

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Bureau Meeting  
Tuesday 23 March 2021  
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
Virtual

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

1. H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, chaired the meeting, in which the following members of the bureau participated:

H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland, Vice Chair, Eastern European Group;

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Vice Chair, Asia-Pacific Group

Ms. Gudi Alkemade, Deputy Permanent Representative on behalf of H.E. Mr. Maarten Brouwer, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Netherlands, Vice Chair, Western European and Other States Group

H.E. Mr. Chol M. U. Ajongo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Sudan, Rapporteur, Africa Group

In addition, the bureau of the UN Environment Assembly was represented *ex officio* by:

Ms. Gudi Sandborg, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director;  
Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff;  
Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies;  
Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;  
Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Principal Legal Officer.

2. The Bureau adopted the draft agenda.

#### **2. Organization of work.**

3. The meeting considered the tentative roadmap of meetings of UNEP's governing bodies and guided the Secretariat to update the roadmap as follows:
  - Include in the agenda of an upcoming meeting of the CPR subcommittee an update on progress on UN's 3 lines of defense in May;

- Reschedule the meeting on 13 May to another date to avoid conflict with the observance of the holiday of Eid al-Fitr;
  - Consider scheduling the review of the UNEP Programme Performance Report over two half day subcommittee meetings, instead of one;
  - Schedule relevant briefings on ongoing activities more proactively, with a view to facilitate the CPR oversight role in a more structured and less ad hoc manner.
  - Include a briefing from the MOPAN secretariat on their study of the multilateral system's response to the climate change agenda at a subcommittee meeting in June;
  - Initiate timely preparations for UNEA-5.2 at upcoming subcommittee meetings in June/July.
  - Requested further information from the Secretariat on the timetable for when CPR meetings may resume in person and possible contingency plan for the consultations on the follow up of UNGA resolution 73/333 scheduled in June and July, in case in person meetings may not be feasible.
4. The Executive Director clarified that with regard to in-person meetings, UNEP is in the hands of host country government and the UN Office in Nairobi, and will be guided by the guidance provided by the UNON Joint Medical Services meetings, based on the evolving restrictions related to the COVID 19 pandemic in Kenya. She further noted that the management reforms (“5 lines of defense”) have recently been aligned to the framework adopted along the UN system (“3 lines of defense”) and committed to provide an update on the progress made.
5. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to present a revised draft roadmap on the basis of the above guidance, and agreed to revisit the issue of possible in-person meetings, including with regard to the consultations on the follow up of UNGA resolution 73/333, taking into account the future development of the pandemic in Kenya and in close consultation with the co-facilitators for that process.
- 3. Consideration of the cycle of term of office of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.**
6. The Secretariat presented a draft agenda of the upcoming 154<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the Bureau's consideration, as well as an outline of the projected rotation of both the UNEA and the CPR Bureau based on existing practice, for information.
7. Following an exchange of views among the Bureau Members, the Bureau approved the draft agenda and noted that the positions with regard to the cycle of the CPR Bureau vis-à-vis that of the UNEA Bureau remain varied, and will need further in-depth consideration, and requested the secretariat to schedule a meeting of the subcommittee to address this issue by end of April / beginning of May, in preparation for a possible decision at the 154<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee. The Bureau also requested the secretariat to prepare a background note including scenarios for the cycle of regional rotation the CPR Bureau, which should also take into account the timing of future UNEA sessions, as a basis for discussion at the upcoming subcommittee meeting.
- 4. Other matters.**
8. The Chair of the Bureau informed the meeting of his expected departure from Nairobi during 2021, at a time yet to be determined by the Government of Brazil. The Vice Chair of the Bureau that represents the Eastern European Group informed the meeting that his posting in Nairobi has been extended by an additional 2 years.
- 5. Closing of the Meeting.**
9. The meeting closed at 10:25 a.m.