

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday 15 February 2018,  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
United Nations Office at Nairobi  
Conference Room 4

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

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

1. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Mr. John Moreti, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana, welcomed members to the meeting.
2. The meeting adopted the agenda.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Selection criteria and consideration of a theme for the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly**

3. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director introduced the background note from the Secretariat on selection criteria and possible thematic areas for the 4th session of the UN Environment Assembly; Sustainable Consumption and Production, and Food and Nature/Biodiversity.
4. The meeting agreed that the selection criteria for the theme put forward by the President of the Assembly serve as useful guiding principles for identifying the theme, and considered that it may not be meaningful to engage in negotiations on their exact order and formulation.
5. Mexico expressed preference for the thematic area of Biodiversity, suggesting that the Subcommittee look into alternative titles to the theme on biodiversity and further expressed flexibility on including the element of biodiversity in another theme.
6. Sustainable Consumption and Production, was supported by Colombia and several member States, the thematic area was seen to be of a broad scope that can meet the

global, national and local needs, and can also address biodiversity issues as a sub-theme.

7. With regard to the two alternative themes suggested by the JUSSCANNZ group on: (i) State of Environment; and (ii) Innovation of Environment. The European Union, Norway and other member States considered that the theme “State of the Environment” may be inadequately broad and insufficiently action-oriented, pointing out a global assessment of the environment will in any case be firmly on the agenda for the next Assembly through consideration of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6).
8. The African group, expressed disagreement with the call for a theme-less Assembly and expressed a preference for a theme on “Innovation”, and suggested that the other proposed themes may fit within this broader theme. The group further informed that they are willing to engage more with other members in the development of this thematic area.
9. A representative of Major Groups and Stakeholders expressed a preference for the theme on Food and Nature/Biodiversity.
10. The Chair thanked Member States for sharing their views, noting that “Sustainable Consumption and Production”, “Biodiversity” and “Innovation for Environment” are emerging as clear favorites. He also encouraged proponents of the theme “Innovation for the Environment” to develop a document outlining the rationale for this with Member States, and invited the Secretariat to revise and update the note on themes to reflect today’s discussions, as well as upcoming considerations on this matter at the 141<sup>st</sup> meeting on Committee of Permanent Representatives on Tuesday 20 February 2018.

### **Agenda Item 3: Other Matters**

11. The Chair reminded Member States that a revised document on lessons learned had been distributed online by the Secretariat, and invited members to submit any further reflections as soon as possible with a view to its conclusion, if possible at the 141<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee.
12. The meeting was also informed that H.E. Mr. Beyene Russom, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Eritrea, has been appointed new Chair of the Africa Group, replacing H.E. Mr. Kelebert Nkomani, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe.

**13.** The meeting was informed that H.E. Mr. Dina Mufti Sid, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ethiopia, has been appointed new Chair of the Group of 77 and China, replacing H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan.