

148th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
10 December 2019
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 1

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Note: All pre-meeting and post-meeting documents, including statements provided in writing by member States, are available [here](#).

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

1. The meeting was opened by H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The meeting welcomed newly arrived Representatives to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and bid farewell to departing Representatives.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the agenda of the 148th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

2. The provisional meeting agenda was adopted after agreeing to move agenda item 7 to be addressed immediately after agenda item 4.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of 147th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

3. The Committee adopted the draft minutes of the 147th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 11 October 2019.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Executive Director

4. Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment Programme presented. The statements are available [here](#). In the ensuing dialogue, member States who took the floor, inter alia:
 - Welcomed the report of the Executive Director and the presentation by Ms. Msuya.
 - Welcomed the recent UN General Assembly resolution to designate 7 September as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, to be observed starting 2020.
 - Congratulated the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly on the decision to designate the theme "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" for UNEA-5.
 - Recognized the need for progress on important matters such as on UNEP + 50 and Stockholm + 50, on the process for review by the CPR, and on the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 73/333.
 - Recognized the importance of the upcoming UN Ocean conference co-hosted by Portugal and Kenya.

- Provided information on important national initiatives in support of the global environment.
- Referred to important upcoming meetings under the UN Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity.
- Called on UNEP to assist specific countries in armed conflict and countries with large numbers of refugees, with the aim to minimize related negative environmental consequences.

Agenda Item 5: Status and future of funding of UN Environment Programme

5. The Secretariat made a presentation on the current status and the outcome of the debate “Why Paying Your Fair Share Matters -The Future of UNEP’s Funding” that was held during the side-event of the Annual Sub-Committee Meeting held on 7-11 October 2019.
6. Member States who took the floor welcomed the presentation, noted the trend towards a large deficit in the Environment Fund and the continued increase of non-core funding, and recognized the need to find a better balance between core and non-core funding and to attract new donors to the Environment Fund to ensure implementation of the Programme of Work. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue active outreach to all Member States to pay their fair share to the Environment Fund, and to identify barriers and practical steps to encourage Member States to initiate or increase their contributions to the Environment Fund. The Secretariat was also recommended to further increase transparency in the budget allocation to ensure funding of UNEP’s core functions, and to communicate what cannot be done due to insufficient core-funding.
7. The Chair proposed to come back to this issue at a future meeting of the Subcommittee.

Agenda Item 6: Analysis of lessons learned for the Mid-Term Strategy.

8. Following a [presentation from the Secretariat on lessons learned](#) in preparation for the development of a new Mid-Term Strategy for the period 2022-2025, member States:
 - Welcomed the analysis on lessons learned.
 - Requested additional information on how the lessons will be taken up in the next MTS, also taking into account the need for transformational change, the gap between UNEP’s positive programme performance review and the negative trends regarding the state of the global environment, UNEP’s normative role, UNEP’s contribution to UN reforms, and the need to strengthen the results orientation of UNEP.
 - Underlined the importance of measuring results, ensuring synergies and coherence and ensuring a real impact at country and regional level.
 - Asked about the link between the future MTS and financial resources, taking into account recent trends regarding the Environment Fund and extra-budgetary resources.
 - Requested further clarification on how the lessons learned can be applied in practice.

Agenda Item 7: Findings from the Emission Gap Report.

9. The Secretariat [presented the main findings from the Emission Gap Report 2019](#), followed by an exchange of views with member States. Member States generally welcomed the report as a flagship scientific contribution in support of evidence-based decision making on climate change. Many Member States also recognized the need for more ambitious climate commitments at all decision levels and by all stakeholders and

sectors. Some member States also raised specific questions, for example relating to the methodology behind calculations of national ambition levels.

Agenda Item 8: Follow-up of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

a) Implementation of UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1 Ministerial Declaration

10. The Committee heard a presentation from the Secretariat on the follow-up, monitoring and reporting on the Ministerial Declaration adopted at UNEA-4, including with regard to the development of a global environmental data strategy. Member States taking the floor pointed to the importance of a clear separation between the implementation of the ministerial declaration as a whole and the specific follow up on the development of a global data strategy, and of a comprehensive monitoring framework that covers both the ministerial declaration, resolutions and decisions, as requested in UNEA resolution 4/22. It was suggested that the development of a global data strategy should be reconsidered at a future CPR meeting, taking into account the guidance provided.

b) Implementation of decision UNEP/EA.4/2

11. Following a presentation by the Secretariat, member States considered the process to develop an action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 (a)-(h) of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. Several member States underlined need to advance this process expeditiously and called for open and transparent consultations on the basis of inputs from the Secretariat. There were diverging views on the interlinkages between the development of the action plan and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333, for which several member States called for a questionnaire to member States to seek further guidance on the way forward. The Chair thanked member States for their inputs and decided to consider the matter further at the next meeting of the CPR bureau on 17 December, and to include it in the agenda of the Subcommittee meeting on 23 January.

c) Implementation of resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.22

12. Member States heard a [presentation from the Secretariat](#) on the implementation of resolution UNEP/EA.4/22 entitled "Implementation and follow-up of UNEA resolutions". Following a brief discussion among member States, the Chair requested the Secretariat to present a final consolidated proposal based on options 2 and 3, and to continue to develop the website on monitoring of the implementation of resolution in accordance with what was proposed in the [background document](#). The Chair also decided to revert to the issue at the Subcommittee scheduled for February 2020.

d) Implementation of resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.23

13. The Secretariat [presented an update on the implementation of resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.23](#), entitled "Keeping the World Environment under Review: Enhancing UNEP's Science-Policy Interface and Endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook". Member States who spoke under this agenda item underlined the need to keep an open mind on options for the future of the Global environmental Outlook, to avoid being constrained by possible lack of resources and to consider the matter at the 7th meeting of the Annual Subcommittee in view of ensuring a clear set of options for final consideration by UNEA-5.

Agenda Item 9: Report of the Subcommittee.

14. The report of the Subcommittee was adopted.

Agenda Item 10. Other matters.

15. The delegation of Sweden presented a joint statement by Sweden and Kenya on the need for further informal consultation on the 50-year commemoration of the Stockholm Conference and the creation of UNEP.

Agenda Item 11. Closing of the meeting.

16. The meeting closed at 4:40 pm.