

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday 21 May 2020  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Online Meeting

### **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, opened the meeting.
2. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for their hard work and efforts to organize and service the meetings of the CPR during the challenging times of the pandemic.
3. The Secretariat provided an overview of the participants present at the meeting. A list of participating member States and stakeholders is annexed to this summary.
4. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

#### **Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the preparation for the 2021 Food Systems Summit.**

5. Dr Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, presented a [briefing](#) on the preparations for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, which aims at maximizing the co-benefits of a food systems approach across the UN 2030 Agenda and meeting the challenges of climate change. As a key contribution to the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, the objectives of the Food Systems Summit are to generate momentum, expand the knowledge and share experience and approaches worldwide to help countries and stakeholders unleash the benefits of food systems for all people.
6. Following the presentation, Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, recognized the important role of agriculture for sustainable development, noting that UNEP is the custodian of SDG target 12.3 on food waste. She assured the meeting of UNEP's readiness to support the Secretary-General and the Special Envoy, and pointed to the close collaboration with FAO, WFP, and IFAD in the preparations for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. The Executive Director also recognized the role of sustainable consumption and production as a pathway to achieving sustainable food systems. The One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme, regenerative agriculture, the UN Decade of Ecosystems Restoration, TEEB AgriFood, and the importance of reducing food waste as well as chemical and nutrient use in our food systems were specifically highlighted as areas where UNEP can contribute through its expertise.

7. Following the briefing, Member States thanked Dr. Kalibata and Ms. Andersen for the update, recognized the importance of Summit, and provided the following comments on the state of preparations for the Summit:
- Expressed their interest and commitment to support the Summit through financial and political means as well as through sharing experience and best practices and through promoting strategic partnerships
  - Shared information on the various country initiatives relevant to sustainable agriculture and food systems.
  - Underlined the importance of international cooperation as well as the active involvement of both Member States and stakeholders in the preparations of the Summit, including from the private sector, women and indigenous groups, and that UNEA 5 could contribute to the preparations for the Summit.
  - Considered UNEP's role and involvement in the preparations for the Summit, including through the UN Environmental Management Group, and stressed the importance of close collaboration with FAO, WFP, and IFAD.
  - Underlined the relevance of [UNEA resolution 4/2: Promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste](#), and of the One Planet Network.
  - Requested further updates on the preparations for the Summit and on how Member States can be involved.
  - Stressed the need for the Summit to address agriculture and food systems holistically, taking into account all three dimensions of sustainable development, and highlighting the link between biodiversity, nature and sustainable agriculture.
  - Underlined the importance of integrating sustainable food systems in the post-COVID recovery plans, noting that COVID-19 has demonstrated the need to reevaluate food systems, agriculture and food supplies to make them more environmentally sound, and demonstrated the link between human health, wildlife management, animal and zoonotic diseases, and food systems.
  - Requested for additional information on the appointment and selection criteria for the establishment of a Scientific Group in support of the preparations for the Summit. In this regard, a representative from the Children and Youth Major Group suggested that young scientists should be included in this group.
  - Made reference to the recent report "[Africa Regional Overview of Food and Nutrition](#)", noting that it predicts that Africa is not on track to reach SDG 2 to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030 and underlined the need for additional efforts.
  - One Stakeholder welcomed meaningful engagement with civil society, youth and grassroot organizations in the preparations, and suggested a Youth Summit ahead of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit
8. Dr. Kalibata thanked Member States for their support and underlined that the Summit and its preparatory process offer a critical opportunity to advance the socio-economic response to COVID-19 and efforts to "build back better". She referred to a set of "Summit action tracks" that will be designed to meet key challenges at all levels of society, and that initiatives at country level will be underpinning the outcomes of the Summit. She encouraged Member States to provide support to the preparatory process including through strategic partnerships, leadership and expertise. Dr. Kalibata confirmed that the preparatory process will be open and inclusive, and invited member States and stakeholders to provide additional suggestions and inputs, noting that the fate of our food systems are in our hands and that the evolution of the Summit action tracks and their success will rely on deep and effective engagement with Member States.

9. Ms. Andersen recognized the need for collaboration and the importance of sustainable production and consumption as a core issue to the Summit, acknowledged the link between sustainable food systems and recovery efforts post-COVID-19, and agreed that the UN Environment Management Group plays an important role to highlight and promote the links between biodiversity, nature and sustainable food systems.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Briefing on the preparation for World Environment Day 2020.**

10. The Secretariat [presented](#) a [briefing](#) on the preparations for the upcoming World Environment Day, including on the main communication and media initiatives, partnerships, and panel discussions scheduled to take place on 5 June 2020, hosted by Colombia in partnership with Germany. This year's World Environment Day focuses on biodiversity with a campaign theme of "Time #ForNature". Further information is available on the World Environment Day [website](#).
11. Colombia and Germany gave a short update on how they have been working closely with UNEP to prepare and support the virtual 2020 World Environment Day celebrations, stressing the importance of increased public awareness around biodiversity and taking into account the recent challenges related to COVID 19. To that end, Colombia announced that the agenda for the World Environment Day will soon be shared with Member States and stakeholders to facilitate broad participation in the planned virtual events.
12. Member States expressed appreciation for the briefing, congratulated Colombia, Germany and the Secretariat for the work done, and provided the following guidance and recommendations with a view to ensure a successful World Environment Day campaign 2020:
  - Welcomed the World Environment Day theme "Time #ForNature" with its focus on biodiversity, and stressed the importance of highlighting the links between the COVID-19 crisis and nature, in order to build public awareness and attract public attention which is currently focused on crisis management.
  - Emphasized the importance of bringing biodiversity and other environmental issues to the forefront of the everyday public discourse and hope World environment Day could compensate for the postponement of other environmental meetings and events.
  - One stakeholder representative welcomed the report on zoonotic diseases and asked whether the it will address the primary causes of zoonotic diseases, including human interaction with wild animals.
13. The Secretariat took note of the comments and confirmed that the report will address primary causes of zoonotic diseases and highlight links between biodiversity, nature and the crisis as well as the relationship between human beings and nature.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Other matters.**

14. The Secretariat briefed Member States on the preparations for the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the CPR scheduled for 9 – 10 June 2020, and on the Act #ForNature Forum on 7 - 10 June 2020, and highlighted the links to the Word Environment Day. The meeting was informed that the Forum will consist of five topical "online town halls" that bring together various stakeholders and that it will be preceded by an international online consultation on UNEA-5 for Major Groups and Stakeholders on 7 June 2020. The five topics of the town halls are as follows:
  - Healthy ecosystems for healthy people: Limiting the impact and future emergence of zoonotic diseases

- Turning the tide on marine litter
- Connecting People and Nature: Transforming the global food system
- Adapt to thrive transformational change for nature and business
- Youth Voice for Nature: Environmental Governance in the Time of COVID-19

The Committee was informed that further information, including registration and connection details will be shared soon.

15. The Representative of the UNEA President expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the collaborative work and welcomed representatives from Member States and stakeholders to join the Forum.
16. One Member State asked about the availability of documents for the joint Bureaux meeting. The Secretariat clarified that work on the background documents for the meeting was ongoing and that they will be made available on a dedicated [meeting portal](#) on the CPR website and that member States will be notified when the documents are ready.
17. A representative from the Children and Youth Major Group informed the meeting that it will be conducting a 3-day forum on intergenerational equity from 31 May – 2 June, ahead of the Act #ForNature Forum.

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

18. The meeting closed at 11:30 a.m.

**ANNEX: List of Delegations to the Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 21 May 2020.**

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
21 May 2020  
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Virtual meeting  
United Nations Office at Nairobi

**List of Delegations to the Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
on 21 May 2020.**

**Member States**

- 1. Algeria**
- 2. Angola**
- 3. Belgium**
- 4. Bolivia**
- 5. Brazil**
- 6. Burkina Faso**
- 7. Canada**
- 8. Chile**
- 9. China**
- 10. Colombia**
- 11. Costa Rica**
- 12. Denmark**
- 13. Djibouti**
- 14. Egypt**
- 15. Estonia**
- 16. European Union**
- 17. Finland**
- 18. Germany**
- 19. Hungary**
- 20. India**
- 21. Indonesia**
- 22. Iran**
- 23. Iraq**
- 24. Japan**
- 25. Kenya**
- 26. Korea**
- 27. League of Arab States**
- 28. Malaysia**
- 29. Mexico**

- 30. Montenegro**
- 31. Netherlands**
- 32. Norway**
- 33. Philippines**
- 34. Poland**
- 35. Serbia**
- 36. Spain**
- 37. Sweden**
- 38. Ukraine**
- 39. United Kingdom**

#### **Accredited Stakeholders**

- 1. Major Group Children and Youth**
- 2. Children and Youth International**
- 3. European Students' Forum AEGEE**
- 4. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**
- 5. Center for International Environment Law (CIEL)**
- 6. Society for International Development (SID)**
- 7. World Animal Net (WAN)**
- 8. United States Council for International Business (USCIB)**