

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Thursday 6 July 2017, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
United Nations Office in Nairobi
Executive Office Boardroom

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H.E. Mr. John Moreti, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana, chaired the meeting, in which the following participated:

Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members

- H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Vice Chair, Asia-Pacific Group
 - H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia, Vice Chair, Group of Latin America and Caribbean States;
 - Mr. Toni Sandell, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland, representing H.E. Ms. Tarja Fernandez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland, Vice Chair, Western European and Other States Group
 - H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Permanent Representative of Poland, Rappporteur, Eastern European Group;
2. The Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly was represented in an ex-officio capacity by:
 - H.E. Marta E. Juarez Ruiz, Ambassador on Special Mission to UN Environment Programme, Costa Rica;
 3. The Secretariat was represented by:
 - Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme;
 - Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme;
 - Ms. Rosemary Mukasa, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies, UN Environment Programme;
 - Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Legal Advisor, UN Environment Programme;

4. The Chair welcomed the Executive Director to the first meeting of the newly elected Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and expressed confidence in the new Bureau's ability to continue the excellent work by the previous Bureau.
5. The Executive Director welcomed the new Bureau members and expressed appreciation of their work on preparations for the upcoming 2017 UN Environment Assembly. He expressed gratitude to the Bureau for understanding that his presence at meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives had been limited due to his duties outside of Nairobi.
6. The Executive Director informed the meeting that the Secretariat was working on the note on UN Environment Programme's communication and that it would be availed to Member States the following week.
7. The meeting adopted the agenda.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of work of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

8. The Deputy Secretary presented the proposed organization of work for consultations on draft resolutions during the inter-sessional period until the 3rd Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Based on an estimate of 10 draft resolutions, the proposal made provision for two readings allowing for sufficient consultations with Capitals and among regional groups between readings. Draft resolutions would be sent off by the 140th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to the 3rd Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which was expected to conclude negotiations on resolutions prior to the UN Environment Assembly.
9. A member requested the Secretariat to remove 'urban pollution' from the list of potential resolutions since no Member State or regional group had indicated interest in proposing such a resolution. He was of the view that sponsors of draft resolutions should have an option to take the lead and not all resolutions should necessarily be subjected to two readings in the Sub-Committee. Members also asked how procedural resolutions would be treated.
10. Recalling their negative experience at the Second Session of the UN Environment Assembly, members emphasized that clustering arrangements made during the inter-sessional period should be maintained at the 2017 UN Environment Assembly. The Chair responded that this should be brought to the attention of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly during discussions on the Assembly's organization of work at the Joint Bureaux meeting in September. Members stressed the need to discuss the Outcome document ahead of the Assembly.

11. The meeting agreed to retain the schedule but agreed that clustering of resolutions should await more concrete proposals from Member States. Consultations would proceed on the resolution already submitted. The Bureau would take a final decision at its next meeting.
12. The Deputy Executive Director informed the meeting that in line with the request of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 139th meeting held on 19 June 2017, the Secretariat would provide a progress report on the programme of work and budget including implementation of previous resolutions during a subcommittee meeting on 7 September 2017.
13. He informed the meeting that there are two options regarding procedural resolutions. Non-contentious procedural resolutions could be considered in plenary while more contentious decisions and resolutions could be considered in working groups. He noted that there would be only two working groups in line with the guidance from Member States.
14. In response to a question on how to minimize last minute draft resolutions, the Legal Advisor, advised that to override the 24hour rule, the Assembly could adopt a procedural decision at the beginning of the meeting, to the effect that all resolutions should be submitted by a stipulated time.

Agenda Item 3: Preparations for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly

15. The Chair highlighted important elements for preparations for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly such as endorsement of the structure and agenda of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, noting that amendments would be made to the structure based on comments provided earlier at the Sub-committee meeting.
16. One Member requested that in addition to providing a note on the issue of the use of the name “UN Environment”, the Secretariat should address the matter with member States at a Sub-Committee meeting attended by the Executive Director as soon as possible. This would help prevent the matter from derailing smooth preparations for and proceedings at the 2017 UN Environment Assembly.
17. The Chair acknowledged receipt of the Executive Director’s letter to regional groups calling for consultations on possible Chair or Co-Chairs of the Committee of the Whole, and other possible Sessional bodies of the Assembly. A member suggested that it may be prudent to have members of both the Assembly Bureau and the Committee Bureau as co-Chairs for Committee of the Whole. The Chair noted that the upcoming joint Bureaux meeting would make a final decision on Chairing arrangements for the Committee of the Whole following consultations with regional groups. He encouraged regional groups to submit draft resolution titles and texts before the upcoming joint Bureaux meeting in September.

18. The representative of the President of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly briefed the meeting on the process of the Ministerial Outcome document. She informed the meeting that a Zero Draft had been released to member States on 4 July 2017 and that a new version would be produced and shared with member States, based on inputs received. She further informed the meeting that the President was expected to come to Nairobi in November for consultations on the Outcome document.
19. The Deputy Executive Director drew the meeting's attention to the fact that the Secretariat was yet to secure a slot for the participation of the President of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly at the 2017 High Level Political Forum, despite spirited efforts by the Secretariat and member States.
20. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat would share a non-paper on the participation of the President of the UN Environment Assembly at the 2017 High Level Political Forum. A joint letter from the President of the UN Environment Assembly, Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Chair of the Group of 77 (Nairobi Chapter) to the President of the Economic and Social Council on the participation of the President of the UN Environment Assembly at the 2017 High Level Political Forum was also proposed.

Agenda Item 4: Date of next meeting of the Bureau

21. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 2 August 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 5: Other Matters

22. The Chair urged that Secretariats of UN Environment Programme and of UN HABITAT to coordinate and ensure that the meetings at which Committee members were expected to be in attendance did not overlap as was the case recently.

Agenda Item 5: Closing

13. The meeting closed at 2:30 p.m.