
150th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, 30 April 2020
Online meeting
14:00 – 18:30

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Note: This Chair's summary complements the detailed minutes of the meeting developed by the UN Office in Nairobi. All pre-meeting and post meeting documentation, including statements provided in writing, are available [here](#). A participants list will be annexed to the summary.

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

1. The Chair opened the meeting and recommended that the meeting exceptionally be held in English, as the UN Office in Nairobi is currently not in a position to provide interpretation services for online meetings.
2. The Chair reminded the meeting of the election on 1 March 2020 of H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, as new President of UNEA, and announced that a [video message from the President](#) had been made available on the meeting portal.
3. The Chair congratulated Mr. Ado Lohmus, Vice President of the UNEA Bureau and Permanent Representative of Estonia, and H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Vice Chair of the CPR and High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, for their appointment by the Chair of the CPR and the President of UNEA, as co-facilitators for the informal consultations under the auspices of the CPR on General Assembly resolution 73/333, following consultations with the CPR and UNEA Bureaux and the Chairs of the Regional Groups.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 150th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The Committee adopted the [draft revised agenda](#).

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of 149th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

5. The Committee adopted the [draft minutes of the 149th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#).

Agenda Item 4: Report by the Executive Director.

6. Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director gave a [statement](#) and presented the [quarterly report of the Executive Director](#) on behalf of Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director who was unable to join the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.
7. The Committee expressed their condolences for the victims of COVID-19 and recognized the need for solidarity and collective action to mitigate the pandemic.
8. The Committee commended the Chair and the Secretariat for their efforts to effectively organize Committee meetings online, while underlining the need for consideration of draft decisions to be done in accordance with General Assembly decision 74/544 of 27

March 2020 entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic”.

9. The Committee welcomed the report of the Executive Director, acknowledged the need for UNEP to re-evaluate its resource mobilization strategy in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, and requested additional progress updates on UNEP’s normative work, including with regard to the five lines of defense and its role within the UN reform, noting that UNEP’s normative work remains very important to tackle the current global health crisis.
10. The Committee reiterated the importance of achieving equitable gender and geographic balance in the Secretariat and requested that the information regarding human resources in the quarterly report be revised, so as to display the data in accordance with country distribution as per UN regional groups.

Agenda Item 5: Implementation of paragraph 8 of UNEA decision 4/2.

11. The Secretariat gave a [presentation](#) on the implementation of paragraph 8 of decision 4/2 on the basis of a [background document](#) and recalled the outcome from the previous consultations on the matter held with Member States.
12. The Committee took positive note of the proposal to launch the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of UNEP at UNEA-5, while noting that the issue should be further discussed at a Subcommittee meeting. The Committee agreed that consultations on the implementation of paragraph 8 of UNEA decision 4/2 and on the preparations for UNEA-5 should be addressed separately, including with regard to agenda items and background documentation.
13. Following further clarifications provided by the delegation of Sweden on their offer to host a high level political meeting in Stockholm in 2022 to commemorate the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, the related process and possible outcomes, the delegations of Kenya and Sweden informed the meeting that they will need more time for consultations and to elaborate on the offer by Sweden to host a high level political meeting in Stockholm in 2022 to commemorate the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment the background paper for discussion in CPR subcommittee.
14. The Committee requested the Secretariat to take into account the views expressed in order to prepare in a dedicated report on the substantive aspects of the preparations for the 50th anniversary of, in accordance with paragraph 8 of decision 4/2.

Agenda Item 6: Preparations for the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly

15. The Secretariat provided a [presentation](#) on the basis of a [background document](#), suggesting key strategic elements, including the continued relevance of the UNEA-5 theme in the era of COVID-19; the need for an impact driven Medium-Term Strategy; four proposed transformative action areas for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; enhancing the authority, increased impact and relevance of the Assembly through a limited set of UNEA resolutions and decisions, and the importance of communication to citizens.
16. The Committee underlined the importance of effective preparations for UNEA-5, and acknowledged the strategic importance of the 5th Session of the UN Environment Assembly and its overarching theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the

Sustainable Development Goals“ as an opportunity to provide global political leadership towards a sustainable recovery post COVID-19 and to other global sustainable development processes including the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

17. The Committee exchanged views on the note from the Secretariat and underlined the need to provide more focus to the implementation of UN Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all three dimensions – environmental, economic and social –, and the importance of avoiding duplication of mandates of other multilateral fora.
18. The Committee welcomed further consideration of how to limit the number of UNEA resolutions, including through the possible development of “omnibus” resolutions, while noting that views differed on the proposed four transformative action areas.
19. The Committee requested the Secretariat to take into account the views expressed and to present a revised background note on the preparations for UNEA-5 for consideration at an upcoming meeting of the subcommittee.

Agenda Item 7: Contribution of the UNEA to the HLPF

20. Following a brief discussion with Member States concerned, the Committee agreed to submit the [fifth revised version of the document “Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development”](#) to the President of UNEA without further changes, for onward transmission to the President of ECOSOC, while underlining the need for the process for these submissions to be re-evaluated and improved in the future, so as to provide adequate time for transparent and inclusive consultations within the CPR and to ensure the preparation of a timely, concise and strategic submission from UNEA to the High Level Political Forum in 2021, in accordance with UNEA Resolution 3/3.

Agenda Item 8: Report of the sub-committee.

21. The Committee took note of the Chair’s report of the sub-committee.

Agenda Item 9: Other matters.

22. The delegation of Angola announced the appointment of Ms. Adjany Costa, winner of the 2019 Young Champions of the Earth (Africa), as Minister of Culture, Tourism and Environment of Angola, thus becoming the youngest member of Cabinet.

Agenda Item 10: Closing of the meeting.

23. The meeting closed at 18:30.