

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday 2 July 2020  
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Online meeting

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

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

1. Mr. Marcus Davies and Mr. Mapopa C. Kaunda, the co-facilitators for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

### **Agenda Item 2: Implementation of paragraphs 9-13 of Decision UNEP/EA.4/2 entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”.**

3. The meeting considered a revised co-facilitator’s document entitled “[Converging elements of consensus - Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives \(version IV\)](#)”, as well as a Secretariat note entitled “[Enhancing cooperation between UNEP/UNEA and the MEAs/COPs](#)”, with a view to identify possible additional proposals under paragraph 6 of the document.
4. Most of the discussion focused on paragraphs 3 and 4 of the co-facilitator’s document, whereby member States provided the following comments:
  - Some delegations reiterated their support for the proposal to designate the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives as “Preparatory Committee for the UN Environment Assembly” (UNEA PREPCOM), and the Meeting of the Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as the “Review and Oversight Committee Meeting,” with the objective to better communicate the existing functions and mandates of these meetings to civil servants and external stakeholders who are unfamiliar with the details of UNEP’s governance, and thereby promote broader participation from capitals. Delegations were also reminded of the change of name from the “UNEP Governing Council” to the “United Nations Environment Assembly”, which was done for similar reasons.
  - Other delegations expressed doubts about the value-added of changing the names of these meetings, while keeping the role and mandate unchanged, and noted that changing the name of an existing body may incorrectly give the impression that a new entity has been created and possibly affect the role of the CPR.
  - Some delegations also expressed concerns about perceived links between the proposal to change the names of these meetings and the role, mandate, or timing of those meetings.
  - Some delegations proposed to develop an additional reference document that would outline the underlying reasons and challenges behind each of the proposals in the co-facilitator’s “Converging elements of consensus” document before the next consultation meeting.

5. At the request of member States, the Secretariat provided a short briefing on the informal consultations on paragraphs 3 and 4, which took place on 24 June 2020, and clarified that as currently drafted, the name change of the meetings would not have any impact on their role, function and mandate as outlined in Governing Council decision 27/2.
6. Regarding paragraph 6, which recommends strengthened contributions and active participation of multilateral environmental agreements to UNEA, the Secretariat presented a note entitled “Enhancing cooperation between UNEP/UNEA and the MEAs/COPs, and clarified that the proposals therein derive from MEAs Secretariats. Many delegations welcomed the paper and reiterated that that recommendations should promoted synergies and complementarity between UNEA and the MEAs and avoid any overlap of formal mandates. On this basis, the co-facilitators were requested to integrate relevant proposals from the note to amend paragraph 6 in the main document.
7. Delegations put forward minor proposals regarding the formulations of paragraphs 15, 16 and 17, which would be reflected in the next version of the documents. With regard to other paragraphs, no further concerns or proposals were put forward.
8. Due to time constraints, it was agreed to postpone consideration of Annex I and II of the co-facilitator’s document until the next consultation on the process for review by the CPR, scheduled for 14 July 2020. Delegations were encouraged to send their comments in writing to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

**Agenda Item 3: Closing of the meeting.**

9. The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.