

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday 10 September 2020

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Online meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. Mr. Marcus Davies and Mr. Mapopa C. Kaunda, Co-Facilitators for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda was adopted. The agenda as well as the background documents and contributions in writing from member States and stakeholders for the meeting are available on the [meeting portal](#).

Agenda Item 2: Implementation of paragraphs 9-13 of Decision UNEP/EA.4/2 entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”.

3. The Co-facilitators welcomed delegations and reminded them that this was the last consultation meeting on the Process for Review by the CPR under their leadership before a final stock-taking meeting planned to take place at the meeting of the annual subcommittee 12-16 October, and called on delegations to show flexibility and act constructively, with the aim of presenting a co-facilitator’s document to the annual subcommittee which enjoyed broadest possible consensus.
4. The Co-Facilitators introduced the changes made in version VI of the document [“Converging elements of consensus - Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives”](#), including with regard to paragraphs 3 and 5 on how to refer to the meeting of the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Annual Subcommittee, paragraph 14 and the Annex on the role of the UNEA and the CPR Bureaux, and paragraph 16 on the tabling of draft resolutions, which had been revised to shorten and incorporate key elements in a previous Annex.
5. Delegations generally acknowledged that the new version of the document provided a step in the right direction, but that some issues still remain contested.
6. With regard to paragraphs 3 and 5 on how to refer to the meeting of the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Annual Subcommittee, several delegations supported the text without further changes, pointing out that it already was considerably weaker than they had preferred, and that these paragraphs were paramount to retain as a key component of the document as a whole. Several other delegations reiterated their concerns that the proposals

may be perceived as renaming, provide limited added value, and could affect the balance intended for the different meetings of the CPR. The Co-Facilitators called on interested parties to come together informally and present a possible solution by 17 September at the latest, with a view to include a compromise text in the final version going to the meeting of the annual subcommittee.

7. Under paragraph 7 on strengthening the contributions and active participation of MEAs, some delegations reiterated previously stated concerns with the proposal to organize a “MEA segment” under subparagraph a) and expressed doubts about MEA’s proposed role in the deliberation of UNEA resolutions and ministerial declarations (subparagraph b and e) and the reference to HLPF (subparagraph c). Other delegations expressed support for the text without further changes. The Co-Facilitators suggested that the paragraph may be further modified based on written inputs.
8. Paragraph 14 on the consolidation and clarification of the respective roles and responsibilities of the CPR and UNEA Bureaus was not subject to proposed textual changes, but one regional group reiterated its view that the annex referred to in the paragraph should be integrated in the main text of the documents. Several other delegations underscored the need to keep that guidance as a separate annex, to ensure that a comprehensive overview of all the functions and roles of the two Bureaus can be captured in one single document instead of being mixed with other types of recommendations, and to apply as a reference document for delegations who may be unfamiliar with the established practices as well as the rules of procedure. The Co-Facilitators noted that it was difficult to make any further changes without any concrete proposals on the table but committed to reflect further on the matter.
9. With regard to paragraph 16 on the submission, consideration and negotiation of draft resolutions, several delegations provided additional comments and guidance, many of which referred to the time frames for announcing and tabling resolutions in subparagraph b), with some delegations considering them unrealistic and that they may restrict the ability of Member States to table resolutions, while others considered the proposed time frames appropriate. One delegation representing a regional group referred to a new proposal which would replace subparagraph a), with a view to agree on additional guidance for the intersessional period that goes beyond the role of the meeting of the annual subcommittee. Following the discussion, the Co-Facilitators noted that the proposal to expand subparagraph a) appeared to enjoy wide support in principle, and expressed their intention to present a revised version of the paragraph when finalizing the document.
10. Minor changes were also introduced to paragraphs 6, 10 and 12, as well as the Annex, which were considered non-controversial by the Co-Facilitators.

Agenda Item 3: Closing of the meeting.

11. The Co-Facilitators thanked delegations for their guidance and invited them to send in their comments in writing to the Secretariat by 17 September at the latest, and underlined that comments received after that date may not be taken into account, to ensure sufficient time for delegations to review the document well ahead of the meeting of the annual subcommittee.
12. The Co-Facilitators also expressed their deep appreciation to delegations for the rich and interesting debate throughout the consultation process and for the constructive guidance provided in the joint effort to reach broad support for the recommendations in the elements paper.

13. The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.