

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday 23 January 2020  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.  
United Nations Office of Nairobi  
Conference Room 4

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

*Background documents and other documentation we available on the [meeting portal](#).*

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda**

1. H.E Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representative, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, welcomed all member states and opened the meeting.
2. The agenda was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 2: Implementation of paragraph 14 of UNEA Decision 4/2**

3. The Secretariat presented an overview of the synthesis report on the progress of implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, as well as a proposal for how to structure further consultations with Member States and relevant stakeholders in line with the roadmap presented to member States at the 6th annual subcommittee meeting held in October 2019, through two consultation meetings in March/April with the purpose of informing the Secretariat in its preparation of the action plan which will be considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and UNEA-5.
4. Member States welcomed the presentation and the synthesis report, and provided the following guidance:
  - Reiterated the importance of the implementation of para 88 to strengthen the role of UNEP as the global authority to set the environmental agenda;
  - Stressed that the new Medium Term Strategy should be used as an instrument to implement para 88 and the implementation of the action plan;
  - Requested more information on the planned meeting of the [Chief Executives Board](#) which will be taking place in May in Nairobi and on what steps UNEP will take in this regard;
  - Encouraged prompt scheduling of early consultative meetings;

- Underlined the importance of broadening the number of donors to the Environment Fund and stressed the need for more information on the obstacles to the funding of the Environment Fund;
  - Called on the Committee members to encourage their governments to contribute to the Environment Fund and suggested that the matter be raised through a questionnaire to get a clear view of the issue, and reflected in the action plan;
  - Encouraged an ambitious approach by both the Secretariat and Member States to the ongoing development of the action plan, also as an important contribution to the commemoration of the creation of UNEP by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972 ;
  - Welcomed the participation of stakeholders and the growing involvement of non-state actors and stressed the importance to further enhance science-policy interface to encourage informed decision-making;
  - Highlighted the opportunity for the Secretariat of MEAs to contribute to the proposals for the implementation of para 88;
  - Called for deeper analysis on how UNEP is working with other UN organizations and systems as part of the UN Development System Reforms;
  - One member State noted with appreciation that the subparagraph (a) on universal membership and subparagraph (g) on headquarter functions and regional presence had been accomplished, however, more work is needed for subparagraph (b) on the financing of UNEP as well as for subparagraph (h) on the stakeholder engagement policy;
  - Onemember State considered that the term “capacity-building” could be better termed as “catalysing support to countries” in line with UNEP’s mandate;
5. The Secretariat took note of the views expressed, including with regard to the request for more information on the CEB meeting, and noted that inputs from the Secretariat of MEAs had already been solicited.
  6. The Chair decided to refer the matter of clustering and dates for future consultations to the CPR Bureau on 30 January and thanked member States for their constructive inputs.

**Agenda item 3: Update on the implementation of UNEA resolution 4/19 on Mineral Resource Governance and briefing on the Global Tailings Review.**

7. The Secretariat gave a presentation on the implementation of [UNEA resolution 4/19](#) on Mineral Resource Governance and briefed the on the Global Tailings Review, which is co-convened by UNEP, International Council on Mining and Metals, and the Principles for Responsible Investment, and aims at providing information on the current status and ongoing process of development of an industry standard for the safer management of tailings storage facility.
8. Member States broadly welcomed the presentation and the progress made on the implementation of the resolution, and made several comments which are summarized

as follows:

- Stressed the key importance of sharing information to mitigate negative environmental impacts stemming from industrial mining and to strengthen mineral governance and policy;
  - Welcomed an inclusive process for the regional consultation meeting expected to take place mid-year;
  - Requested that the findings of the Global Tailings Review be included in the report to UNEA-5;
  - Underlined the importance of aligning the global industry standard with national standards and to facilitate global agreement;
  - Requested the Secretariat to provide a detailed guideline document and technical information for the implementation of the Standard developed by the Global Tailings Review;
  - Welcomed the multistakeholder approach for the development of the standard;
  - Requested clarification on what approaches can be taken by countries to adopt the industry standard within their national regulations, such as through legislative action, and how it can provide opportunities for green investment;
  - Requested to include Artisanal Small-Scale Mining to the report on resolution and the Global Tailings Review.
  - One member State informed the meeting of legislative, administrative and judiciary actions being undertaken at the national level to strengthen safety and security regarding the mining industry.
9. The Secretariat thanked member States for their guidance and announced that relevant guidelines will be made available on the International Council on Mining and Metals website, and that the tailings survey as well as the publication of the standard would be launched in 2020. The Secretariat also clarified that the global standard complements national standards and is not designed to replace them. The Secretariat agreed that artisanal small-scale mining is a key issue and to include this activity in the report to UNEA-5. However, artisanal mining will not be part of the standard as it is not possible for such activities to comply with the same requirements as large mining companies.
10. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for a rich presentation and thanked member States' for their inputs.

#### **Agenda item 4: Findings from the Resource Efficiency Sub-programme**

11. The Secretariat presented a summary of the findings from the evaluation of the Resource Efficiency sub-programme, which draws on the completed evaluations of 25 projects within the sub-programme.
12. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the presentation, and made the following comments:
- Stressed that the results of the normative work are not visible enough, and called for a mechanism to better evaluate impact and sustainability;
  - Supported the evaluation recommendation that the programme elements take into

- account human rights and gender approaches;
  - Emphasized that UNEP should fully respond to its mandate vis-à-vis SDG 12, including on funding, and suggested that future sub-programme evaluations better consider UN Reforms;
  - Requested clarification on the timeline to develop the CPR performance report, as well as on how to ensure that the recommendation from this and other evaluations are implemented;
13. The Secretariat took note of the comments and questions raised and informed the meeting that subprogramme evaluation reports are fully taken into account in the process to develop a new Medium-Term Strategy and implement the transformation process. The Secretariat also informed the meeting of the following steps that have been taken in response to the evaluation insights and recommendations:
- The Secretariat has reached out to the G7 through the resource efficiency alliance as well as with the G20 and Climate COPs by linking resource efficiency with climate change, in line with UNEP’s normative role;
  - Strengthening regional presence and capacity as well as leveraging UN reforms through the “GO for SDGs” Initiative;
  - Cooperating with UNDP in particular on green economy and higher ambition nationally determined contributions;
  - Engaging with young entrepreneurs and youth groups to drive SDG 12;
  - Engaging with other UN agencies to position SDG 12 as a key strategic priority of UN Development System Reforms;
  - Encouraging countries to be a champion for SDG 12 and providing ideas on how to improve the resource efficiency subprogramme.
14. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and the comments by member States.

**Agenda item 5: Implementation of UNEA resolution 4/11 entitled “Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities”**

15. The Secretariat presented the outcome of consultations with member States on the future of the Global Programme of Action (GPA), on the basis of a background document entitled “Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities: proposed way forward”.
16. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the brief and concise presentation and provided the following comments and guidance:
- Expressed general support to the recommendations on the proposed way forward, including the discontinuation of Intergovernmental Review Meetings, subordinating the GPA activities within UNEP governing structures and integrating them into the Programme of Work and budget of UNEP;
  - Called for more clarity on the format and outcomes of the proposed technical meetings, taking into account the need to avoid creating any new subsidiary body;
  - Highlighted the three major partnerships under the GPA as a major source of technical expertise;
  - Recommended to make full use of existing initiatives such as the multistakeholder

- platform of the GPA;
  - Supported that discussion on the future of the GPA should conclude as soon as possible, on the basis on draft elements of a decision prepared by the Secretariat;
  - A concluding IGR meeting should be organized without delay while ensuring the broadest possible participation by member states.
17. The Secretariat took note of the comments, including on the preparation of draft elements for a decision as a basis for further consultations in the CPR, noting that the for example the proposed technical meetings will require more discussions. The Secretariat also confirmed that existing platforms and partnerships will be fully utilized in support of the implementation of the GPA.
18. The Chair thanked member States for their guidance and decided to consider the timetable for future consultations with the CPR on the GPA at the next meeting of the CPR Bureau.

**Agenda Item 6: Outcomes of the Third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics.**

19. H.E. Ms. Jillian Dempster, Chair of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to Geneva, provided an update on the outcome of the third meeting of the expert group held from 18 to 22 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand (more information is available [here](#)). The Secretariat informed the meeting that submissions from member States and stakeholders in preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> expert meeting will be made available online.
20. Member States broadly welcomed the update, thanked H.E. Ms. Jillian Dempster for her leadership in the marine litter process, and made a number of comments that can be summarized as follows:
- Several member States pointed out that the expert group on marine litter and microplastics provides the only “space” to discuss these issues at global level and called for an ambitious and impactful outcome from the expert group.
  - One regional group supported by several member States, while acknowledging the work done by expert group and respecting the decisions to be made regarding dates and venue for the next meeting of the Group, strongly encouraged that expert group meetings mandated by UNEA are held in Nairobi, so as to strengthen UNEP headquarters and facilitate the engagement and participation of delegations, particularly those from developing countries.
  - One political group supported by some member States pointed out that organizing expert group meetings in different regions may foster broader ownership for the process, and that such meetings would not undermine the role of UNEP headquarters as the center of decision-making on environmental issues because the outcome from the expert group will be subject to final consideration in Nairobi by the OECPR and UNEA-5.

- The same political group indicated that their online submissions for the next meeting of the expert group will be delayed beyond the current deadline, and called on the Secretariat to make all documentation of the current and past work of the expert group available in one place online.
- Peru confirmed its offer and strong commitment to host the next meeting of the expert group.
- One member State requested the Secretariat to make available cost estimates for the different options to host upcoming expert group meetings, in particular with regard to how they may impact on UNEPs budget and Programme of Work.
- The Secretariat was requested to provide more information on the marine litter multi-stakeholder platform, pursuant to UNEP/EA.4/Res.6 OP 3.

21. The Chair of the Bureau of the Ad hoc open-ended expert group thanked Member States for their inputs and encouraged regional groups to discuss the various issues with their respective Bureau members. She also highlighted the deadline for the submissions on the compilation of the substantive documents on 1 February 2020, and encouraged delegations to communicate with the Secretariat if they have difficulties with meeting this deadline.

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

22. Colombia announced that it will have assumed the role of Chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, replacing Chile, and informed the meeting that Colombia will be hosting 2020 World Environment Day on 5 June, in partnership with Germany and UNEP, with a focus on biodiversity. Member States were invited to save the date and to contribute to the outreach and communication to promote action for nature.

23. Member States congratulated Colombia and its partners for taking on this important task and requested the Secretariat to keep member States informed on the preparations to celebrate the 2020 World Environment Day.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Closing of the meeting**

24. The meeting closed at 3:20 p.m.