

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 19 April 2018 (Afternoon session)
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 4

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. The Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Ms. Tarja Fernandez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland, welcomed members to the meeting.
2. The meeting adopted the agenda.

Agenda Item 2: Briefing on UN Environment Programme engagement in the Belt & Road Initiative

3. Mr. Gary Lewis, Acting Director – Policy and Programme Division and Mr. Shigang Zhang, Principal Coordinator for South-South Cooperation, briefed the meeting on UN Environment Programme’s engagement with the South-South Cooperation focusing on Belt & Road Initiative as a window for the Programme to help countries using Belt & Road investments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN Environment Programme has the convening power to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to work together to ensure the greening and sustainability of the Belt & Road Initiative. They highlighted that consultations are ongoing with stakeholders to develop a framework for the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt & Road and encouraged all interested member States and stakeholder to participate in the Coalition.
4. The representative of China informed the meeting that the Initiative is open, inclusive and owned by all participating countries and welcomed UN Environment Programme’s support for the Initiative by making it green and sustainable. He noted that the initiative has led to the China-Africa Environmental Center being opened as a collaborative effort on policy dialogue and green technology transfer and as a joint effort towards capacity building.
5. The meeting requested for more and regular briefings on the Secretariat’s work on South-South cooperation. Concerns were raised over the extraction of raw materials, although the May 2017 Belt and Road Summit was commended on its commitment to high environmental standards and green finance.

Members raised several questions about the Coalition’s ownership, role and mechanism, as well as on transparency, funding and management of the initiative. They also sought to know UN

Environment Programme's mandate in the Initiative as related to its Programme of Work & Budget, for which the Secretariat stated will be further expounded upon in the quarterly reports to be presented at the 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

6. One member State supported by several others, noted that the Belt & Road initiative is unparalleled in terms of its vision and its potential for contributing to peace, stability and development, and welcomed the UN Environment Programme partnership in greening of the Belt & Road Initiative.
7. The meeting was informed of China's contribution, including USD \$ 6 million for 6 years to South-South cooperation, provision of volunteer staff from collaborating Chinese Universities and 11 Junior Professional Officers to the UN Environment Programme, with one (1) working specifically on South-South Cooperation.
8. The meeting requested the Secretariat to share the text of the Memorandum of Understanding between China and UN Environment Programme on the Belt & Road Initiative and the list of indications of interest to join the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt & Road.

Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the InforMEA portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

9. Ms. Eva Duer, Legal Officer and InforMEA team leader of the Law Division and Mr. Jiri Hlavacek, Chief of Environmental Governance and Conventions Branch of the Law Division presented the Key services of the InforMEA portal, the InforMEA Initiative and ambitions for 2019 and beyond. They brought to the meeting's attention that InforMEA is a joint initiative of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and the UN Environment Programme, noting that all actively participating MEAs in the network have a global environment goal embedded in Sustainable Development Goal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Agenda Item 4: Other Matters

10. The Secretariat informed the meeting that upon the request of a member State, a briefing on the International Workshop on International Environmental Governance (IEG) will be made at the upcoming subcommittee meeting scheduled for 24 April 2018.
11. The meeting closed at 4.30p.m.