
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Wednesday 21 September 2021
10:00 am – 12.00 pm, GMT+3
Conference room 9

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting agenda and supporting background documents are available on the [meeting portal](#).

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

1. H.E. Mrs. Luisa Fragoso, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives chaired the meeting, in which the following members of the bureau participated:

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members

H.E. Mrs. Selma Malika Haddadi, Ambassador of Algeria to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, Vice Chair of the CPR.

H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Ambassador of Mexico to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, Vice Chair of the CPR.

H.E. Mr. Ado Lohmus, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN Environment Programme, Vice Chair of the CPR.

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, Rapporteur of the CPR.

The Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly, represented *ex officio*

H.E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Ambassador of Norway to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme.

Mr. Øystein Størkersen, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN Environment Programme.

UN Office in Nairobi (UNON)

Ms. Shivona Tavares-Walsh, Director of Division for Conference Services of UNON.

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director;

Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff;

Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;

Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Officer.

2. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all participants, followed by opening remarks by UNEP's Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen. Ms. Anderson welcomed the in-person meeting and provided a short briefing on the outcome of the recent consultations with regional groups on the preparations for UNEP@50.

3. The meeting agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Consultation on the format of future meetings.

4. Ms. Shivona Tavares-Walsh, Director of Division for Conference Services at UNON provided an update on the status of the process to re-open the UN complex, including on the preparation of detailed guidelines. She referred to upcoming meetings of the Director General of UNON with the Chairs of regional groups (this was referred to as the Deans of the Diplomatic Community), with the UN crisis management team, and with all UN staff in Nairobi. She confirmed the timeline for re-opening the compound and for facilitating up to 60% staff to return to the office in early October, while ensuring that adequate health restrictions are in place, in accordance with the host country COVID protocols.
5. Ms. Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of UNEP, thanked UNON for its leadership towards the safe re-opening the compound. She reiterated that UNEP would continue to work closely with UNON and with the host country, with a view to resume in-person meetings for Nairobi-based delegations as soon as possible.
6. The Bureau thanked the update from UNON and asked for clarification on whether in-person meetings will only be open to Nairobi-based delegations, about the social distancing range in meeting rooms, whether in-person meetings may resume also for subcommittee meetings scheduled for early October, and how the plans impact the resumed session of UNEA-5 and Special Session of UNEP@50.
7. UNON confirmed that, at this initial stage, in-person participation of delegates from capital is not foreseen and that the social distancing will be 1–2 meters in UN conference rooms, depending on the size of the rooms. The Executive Director of UNEP confirmed that the Secretariat will seek to facilitate hybrid in-person subcommittee meetings in October as soon as possible.
8. The Chair thanked the UNON representative for the update and requested the secretariat to prepare accordingly for hybrid in-person meetings, including subcommittee meetings, as from 4 October onwards.

Agenda Item 3: Preparation for the 155th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the 8th Annual Subcommittee meeting.

9. The Chair invited the secretariat to provide a brief presentation on the preparations for the 155th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the 8th Annual Subcommittee meeting and suggested to defer the discussion on the governance of the Washington Programme, originally planned for the subcommittee meeting on 23 September, to a later date to allow time for progress through informal consultations to be facilitated by the secretariat.
10. The Bureau welcomed the preparations for the 155th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the 8th Annual Subcommittee meeting and agreed with the postponement of the above-mentioned agenda item of the subcommittee meeting on 23 September.
11. One Member of the Bureau underlined the urgency to start working on draft UNEA resolutions as soon as possible and suggested to consider the background note prepared for the CPR 155 entitled “Possible key areas of importance for consideration at the resumed session of UNEA-5” already at

the subcommittee meeting on 23 September, to alert Member States for the need to announce possible initiatives at an early stage and to facilitate an inclusive and transparent consultation process. Member States should be given the space to express ideas on possible draft resolutions with the view to map such intentions and thus streamline the organizational process considering the current circumstances.

12. The Bureau also considered the need for possible guidance and criteria for the tabling of resolutions, taking into account the sovereign right of Member States to present draft resolutions to UNEA, in accordance with rule 44 of the UNEA rules of procedure. Any such guidance on possible criteria must be clear and requires a transparent and inclusive approach.
13. The Chair requested the Secretariat to finalize the preparations for the 155th meeting of the CPR, confirmed that draft guidance on the tabling of draft resolutions was under preparation, in coordination with the President of UNEA, and agreed to present the Secretariat document on key areas under any other business at the subcommittee meeting on 23 September.

Agenda Item 4: Organization of Work.

14. The Secretariat provided a short briefing on the updated roadmap of the Governing Bodies and clarified that the second informal consultation on implementation of 73/333 was planned to take place on 17–19 November 2021.
15. One Member of the Bureau suggested to organize the next Bureau meeting before the date of 20 October to allow for effective preparations for the 8th meeting of the annual subcommittee.
16. The Chair concluded that she would consult with the Secretariat on an appropriate date for the next Bureau meeting and invited the Vice Chair representing the African Group to chair the subcommittee meeting on 7 October, and the Vice Chair representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to chair the meeting on 14 October, on her behalf.

Agenda Item 5: Other Matters.

17. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 6: Closing of the Meeting.

18. The meeting closed at 12:30 p.m.