

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Tuesday 26 June 2018  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 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 Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Mr. John Moreti, who is also the High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana, formally opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021: Lessons Learned and Indicator Framework.**

2. The Chair invited the Secretariat represented by Policy and Programme Division, to present a draft outline of the Programme of Work and Budget for the period 2020-2021. It mainly covered the following elements:
  - 1) Preparations of the annual budget and performance document will be prepared in July 2018, with a view to its submission to the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts in December 2018;
  - 2) There was a brief consultation with New York concerning the consolidated budget 2020-2021. As a result, a project portfolio for each sub-programme will be shared in early February 2019 as a next step;
  - 3) The second biennial plan focuses on the lessons learned relevant to (a) stronger alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to the Sustainable Development Goals indicators; and (b) linkages with the UN Environment Assembly Resolutions as a continuous improvement;
  - 4) The Programme of Work 2020-2021 would adopt the approach such that each sub-programme would specify the Sustainable Development Goals indicators directly related to the UN Environment Programme's objectives. The Programme of Work will also highlight the most relevant Sustainable Development Goals indicators alongside existing expected accomplishment indicators.
3. The Sub-Programme Coordinator for the Environmental Governance Division, provided some examples regarding the links between the Programme of Work indicators and the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators, highlighting challenges and strong alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals indicators.

4. Member States generally welcomed the proposed way forward and comment on the presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020 - 2021. The main suggestions from the exchange can be summarized as follows:
- 1) Inclusion of new priorities for the UN Environment Assembly;
  - 2) Clarification on the link between the Programme of Work indicators and the Sustainable Development Goals indicators;
  - 3) Identification of the UN Environment Assembly Resolutions which are outside the scope of the Programme of Work 2020-2021;
  - 4) Provide more information on certain activities or special initiatives, such as the green Belt and Road Initiative, to objectives of the Programme of Work 2020-2021;
  - 5) Generate narratives of lessons learned regarding challenges and appropriate measures to be taken during the development of the new Programme of Work 2020-2021, taking into account recommendations from the biennial evaluation synthesis report of the 2016-2017 cycle;
  - 6) Inclusion of more concrete and specific indicators to measure impact of each sub-programme;
  - 7) Evaluation of the links between strategic priorities and the UN Environment Assembly resolutions. The Global Environment Outlook reports could be considered as a baseline;
  - 8) Identification of global environmental challenges and associated budgets;
  - 9) Identification of a set of activities aligned to the objectives;
  - 10) Recognition of insufficient capacity of UN Environment Programme to provide performance information at country level;
  - 11) Recognition that Sustainable Development Goals indicators do not cover all the Programme of Work 2020-2021 and some of them are under co-custodianship;
  - 12) Concern that the use of some of the SDS's indicators could possibly weaken indicators applied for the Programme of Work in areas, such as chemicals and wastes;
  - 13) Consideration of internally agreed environmental goals in accordance with the UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/5;

- 14) Taking into account contribution of the UN Environment Assembly to the High-level Political Forum;
  - 15) Clear indication on how the indicators of the Programme of Work 2020-2021 are aligned to the changing indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - 16) Inclusion of a Project Budget Implication section of each UN Environment Assembly resolutions to identify which resolutions might fall out of the scope of the Programme of Work.
5. Responding to comments, the Secretariat informed the meeting that the next iteration, including comments on budget will be in September 2018 during the 143<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Secretariat also noted the need to maintain UN Environment Programme's own indicators while aligning to the Sustainable Development Goals indicators – with a focus on efforts towards a balance of performance between global expectations and country level implementation.
  6. As for the indicators of sub-programmes, the Secretariat's Sub-Programme Coordinator for Disasters and Conflicts, added that the Multilateral Environmental Agreements are consolidated at the project level, and underlined that the works to track substantial challenges go beyond impacts that the sub-programmes made.

**Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the Global Landscapes Forum “Landscape Restoration in Africa: Prospects and Opportunities”.**

7. The Chair invited the Secretariat's Chief of Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit, to make a presentation on the 2018 Global Landscapes Forum. The Secretariat highlighted the following:
  - a) That the Global Landscapes Forum will be an accelerator of best practices in restoration of degraded lands;
  - b) Participation of a number of organizations and stakeholders from forests-related background;
  - c) The Forum has been pushing forward the main development agendas, (i) Paris Agreement; (ii) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (iii) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, to move together.
8. The meeting was informed further that the Forum has been liaising with the UN-Habitat in consideration of urbanization elements. The Secretariat further emphasized that the Forum brings all different stakeholders together, including business elements, and seeks for synergies for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in partnership with other UN agencies.

**Agenda Item 4: Other matters.**

9. There were no other matters raised.

**Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.**

10. The meeting bid farewell to the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives whose tenure in the Nairobi Duty Station comes to an end in June 2018. Member States paid a warm tribute to his outstanding leadership and commitment to the successful third session of the UN Environment Assembly as well as to the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

11. In response, the Chair expressed his appreciation to all the members of the Committee for their full support and guidance which significantly contributed to the continuous improvement and fulfillment of the mandate of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, stating that such true team spirit should be continued with the incoming Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ensure that the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly becomes another success. He also informed that the Chairmanship of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will remain within the African Group and introduced his successor, the High Commissioner of Ghana.

12. The meeting closed at 3:40 p.m.