

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Briefing by the Secretariat
Thursday 5 September
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

1. Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretariat of the Governing Bodies opened the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Secretariat briefing and consultation on the development of a new UN Environment Programme Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

2. The UN Environment Programme Policy and Programme Division, represented by Mr. Gary Lewis, briefed Member State representatives on the draft Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation and proposed that the timeframe for the proposed strategy would be 2020 – 2030.
3. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the briefing and expressed their appreciation for the document and for the opportunity to contribute to it. Member States also expressed their willingness to remain engaged throughout the final strategy development process.
4. Member States engaged in the discussion and put forward following comments:
 - stressed the importance of South-South cooperation;
 - stressed the importance of having a long-term vision, in particular with regard to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda;
 - appreciated the alignment of the Strategy with UN Environment Programme's Programme of Work, Medium-Term Strategy and other UN Environment Programme guiding documents;
 - requested further information regarding the estimated budget required for South-South cooperation activities, the rationale for it, sources of funding, and foreseen operationalization funding and activities;
 - wanted to understand "demand-driven" as a principle of South-South and triangular cooperation;

- wanted to know how countries with economies in transition will be incorporated in the South-South strategy;
 - wanted to know whether any other non-UN entities had been engaged as a part of the consultation process prior to developing the draft strategy;
 - enquired about UN Environment Programme's engagement with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and whether UN Environment Programme assessed it was able to mainstream environmental priorities within the UNOSSC Strategy;
 - stressed the importance of treating South-South Cooperation and South-South and Triangular Cooperation separately as they are conceptually and politically different, pointing out the Strategy document can further differentiate between the two;
 - one member State pointed out that the paragraph referring to the private sector on page 8 should not include trade and investment ministries and expressed their opinion on inappropriate use of the word "streamline" for SSC on page 2 line 6;
 - requested the Secretariat adds a paragraph to the proposed Strategy dedicated to the role of women in South-South and Triangular Cooperation, in a similar manner to the existing paragraph on the role of youth;
 - requested a list of current South-South cooperation projects, indicating the sub-programmes, as a background document for the 6th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. Several Member States indicated they would be providing comments and questions in writing following the meeting. The Secretariat invited member States to submit their written inputs on the document and any questions by 27 September 2019.
 6. The Secretariat also informed the meeting that a revised version of the strategy would be prepared and shared with Member States prior to the subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 31 October 2019.
 7. On a different topic, one Member States proposed that Secretariat provide more information on the meeting with Resident Coordinators in the Africa region, stating that they would like to see the meeting replicated in other regions as well.

Agenda Item 3: Closing of the Meeting

8. The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.

Inputs from member States can be accessed on the meeting portal through the following link:
<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/briefings-secretariat/briefing-secretariat-7>

