

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 21 May 2020
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Online meeting

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. The Co-facilitator, Mr. Marcus Davies of Canada opened the meeting. Meeting documents are available on the [meeting portal](#).
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Implementation of paragraphs 9-13 of Decision UNEP/EA./4/2 entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”

3. Mr. Marcus Davies, Deputy Permanent Representative to Canada in Nairobi and Co-facilitator for the meeting, invited the Committee to consider Annex I to Version III of the document “Converging elements of consensus”, entitled “Draft terms of reference of the Bureaus of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives”. Mr. Marcus Davies opened the floor for comments on the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of the United Nations Environment Assembly bureau (UNEA bureau), and noted that so far, no member States has requested a change of the Rules of Procedure or decisions/resolutions. On this basis, it was recommended that the meeting should focus on those paragraphs which are not deriving from existing legal texts. The Co-facilitator also confirmed that textual changes of future versions of the document will be marked in track changes.
4. Regarding the TOR of the bureau of UNEA, delegations who took the floor expressed support for the general direction of the document, while raising the following comments and concerns:
 - Paragraph 2: One delegation expressed support to paragraph 2 subject to an editorial change and confirmed the understanding that participation in an “ex officio” capacity does not render voting rights. Another delegation requested further clarification in this regard.
 - Paragraph 3: One delegation requested clarification with regard to elections of an alternate.
 - Paragraph 5: Several delegations suggested to include timelines in terms of availability of invitations and documentation, and requested clarification with regard to the terms “observers” and “individuals and organizations” for more adequate language, and the need to have the approval of the bureau to invite observers. Some delegations were of the view that the draft should make it clear that meetings should preferably take place in Nairobi and that a departure from this principle should require agreement by all Bureau members and take into account possible financial implications.
 - Paragraph 7: One delegation suggested to simplify and shorten the paragraph by including a “without prejudice” clause.

- Paragraph 8: Some delegations suggested to ensure that all members of the Bureaus are in agreement with regard to meetings to be held outside Nairobi, and to take into consideration the financial implications.
 - Paragraph 9: One delegation considered that some subparagraphs may be unnecessary as they merely re-state what is in the ROP.
 - Paragraph 11: One delegation suggested to add to the first sentence “with the support of the secretariat in consultation with members of regional groups”. Several delegations expressed concern regarding subparagraphs d) and e), as the language was considered overly prescriptive. Some delegations suggested to delete letter e). One delegation proposed to refer to multilateral environmental agreements under letter c). Some delegations requested clarification and/or amendments with regard to ensuring coherence between the bureaus under letter h).
 - Paragraph 12: Some delegations suggested to delete this paragraph as it is already addressed in paragraph 11.
 - Paragraph 13: One delegation questioned the need to formalize the meeting language.
 - One delegation requested clarification on who adopts the TOR.
5. Mr. Mapopa Kaunda, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malawi and Co-facilitator for the meeting, invited the Committee to consider draft Terms of Reference of the bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR bureau).
 6. Delegations who took the floor expressed support also for the general direction of this part of the document and reiterated, where relevant, comments already made to the TOR of the UNEA bureau. In addition, the following comments were raised:
 - Paragraph 9: One delegation welcomed the fact that the chair of the CPR consults with member States for the preparation of agreements under letter c). It further requested to extend these consultations to representatives of regional groups. One Mayor Group suggested to replace “other stakeholders” for “Major Groups and other stakeholders”.
 - Paragraph 10: One delegation requested to include a reference to “documents” under letter c); under letter d) it further suggested a revision to include a reference to the need for close consultation with the UNEA bureau. One delegation suggested to merge letters d) and e).
 - One delegation suggested to refer to collaboration between the bureaus in the “Converging elements of consensus” document and not in the TOR, pointing out that the TOR deal with the mechanisms of the work of the bureaus, whereas the outcome document provide policy guidance.
 7. The co-facilitators thanked the delegations for their participation and requested written comments to the document by 27 May 2020 at the latest.

Agenda Item 3: Closing of the Meeting.

8. The meeting is closed at 5 p.m.