
Meeting of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly
Friday 28 October 2016
16:00 – 18:00
Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club, Nairobi

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Edgar Gutierrez, President of the UN Environment Assembly Bureau (UN Environment Assembly Bureau) and Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica.

The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau:

- H.E. Mr. Vladislav Smrž, Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment, Vice President, Eastern European Group (Czech Republic)
- H.E. Mr. Jassim Humadi, Acting Minister of Health and Environment, Vice President, Asia-Pacific Group (Iraq)
- Mr. Friday O. Okai, Charge d' Affaires a.i., High Commission of Nigeria, Nairobi, representing H.E. Ms. Amina Mohammed, Minister of Environment, Vice President, Africa Group (Nigeria) via video-conference.
- H.E. Mr. Ramon J.P. Paje, Senior Advisor to the Climate Change Commission, Senior Advisor to the Climate Change Commission, Vice President, Asia-Pacific Group (Philippines)
- Mr. John Matuszak, Senior Advisor, Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Vice President, Western European and Others Group (United States of America)
- H.E. Ms. Roxane de Bilderling, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Rapporteur, Western European and Others Group (Belgium)

Other representatives

- Mr. Jamal Abdullah Khudhair Dulami, DPR Iraq, Nairobi
- Ms. Majella Cristy U Pua-Diezmos, DPR Philippines, Nairobi
- Mr. Joel B. Hansen DPR of USA, Nairobi

The Secretariat was represented by the Deputy Executive Director, Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies.

There were no suggestions for changes to the agenda and it was adopted.

2. Exchange of views on the work of the 2017 UNEA Retreat

The meeting agreed that the joint retreat was a successful and productive meeting, providing a cooperative learning environment for both the UN Environment Assembly Bureau and the Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau. The President commended the Secretariat on its efforts in organizing and facilitating the retreat.

The Deputy Executive Director applauded the President and the Bureau for the frank and open discussions. He noted that the retreat was an important milestone and provides a solid foundation for future cooperation between both Bureaus. This was crucial to realizing synergies between the work of the two Bureaus. The relationship between the Bureaus should continue to be strengthened as some lack of

clarity remained on respective roles and responsibilities. The meeting congratulated the President on his excellent leadership.

3. Summary of Division of Work

The two draft tables reflecting the planned participation of Bureau members at future international environmental meetings and proposed division of work were circulated for review and revision. The meeting noted discrepancies in the table on the Participation in International meetings and agreed on the participation as revised orally by the rapporteur. The Bureau agreed on the division of work as presented. It also agreed that a call would be made for Bureau Members not present at the meeting, to indicate areas of interest. The tables as agreed are annexed to this summary.

4. Dates for the next Bureau meeting

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Monday, 5 December 2016 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

5. Other matters

The meeting agreed that the Secretariat would collect inputs on elements about the theme. Inputs would include comments from capitals. The Secretariat would then prepare a revised paper in order to allow time for the Committee of Permanent Representatives to undertake consultations. Regional offices would assist in distributing the revised paper to collect additional inputs from Ministries of Environment.

The meeting was reminded that the concept note on the summary of the joint Bureau retreat would be revised by the Secretariat and distributed to the Bureaus of both the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives for comment and review. After this, the revised summary would be circulated to all Member States of the UN Environment Assembly and regional fora through UN Regional Offices. The Secretariat encouraged the President to communicate with fellow ministers of environment on the third session of the UN Environment Assembly.

The meeting agreed that the next joint Retreat would be held in Costa Rica from 8 to 11 June 2017 with a joint call with the members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the first quarter of 2017.

On the innovative means of communication, one member informed the meeting that owing to strict cyber security controls in his country, he would not be able to access some of the virtual communication platforms. He therefore requested that the Secretariat continue to distribute all documents via e-mail, in addition to any other means that might be used.

The Secretariat was requested to circulate, under strict confidentiality, an excel sheet of the names, telephone numbers, and e-mails of Bureau members.

6. Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.