

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday 31 October 2019  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri  
Conference Room 4

### **DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

1. H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representative and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 2: Consultation on a theme for UNEA5**

3. The Chair invited H.E. Ms. Elin Rognlie, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway and representative of the President of UN Environment Assembly, to provide a progress update on the consultations to define a theme for UNEA 5.
4. The representative of the President referred to consultations at the UNEA and CPR Bureau meetings, as well as with regional groups and stakeholders, and to the recent document entitled "Consensual elements for the theme for the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly" which captured the key conclusions from these consultations.
5. The representative expressed appreciation for the inputs and guidance provided so far, and noted that there was a broad support for a theme around the concept of nature-based solutions in the context of sustainable development, with the possibility to include relevant elements of the other two proposed thematic areas centering around oceans and the energy/water/food nexus. She reminded member States of the timeline for the bureau to decide on the theme in December, and re-emphasized the need for a consensual process.
6. The Chair expressed support for the content of the consensual elements document, and considered that it represented a fair reflection of what had been expressed by member States during the consultations. He also recognized the efforts made by the Presidency to ensure a transparent, inclusive and collaborative consultative process.
7. Member States welcomed the progress update and the background document and thanked the Presidency for its leadership in conducting broad and transparent consultations. General support was expressed for a theme focusing on nature-based solutions in the context of sustainable development, with the possible consideration of relevant elements of the other tentative thematic areas. Member States also widely recognized the need for the theme to contribute to the strengthening of UNEP and to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

8. Member States also underlined the need for UNEA to focus on more effective implementation and for a theme that builds on the results from previous Environment Assemblies as well as on important scientific assessments, and is easy to communicate with the public and media, and that allows for all key stakeholders, including member States without representation in Nairobi to be involved in the consultation process. Many Member States cautioned against negotiation of specific sub-themes. Member States agreed that the list of possible sub-themes described in the President's "Consensual Elements" paper was not exhaustive.
9. The representative of the President of UNEA thanked the meeting for the positive feedback and contributions and committed to take this into account in the future developments.
10. The Chair reminded delegations that a final round of consultations is scheduled for the subcommittee meeting on 26 November 2019.

**Agenda item 3: Briefing on the Preparation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ad hoc expert group on marine litter and micro-plastics.**

11. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ad hoc expert group on marine litter and microplastics, to be held on 18 – 22 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand including with regard to the nomination of elected officers to a bureau of the working group, the availability of working and information documents, agenda and programme of work and participation. In that regard, the Subcommittee was informed that nominated members to that bureau so far represented Kenya, Guyana, New Zealand and the Russian Federation and that the Secretariat was still awaiting nominations from the Asia Pacific Group.
12. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the briefing and requested further clarification on the following issues:
  - The governance structure and rationale for the creation of a Bureau composed of five elected officers instead of the previous arrangement of 2 co-chairs and 1 rapporteur;
  - The decision-making process behind the choice of venue of the next and future meetings and related financial consequences;
  - Expected outcomes of the meeting, taking into account the need to build on the outcomes from previous meetings;
  - How to ensure relevant inputs from other related processes such as under the Basel Convention;
  - How to best consider the work under the multi-stakeholder platform;
  - The need to ensure full consistency between the agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the expert group and the mandate given in UNEA resolution 4/6.
13. The Secretariat clarified that the proposed governance was based on the Rules of Procedure, which stipulates that each subsidiary group of UNEA shall elect its own officers based on a balanced regional representation (rule 63 and 18), and that the choice of venue is based on guidance from previous expert group meetings and the previous practice of organizing some of the meetings outside Nairobi with a view to create a stronger regional ownership and to facilitate the participation of member States without representation in Nairobi such as small island developing states, and reminded the meeting that the funding

of these meetings derives from extrabudgetary voluntary contributions and does not impact on the core budget in support of the implementation of the Programme of Work. The Secretariat also took note of the other comments made, with a view to adapt the meeting preparations accordingly.

**Agenda item 4: The development of a UN Environment Programme Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.**

14. The Secretariat presented a revised draft UNEP Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, taking into account guidance provided by member States at the Secretariat briefing held on 5 September, as well as inputs received in writing.
15. Member States welcomed the presentation and noted that the document had progressed well and integrated previous inputs from member States. The document was, overall, considered to be well-balanced and providing an overarching approach. Several member States expressed their satisfaction with the strategy as presented.
16. Member States provided the following additional guidance:
  - UNEP's contribution in bilateral and regional South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) should be better specified;
  - Additional information and clarification on how to fund of the implementation of the Strategy should be provided, in particular with regard to the contribution of the Environment Fund. One member expressed doubts about the establishment of a dedicate trust fund in this regard, suggesting funding for the Strategy should instead be integrated in the funding for the Programme of Work;
  - One member expressed doubts about establishing a SSTC Secretariat as a governance structure;
  - Further clarification on how the different subprogrammes contribute to STCC was requested;
  - Consistency with other relevant strategies such as the Private Sector Engagement Strategy Could be ensured;
  - References to gender equality and gender mainstreaming within the Strategy should be strengthened;
  - The role of governments as well as UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in the implementation of the Strategy should be clarified;
  - Information relating to the potential contribution of STCC to UNEP's engagement in the UN Development System Reform may be expanded;
  - It was suggested that Centers of Excellence could be established in countries of the Global South where SSTC has proven successful in the past;
  - Guidance to member States on how to benefit from SSTC could be included in the Strategy.
17. The Secretariat took note of the feedback and invited member States to send their comments in writing by 15 November, in view of presenting a final version of the Strategy at the next regular meeting of the Committee on 10 December.

**Agenda Item 5: Other matters**

18. The Ambassador of Chile informed the meeting that Chile would no longer be hosting the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25) scheduled for 2 – 13 December 2019 in Santiago,

due to the recent social unrest in the country. She reaffirmed that Chile would nevertheless remain deeply committed to multilateral action on climate change.

**Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.**

19. The meeting closed at 15:00 p.m.