

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Tuesday 20 February 2018
8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.,
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
CW-115 (behind Conference Room 1)

MEETING SUMMARY

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 were represented by:

- H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia, Vice Chair, Group of Latin America and Caribbean States;
- H.E. Mr. Saleh Bin Sulaiman Al-Harhi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Oman, Vice Chair of Asia- Pacific Group (formal communication of his appointment yet to be received from the group);
- 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, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland, Rapporteur, Eastern European Group;
- Mr. Ado Lõhmus, Envoy of the President of the UN Environment Assembly and Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Environment of Estonia

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

- Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director;
- Ms. Anne Le More, Chief of Staff;
- Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies;
- Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;
- Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Senior Legal Officer

2. The meeting was informed that H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan has vacated the position of Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. In this regard, the meeting welcomed the attendance of the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group, H.E. Mr. Saleh Bin Sulaiman Al-Harhi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Oman, acting as the representative of the Asia-Pacific Group in an observer capacity.
3. The meeting adopted the agenda.

2. Preparation for the 141st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

4. The Chair briefed the meeting on changes in terms of sequence in the agenda of the 141st Committee meeting.
5. Following a request for clarification by a member on agenda item 5) Implementation of the programme of work and budget and the Assembly resolutions, the Secretariat clarified that it would provide an update on a draft outline for a new reporting tool on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget, as well as on the implementation of the three Assembly resolutions on biodiversity, contributions to the High-level Political Forum and marine litter and micro-plastics.

3. Preparations for the Joint Bureaux meeting and the 1st Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

6. The Chair recalled the plans to decide on the theme of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly 1st joint preparatory retreat to be held on 22-23 March 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya, in view of the agreed deadline of 31 March 2018.
7. The Chair welcomed Mr. Mr. Ado Lõhmus, Special Envoy of the President of the UN Environment Assembly and Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Environment of Estonia to the meeting. Mr. Lõhmus reiterated the Assembly President's commitment to successful preparations of the 4th Assembly, and underlined the importance of the upcoming joint bureaux meeting on 27 February as well as the joint preparatory retreat. He also informed the meeting about the President's preparations for a political contribution from the UN Environment Assembly to the High-level Political Forum.
8. The meeting requested the Secretariat to update the note on selection criteria and possible thematic areas on the basis of the debate in the subcommittee on 15 February and taking into account the forthcoming discussions in the Committee at its 141st

meeting, including by introducing a rationale for Innovation for the Environment as an additional proposal for a theme, in view of facilitating a possible compromise between the different proposals.

9. The meeting broadly welcomed the draft Agenda for the Joint Bureaux Retreat to be held in Nairobi on 22-23 March 2018, and highlighted the need to encourage stronger engagement from stakeholders including the private sector throughout the Assembly preparatory process in an inclusive manner, taking into account the need to ensure a representative participation in terms of regions and large vs small companies.
10. The meeting expressed its appreciation for the Secretariat's proposal to convene a dialogue between the bureau and multi-stakeholders in the presence of interested Member States on the morning of 22 March before the opening of the joint retreat. It was also suggested that the Secretariat ensure early announcement of the next Sustainable Innovation Expo, to increase its visibility and provide adequate time for private sectors representatives to engage.
11. The meeting also considered other means of enhancing the participation of stakeholders in the Assembly, including the need to ensure adequate financial resources as well as making progress on the draft revised Stakeholder Engagement Policy. The Secretariat re-affirmed its commitment to ensure active engagement of the stakeholders under the Assembly, and invited bureau members to consult with their regions to identify the best way forward to agree on a new Stakeholder Engagement Policy.

4. Date for the next meeting of the Bureau

12. The Secretariat was requested to consult with the Chair to propose the date for the next meeting, to be held in advance of the 1st joint preparatory retreat.

5. Other matters

13. The Chair brought to the attention of the meeting that he would be absent during the joint bureaux meeting of 27 February and that Ambassador H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia, Vice Chair to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, representing the Group of Latin America and Caribbean States, would be replacing him as Chair of that meeting.

6. Closing of the Meeting

14. The meeting closed at 10 a.m.