

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
18 June 2019
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
Executive Office Boardroom
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana, chaired the meeting, in which the following members of the Bureau, Regional Groups and the Secretariat participated:

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members:

H.E. Mr. Choi Yeonghan Lee, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, Vice Chair, Asia Pacific Group;
H.E. Ms. Lori Dando, Permanent Representative of the United States of America, Vice Chair, Western Europe and others Group;
H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland, Rapporteur, Eastern European Group

Regional Groups were represented by:

H.E. Mr. Beyene Russom, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Eritrea

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director;
Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director;
Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Principal Legal Officer;

2. The meeting was informed about the status of nominations from the regional groups for the incoming Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
3. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda, with the addition of one new item under Any Other Business regarding a letter sent to the Chair of the Bureau from the JUSSCANZ Group.

4. The Chair welcomed the newly appointed Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen, and expressed gratitude to Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Joyce Msuya, for her leadership as Acting Executive Director for the Programme.

Agenda Item 2: Exchange of views between incoming and outgoing Bureau members.

5. The meeting welcomed Ms. Andersen in her capacity as Executive Director, and expressed readiness to work on close cooperation with the new UNEP leadership, including with regard to a broad range of key issues such as implementation of the existing Programme of Work and budget and of resolutions; the need to take into account different levels of development among Member States; an improved science policy interface; environmental education and awareness; and effective management. One member of the Bureau recalled the former Executive Director's visit to the Korean Peninsula, and invited Ms. Andersen to consider follow-up action in this regard at an appropriate time.
6. Ms. Inger Andersen thanked the Bureau for their strong support to the UN Environment Programme and to Ms. Msuya during the past months and stated that she will listen carefully to member States for guidance on the best way forward and that she particularly welcomed feedback and advice from the Bureau in this regard. Ms. Andersen also informed the meeting about current organizational reforms which are guided by recent audits of the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services, and looked forward to engaging with member States to further inform and discuss related challenges and opportunities.

Agenda Item 3: Preparation of the 146th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

7. The Secretariat gave a brief overview of the main agenda items for consideration by the 146th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
8. With regard to the agenda item on Assessment and lessons learned from UNEA-4, several members underlined the need for a focused and understandable theme which is identified early in the process.
9. One member called for more effective new rules and practices to limit the number of resolutions to be tabled for consideration at future UNEA meetings, including with regard to stricter deadlines and criteria for submission.
10. With regard to the submission of resolutions, the Secretariat recalled paragraph 6 in decision UNEP/EA.4/2 entitled "Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly", which "Strongly encourages Member States to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly preferably at least eight weeks in advance of the fifth meeting of OECPR, mindful of the theme of the fifth session of UNEA, the limited time and resources available to negotiate the resolutions during the fifth meeting of the open-ended Committee of Permanent

Representatives and during the fifth session of UNEA, without prejudice to the rules of procedure, in particular rule 44;”

Agenda Item 4: Any Other matters

11. The Chair informed the meeting that she had received a letter from the JUSCANNZ group which called for timely availability of CPR meeting documentation and underlined the need for CPR meetings to be announced well in advance.
12. The Chair further informed the meeting that she had discussed the matter with the Secretariat and confirmed that the practice is to make meeting documents available 10 working days prior to all meetings. The Chair also confirmed that all CPR-related meetings are listed in a Secretariat [“Roadmap for the UN Environment Programme Governing Bodies”](#) which is made available online through the CPR website and regularly updated to ensure that member States are informed in a timely manner. While planned meeting dates are usually respected, some dates had been changed upon requests from member States, subject to the approval by the CPR Bureau. The Chair also noted that the Secretariat has committed to enforce existing practices more strictly in the future, and recommended the incoming Bureau to consider and approve the roadmap of meetings of UNEP’s governing bodies at its first meeting. The Chair informed the meeting that she intended to respond to the letter in writing accordingly.
13. The Deputy Executive Director thanked the Bureau and member States for the guidance and feedback received, and for the strong leadership demonstrated throughout its tenure.
14. The Chair thanked the members of the outgoing CPR Bureau, the Deputy Executive Director and the Secretariat for their support during her tenure as Chair.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the Meeting

15. The meeting closed at 1:30 p.m.