

143<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Friday 28 September 2018  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri  
Conference Room 1

### **CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

*Note: All pre-meeting and post-meeting documents are available [here](#).*

#### **1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.**

The meeting observed a moment of silence in honor of H.E. Ms. Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs of South Africa.

The meeting welcomed newly arrived Representatives to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and bid farewell to departing Representatives.

#### **2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the 142<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

The meeting adopted the draft minutes of the 142<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 10 May 2018.

#### **3. Report of the Executive Director**

The Executive Director, Mr. Erik Solheim made a brief update on key developments for the period 1 April to 31 July 2018, including by reporting on recent high-level events, initiatives and missions; early action to address recommendations in an ongoing audit of the Office of Internal Oversight Services; efforts to improve the internal financial control, results-based management and resource mobilization; launch of a new open website with detailed information about the Executive Director's travel; and ongoing senior management recruitment processes.

In the pursuing dialogue, member States:

- Expressed concern on the leakage to the media of initial and preliminary finding from a UN Environment Programme's audit undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services;
- Called on the Executive Director to deliver on his commitments relating to increased transparency, improved financial management and accountability, better communication and deeper staff engagement;
- Called on the Executive Director to report back to the committee on actions taken on the final report from the Office of Internal Oversight at its 144<sup>th</sup> meeting, scheduled for 18 December;
- Proposed corrections in the quarterly report of the Executive Director with regard to the title of the section listing recent development in the Latin America and the Caribbean and to the number of regions in Russia;
- Called for improved regular reporting to the Committee on the engagement with the private sector partners, and for a broad scope in which also includes other relevant stakeholders.

- Called for greater transparency in the UN Environment Programme partnership-building process and requested a list of Memoranda of Understanding signed in the past 18 months as well as information on planned future partnerships.
- Suggested that a dedicated discussion on due diligence for partnerships could be included at the upcoming Annual Subcommittee meeting.
- Expressed concern on the decline of contributions to the Environment Fund, and called on additional efforts to ensure effective resource mobilization from both traditional and potential new donors.
- Announced that a group of Friends of the Global Pact for the Environment will be formed, e.g. to ensure the alignment and complementarity with the mandate and Programme of Work of the UN Environment Programme.
- Invited the UN Environment Programme to strengthen its engagement in the Central, Eastern, South-East and Balkans regions of Europe, and to participate in the initiative to protect the Danube River.
- Asked the Secretariat to provide an update on the progress on developing the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Environmental Outlook report.

#### **4. Outcomes of the Second Joint Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

The Chair informed the meeting of the main outcomes of the second Joint Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 6-7 September 2018 in Tallinn, Estonia, and particularly highlighted the following key deadlines on submission of draft resolutions:

- 15 November 2018: deadline for member States to inform the Secretariat of their intention to submit resolutions, to be accompanied with a concept note explaining the rationale and context of the initiative.
- 21 January 2019: deadline for member States to submit final draft resolutions to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat briefed the meeting on the development of the Executive Director's report to the high-level segment of the next Environment Assembly, whereby a first draft will be distributed on 29 October, followed by consultations until 8 November. An advanced final unedited version of the report will be shared in early December, for final consideration by member States at the 144th meeting of the Committee on 18 December.

The meeting called on the Secretariat to ensure adequate and equal representation of regional and political groups at future Joint Bureaux Retreats.

#### **5. Preparations for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual subcommittee meeting**

The Secretariat informed the meeting about preparations for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, scheduled to be held from 22 to 26 October 2018 and presented a draft structure of the Annual Subcommittee which was endorsed by the Committee.

The meeting called for a revised and more complete draft Programme of Work and Budget to be made available on Thursday 4 October 2018, both in a track-changed and a clean version, as a key background document for the Annual Subcommittee meeting.

**6. Implementation of the UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/8, entitled “Sustainable consumption and production”**

Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, Head of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes of Sustainable Consumption and Production, briefed the meeting on the implementation of UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/8 (the presentation is available [here](#)).

The meeting called on the Executive Director to ensure that findings from the Global Resource Outlook are integrated into the actions of UN Environment Programme, and encouraged the Secretariat to intensify resource mobilization efforts to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12.

**7. Discussion on the Future of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA)**

Ms. Lisa Svensson, Coordinator of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Branch, updated the meeting on the future of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA), which will be considered at the fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, on 31 October and 1 November 2018 (the presentation is available [here](#)).

The meeting expressed concern about the limited contributions to the GPA Trust Fund, and requested the Secretariat to provide more information on the consequences of the three options, including with regard to financial and human resources implications.

**8. Report of the Sub-committee**

The Chair summarized the report of the Sub-committee for the period 11 May – 27 September 2018.

**9. Other matters**

A representative of the Indonesian government provided a briefing to the meeting on the preparations for the upcoming Our Oceans Conference, in Bali, Indonesia to be held on 29 – 30 October 2018, which will be held under the theme “Our Ocean Our Legacy”. The meeting agenda will include marine pollution, marine protected areas, maritime security, climate change, sustainable fisheries and sustainable blue economy.

**ANNEX**

***Documented requests from Member States requiring follow-up action from the Secretariat in writing:***

1. Provide written responses to any request submitted in writing by member States to the meeting.
2. Distribute in a timely manner a revised Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021 to all member States.
3. Report back to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on actions taken by the Secretariat in response to the final audit report from the Office of Internal Oversight Audit in time for its 144<sup>th</sup> meeting.

4. Distribute to member States a complete list of Memoranda of Understandings signed with external partners, including but not limited to partners from the private sector, that have been signed in the past 18 months.
5. Re-consider the structure of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee meeting, to allow for adequate discussions on partnership-building, for approval by the bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in advance of the Annual Subcommittee.
6. Correct of number of regions of Russia listed on page 35 of the Executive Directors quarterly report
7. Provide an update to member States on progress made towards the finalization of the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Environment Outlook report.