

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania, welcomed members to the meeting and proposed a moment of silence in honour of the late Ambassador and Permanent Representatives of Serbia, H.E. Mr. Ivan Zivkovic. The meeting thereafter adopted the provisional agenda.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of suggested themes for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

2. The Chair welcomed the comments received from the following Member States; Singapore, European Union and its Member States, United States of America, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Norway, Switzerland, Slovak Republic, and Czech Republic. The meeting reiterated the agreement on selection of a single theme and the preference for themes one and two. The Chair encouraged the capitals to express more opinions and preferences on the proposed themes for the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly to move the process forward to a consensus.
3. Most Member States supported theme one but were in favour of revising the title, particularly the reference to “detoxifying”. Some wished to see greater focus and made specific proposals in this regard. Member States gave the following reasons for supporting theme one:
 - a. The theme was clear and understandable to the wider public. It would provide an opportunity to increase public awareness and raise the profile of UN Environment.
 - b. It was strongly correlated with the core mandate of UN Environment, focusing on issues that UN Environment could address.
 - c. The theme would extend engagement in addressing environmental issues to include different actors like Ministers, the private sector, students and the general public.

A representative of a Major Group and Stakeholders supported theme one and emphasized that gender considerations should be taken into account.

4. Some Member States supported theme two but called for a revised, positively framed title. They highlighted the following:
 - a. In light of the Paris Agreement, the theme should reflect a concept of climate change, which is also well reflected in overarching goals' of UN Environment.
 - b. Theme one would be an undesirable continuation of discussion on the theme of the Second Session of the UN Environment Assembly.
 - c. The UN Environment Programme should respect the mandates of other organizations.
5. Following the discussion, it was proposed that the Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives hold a brief meeting on Tuesday 29 November 2016, to clarify members' positions and move towards consensus on the theme for the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly.
6. The meeting closed at 10:15 a.m.