

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 11 March 2021
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (GMT+3)
Online Meeting

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, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, opened the meeting.
2. The Secretariat provided an overview of the participants to the meeting.
3. The [meeting agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Presentation of the Synthesis Report “Making Peace with Nature”.

4. The Secretariat presented the main findings in UNEP’s first synthesis report entitled: “Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies”, released on 18 February 2021 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Executive Director of UNEP Inger Andersen. The Secretariat also thanked the European Union, Norway and all the 50 experts that supported and worked on the development of the report. The presentation is available [here](#).
5. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the presentation, welcomed the report, congratulated UNEP and the authors for the excellent report amid the challenges of the pandemic, and provided the following comments:
 - Highlighted that the report presents a strong message on the interconnectedness of the issues of biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change and the need to tackle the environmental crises holistically in order to protect a severely threatened planet, while also recognizing that the environment dimension of sustainable development must not be addressed separately from the socio-economic ones.
 - Appreciated that the report advocates for policy action and expressed hope that the report can act as a guide and be used extensively by policy makers, business, the private sector, and the civil society.
 - Welcomed the policy recommendations within the report and requested UNEP to follow -up with the recommendations particularly within the context of the UNEP@50 activities
 - Noted that the report provides a good example of the interface between science and policy and that the monitoring of the environmental crises needs to be strengthened.
 - Noted the efforts made to ensure geographical balance as well as gender balance with regards to identification of the authors of the report.

- Requested UNEP to provide a dissemination plan across the UN system for the report and recognized several opportunities to present and leverage the report such as UNEP@50, Stockholm+50, CoPs, UNEA-5.2, and the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.
 - Invited interested stakeholders to make use of the report as a source of inspiration to promote science-based decision-making.
 - Some delegations noted the absence of a clear reference to SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production in the report.
 - Some delegations pointed to interlinkages between the report and the concept of the one health approach and noted the potential for economic and environmental revitalization that will create new jobs in the future
 - Some delegations proposed a common platform on pollution, with increased focus on light and noise pollution as well as nitrogen pollution.
 - One stakeholder representative called for a stronger focus on environmental law and stressed the importance of partnerships and international cooperation as well as engagement between governments, business and the private sector to identify innovative solutions to address negative socio-economic and environmental effects of COVID-19.
6. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their positive feedback and briefed the meeting on past and future outreach events for the report, including the recent launch by the UN Secretary-General as well as an upcoming meeting on 25 March for all UN resident coordinators for which the report will be provided as a background document and key resource. The Secretariat also clarified that it will work with the World Environment Situation Room to ensure that the report is showcased to UN country teams, and take initiative to present the report in different regions and in the run up to key meetings of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and UNEP@50. The Secretariat also mentioned that they are working with the Global Environment Facility to present the report for interested stakeholders. Finally, the Secretariat encouraged Member States to distribute the report widely within their own governments, including to other ministries.

Agenda Item 3: Inputs to the 2021 High Level Political Forum

7. The Secretariat presented the revised draft inputs of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2021 High- Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development which was circulated earlier following the consultation by the subcommittee on 4 March, with a view to finalize the contribution for submission from the UNEA President to the HLPF Secretariat by 15 March 2021 at the latest, as requested by the President of ECOSOC his letter dated 18 November 2020.
8. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the revised draft inputs of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2021 High- Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and provided additional guidance relating to issues such as the link between the COVID-19 crisis and the environmental dimension of sustainable development, means of implementation, and some Member States requested the Secretariat to abide by multilaterally agreed-upon language, as well as to ensure that the content is related to UNEP's mandated work and not that of other organizations, and how to refer to other important processes such as the UNFCCC and CBD.
9. The Chair thanked member States for their comments, and reminded delegations that the deadline set for the process derived from the ECOSOC President, and requested the Secretariat to revise

the text in view of the comments made by delegations with a view to circulate a new version as soon as possible the next day in advance of a final consultation meeting on 15 March 2021.

Agenda Item 4: Other matters.

10. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.

11. The meeting closed at 5:15 p.m.