In the ensuing dialogue, member States, *inter alia*:
 - Welcomed Ms. Inger Andersen as new Executive Director, and expressed their full support for her leadership in fulfilling the mandate of the UN Environment Programme and in addressing important environmental challenges;
 - Expressed deep appreciation of the leadership demonstrated by Ms. Joyce Msuya in her role as Acting Executive Director during the past 7 months, with special reference to the successful outcome of the UN Environment Assembly and the recent worldwide celebration of the World Environment Day;
 - Underlined the importance of strong multilateralism and adequate support to Member States, in particular developing countries, to tackle pressing environmental challenges;
 - Underlined the significance of effective implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget and UNEA resolutions, and stressed the important oversight and review functions of the Committee to this end;
 - Requested the Executive Director to keep the Committee informed about progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the audits conducted by the Office of

Internal Oversight Services.

Agenda Item 3: Election of Officers

6. The meeting elected the new Bureau members of the CPR, including as follows:
 - Chair: H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, nominated by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries.
 - Vice-Chairs: H.E. Sunil Da Silva, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka, nominated by the Group of Asia-Pacific countries, and H.E. Mr. Frans Makken, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, nominated by Western European and Others Group.
 - Rapporteur: H.E. Mrs. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana, nominated by the African Group.

Election of a Vice Chair from the Eastern European Group was deferred to the 147th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, pending further consultation within the Group.

7. The incoming Chair of the Bureau of the Committee made a statement.
8. Member States congratulated current of Chair and Bureau of the CPR for their efforts, and welcomed the new Bureau members.

Agenda Item 5: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 145th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

9. The meeting adopted the draft minutes of the 145th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 19 February 2019.

Agenda Item 6: Adoption of the report of the fourth Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

10. The meeting adopted the report of the fourth Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives held from 4 to 8 March 2019.

Agenda Item 7: Follow-up of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

a) Assessment and lessons learned

11. The secretariat presented a revised note on the assessment and lessons learned from the fourth session of UN Environment Assembly, taking into account comments and inputs from Member States submitted during the meeting of the Subcommittee, held on 11 June 2019.
12. Several Member States welcomed the report and underlined that it will provide useful background information for the “Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives” under UNEA Decision 4/2.
13. Some Member States provided additional comments to be taken into account in the final version of the report.
14. One member of the Committee requested the Secretariat to develop an overview of important meetings and milestones for the follow up of selected work streams and resolutions, including with regard to UNEA 4 resolutions 11 and 14, and Decision on 4/1.

15. Member States took note of the report, as amended by the meeting, and requested the Secretariat to share with them the final version of the report.

b) Implementation of decision UNEP/EA.4/1

16. The meeting heard statements from Ms. Gunilla Olsson, Head of the UN Reform Transition Team and Mr. Satya Tripathi, Head of the New York Office, which are made available at the meeting portal.

17. Member States welcomed the presentations and underlined the need to actively engage with other UN bodies, including the UN Regional Economic Commissions, to mainstream environmental policies within the UN, also taking into account UNEP's normative role and limited presence in the field.

18. The meeting requested the Secretariat to provide further updates on the implementation of the UN reform, including with regard to developing a clear UNEP narrative, clearer timelines for implementation, potential costs and savings, the role of "UNEP Live", and consideration of relevant recommendations from the Joint Inspection Unit.

c) "Implementation of decision UNEP/EA.4/2" entitled Provisional agenda, date and venue for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

19. The Secretariat presented a background document developed in preparation for the "Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives" which is aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the UNEP governing bodies, as mandated by decision UNEP/EA.4/2. The presentation is available at the meeting portal.

20. Member States welcomed presentation and background document and provided a number of remarks which may be summarized as follows:

- The importance of putting in place a process that will ensure an open, transparent and inclusive dialogue with a broad ownership, resulting in a consolidated proposal for further consideration at UNEA-5;
- The need for further consideration of the links between the review process and other relevant work streams such as the implementation of para 88 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want"; resolution 22 on implementation and follow-up of UNEA resolutions; and reporting and monitoring and the commemoration of Stockholm + 50;
- The need to take into account the oversight and review function of the Committee itself.
- The importance of a solid assessment and problem analysis underpinning the review, also taking into account recent special initiatives and reports.

21. The Chair thanked member States for their guidance and invited them to share their inputs in writing to the Secretariat by 19 July 2019 at the latest.

d) "Implementation of resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.22", Implementation and follow-up of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions

22. The Secretariat presented an options paper developed in response to a request in UNEA resolution 22, which is available on the meeting portal.

23. Member States welcomed the presentation and the follow-up review and reporting of the

implementation of resolutions and made the following suggestions:

- The monitoring mechanism should be made available through a dedicated website and cover all UNEA resolutions, not only those adopted at UNEA-4, and include user-friendly options for national reporting and allow for direct feedback from member States, taking into account existing national reporting requirements for example relating to MEA and SDG reporting.
- Further information is necessary with regard to the monitoring mechanism to allow for more concrete feedback from Member States.
- The system of reporting and monitoring of the programme of work and resolutions must be balanced in terms of providing full and adequate information while not unduly increasing the reporting burden at the expense of implementation;
- Some support was expressed for options 2 and 3 in the background paper, while most member States underlined the need for more time and/or guidance before expressing a preference.

24. The Chair thanked member States for their contributions and invited them to share inputs in writing to the Secretariat by 30 June 2019 at the latest.

e) **“Implementation of resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.23, entitled “Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook**

25. The Secretariat presented a proposal for the composition of a Steering Committee for the Global Environment Outlook, based on nominations received from member States by the stipulated deadline of 30 May 2019.

26. The meeting approved the proposed composition and recommended that the Steering Committee at its first meeting will consider additional nominations received after the deadline of 30 May, taking into account the need for a balanced participation with regard to gender and regional representation, and requested the Secretariat to report back at the 147th meeting of the Committee.

Agenda Item 8: Back to Basics: A roadmap for strengthened foundational controls and principles for management and administration.

27. The Secretariat provided an update on the efforts made to strengthen the management of the UN Environment Programme, following the audit of official travel expenses by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

28. Member States welcomed the presentation and background document and emphasised need for the Secretariat to continue to implement the recommendations contained in the audit in an open and transparent manner.

Agenda Item 9: Report of the Subcommittee.

29. The report of the Subcommittee was adopted.

Agenda Item 10. Other matters.

30. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 11. Closing of the meeting.

31. The meeting closed at approximately 5:30 pm.