

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Friday 24 April 2020
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

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 opened the meeting. Meeting documents are available on the [meeting portal](#).

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members:

H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil;
H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania;
H.E. Mrs. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Rapporteur, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana;
Mrs. Gudi Alkemade, Deputy Permanent Representative, representing H.E. Mr. Frans Makken, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
Mr. Patrick Luna, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil;

The President of UN Environment Assembly was represented by:

H.E. Ms. Elin Bergithe Rognlie, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway;
Ms. Guri Sandborg, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway;

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director;
Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director;
Mr. Rafael Peralta, Acting Chief of Staff;
Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Stadler Trengove, Law Division;

2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

3. The Secretariat provided an update on the process to submit the contribution of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2020 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including an overview of the Chair's compromise text and the outstanding issues following the break of the silence procedure by several Member States throughout the process.
4. The Chair recalled his continued efforts to ensure that the consultation process mandated by Resolution 3/3 be transparent and inclusive, reiterated his frustration regarding the timetable with which the Committee was confronted given the belated submission of the first draft by the Secretariat, provided a brief analysis of the current state of play and emphasized the need for a shared understanding on what constitutes a break of silence procedure.
5. Following a discussion among Members of the Bureau and after taking note of all outstanding issues related to the break of the silence procedure, the Bureau agreed to put forward a revised compromise text for section d) for new silent procedure with a 72 hour deadline, in line with the procedure established by the UN General Assembly for the consideration of draft decisions and resolutions during the current pandemic, in view of submitting a final version to the UNEA President for his consideration and onward transmission to the President of ECOSOC.
6. The Bureau emphasized that the experience gained from this year's UNEA contribution to the High Level Political Forum should serve as a lesson learned for a better and more streamlined planned in the future, where the CPR should be involved at an earlier stage to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the substantive content of the submission, and that the next contribution should be shorter and more concise. It was also suggested that this process may be considered within the context of the ongoing Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
7. Following the suggestion by one Bureau member, supported by others, the Secretariat confirmed the intention to consult with member States on a template for the HLPF submission, and that it plans to initiate the process of next year's submission well in advance, if necessary before receiving the formal letter of the President of ECOSOC with the request to contribute, in order to allow more time for consideration by Member States.

Agenda Item 3: Other matters.

8. The Chair provided a short update on the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 73/333, including the proposed co-facilitators from one developed and one developing country to lead the preparatory process. One Bureau Member re-emphasized the importance of close consultation with the regional groups in order to nominate and elect co-facilitators.
9. One Member informed the Bureau that one Member State had expressed concerns about the proposal to hold the 150th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which will be conducted online due to the Covid-19 situation, in English only.

10. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that UNEP is cooperating closely with the Division for Conference Services in the UN Office in Nairobi on the matter, taking into account relevant discussions in the UN Secretariat and in other UN agencies to exploring opportunities for remote interpretation services, but that more time would be needed in order to identify viable and UN-coordinated solutions. The Secretariat also announced that in the coming weeks it will be testing 3 different systems for remote interpretation, under the leadership of UNON.

11. The Bureau agreed to recommend holding the 150th meeting of the CPR in English only on an exceptional basis due to the current Covid-19 situation, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to identify options for the provision of appropriate remote interpretation services for virtual future regular meetings of the Committee as soon as possible, and to request the Secretariat to provide an update on the state of play to the 150th meeting of the CPR.

Agenda Item 4: Closing of the meeting

12. The meeting is closed at 10:10 a.m.