

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 23 September 2021
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
United Nations Office of Nairobi
Online

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda and supporting documents are available on the [meeting portal](#)

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

1. H.E. Ms. Luísa Fragoso, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Update on the informal processes on marine litter and plastic pollution.

3. The Secretariat provided an update on the informal processes on marine litter and plastic pollution. The presentation is available [here](#). The website to the recent Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic that took place 1-2 September is available [here](#).
4. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the update and provided the following comments in summary:
 - Several delegations welcomed the outcome of the recent Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution co-convened by the Governments of Germany, Ecuador, Ghana and Vietnam, with the support of UNEP, and expressed their intention to endorse the Ministerial Statement, which remains open for signature until 15 October.
 - Some delegations noted that the issue of ensuring adequate means of implementation had been mentioned by a number of Member States in the Ministerial Conference and in its preparatory process, and requested the Secretariat to update its presentation accordingly.
 - Several delegations also expressed support for the draft resolution on marine litter circulated by Rwanda and Peru, which calls for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare an internationally legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution.
 - Some delegations also stressed the need to start work on the draft resolution as soon as possible to facilitate adoption by UNEA-5.2 and requested guidance from the Bureau and the Secretariat on the way forward.
 - Some delegations also expressed their intention to join the Nairobi Group of Friends to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, co-Chaired by Chile and Portugal.

- One delegation noted that the increased attention to the issue of marine litter and plastic pollution could serve as encouragement for more Member States to accredit themselves to the CPR.
 - The secretariat was asked to provide more information on an upcoming assessment report relating to marine pollution that may be relevant for the further consideration of this topic.
5. The secretariat took note of the comments made and informed delegations that the launch of an assessment entitled, “From solution to solution – assessment on marine litter and plastics pollution” is planned for the last week of October, with the specific date yet to be determined. The Secretariat further indicated that it would update its presentation on the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference, so as to include reference to means of implementation as requested.

Agenda Item 3: Update on the Future of the Global Environment Outlook process.

6. Ivar Baste, Co-chair of the Future of GEO Steering Committee, and representatives from the secretariat provided a brief progress update on the Future of the Global Environment Outlook process under the GEO Steering Committee. The presentation is available [here](#).
7. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
- Acknowledged the hard work of the Steering Committee and the interim report presented before the online session of UNEA-5, and encouraged Member States and stakeholders to continue engaging in the open consultations and work of the Committee.
 - Looked forward to the recommendations from the Steering Committee, which should be aligned with the criteria defined in the interim report.
 - Stressed the importance of ensuring scientific credibility and the need for a flexible, lean governance model and structure for GEO, with UNEA as the main governing body for providing political guidance.
 - Underlined the need for close alignment with the development and implementation of the global environmental data strategy and World Environment Situation Room (WESR).
 - Called for appropriate strengthening of the financial resources for the future GEO.
 - Expressed general support for a strong regional component of the future GEO.
 - Pointed to the possibility of combinations of different options and noted the potential of enhancing synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
8. The secretariat thanked Member States for their guidance and continued support, and looked forward to further comments through the consultative process and in writing, as a basis for the final report to UNEA-5.2. The secretariat also invited Member States to contact them bilaterally if they have additional questions, and confirmed that work was ongoing to ensure that the implementation of the WESR and the global environmental data strategy is taken into account in the future of GEO processes.

Agenda Item 4: Update on regional preparations for the resumed session of the UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50.

9. Representatives from UNEP's Regional Offices provided brief updates on the ongoing preparations at regional level for the resumed session of UNEA-5 and the 50-year commemoration of the creation of UNEP (UNEP@50). The presentations are available [here](#).
10. Member States expressed general appreciation for the information made available and provided the following comments in summary:
 - Emphasized that voices from the regions will establish solid building blocks towards UNEA-5.2 and stressed the importance of preparations at regional level.
 - Took note of the outcome from the recent [18th session of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment](#),
 - Looked forward to attending the upcoming forums including the [4th Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific](#) to be held on 6-7 October 2021 in Suwon, Republic of Korea, and the 40th Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean planned for early 2022.
 - Expressed appreciation to the host government and the UN Office in Nairobi for their efforts to facilitate the resumption of in-person meeting at the UN compound in Gigiri, and underlined the need for face to face meetings for in-depth negotiations on substantive matters, to ensure inclusive and universal representation.
 - Emphasized that the special session on UNEP@50 is an opportunity to take stock of achievements, challenges and lessons learnt in environmental governance, and recognized that it will be held under the Presidency of the African Group. Also stressed that the commemoration is relevant for all UN Member States and not just one region.
 - Appreciated the consultations between the Executive Director and the regional groups on the UNEP@50 and looked forward to the continued collaboration.
 - One stakeholder representing the Youth and Children Major Group provided a brief update on activities undertaken in preparation for the resumed session of UNEA-5.2, including at regional level.

Agenda Item 5: Other matters.

11. At the request of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the secretariat provided a preliminary briefing on the preparatory process and submission of draft resolutions for UNEA-5.2, in view of a more in-depth discussion on the matter at the [155th meeting of the CPR](#) on 28 September 2021.
12. The Vice Chair of the CPR Bureau representing the Latin America and the Caribbean region stressed the importance of a wise use of the intersessional period and the need for further clarity to ensure appropriate and meaningful outcomes from UNEA-5.2, further stressing that the consultations and negotiations on draft resolutions should take place within the CPR as soon as possible. He advocated for a realistic agenda and suggested that Member States may wish to consider certain criteria as a basis for presenting resolutions in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner.

13. A representative from the Women's Major Group expressed concern on the issue of chemicals and waste pollution and, in particular, the adverse effects of plastic pollution on human health, and noted significant support amongst many stakeholders for the draft resolution submitted by Peru and Rwanda on plastic pollution.

Agenda Item 6: Closing of the meeting.

14. The meeting closed at 4:45 pm.