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## **United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**

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**147th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 11 October 2019

2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1

### **Chair's Summary of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee meeting held from 7-11 October 2019 as adopted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 147<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. H.E. Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, opened the meeting and welcomed its members.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the Sixth Annual Subcommittee meeting.**

2. The meeting adopted the agenda.
3. In her opening remarks, Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, emphasized the importance of the discussions to be undertaken during the Annual Subcommittee meeting, particularly in light of the recently concluded high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly, during which the Secretary-General convened a Climate Action Summit and in conjunction with the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the level of Heads of States and Governments. The Executive Director emphasized that the concern for the global environment is at a turning point.
4. Ms. Andersen noted that UNEP provides the link between science and policy action and is a key driving force for change, including through its work collaborating with civil society and private sector. Furthermore, she highlighted, for Member States consideration six areas where UNEP could strengthen its work:
  - a) Building and strengthening the Programme to ensure that work is engaged in a more collaborative manner across its structure;
  - b) Being sharper about what UNEP does and does not do, to ensure that its stays aligned with the Programme of Work;
  - c) Need to consider the root causes and drivers of growing environmental degradation and assess how UNEP can best contribute to addressing these challenges;
  - d) Reflecting on how to further incorporate nature-based solutions – together with decarbonization, detoxification and decoupling – at the heart of UNEP's work;
  - e) Setting clearer and strengthened indicators for the Programme of Work;
  - f) Further engaging in the UN Reform, which provides UNEP with a unique opportunity, including to expand its reach through the new Resident Coordinator system.
5. The meeting heard opening statements by regional and political groups, as well as by individual Member States. The written opening statements are available on the online [meeting page](#).

**Agenda Item 3: Programme performance review 2018-2019, including relevant UN Environment Assembly Resolutions.**

6. Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme and members of the Secretariat introduced the programme performance review covering the period, January 2018 to June 2019 and made presentations covering the executive direction and management; the policy making organs; and the UN Development System Reforms.
7. Following the presentations by the Secretariat, Member States commended the direction of the Programme under the leadership of the Executive Director, and welcomed the results achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget. In doing so, Member States also provided the following general guidance to the Secretariat:
  - a) Requested the Secretariat to distill key lessons learned from the PPR and use the experience and lessons-learned in the next biennium and in the preparation of the next Medium-Term Strategy. Such a review could use opportunities, risks and management measures to give Member States more information on the lessons learned.
  - b) Requested the Secretariat to improve and further develop its reporting in order to monitor the impact of UNEP's activities at the regional and country levels, and to provide more detailed information on core activities funded from extrabudgetary resources allowing the Committee to fully exercise its oversight role. To this end, participants encouraged the Secretariat to provide better insight into higher level results at outcome and impact levels, where possible, bearing in mind national challenges in attainment of longer-term results.
  - c) Also requested the Secretariat to provide more analysis, in a transparent manner, on the indicators which were partially attained, and, on the measures, which were planned to address deficits of implementation across the various sub-programmes.
  - d) Regarding the indicators of achievement that were met in the context of the Programme of Work, Member States encouraged the organization to raise the level of ambition given that it has already achieved 93% of approved targets for three quarters of the programme period, taking into account the challenges towards achieving the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.
  - e) Members also underlined the importance of an expeditious development of the website UNEA-4 requested in resolution 22 where Member States could find more detailed information on each Sub-programme and on the implementation of resolutions.
8. Member States took note of the financial overview of the Programme and expressed concern over the declining contribution of unearmarked funding to the Environment Fund. All Member States were strongly encouraged to contribute to the Environment Fund in alignment with paragraph 88 of the Rio +20 outcome document "The Future We Want", in which agreement was reached to strengthen UNEP so as to enable it to deliver on its mandate as the leading global environmental authority. Member States also recognized the need to minimize the current dependence on earmarked funding, which can reinforce the fragmentation of UNEP's work.
9. Member States also encouraged UNEP to:
  - a) Optimize its use of human and financial resource and to implement cost effective measures to ensure full delivery of the core mandate of the organization.
  - b) Use core budget funding in support of UNEP's core activities that do not easily attract earmarked funding.
10. The Secretariat provided a presentation on the UN Development Systems Reform as it pertains to the UN Environment Programme and a briefing from Mr. Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary General of the UN Development Coordination Office, followed by an exchange of views with Member States. Member States stressed that the CPR should provide guidance and oversight, as well as continue to receive regular updates from the Secretariat, in the context of UNEP's efforts to align its processes with budget and procedural changes arising from the UN Development System Reform.
11. Member States also provided the following cross-cutting guidance on all sub-programmes:
  - a) Strengthen the linkages with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the UN Reform and pursue a more integrated work with other UN Agencies, noting UNEP's role to catalyze support and influence the cooperation framework.
  - b) Reconsider the methodology of defining the Programme of Work indicators, and to reflect on the level of ambition, as well as on impacts of UNEP's work and measurements of results.
  - c) Be proactive in its thinking of what should be included in the next Programme of Work.
  - d) Continue to embrace a holistic view of all of UNEP's science-policy work and to engaging in a comprehensive mapping exercise of the existing environmental assessments across UNEP and across related UN agencies and panels, with the aim to seek synergies, increase coherence and avoid duplication.

- e) Use the Environmental Management Group and the UN Resident Coordinators to support mainstreaming of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

#### **Sub-Programme on Resource Efficiency**

- 12.** For the sub-programme on Resource Efficiency, this session was chaired by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil). Member States recommended the Secretariat to:
- a) Continue to apply system-wide thinking, take a holistic approach, and ensure conceptual alignment with the guidance provided by UNEA, including through Resolution UNEA/EA.4/Res.1 entitled “Innovative Pathways to Achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production”;
  - b) Explore options to match the increased mandate on sustainable consumption and production with adequate funding, including through prioritization of existing resources and seek additional options for extrabudgetary funding.
  - c) Communicate and report more frequently on progress made in the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.
  - d) Consider how to make the indicators within the sub-programme more linked to actual environmental benefits and outcomes in the preparation of the next Programme of Work.
  - e) Strengthen the link between the resource efficiency sub-programme and the UNEA 3 Implementation Plan on Pollution.
  - f) Assess the real impact of national and other policies put in place through the work under the sub-programme, including in the areas of buildings/construction, infrastructure, minerals extraction and finance.
  - g) Further reflect on the relationship between the resources efficiency sub-programme and biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.
  - h) Identify and learn from key obstacles for member States in the implementation of the subprogramme.
  - i) Continue to advance sustainable consumption and production patterns, recognizing the variety of policies that countries implement to move towards it, such as resource efficiency, the circular economy, sustainable materials management and the “three Rs” (reduce, reuse, recycle).

#### **Sub-Programme on Environment Under Review**

- 13.** For the sub-programme on Environment Under Review, this session was chaired by the Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Mr. Sunil De Silva (Sri Lanka). Member States recognized that the sub-programme is at the core of UNEP’s mandate, and recommended the Secretariat to:
- a) Ensure adequate budget allocation and priority-setting to implement the sub-programme.
  - b) Strengthen the capacity to inform other sub-programmes, particularly in relation to the formulation of policies, solutions and actions.
  - c) Support countries in data collection and monitoring, including through regional offices, to improve data accuracy, access to disaggregated data, and increase the precision of geographic localization of those data, building on the UNEP World Environment Situation Room.
  - d) Ensure a balanced participation of scientists from the social sciences as well as from countries in the global South, in order to bridge the gaps between natural and social disciplines, and between the North and South when engaging scientists in UNEP data and assessment processes.
  - e) Improve the capacity of the scientific community to engage with policymakers, including through training.
  - f) Provide a solid science-policy contribution to the commemoration of the creation of UNEP, building on the Global Environment Outlook series and other major environmental assessments.
  - g) Support a strengthened science-policy interface for Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
  - h) Continue to explore how citizen science and indigenous knowledge can support data collection, monitoring and analysis, increase data quality, enhance data availability and access, and inform scientific assessments.
  - i) Expand data sources and boosting data development, monitoring, and assessments in support of better national policy responses and actions.
  - j) Strengthen the Science-Policy-Business Forum as a major global and regional platform to advance the discussion on how to better link the Sustainable Development Goals to innovative approaches and decision-making.
  - k) Strengthen the Global Assessment Dialogue initiative.

#### **Sub-Programme on Environmental Governance**

- 14.** For the sub-programme on Environmental Governance, this session was chaired by the Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Mr. Sunil De Silva (Sri Lanka). Member States recognized that this sub-programme is at the core of UNEP’s mandate, and recommended the Secretariat to:
- a) Ensure adequate budget allocation and priority-setting to implement the sub-programme.
  - b) Strengthen institutional sustainability, memory and capacity through targeted dissemination of tools, such as dissemination of best practices, handbooks, manuals, video recordings, and targeted training programmes.

- c) Increase awareness of key economic sectors and ministries on social-economic benefits of environmental policies and costs of inaction.
- d) Share best practices on national implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- e) Explore options to promote better policy coherence between UNEA and Multilateral Environmental Agreement secretariats and/or their governing bodies.
- f) Promote better use of the United Nations System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment to improve programmatic implementation and to mainstream the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

### **Sub-Programme on Climate Change**

15. For the sub-programme on Climate Change, this session was chaired by the Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives H.E. Mr. Sunil De Silva (Sri Lanka). Member States recommended the Secretariat to:
- a) Better articulate UNEP's role in addressing climate change with those of other major players in this field.
  - b) Strengthen existing partnerships and exploring new ones in delivering the sub-programme, to scale up delivery and accelerate the uptake of best practices.
  - c) Monitor impacts of existing UNEP-led partnerships.
  - d) Demonstrate linkages and synergies of UNEP's work and of integrated delivery across sub-programmes.
  - e) Focus on nexus issues such as climate and sustainable consumption and production.
  - f) Move from supporting readiness for mobilizing climate finance towards facilitation of full-scale investments in decarbonization and resilience, and link country advocacy work on enabling capacities towards full investment capacity.
  - g) Take advantage of the growing momentum on climate change action, including in the context of the follow-up to the recent UN Climate Action Summit.
  - h) Consider reviewing the theory of change and indicators for the sub-programme in the next Programme of Work, taking into account the findings in the Emissions Gap Report and IPCC reports.
  - i) Consider measures to balance the high dependence on earmarked funding.

### **Sub-Programme on Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts**

16. For the sub-programme on Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts, this session was chaired by the Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Mr. Sunil De Silva High (Sri Lanka). Member States recommended the Secretariat to:
- a) Continue to support countries in addressing the environmental dimension of post-conflict situations with interventions guided by national ownership.
  - b) Continue to provide support to member States through rapid response action during disasters and build capacity to reduce the likelihood of recurrent disasters.
  - c) Reinforce the engagement with UN Resident Coordinators, to better prepare responses to disasters.
  - d) Further engage with the private sector in addressing risks relating to industrial accidents.
  - e) Implement the recommendations in OIOS audits of country offices.

### **Sub-Programme on Chemicals, Waste & Air Quality**

17. For the sub-programme on Chemicals, Waste & Air Quality, this session was chaired by the Rapporteur of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton (Ghana). Member States highlighted the sub-programme's strong link to health through the establishment of the Minamata Convention, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Global Chemicals Outlook-2, and recommended the Secretariat to:
- a) Continue to work on life-cycle approaches, including by engaging with the chemicals industry within the post-2020 framework.
  - b) Support institutional strengthening, policy development, and capacity building for air quality improvements and sound chemicals and waste management, especially in developing countries.
  - c) Consider how to improve the expected accomplishments and indicators in the next Programme of Work, taking into account IOMC indicators and relevant UNEA resolutions.
  - d) Promote mainstreaming of policies on chemicals and waste to strengthen implementation at national level.
  - e) Make better use the Resident Coordinator system and the Environment Management Group.
  - f) Continue and enhance work with other UN agencies and environmental organizations to leverage resources and make linkages to other areas of work, notably with WHO and UN-Habitat, on air quality, mobility and waste issues.
  - g) Strengthen work on waste management, including through applying the waste hierarchy approach and promoting the use of waste management technologies.

- h) Apply a holistic approach to addressing plastics and marine litter.

#### **Sub-Programme on Healthy Productive Ecosystems**

18. For the sub-programme on Healthy Productive Ecosystems, this session was chaired by the Rapporteur of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton (Ghana). Member States recommended the Secretariat to:
- Provide more information on methods and tools used in the sub-programme.
  - Contribute to an improved understanding on nature-based solutions, including by providing specific examples.
  - Support countries to strengthen the implementation of relevant legislation, including through disseminating best practices.
  - Promote uptake of applied science and country-specific guidelines related to restoration for different types of ecosystems.
  - Consider measures to address the imbalance between earmarked and core funds.
  - Continue providing information on work related to marine litter and on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which fall under the Chemicals and Waste sub-programme.

#### **Update on Partnership Policy and Private Sector Engagement Strategy**

19. Regarding the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, Member States welcomed the revised UN Environment Programme Strategy for Private Sector Engagement and the update on the revision of the 2011 Partnerships Policy. Member States recognized the importance of Private Sector involvement and collaboration to effectively address environmental challenge and underscored that private sector engagement should be integrated with the expected accomplishments, activities and indicators of the UNEP's Programme of Work and the Sustainable Development Goals.
20. Member States also emphasized the need for geographic balance and to also engage with small/micro – enterprises and Cooperatives; and underlined that the rationale behind the engagement should not only be a mobilization of financial resources but should include tapping for wide dissemination of best practices and innovative solutions to environmental challenges including utilizing sustainable and more efficient technologies and practices.
21. . Member States underscored the importance of recognizing that in order to partner with the private sector to meet the objectives set out UNEP's Programme of Work and the Medium Term Strategy as well as relevant MEAs administered by UNEP, it is of strategic importance to work in a transparent manner , and emphasized the importance of due diligence requirements to be applied for both public and non public partnerships.
22. Member States requested the Secretariat to include within the Strategy elements reflecting the enabling mandates approved by Member States at UNEA 4, to highlight the complementarities between private sector engagement, resource mobilization, South-South and Triangular cooperation and Stakeholder engagement. The promotion of green and decent jobs and the importance of indigenous and traditional knowledge was also underscored. Member States further welcomed the proposed revision of UNEP's partnership policy and the regular reporting on the implementation of the Strategy. Member States further recommended to dedicate one subcommittee meeting to the private sector and the resource mobilisation strategies. In conclusion, Members agreed in endorsing the Strategy with these proposed adjustments.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Implementation of decision UNEP/EA.4/2 entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly” and of resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.22 entitled “Implementation and follow-up of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions”**

23. Following the introduction by the Secretariat of documents UNEP/CPR/SC2019/6, entitled Note on the implementation of UNEA decision 4/2, “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly” and UNEP/CPR/SC2019/7, entitled Note on implementation of resolution UNEA/EA.4/Res.22, “Implementation and follow up of UNEA resolutions and related activities”. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, addressed the plenary and provided an outline of the different work streams created by decision 2 of UNEA 4.
24. The subcommittee agreed to consider the agenda item, in the following order:
- Process for review by the CPR to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies (paragraphs 9-13 of UNEA 4 decision 2);
  - Implementation of resolution UNEA/EA.4/Res.22, entitled “Implementation and follow up of UNEA resolutions and related activities”;

- Preparation of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP by the UN Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 (paragraph 8 of UNEA 4 decision 2); and
- Preparation of an action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (paragraph 14 of UNEA 4 decision 2).

**Process for review by the CPR to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies (paragraphs 9-13 of UNEA 4 decision 2)**

25. Members welcomed, in general terms, the consolidated proposal for a consensual process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, as set out in paragraphs 9 – 13 of decision UNEP/EA.4/2, as presented by the Chair of the CPR.
26. Member States also endorsed the nominations of Mr. Marcus Davies, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada and Mr. Mapopa C. Kaunda, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malawi as co-facilitators to lead the consultation process, and provided the following guidance:
  - a) The process should be conducted in an open, inclusive, transparent and consultative manner;
  - b) The co-facilitators are to make efficient use of the time and to consider streamlining of the number of meetings whilst also providing the flexibility to add more meetings if necessary.
  - c) Explore options for reaching out to such member States throughout the consultations including by making use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services to allow non-Nairobi based Member States to actively participate and contribute to the consultations.
27. Following this general guidance, Member States approved the consolidated proposal for a consensual process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, as set out in paragraphs 9 – 13 of decision UNEP/EA.4/2.
28. In addition, Member States presented substantive remarks, including reactions to the various options presented in the compilation prepared by the Secretariat and inputs covering the three topics specified in paragraph 10 of decision UNEP/EA.4/2. The substantive remarks and statements to the Process for review by the CPR can be located [here](#).

**Implementation of resolution UNEA/EA.4/Res.22, “Implementation and follow up of UNEA resolutions and related activities”**

29. The participants recognized the importance of effective monitoring and reporting of UNEA resolutions to follow progress, identify gaps and avoid duplication in forthcoming UNEA resolutions, and expressed appreciation towards the Secretariat for the work done in implementing the mandates set out in resolution UNEA/EA.4/Res.22. Further to a presentation by the Secretariat, Member States agreed to undertake further consultations on the proposals for both the enhanced reporting framework and monitoring mechanism at forthcoming subcommittee meetings of the CPR, in the context of the Process for review by the CPR with a preliminary preference by several member States for options 2 and 3 for the enhanced reporting framework.
30. In addition, Member States provided the following guidance: To link reporting on resolutions as closely as possible to the sub-programmes, whilst showing regional dimensions, with a consolidated interface showing reporting by the Secretariat and voluntary reporting by Member States to have the overall overview of the status of implementation;
  - a) To note that voluntary reporting by Member States should build on other existing reporting exercises such as multilateral environmental agreements or SDG Voluntary National Reports;
  - b) To utilize existing monitoring instruments as far as possible for the proposed monitoring mechanism and consider the cost-effectiveness of the exercise;
  - c) To consult with Member States on how the web-based tool will respond to their needs to effectively perform their oversight functions;

**Preparation of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP by the UN Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 (paragraph 8 of UNEA 4 decision 2)**

31. Member States highlighted that the commemoration of the creation of UNEP in 2022 provides a unique opportunity to take stock of progress made and to consider a forward-looking vision on how to strengthen efforts to effectively promote the environmental dimension of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
32. Member states noted with appreciation the offer by the Government of Sweden to host a High-Level meeting to commemorate the first UN Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and the establishment of the UN

Environment Programme. Member States also noted with appreciation the statement by the Government of Kenya offering to collaborate in a joint endeavour. The meeting also noted with appreciation the ongoing consultations between the Governments of Sweden and Kenya, in their respective roles as hosts of the 1972 Conference and of the UN Environment Programme.

33. Member States expressed various views and preliminary positions with regards to the possible options, formats and outcomes for the commemoration in 2022 set out in the note prepared by the Secretariat, and agreed, that these issues will continue to be discussed by Member States in an open, inclusive and structured manner in Nairobi, Kenya.
34. Member States highlighted the importance of enabling delegations that do not have a Permanent Mission in Nairobi, Headquarters of the UN Environment Programme, to actively participate and contribute to these consultations.
35. In addition, participants requested the Executive Director to initiate the preparations for the commemoration of the creation of UNEP in consultation with Member States, making use of contributions from relevant stakeholders as mandated in decision 4/2.

#### **Preparation of an action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development**

36. The meeting examined the proposed draft roadmap to prepare an action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 as presented by the Secretariat in paragraph 23 of UNEP/CPR/SC2019/6, and in endorsing it, the meeting recommended the Secretariat to:
  - a) Include regular consultation meetings with CPR in the roadmap.
  - b) Involve the Office of the Director General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the regular consultations

#### **Agenda Item 5: Preparation of a Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2022 – 25**

37. Member States took note of the roadmap for the development of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 and requested the Secretariat to ensure timely consultations, as well as to take into account the UN Development System Reform and lessons learned regarding the expected accomplishments and formulation of indicators.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Consideration of the draft Chair's summary of the meeting**

38. Member States welcomed the Chair's draft summary and highlighted its substantive and balanced nature. On the basis of comments by Member States the Chair tabled an updated version of the Chair's summary for consideration by the CPR at its 147<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Other matters**

39. The meeting observed a moment of silence in honor of Poland's former Minister for Environment, Professor Jan Szyszko, who passed away on Wednesday 9 October 2019.
40. The delegation of Ethiopia was invited to convey the participants' congratulations to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Closing of the meeting**

41. The meeting closed at 12:30.