

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Bureau Meeting

Friday 3 March 2017, 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Delegates Lounge

United Nations Office in Nairobi ~~Monday 16 January 2017, 9:00 am – 9:45 am~~

~~Conference Room 115, Nairobi~~

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania, chaired the meeting, in which the following participated:

Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members

- H.E. Mr. John Moreti, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana, Vice Chair, Africa Group;
- H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tara, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Vice Chair, Asia-Pacific Group
- H.E. Ms. Marcela M. Nicodemos, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Vice Chair, Group of Latin America and Caribbean States;
- Mr. Toni Sandell, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland, Rapporteur, Western European and Other States Group

2. The UNEP Secretariat was represented by:

- Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme;
- Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies, Director, Governance Affairs Office;
- Ms. Rosemary Mukasa, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;

—The meeting adopted the provisional agenda for the meeting.;

2. Agenda Item 2: Preparations for the Fourth Annual Sub-Committee Meeting

2.1. Provisional Agenda for the Fourth Annual Sub-Committee Meeting

3. ~~The meeting endorsed adopted~~ the agenda for the Fourth Annual Subcommittee
2. Preparation for the 137th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

2.2. Proposed organization of work and division of work

4. ~~The Secretariat stated that for ease of transition the Deputy Executive Director shall introduce each sub-item and the Division Director who shall then present their respective topic areas.~~ 5. ~~The Chair emphasized noted that the importance of the Secretariat should share~~ challenges, and opportunities —and experiences in the different sub programme and program work in as well as the organization as a whole as it explicitly was a requested — that has been explicitly expressed by Member States. She asked if ~~inquired whether there would~~ be Furthermore inquiring whether — there shall be representatives from different conventions whose work complimenteds that of — UN Environment to —in order to enrichgage in the dialogue.

56. ~~The Deputy Executive Director, Director confirmed that indeed—challenges and opportunities would shall—be addressed in throughout the Secretariat’s presentation. He informed the meeting went on to inform the meeting— that there are staff members of within UN Environment who worked on conventions would provide the necessary information and noted that thatthe—these conventions hadve their own governing bodies and mandate.~~

67. It was agreed ~~clarified that during the meetings as a general practice, proceeding that after each presentation, the Chair— of the session would first giveshall yield the floor to Regional and Political Groups. For the –first intervention, they would be allowed a maximum of –whom shall be allocated–5 minutes and all other representatives would be allowed a maximum of for them and–3 would be allocated to them and–minutes for wedeated a maximum of three minutes. On –Secretariat presentations, tThe Secretariat stated that for ease of transition the Deputy Executive Director said the floor should be given to the Secretariat, which would organize the presentations appropriately with shall —introduce each sub-item and the Division Director taking the lead on their who shall then present their respective— topic areas.~~ for their statements and thereafter Member States and Civil Societywhom — shall — be allocated 3 minutes for their statements.

78. A member of the meeting proposed that to enhance transparencye and eoooperaiotn acooperation, the –representative of the President of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly should participate as an ex-officio member in meetings of the Bureau Committeemember. The meeting supported the proposal and agreed that was in favor of the idea of having the Chairs of the –of bothCommittee Bureau’s should also participate serveas an ex-officio member meetings of the UN Environment Assembly. –in —observer status to their Bureau meetings. The Chair wasis to write a letter to the

President of the UN Environment Assembly Bureau on this matter of ex-officio participation.

~~89 of the expressed the need for continued transparency between the Bureaus of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, through the involvement of the Chair of each Bureau as an ex-officio member of observer status in each other's meetings.~~

~~9. The meeting was in favor of the idea of having the Chairs of both Bureau's serve in observer status to their Bureau meetings. The Chair is to write a letter to the President of the UN Environment Assembly Bureau on the matter of ex-officio participation.~~

~~10. In regards to the presentation titled 'Resource Mobilization' a member suggested that the Secretariat consider adding the word Strategy to the title so as to reflect that the session shall be informing the meeting of the Secretariat's resource mobilization strategy.~~

~~11. On the presentation on 'Resource Mobilization' a member suggested the addition of the word 'strategy.' The Deputy Executive Director clarified informed the meeting that the omission of the word 'strategy' had been omitted because in the title of the presentation was due to the fact that the resource mobilization n-strategy was yet to be finalized. It was noted that despite not having finalized the strategy, The Secretariat would shall still brief the meeting on elements of the strategy so as to allow the Member States to provide insights on the matter.~~

9

~~102. The meeting requested an update on the status of funds raised for the third session of the UNited Nations Environment Assembly. and the level of participation of members from their Capitals for the 4th Annual Subcommittee.~~

~~13. The Deputy Executive Director informedresponded that thus far funds hadve been raised to cover the cost of servicing meetings but a that there is still a gap remained in funding for the travel costs of participants from developing countries other than Least Developed Countries.~~

~~1014. The Chair requested for information on to be informed of the number of participants-level of participation of members from capitals andcapitals and other duty stationswho shall be in attendance of the 4th Annual Subcommittee meeting from their Capitals and. She also requested how the Secretariat to shall support the provide the Chairs of each session with information on Go-To meeting participants attending the meeting virtually.~~

~~15. OnIn regards to~~ the number of participants from ~~c~~Capitals expected to attend the 4th Annual ~~Subcommittee~~, the Deputy Secretary informed the meeting that as of that morning, ~~29~~ ~~representatives persons~~ from 18 countries and the European Union had confirmed ~~participationnts from their~~ ~~capitals~~.

~~16. The Secretary assured~~, ~~informed~~ the meeting that information on ~~the~~ virtual participation ~~of~~ ~~attendees would~~~~shall~~ be provided to each Chair at the beginning of each session.

~~11.~~

~~17. A~~ member emphasized the ~~of the Bureau informed the meeting that the~~ need to engage the President of ~~the~~ United Nations Environment Assembly closely and proposed that he participate in the discussions ~~shall be viewed favorably by MemberStates~~ and ~~that during the meetings session on the High Level Political Forum by~~, it would be ~~encouraged~~ that ~~he participate in the session via video conferencing facilities if~~ ~~possible~~.

~~18. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Chair of the Bureau had personally extended an the invitation to the President of the Bureau, but and that unfortunately due to unforeseeable~~ ~~circumstances thus far he was the President is unable to personally attend the meeting. A statement would be delivered on his behalf by his representative, Amb. Marta Juarez.~~

~~12. 18. A~~ ~~statement shall be delivered on his behalf by his representative, Amb. Marta Juarez.~~

~~19. The meeting agreed that in order so as not to confuse the meeting on the intent of the sub-item under agenda item 5, titled "Dialogue of the outline on the theme" the segment be renamed as "Consideration of the outline of the Executive Directors Report on the theme~~ ~~of the Assembly."~~

~~13. "~~

~~19. "~~

~~20. The Secretary Chair~~ informed the meeting that the Secretariat would~~ll~~ make available a ~~the~~ week long- 'Suggested Chair's Script's for the 4th Annual Subcommittee meeting to all the Vice-Chair's since they would~~shall~~ each Chair at least one session during the week. ~~A and that a~~ Chair's summary would~~shall~~ also be prepared by the Secretariat at the end of each day. A summary on the ~~comments from the High Level Political Forum would~~~~shall~~ also be prepared by the Secretariat ~~for t so as to be endorsement d~~ by

the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and then sent in form of a letter to the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

14. :

20.—21.—The Deputy Executive Director, Director cautioned the meeting that on Wednesday 8 March 2017, the meeting could may be disrupted if should the Secretary-General of the United Nations visited the United Nations Office in Nairobi complex and held a town hall meeting with the staff. The visit was subject to ; though no confirmations have been made of his imminent visit to the complex.

To help accommodate the unexpected development, the Chair would propose flexibility on timing at

21.— the opening of the meeting

22. The Chair undertook to indicated that she shall propose that for Member States to be flexible on timing during the opening of the meeting. in light of the possibility of a town hall meeting being convened on Wednesday.

23. The meeting requested requested that the Secretariat to propose request a short bilateral meeting between the Bureau and the Secretary General. A member proposed as well propose that the Town Hall meeting be held during lunch hour so as not to disrupt the 4th Annual Subcommittee meeting.

2.3. *Consideration of the wording of the theme for the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly*

15. The Chair reminded the meeting that the Bureau needed to agree on the wording of the title of the theme for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly so that a proposal could be presented to the 4th Annual Subcommittee and thereafter considered by the Joint Bureau Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Environment Assembly to be held on 15 March 2017.

~~Consideration of the wording of the theme for the Third Session of the UN Environment Assemb~~

16. In its discussion on the wording, the meeting noted that :

22.—24. The Chair reminded the meeting that the Bureau needed to agree on the choose one wording of the title of the theme for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly so that as a a proposal could be presented to the 4th Annual Subcommittee and thereafter considered and subsequently to be endorsed by the Joint Bureau of the Committee of Permanent

Representatives and the Environment Assembly Environment Assembly to be held on 15 March 2017.

25. 25. In its discussion on the wording, tThe meeting noted that went on to take into account the following points:

- Member States didwere not in support of thethe wording ‘pollution free’ in an unqualified form;
- Discussions on pollution at UN Environment Assembly would ~~it~~ be a milestone that would build momentum in addressing pollution and not a destination;
- Leadership by the Assembly on pollution will help strengthen its role as the leading global environmental authority;
- Private sector concerns and sensitivities on how we frame the theme of pollution and;
- An impression of utopian promises or commitments had to be avoided.

17. 26. TFollowing consideration of the above points, the Bureaumeeting unanimously jointly agreed tothat Bureau — recommend “Towards a Pollution Free Planet” as the title of the theme to the 4th Annual Subcommittee Meeting and thereafter for submission submit the title to the joint meeting of the — Bureaux of the Committee and the UN Environment Assembly for endorsement—. The Deputy Executive Director informed the meeting that the Secretariat would circulate a note to Member States that day, on the Bureau’s recommendation on the title of the theme. He suggested that the Chair send a letter to the President of the Environment Assembly Bureau on the title of the theme of the third session of the Environment Assembly after the 4th Annual Subcommittee.

1.3.2.4. Consideration of priority areas of the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly

18. The Bureau agreed to recommend five general priority areas of the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly below, deferring discussion on the sub-areas to a later date:

27. He 26. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should include one or two bullet points on the reasoning as to why, “Towards a Pollution Free Planet” was the most appropriate theme in the Chair’s script.

—27. The Deputy Executive Director, suggested that the Chair send a letter to the President of the Environment Assembly Bureau on the title of the theme of the third session of the Environment Assembly after the 4th Annual Subcommittee. He and informed the meeting that the Secretariat wouldshall circulate a note to Member States that day, on the Bureau’s recommendation selection on the — title of the theme today.

~~2.4. Consideration of priority areas of the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly~~

~~28. 28. The Bureau agreed to recommend on the five 5 general priority areas of the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly below, deferring discussion on the sub-areas to a later date. The general priority areas were agreed upon to be:~~

- ~~•1. Water~~
- ~~•2. Air~~
- ~~•3. Marine Pollution~~
- ~~•4. Land~~
- ~~•5. Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste~~

~~19. A member pointed out to the meeting that transboundary issues as a sub-area might not be welcomed by a few Member States. The Deputy Executive Director, pointed out that from a scientific point of view, transboundary issues relating to areas like rivers, chemicals, sand and dust storms were important issues supported by assessments. They were discussed in the sub-programme presentation. Member States could have the political discussion on the matter.~~

~~20. Based on his experience, a member of the Bureau, cautioned that sensitive political issues could arise when issues of disasters and conflict were raised. The meeting briefly discussed the issue and agreed that the Chair in charge of the session and the Secretariat would need to proceed carefully and anticipate how to best handle them.~~

~~29. 29. A member pointed out to the meeting that transboundary issues as a sub-area might be an issue that shall not be welcomed by a few Member States.~~

~~30. The Deputy Executive Director, pointed out from a scientific point of view, that transboundary issues relating to areas like rivers, chemicals, sand and dust storms were important issues supported by assessments. They were discussed in the sub-programme presentation, but with a scientific point of view with assessments. Whereas the Member States could take on the political discussion on the matter.~~

~~31. Based on experience, a31. A member of the Bureau, cautioned that sensitive political issues could arise when issues of reflected on past issues in regards to the topic of disasters and conflict were raised. The meeting briefly discussed the issue and agreed that during the second session of the Environment Assembly due to political pressure from some Member States on the matter and cautioned that the Chair who shall be in charge of the session should this~~

matter arise, as well as ~~and the Secretariat wshould need to pproceed carefullywith~~ caution and anticipate ~~how to best handle them~~the possibility of the topic being brought up.

3. ~~The Chair requested the Secretariat for information on~~ inquired about the status of the following matters from the Secretariat ~~Tthe number of inputs received from Member States on the theme of the third session of the UN Environment Assembly. She proposed that the meeting discuss~~
- a. ~~Information on what detaild\details on what needed to be agreed upon before~~prior to the Joint meeting of the Environment Assembly and Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureaux ~~meeting to be held on 15 February 2017. She suggested an~~
 - b. ~~Request for an additional sub-committee meeting prior to 15 February 2017.~~

In the discussion that followed, ~~Tthe Secretary of Governing Bodies informed the meeting that as of Friday 13 January 2017, additional inputs on the themes had been received from four Member States namely, Algeria, Iran, United States of America and Columbia.~~

~~The meeting discussed at length the~~ In regards to details that ~~required decision need to be decided on~~ prior to the Joint meeting of the Environment Assembly and Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureaux. ~~T, the Secretary of Governing Bodies informed the meeting that of the following matters, a detailed agenda for the meeting and the structure of the High Level Segment should be discussed adding that it might be ; further informing the meeting that the lichallenging to kelihood of the ability to have an additional sub-committee meeting before 15 February 2017, shall be challenging, proposing for one to be held after 15 February 2017.~~

The Chair reminded the meeting of the need ~~for Committee to discuss and agree on~~select sub themes for the selected theme of ~~n~~ pollution for the third session of the UN Environment Assembly amongst members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as well as ~~and to include components of inputs gathered from Member States whom had opted for theme options other than that of pollution namely, Bangladesh, Mexico, Algeria and the Dominican Republic. Some members reminded the meeting of the agreement for a focused theme but proposed a transparent approach indicating what could be incorporated and what could not. They suggested bi lateral dialogue with the respective countries on this basis.~~

~~The meeting identified clarity on outcomes like the action plan and resolutions as another area on which agreement was required.~~

The meeting agreed ~~thaton the need have Member States should send in their inputs on the theme prior the Joint meeting of the Environment Assembly and Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureaux on~~ 15 February 2017. A reminder to Member States on comments for the theme was suggested. ~~It was agreed that joint bureaux and that the said meeting should provide Member States~~

~~with clarity and finality on all issues relating in regards to the organization of the UN Environment Assembly before the prior to information was being disseminated to regional fora.~~

~~The Deputy Executive Director, Director informed the meeting that the Secretariat was pleased about the possible agreement on process. He further informed the meeting that the Secretariat was is preparing an outline of the Executive Director's report on the basis that the theme for the upcoming UN Environment Assembly was is on a pollution free planet. P and that prior to dissemination of the document to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives would shall receive a draft. A and thereafter the revised edition would be distributed to the greater Committee of Permanent Representatives between 12 and 15 February 2017 in line with the deadlines for documentation for body prior to the Fourth Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. He added that the process for an Action Plan should be Member States driven with Secretariat support. The process for resolutions should also be member state led.~~

~~The Chair noted that there was no agreement on the actual title of the theme or on outcomes for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly. She meeting requested that the Secretariat Secretariat to prepare a note for the Committee of Permanent Representatives on proposals on emerging issues in the area of pollution, based on scientific expertise focusing on those that have concrete outcomes. The meeting agreed that the An additional note would as requested summarize outlining Member State inputs and as well as indicate the deadline for that further inputs on in regards to the following issues:~~

~~Title of the theme of the third session of the UN Environment Assembly~~

~~Possible sub-themes~~

~~Desired outcome for the third session of the UN Environment Assembly~~

~~4. — On the theme, one member The meeting suggested that a table format be used for the preparing the summary of inputs in table form to facilitate with a view to streamlining similarities in input on the theme received from Member States. The meeting agreed to retain the calendar as currently reflected.~~

~~The meeting agreed that the Chair and Secretariat should make calls for contributions remind Member States of their to the financial obligations to UN Environment Fund and to the budget for the 2017 Environment Assembly. in regards to the budget of the third session of the UN Environment and the Environment Fund. On the Fourth Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee, the meeting noted that only the European Union had provided comments on the structure, which was up for adoption by the Committee. Other details on the Subcommittee meeting would remain under discussion.~~

A member noted that some Committee Members had questioned the rationale for holding the 137th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on Monday instead of Tuesday or Thursday, which are the agreed days for UN Environment meetings. He proposed that the Chair clarify that it was on an exceptional basis.

3. Agenda Item 3: Date of the next meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives meeting.

3.

21. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Friday 10 March 2017 at 8:30.

32. —

32. The Bureau agreed on Friday 10 March 2017 at 8:30 am as the date for its of the next meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives is Friday 10 March at 8:30am.

4. Agenda Item 4: Other Matters

22. A member expressed concern on the issue of the change of name from United Nations Environment Programme to UN Environment, as well as the change of letterheads and the logo. He said more explanation to Member States was needed on how the Secretariat intended to take forward the process legally. The Bureau discussed the issue at length recalling the compromise on strengthening the Programme at Rio and the experience of other organizations like UN Women and UN-HABITAT. It requested the Secretariat to prepare an information note on the matter, including plans and legal options for further discussion during a future subcommittee meeting, at which the Executive Director should be present. The Deputy Executive Director noted the request from the Bureau and informed the meeting that the Secretariat would discuss the matter internally and revert to the Bureau on the way forward.

23. A member proposed that while no one was indispensable, consideration should be given to extending the term of the current Bureau members until after the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Chair informed the meeting that a letter would go out to all regional group Chairs after the 4th Annual Sub-Committee, inviting them to nominate candidates for the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives by May 2017 and each of the Regional Groups would respond as they saw fit.

24. The Chair requested the Secretariat to arrange a briefing on joint programs and between UN-Habitat and UN Environment.

25. The meeting ended at 10:10 am.

~~33. — 33. — A member expressed concern on the issue of the brought it to the meeting's attention that the change of name from United Nations Environment Programme to UN Environment, as well as the change of letterheads and the logo. He said more explanation was needed on how the Secretariat intended to take forward the process legally. The Bureau discussed the issue at length recalling the compromise on strengthening the Programme at Rio and the experience of other organizations like UN Women and UN HABITAT. It requested has some Member States a bti cautious and that it would be best for the Secretariat to prepare and information note on the matter, including plans and issues surrounding the name change as well as the legal options for boundaries surrounding the matter so as to allow for further discussion during a future subcommittee meeting, at which the to be set at a later date. It was also noted that the presence of the Executive Director should be present all be highly anticipated during discussions on this matter.~~

~~34. — The Deputy Executive Director, noted the request from the Bureau and informed stated that the meeting that the Secretariat would shall discuss the matter internally and revert to the then inform the Bureau on the way forward.~~

~~35. — 34. — AA member proposed suggest that while no one was indispensable, ion was made by a member that there be a consideration should be given to extending the term of the made that the seating of the current Bureau members until after Chair be extended so as to allow for seamless transition of the next Bureau and the work towards the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.~~

~~36. — The Chair informed the meeting that a letter would shall go out be sent to all regional group Chairs after the 4th Annual Sub-Committee, inviting them to on the matter of nominateees candidates for the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives by. Nominations shall be held May 2017.~~

~~37. — The Chair requested the Secretariat to arrange a briefing on prepare a short brief on the joint programs and proposals between UN Habitat and UN Environment.~~

~~4. Agenda Item 5: Closing~~

~~13. The meeting ended closed at 10:10 am.~~