

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday 27 February 2019
2:30 p.m. to 6:00 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. H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Rapporteur of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Permanent Representative of Poland, opened the meeting and proposed to amend the draft agenda by introducing a new item entitled "Update on draft resolutions", moving up item 4 entitled "Briefing on South-South Cooperation" to become new item 3, and amending the order of remaining agenda items accordingly. The amended agenda was adopted as amended.

Agenda Item 2: Report on the progress of the negotiation of resolutions

2. H.E. Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Chair-designate of the Committee of the Whole and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, provide a briefing to the meeting on the outcome of a recent meeting with co-facilitators for the draft resolutions. He called on resolution proponents to continue informal efforts to consolidate draft resolutions where possible and encouraged Member States in a position to do so to formally withdraw submitted resolutions, where relevant and possible, to ensure clarity and minimize the work load. He also appealed to Member States not to submit any new draft resolutions at this late stage in the process.

Agenda Item 3: Briefing on South-South Cooperation

3. The Secretariat provided to the meeting an update on the activities under the South-South Cooperation, including the development of a revised strategy for this work stream, and the list of relevant upcoming meetings.
4. Member States welcomed the briefing and requested the Secretariat to engage in in-depth consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives at an early stage on the development of the revised strategy.

Agenda Item 4: Consideration of the contribution of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

5. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the draft inputs from UNEA to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which was prepared in accordance with the request made by the President of the Economic and Social Council to the UNEA President and in line with UNEA resolution 3/3 on the "Contributions of UNEA to the HLPF".

6. One member of the Committee requested clarification on the process of finalizing the draft inputs as well as on UN Environment's plan for engaging with the HLPF this year. The representative further stated that as the global forum on the environment, the Environment Assembly may not be appropriate to consider priorities and messages from the multilateral environmental agreements and the regional forums of environment ministers.
7. The Secretariat explained that, on the basis of the comments received from the member States, the draft inputs will be revised for discussion at the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent and further revised as necessary for consideration and endorsement at UNEA. The Secretariat also informed the Committee that an internal HLPF engagement strategy was under development, particularly taking into account that the HLPF is meeting this year both under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council at the level of ministers (in July) and the General Assembly at the level of heads of State/Government (in September).

Agenda Item 5: Consideration of the options paper on the Global Programme of Action.

8. The Secretariat presented a paper with an analysis of the option for the future of the Global Programme of Action, which is relevant also in the context of ongoing discussions on a revised marine strategy for the UN Environment Programme, and several draft resolutions addressing marine ecosystems and pollution. The three proposed options were described as "Continuation"; "Transformation"; and "Discontinuation".
9. Member States welcomed the presentation and asked for further clarification of the proposed way forward, as no clear decision was made during the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities that was held in Bali, Indonesia from 31 October to 1 November 2018.
10. The Secretariat proposed that the matter would be further considered by the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and that, in case no consensus could be reached at that meeting, the Secretariat could put forward a concrete proposal on the way forward for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives after the Environment Assembly, and welcomed further guidance from Member States to this end.

Agenda Item 6: Secretariat briefing on a new framework for valuing and measuring what matters in agriculture and food systems

11. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the progress of the TEEB AgriFood Evaluation Framework, which assesses the impacts of various agri-food systems and policy interventions in different countries and presented the outcomes of TEEB for Agriculture & Food International Symposium.

12. Member States welcomed the briefing and invited the Secretariat to continue to provide regular updates on this important work in the future.

Agenda Item 7: Briefing on the UN Environment Programme's performance on reducing climate emissions

13. The Secretariat provided an update on the UN Environment Programme's performance on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from activities for which it is responsible.

14. Member States welcomed the briefing and encouraged the UN Environment Programme to continue its work in reducing its emissions.

Agenda Item 8: Other matters

15. No other matters were raised. The meeting closed at 5:30 p.m.