

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 29 November 2018
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 1

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. H.E. Mrs. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representative and High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana, opened the meeting. The meeting agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of the draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021

2. The Secretariat presented a revised draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021, taking into account comments made by Member States at the 5th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives which took place on 22-26 October 2018, and a draft resolution as a basis for further discussion and negotiation among Member States with a view of adopting the draft Programme of Work and budget at the fourth session of the Environment Assembly in March.
3. The meeting welcomed the new version of draft Programme of Work and Budget and acknowledged with appreciation that a majority of comments from member States had been taken into account. A number of points were raised or reiterated by member States in the following discussion, including:
 - The need to implement sound management practices for expenditures including with regard to travel and staffing;
 - The importance of consultation with member States before the initiation of new initiatives with significant impact on the Programme of Work and/or budget;
 - The need to include references to MEAs in the Policy-Making Organs section;
 - The importance of applying due diligence to new partnerships;
 - The need to ensure a balanced and realistic budget including with regard to fair budget allocations to all sub-programmes, which also takes into account the UN reform and the allocation of regular budget;
 - A request for inclusion of analysis of risks in the strategy section for each sub-programme;
 - A request to clarify the impacts of a recent decision by the General Assembly to submit Programmes of Work and Budgets on an annual basis to the UN Headquarters in New York, also taking into account that the UN Environment Assembly only meets every second year.
4. The Secretariat committed to address the comments in the next and final draft which will be submitted to the UN Office in Nairobi for editing and translation, and to provide responses to some of the questions in writing. Discussions on budget levels and other cross-cutting issues may be addressed in the upcoming negotiations on the draft resolution. The Secretariat also confirmed that it will report

back on the implementation of the recommendations in the OIOS audit report at the next regular meeting of the Committee on 8 January 2019.

Agenda item 3: Consideration of a draft Implementation Plan “Towards A Pollution-Free Planet”

5. The Secretariat explained the changes made in the latest draft Implementation Plan, following the discussion at the Subcommittee meeting on 8 November 2018 and the written comments provided by member States.
6. The co-facilitators appointed to facilitate the adoption of the draft underlined that the Plan needs to be a balanced and realistic document which focuses on action and inclusivity and reflects all comments provided by member States.
7. Member States welcomed the update and raised the following comments and requests:
 - The proposed platform for information-sharing should be user-friendly and should avoid duplication with similar existing initiatives;
 - There is a need for further development of the Plan’s partners and stakeholders mobilization strategy;
 - Further discussions on the proposed budget and staffing will be necessary, including with regard to how it related to the budget for the Programme of Work and to what extent it may require extrabudgetary funding;
 - The importance of ensuring that data collection must be based on national capacity and official data sources.

Subject to the comments made and to possible inputs in writing to be submitted to the Secretariat before 4 December, the Secretariat was encouraged to finalize the draft Implementation Plan and submit it for editing and translation in view of final consideration and adoption at the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the UN Environment Assembly, possibly through a standalone resolution as well as through a reference in the Ministerial Declaration. The co-facilitators suggested that the Plan may be proposed to the Assembly by a “Group of Friends of the Plan”.

Agenda item 4: Consideration of the draft report by the Executive Director to the High-Level Segment for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly

8. The Secretariat provided a short update on the preparation of the draft report by the Executive Director to the High-Level Segment for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly. The Secretariat apologized for the delay in producing the Report and informed the meeting that the document ~~would~~ will be made available by the end of November 2018. It also suggested that the agenda item be deferred to the Subcommittee meeting scheduled for 11 December 2018.

Agenda item 5: Secretariat briefing on Multi-stakeholder events during the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly.

9. The Secretariat provided a brief overview of planned multi-stakeholder events during the Environment Assembly and reminded delegations that the call for side events will conclude on 10 December 2018.
10. Member States took note of the information and required additional information on the Science-Business-Policy Forum, which will be provided to the Subcommittee meeting scheduled for 11 December 2018.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration of draft resolutions for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly

11. The Secretariat provided an overview on the consideration of draft resolutions for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly and informed the meeting that the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will initiate a process to nominate co-facilitators to facilitate upcoming negotiations.
12. A number of member States presented their initiatives to table draft resolutions and expressed willingness to cooperate with others, as follows:
 - The European Union and its Member States: Deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains; Sound management of chemicals and waste; Sustainable Consumption and Production in a Circular Economy;
 - Norway: Marine litter and micro-plastics;
 - Mexico: Mineral resource governance;
 - Argentina: Clean and electric mobility
 - Japan: Further action on Circular Economy and Marine plastic litter;
 - Chile: Clean mobility; resource efficiency and waste management, Sustainable public procurement
 - United States of America: The fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V); Improvements in future Global Environmental Outlooks and Integration into the Broader Mandate of Keeping the Environment under Review; Lifecycle management and trade of recyclable, reusable, and recoverable materials
13. A representative from Major Groups called for a resolution on sustainable food systems.
14. The Chair invited member States who had not yet done so to submit concept notes for resolutions as soon as possible to the Secretariat, and to present remaining initiatives for draft resolutions at the subcommittee meeting on 11 December, and encouraged member States to engage in informal consultations, including with regard to possible consolidation of similar resolutions.

Agenda Item 7: Other matters

15. The meeting asked for an overview of upcoming deadlines, and were informed as follows:
 - Written comments on the draft Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021: 30 November
 - Written comments on draft implementation plan on pollution: 4 December
 - Call for side Events: 10 December
16. The Secretariat was requested to speed up the approval process for registration to access the PaperSmart portal for resolutions.

Agenda Item 8: Closing of the meeting

21. The meeting closed at 11:30 a.m.