

### **SUMMARY OF THE CHAIR**

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, opened the meeting and welcomed members to the meeting.
2. The meeting adopted the agenda.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the Fifth Annual Subcommittee meeting.**

3. Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, underlined the need to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals through the delivery of the Medium-Term strategy and its Programme of Work, as well as through the implementation of the UN Environment Assembly resolutions, and highlighted the key role of the science policy interface in this regard.
4. Mr. Ado Lõhmus, Special Envoy to the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly, addressed the meeting on behalf of H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler, President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment of Estonia. Mr Lõhmus underlined the importance of trust, transparency and a results-oriented approach, and invited the meeting to ensure coherence between the Programme of Work, the budget, and the resolutions. He also invited member States to submit comments in writing on the recently shared zero draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document for the fourth Assembly.
5. The meeting broadly welcomed the opportunity to review the 2018-2019 Programme of Work and Budget and to consider the draft Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021, as mandated by Governing Council decision 27/2. Member States considered that the communication between the Secretariat, including the Executive Director, and the Members States, with regard to the planning and implementation of the activities under the Programme of work needs to improve.

#### **Agenda Items 3 and 4: Review of the Programme of Work and Budget from 2018-2019, and implementation of relevant UN Environment Assembly Resolutions & Consideration of the 2020-2021 Programme of Work and Budget.**

6. Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme provided an overview of programme and budget performance, and reiterated the central role of the Medium-Term Strategy and Programmes of Work in guiding the priorities and the work of the Secretariat. She committed to improving internal systems, processes and instruments to improve transparency and accountability to deliver concrete results.
7. The Secretariat gave an overview of programme and budget performance for the current Programme of Work covering the period January to June 2018, and delivered a comprehensive presentation on the draft Programme of Work for 2020-21, including with regard to cross-cutting issues such as executive direction and management, policy-making organs, and partnerships.
8. With regard to the **current Programme of Work and Budget**, member States took note of the progress made on implementation, welcomed recent improved reporting practices, and

encouraged the UN Environment Programme to optimize its use of human and financial resources and to implement cost efficiency measures in a manner that ensures full delivery of the core mandate of the organization as outlined in the Programme of Work, and the implementation of UN Environment Assembly resolutions.

9. With regard to the draft **Programme of Work for 2020-21**, Member states underscored the importance of this process to ensure a member-driven process, and provided the following general guidance to the Secretariat:
- a) Allow for further consideration of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget in view of achieving broad consensus among member States;
  - b) Take into account all inputs provided in writing from member States when revising the draft Programme of Work and Budget;
  - c) Clarify that activities relating to communication and outreach contribute to the delivery of the Programme of work and are geared towards all stakeholders;
  - d) Review the indicators across all sub-programmes to ensure, as far as possible, that they are SMART (Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound), and that they demonstrate a stronger connection to the Programme's activities and priorities, taking into account continuity over biennia.
  - e) Clarify how key deliverables/activities contribute towards achieving overall results, their sources of funding and continue efforts towards results-based management and reporting;
  - f) Better identify key linkages and synergies across sub-programmes;
  - g) Expand the section on Policy-Making Organs to include other relevant items such as references to Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and consider how to further enhance transparency and a common understanding around the establishment of partnerships;
  - h) Improve online access to project information including through an open data platform on time for the next session of the Environment Assembly;
  - i) Strengthen the integration of gender equality across all sub-programmes, including in the results framework;
  - j) Clarify the extent to which Environment Assembly resolutions are implemented through the programme of work, and consider developing an online tool to monitor the implementation of all resolutions;
  - k) Provide more information and allow for consultation on the role of the UN Environment Programme in relation to South-South cooperation; and recognizing the centrality of the South-South Cooperation Objectives in the light of implementation the environmental aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals, continue to provide update son existing and potential pgrammes;
  - l) Reconsider the communication framework between the Secretariat and member States, to improve transparency and inclusiveness, especially with regard to existing and potential new initiatives;
  - m) Provide additional information on the implementation of resolutions and the program of work, including with regard to projects on the ground and work undertaken by regional and country offices;
  - n) Further consider lessons learned from the implementation of previous and current Programmes of Work, and demonstrate show this has resulted in changes made in the draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-21;
  - o) Ensure that all relevant sub-programmes adequately reflect work on pollution mitigation, in view of the possible adoption of an Implementation Plan on Pollution at the fourth Environment Assembly.
10. With regard to the draft **Budget for 2020-21**, Member States expressed concern over declining contributions of un-earmarked funding to the Environment Fund Member states, and shared diverse views concerning the need to strike a balance between realism and ambition for the

future budget envelope against the Environment Fund. It was recalled that, according to Paragraph 88 of “The Future We Want” agreed at Rio + 20 in 2012, all countries have agreed to strengthen UN Environment Program so as to enable it to deliver on its mandate as the leading global environment authority that sets the environmental agenda. Member States further provided the following general guidance to the Secretariat:

- a) Given that there is no consensus yet of the proposed budget, allow for further consideration of the matter in view of achieving broad agreement among member States at the Fourth Environment Assembly;
- b) Ensure sufficient core funding for core mandates and activities, such as the science-policy interface and environmental governance, and make all possible efforts to increase non-earmarked funding, including for the Environment Fund;
- c) Take due account of recent historical trends of contributions to the Environment Fund, and of the possible impacts of the proposed budget on the Environment Fund on future contributions, including by assessing effects on the application, where relevant, of the Voluntary Indicative Scales of Contribution
- d) Share information on the criteria and how they are applied for annual budget and staff allocation between sub-programmes based on the adopted budget, in line with paragraph 9 of UNEP/EA.2/Res.20, and allow for more flexibility in the allocation of resources towards the core mandates and activities;
- e) Provide an overview of the sources of funding relating to the different work streams per sub-programme;
- f) Share complete information on the proposed number of staff positions across the different budget components and sub-programmes, and reconsider the planned increase of staffing and other resources, including with regard to Executive Direction and Management.

11. The Secretariat gave an overview of programme and budget performance for the current Programme of Work covering the period January to June 2018, and presented the draft Programme of Work for 2020-21, for each of the seven sub-programmes.

12. With regard to the sub-programme on **Environment Under Review**, this session was chaired by H.E. Ms. Lori Dando, Permanent Representative of United States of America. Member States provided the following guidance:

- a) Clarify in the next draft Programme of Work that this sub-programme and its core products, including from the International Resource Panel focusing on the science policy interface includes all key activities that should underpin all other areas of work of the organization;
- b) Present an assessment of the work on the Global Environmental Outlook for consideration by member States;
- c) Clarify the rationale for the proposed reduction of financial resources to this sub-programme in the draft budget for 2020-21, to ensure sufficient allocation from core funding, taking into account projected availability of extra-budgetary resources in other sub-programmes, including in support of communication, outreach and dissemination of key science-based products;
- d) Elaborate further on the evolution and complementarity of “Environment Live” and the “World Environment Situation Room”;
- e) Intensify efforts to enhance the of availability and accessibility of environmental data for developing countries;
- f) Clarify to member States how to receive capacity building and training for environmental data management from the Programme including in support of monitoring of progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

13. For the sub-programme on **Healthy and Productive Ecosystems**, this session was chaired by H.E. Ms. Lori Dando, Permanent Representatives of United States of America. Member States provided the following guidance to the Secretariat:
- a) Consult further with member States on the engagement regarding the Arctic and Antarctic, while recognizing the longstanding cooperation between UN Environment and the Arctic Council and other existing governance structures for those regions;
  - b) Ensure continued strong focus and support to regional seas activities in the next Programme of Work;
  - c) Undertake consultations with all member States on the development of a revised Ocean's Strategy for the Programme.
  - d) Support for the organizations work on environmental education, capacity-building and exchange of technical expertise, with some member States calling for an increased emphasis as a cross-cutting area for all sub-programmes.
  - e) Ensure that the narrative of the next Programme of Work reflects the importance of conservation of resources, as a complement to the current focus on use and management;
14. For the sub-programme on **Climate Change**, this session was chaired by H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Taylor Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representatives of Colombia. Member States provided the following guidance to the Secretariat:
- a) Strengthen the narrative on linkages between sub-programmes, especially Resilience to Disasters and Conflict and Resource Efficiency, to highlight the cross-cutting nature of the sub-programme;
  - b) Clarify further the role of UN Environment Programme's in promoting carbon pricing, including through the Carbon trading mechanism for the aviation industry currently under consideration by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, and through the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative.
15. For the sub-programme on **Resource Efficiency**, this session was chaired by H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Taylor Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representatives of Colombia. Member States provided the following guidance to the Secretariat:
- a) Clarify the cross-cutting nature of the Resource Efficiency sub-programme for example in relation to reducing pollution and tackling climate change and strengthen synergies for effective delivery;
  - b) Review the proposed indicators of achievement and include data sources to give strength to the information presented and allow for improved monitoring of performance;
  - c) Provide a stronger narrative on the link between the sub-programme and the implementation of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals;
  - d) Provide additional information and allow for more consultations with member States on some planned initiatives under this sub-programme, such as the Coalition to Green the Belt and Road initiative;
  - e) Highlight the role of resource efficiency with regard to the development of an Implementation Plan on pollution;
  - f) Focus on the normative role of sub-programme as well as on efforts to scale up proven approaches and solutions through partnerships, including partnerships with the private sector, non-state actors, and other UN agencies, including at country level.
16. For the sub-programme on **Chemicals, waste and Air Pollution**, this session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Gartzecki, Ambassador and Permanent Representatives of Poland. Member States provided the following guidance to the Secretariat:
- a) Improve the narrative on how the air quality programme and resolution has been integrated into the programme of work, and expand this work beyond capacity-building, in response to UNEA resolutions;

- b) Clarify the steps undertaken to benefit from potential to link with regional air quality convention (CLRTAP) under the UN Economic Commission for Europe;
- c) Provide further information on specific areas such as antimicrobial resistance and the nutrient index developed;
- a) Provide more visibility and clarity with regard to action on marine litter, plastics and microplastics, in particular in terms of outputs from the sub-programme, links with other sub-programmes, as well as on various existing partnerships and initiatives and the potential to further increase synergies, and consider an adequate approach to meet the long-term vision on this topic as agreed at the third session of the UN Environment Assembly;
- b) Consult with member States to find an appropriate reference to the work of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition;
- c) Further elaborate on the role of circularity in the area of chemicals and waste.

**17.** For the sub-programme on **Environment Governance**, this session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Gartzecki, Ambassador and Permanent Representatives of Poland. Member States provided the following guidance to the Secretariat:

- a) Share additional information on the important outputs from the environmental governance sub-programme, to make this work more known;
- b) Review the narrative in the programme of work and in reporting, to better highlight the work with the multilateral environmental agreements and the Environment Management Group, including on how they contribute to strengthening the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- c) Strengthen the coordinating role of the Environment Group, including to avoid overlaps of important meetings;
- d) Continue to invest in national level support to strengthen institutional capacity and national legislation, including through the mobilization of additional resources to the future environmental law programme of the Programme;
- e) Draw upon lessons learned from programmes with strong ties with national institutions, including on poverty and environment, to promote synergies among national programmes for strengthened institutions.

**18.** For the sub-programme on **Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts**, this session was chaired by H.E. Ms Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana. Member States provided the following guidance to the Secretariat:

- a) Underline the cross-cutting positive effects of this sub-programme.
- b) Highlight efforts on capacity building and greening of peacekeeping operations and the cooperation with OCHA.
- c) Clarify the approach to budgeting of this sub-programme in view of the unpredictability of the occurrence of crises.
- d) Clarify expectations in terms of projected earmarked funds.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Other matters**

**19.** H.E. Ms. Marta Juarez-Ruiz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, Co-facilitator of the **Implementation Plan ‘Towards a pollution-free planet’**, brought to the meeting’s attention the Implementation Plan’s strong linkages to the theme of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly, noting the need for the UN Environment Assembly to formulate an ambitious, but concrete Implementation Plan that facilitates the delivery of resolutions and will add value to the existing initiatives and existing work addressing pollution; with the engagement of diverse groups of stakeholders and partners who are instrumental for the success of the pollution agenda.

- 20.** Miriam Ott. DPR of Germany addressed the plenary and reinforced the comments for engagement with the process and then went on to provide the next steps. The following outline of the process was highlighted:
- 1st full draft of implementation plan will be distributed next week (deadline for written comments 15 November 2018);
  - 8 November 2018, CPR Subcommittee meeting – opportunity to provide initial comments on 1st full draft;
  - 22 November 2018 - 2nd full draft to be distributed;
  - 6 December 2018 – Discussion on 2nd full draft at CPR Subcommittee;
  - 10 December 2018 – Final unedited draft to be distributed;
  - 15 December 2018 – Secretariat to submit unedited draft for translation for submission to the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly
- 21.** Member States provided the following guidance to the Secretariat:
- a) The need for capacity and institutional building to be a central aspect of the Implementation Plan;
  - b) The Implementation Plan should be country driven, possibly through national focal points, and leverage synergies through improving coherence and coordination;
  - c) Need to ensure that the Implementation Plan is explicit in how it will be implemented within UNEP's mandate and builds on the current and future Programmes of Work and Budget, existing and potential future UNEA resolutions and outcome documents, and how it creates added value by leveraging actions through partnerships and leadership on implementation;
  - d) Partnerships with other UN Agencies, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, development banks and stakeholders are key for the success of the Implementation Plan;
  - e) The link with future UNEAs – and in particular UNEA4 – could be built into the Implementation Plan by making it a living document, that can integrate future resolutions and their contribution to addressing pollution challenges.
- 22.** The cofacilitators suggested for the next CPR subcommittee session to focus on the substance of the Implementation Plan as well as scope and architecture based on the draft Implementation Plan that will be circulated by the Secretariat. The cofacilitators also proposed for a paragraph to be inserted under the next Programme of Work under each subprogramme on how the subprogramme is contributing to addressing pollution.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Closing of the meeting**

- 23.** In his closing remarks, Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, reiterated his commitment to engage with member States in a transparent and consultative manner; and underscored the importance of drawing upon lessons learnt from the current Programme of Work in the elaboration of a new Programme of Work for the period 2020-2021. He also emphasised the need for the UN Environment Programme to continue to strengthen its planning and delivery processes, ensuring strong accountability and efficient use of resources.
- 24.** The meeting took note of the Chair's Summary of the meeting, as presented at its closing session. Members were invited to send in comments in writing, if any, which will subsequently be annexed to the Chair's Summary.
- 25.** The meeting closed at 16:30.