

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Friday 23 October 2020
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Virtual

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, chaired the meeting, in which the following participated:

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members:

H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland, Vice Chair, Eastern European Group;

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Vice Chair, Asia-Pacific Group

H.E. Mr. Maarten Brouwer, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Netherlands, Vice Chair, Western European and Other States Group

H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana, Rapporteur, Africa Group;

The Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly was represented in ex officio by:

H.E. Ms. Eline Rognlie, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway

Co-facilitator of informal consultations of UNGA Resolution 73/333:

Mr. Ado Lõhmus, Permanent Representative of Estonia and Vice President of the UN Environment Assembly

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director;
Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director
Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff a.i.;
Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Principal Legal Officer.

2. The meeting adopted the agenda.

3. The Executive Director welcomed the outcome of the of the recently concluded 7th meeting of the Annual Subcommittee held from 12 to 16 October 2020 and noted that Member States provided constructive inputs and guidance throughout the meeting. She further underlined the importance of solid preparations for a successful two-step UNEA-5.

2. Preparation for the 152nd meeting of the CPR.

4. The Secretariat presented a draft agenda for the 152nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, scheduled for 19 November 2020, and suggested to complement the draft with an additional item to allow for consideration of a revised draft Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work and Budget. The Secretariat also recalled that the UN Office in Nairobi would need sufficient time to edit and translate the final versions of the drafts 6 weeks in advance of UNEA-5.
5. The Bureau noted that the 7th meeting of the annual subcommittee had identified several issues that would need to be addressed by Committee at its 152nd meeting, including an understanding on the minimalistic set of outcomes that could be envisaged for the first segment of UNEA-5, to be prepared and held virtually. The Bureau converged on making the best possible use of the intersessional period to consider outstanding issues.
6. The Bureau agreed to amend the draft agenda of the 152nd meeting of the CPR to include an additional item entitled “Consideration of the Revised Draft Medium-Term Strategy”, as a new agenda item, and, with a view to allow for sufficient time to consider the substantive agenda items at the meeting, to defer the consideration of “Preparations for UNEP@50” to a future meeting of the Committee.

3. Organization of work.

7. The Co-facilitators of the informal consultations on UN General Assembly Resolution 73/333, H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan and Mr. Ado Lõhmus, Permanent Representative of Estonia and Vice President of the UN Environment Assembly, taking into account the discussion on this matter at the 7th meeting of the annual subcommittee, proposed that the second consultation meeting scheduled to take place from 3 to 5 November 2020 be rescheduled to the second quarter of 2021, as an in-person meeting, for example in mid-June.
8. Taking into account the wish expressed by several Member States to accommodate in-person consultations, the Bureau agreed to the proposal made by the co-facilitators to postpone the second informal consultation, tentatively to June 2021 and requested the Secretariat to identify options for the exact date to be defined at an upcoming meeting of the CPR, taking into account both the possibility of having in-person meetings in Nairobi and the calendar of international environment meetings scheduled for the first half of 2021.

4. Other matters.

9. One member of the Bureau requested the Secretariat to share the results of the evaluation of the virtual platform and provide information with the Committee to allow for a cost comparison between a CPR meeting using a virtual platform and an in-person meeting.
10. The Secretariat briefed the Bureau about the preliminary results from an ongoing online survey on the organization of the 7th meeting of the annual subcommittee, which had resulted in an overall positive response of the meeting, including with regard to the use of the Interprefy meeting platform.

5. Closing of the Meeting.

11. The meeting closed at 11 a.m.