



Distr.: General
23 October 2017

English only



United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

140th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme

Nairobi, 31 October 2017,

10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Agenda Item: 7

Chair's Report of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. Since the 139th meeting of Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 19 June 2017, there have been twenty one meetings. Twelve Subcommittee meetings were held on 6 July 2017, 30 August 2017, 7 September 2017, 19 September 2017, 21 September 2017, 25 September 2017, 3 October 2017, 5 October 2017, 10 October 2017, 17 October 2017, 19 October 2017 and 24 October 2017. Nine briefing sessions by the Secretariat were held on 6 July 2017, 7 September 2017, 15 September 2017, 21 September 2017, 5 October 2017, 10 October 2017, 12 October 2017, 17 October 2017 and 24 October 2017.
2. The Subcommittee mainly focused on preparations for the third session of the UN Environment Assembly and monitoring programme performance of the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the period 2016-2017. It also discussed the Secretariat's proposal for use of "UN Environment" as the short form of United Nations Environment Programme in an effort to communicate in a more straightforward and impactful way.
3. At the Subcommittee meeting of 7 September 2017, the agenda of the third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives was endorsed. However, endorsement of its structure was deferred to the 140th Committee meeting. The briefing held on 31 August 2017, with the participation of the Executive Director, to discuss the use of "UN Environment" instead of UNEP to communicate in a more straightforward and impactful way was well received. However, some members requested the Secretariat to provide information on the legal implications and clear way forward in processing the proposal. During the update on Programme Performance of the Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the period 2016-2017, on 3 October 2017, it was noted that a full Programme Performance Report will be made available in the first quarter of 2018.
4. Under preparations for the Assembly, issues deliberated upon included: consultations on

draft resolutions and draft decisions; the report of the Executive Director entitled “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”; organization of work for the inter-sessional period; agenda and structure of the 3rd Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives; the Ministerial Outcome Document; and voluntary commitments for a pollution-free planet.

5. Bureau members of the Committee facilitated consultations on 16 draft resolutions and 3 draft decisions, with support from the Secretariat. Most resolutions were subjected to two readings. Delegations were encouraged to consider merging resolutions addressing similar topics such as those dealing with air and water pollution. Consultations among the proponents and interested delegations continue. The results of the Committee’s work during the inter-sessional period constitute the package that the 140th meeting of the Committee is transmitting to the third Open ended meeting of the Committee.
6. The Secretariat organized a number of informative briefings for member states. They covered: International Environmental Governance; Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species; the First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury; the Summit on a Global Pact for the Environment; Intergovernmental Review Meeting for the strategic direction of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; International Resource Panel; and legal matters on the UN Environment Assembly. For the first time the representatives of three Major Groups: the Women Major Groups; Scientific and Technological Community; and Non-Governmental Major Groups, provided briefings on their work and contributions to preparations for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly. Through these briefings, delegations were able have more in depth discussions on specific aspects of the work of the organization, on topical environmental issues and on procedural matters important to their work.
7. This is my first report of the Subcommittee as the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. I wish to thank all members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their hard work, active engagement, support and cooperation during this time. I also appreciate the continued guidance and support from the Secretariat which has enabled me and my Bureau as well as the CPR Committee at large to deliver on our responsibilities.