

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Tuesday 14 July 2020  
9:00 – 12:00  
Online Meeting

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

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

1. H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, opened the meeting.
2. The Secretariat provided an overview of the participants present at the meeting. A list of participating member States and stakeholders is annexed to this summary.
3. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted. All background documents as well as inputs in writing from member States and stakeholders are made available on the [meeting portal](#).

### **Agenda Item 2: UNEP Mid-Term Strategy narrative and budget approach.**

4. UNEP's Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen, informed the meeting that the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol had been recently ratified by Liberia, marking the 100<sup>th</sup> ratification to the Protocol. She underlined the need to forge a new framework for redefining the relationship between people and the earth, and to ensure that actions continue to be guided by the Rio+20 Outcome Document "The Future We Want" and by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She identified a triple planetary environmental crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution – and outlined key areas of focus to act on these crises in the context of a new UNEP's Mid-Term Strategy.
5. Senior UNEP representatives presented a draft narrative for the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-25 (MTS) and budget options for the Programme of Work 2022-23, and outlined next steps in the consultation process, taking into account inputs from Member States and stakeholders and the discussion and guidance provided at the previous subcommittee meeting.
6. Delegations thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and documentation, and provided the following additional guidance:
  - The MTS should ensure continuity with the current work programme while being flexible, so as to allow for the integration of emerging environment issues and processes.

- Underlined the importance of multilateralism and acknowledged UNEP could play a key role to assist countries to “build back better” following the current COVID-19 pandemic, while some member States pointed out that the MTS should take a comprehensive approach and address fundamental environmental challenges in the MTS period.
- Highlighted the importance of ensuring that the MTS be tightly aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the Rio+20 Outcome Document, including in what related to recalling that poverty eradication remains the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
- Expressed general support for the three proposed pillars of action and their link with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, with some delegations requesting additional information on how synergies between them will be addressed.
- Some MS stressed the link to all 3 dimensions of sustainable development and in particular emphasized the MTS should contribute to poverty eradication and green/decent jobs.
- Expressed general support for identifying environment governance and science-policy interface as foundational programmes for the three pillars of action.
- Highlighted the importance of closer cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) to implement the MTS, while avoiding duplication and respecting their legal autonomy, in particular with the UNFCCC and CBD;
- Underlined the importance of effective implementation, while considering the needs and priorities of different regions and countries, in particular developing ones.
- Stressed the importance of implementing of paragraph 88 of the Rio + 20 Outcome Document, and of strengthening UNEP’s regional presence and contribution to UN country teams, including with regard to the consolidation of the headquarter functions of UNEP.
- Stressed the need for the MTS to promote greater visibility of UNEP.
- Requested more information on how the MTS will strengthen UNEP’s contribution to the ongoing UN reform and to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Underlined the approach to the 3 action pillars from a Sustainable Consumption and Production lens, while some member States called for strengthened awareness-raising efforts and other actions to promote behavioral changes towards sustainable consumption and production and others requested more details on how the MTS would promote financial and economic transformation, and how it would contribute to the implementation of SDG 12.
- Asked for additional information on the role of the UNEP World Environmental Situation Room in the new MTS.
- Asked for additional information in the MTS on how UNEP will offer support to the implementation of member States climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, taking into account UNEPs mandate and normative role.
- With regard to the budget, some member States expressed the importance to find the right balance between a realistic and ambitious approach and called for a more conservative budget proposal. Several member States referred to potential effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, while others stressed the importance for all member States to contribute in accordance with the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISIC), informally referred to as “fair share”, to ensure a balanced funding of key activities.

7. The Secretariat took note of the comments and inputs and informed the Committee that a revised version of the MTS will be presented to Member States for further consultation in September.

**Agenda Item 3: Implementation of paragraph 8 of UNEA Decision 4/2 on the commemoration of creation of UNEP.**

8. The Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of paragraph 8 of UNEA Decision 4/2, on the basis of a note taking into consideration the inputs received at the Subcommittee meeting held on 23 June 2020.
9. Delegations in general welcomed the revised note presented by the Secretariat, including the idea of the launch of the commemoration at the UNEA5 in 2021 in Nairobi, the proposed roadmap and the general approach to ensure a strong science-policy contribution.
10. Several delegations and stakeholders provided further guidance on the next steps for the preparation of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of UNEP, as follows:
  - Reiterated the importance of conducting discussion on the preparation of UNEP@50 in Nairobi with a view to get clarity on the nature, scope and objectives of the commemorative events.
  - Underlined that UNEP@50 should contribute to strengthening UNEP as the only UN headquarters in the Global South, including by ensuring that both the preparations and the main commemorative event takes place in Nairobi.
  - Reiterated the importance of a strong science-policy interface underpinning the anniversary.
  - Noted the potential interlinkage with the consultative process under the General Assembly resolution 73/333.
  - Noted the synergies with the Plan of Action to Implement Paragraph 88 of the Outcome Document of Rio+20 (“The Future We Want”), being currently prepared.
  - Supported the proposal to organize outreach activities following the launch of UNEP@50 that enhance civil society engagement by involving women, youth, major groups and other key stakeholders.
  - Requested more detail on practical arrangements including financial and communication aspects of the anniversary, in view of further consideration during the meeting of the annual subcommittee in October.
  - Some delegations suggested that the UNEP@50 commemorations should culminate in a high-level event to be held in 2022 or 2023 in Nairobi, while others expressed doubt about additional events.
11. The Chair thanked member States for their inputs and requested the Secretariat to prepare a more substantive note to assist MS decide the format and substance of this commemoration. The Chair informed the meeting that further consideration will take place during the Annual Subcommittee meeting in October and the Bureau of the CPR will consider this matter in its meeting in September.

**Agenda Item 5: Update on the consultation process of the Future of Global Environment Outlook.**

12. The Secretariat provided an update on the peer review and consultation process for the Future of Global Environment Outlook, including preparations for upcoming online consultation sessions and the development of an Options Paper for the Future of Global Environment Outlook.
13. Member States welcomed the briefing and appreciated the efforts by the Secretariat to support the consultations process towards an agreement on the future of the Global Environment Outlook despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and requested a more detailed schedule for the next steps.
14. The Secretariat took note of the comments and committed to share a revised time schedule with Member States as soon as it is available.

**Agenda Item 6: Other matters.**

15. The Chair the meeting that a Bureau meeting of the CPR will be organized before the summer break to consider meeting plans in September and October.

**Agenda Item 7: Closing of the meeting.**

16. The meeting closed at 2:30 pm.

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**List of Delegations to the Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
on 14 July 2020**

**Member States**

- 1 Algeria
- 2 Zimbabwe
- 3 South Africa
- 4 Kenya
- 5 Costa Rica
- 6 Angola
- 7 United Kingdom
- 8 Malaysia
- 9 Botswana
- 10 Brazil
- 11 Canada
- 12 European Union
- 13 Republic of Korea
- 14 Singapore
- 15 Chile
- 16 China
- 17 Japan
- 18 Djibouti
- 19 Ghana
- 20 Israel
- 21 Denmark
- 22 Madagascar
- 23 Norway
- 24 France
- 25 Ethiopia
- 26 Italy
- 27 Finland
- 28 India
- 29 Indonesia
- 30 Belgium
- 31 Germany
- 32 Eritrea
- 33 Venezuela

34	Kuwait
35	Malawi
36	Poland
37	Hungary
38	Mexico
39	Egypt
40	Peru
41	Iran
42	Colombia
43	Switzerland
44	Morocco
45	Sweden
46	Senegal
47	Qatar
48	Burkina Faso
49	State of Palestine
50	Cameroon
51	Jamaica
52	Iraq
53	Portugal
54	Estonia
55	Pakistan
56	Nigeria
57	Philippines
58	Saudi Arabia
59	Netherlands

### **Accredited Stakeholders**

1	Children and Youth International
2	World Animal Net
3	International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL)
4	Center for International Environment Law (CIEL)