

156th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
30 November 2021
10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Conference Room 1 and Interactio Platform
Hybrid meeting

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Note: This Chair's summary complements the detailed minutes of the meeting developed by the UN Office in Nairobi. All pre-meeting and post-meeting documents, including statements provided in writing by member States, are available [here](#).

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

1. The meeting was opened by H.E. Mrs. Luísa Fragoso, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal. The meeting welcomed newly arrived representatives to the Committee and bid farewell to departing representatives.
2. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, provided brief opening remarks.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 155th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. The provisional meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 155th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The [draft minutes](#) of the 155th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives were adopted.

Agenda Item 4: Adoption of the Chair's Summary of the 8th meeting of the Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

5. The [Chair's Summary](#) of the 8th meeting of the Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was adopted.

Agenda Item 5: Report of the Executive Director.

6. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, provided a statement. The Quarterly Report of the Executive Director to the 156th meeting of the CPR is available [here](#). In the ensuing dialogue, delegations who took the floor, inter alia:
 - Welcomed the report and statement of the Executive Director and recognized the good performance of UNEP

- Several delegations highlighted various environment initiatives in their countries undertaken in collaboration with UNEP, such as the organization of the World Circular Economy Forum in Canada and the 4th Asia Pacific Forum in the Republic of Korea.
 - Highlighted the briefing hosted by Kenya on UNEP@50 that was held on 29 November 2021.
 - Highlighted the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, congratulated UNEP for their active role, emphasized the need to boost nature-based solutions and mainstream sustainable consumption and production, and looked forward to follow-up actions in collaboration with other UN agencies using the one health approach.
 - Welcomed the extension of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with its secretariat hosted by UNEP.
 - Highlighted the recently concluded 26th session of the COP of the UNFCCC and appreciated UNEP's contribution and support, including through the three gap reports.
 - Welcomed recent contributions from Member States to organize of UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 and invited other Member States to contribute to close the remaining budget gap, and underlined the importance of financial support to participants from developing countries.
 - Referred to the positive assessment of UNEP's overall performance in the recent MOPAN evaluation and called on UNEP to address the recommendations in the context of the implementation of the new Programme of Work.
 - Welcomed the progress made to implement UNEP's gender strategy.
 - Expressed continued concern with the geographical imbalance of UNEP staff, expressed hope that planned efforts will yield noticeable results in cooperation with relevant Member States, and requested the secretariat to provide regular updates on future developments.
 - Welcomed the establishment of a working group of the Latin American and Caribbean states on plastic pollution.
 - The representative of the UNEA Presidency announced that Mr. Espen Barth Eide, the new Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway had been duly elected as the new President of UNEA, and looked forward to further collaboration towards a successful UNEA-5.2
 - One delegation expressed concern over UNEP's activities in the area of conflict resolution and underlined that the term environmental justice is not an internationally agreed concept.
 - One stakeholder representative stressed the need to meaningfully involve CSOs in the work of UNEP at UNEA-5.2
7. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their inputs and guidance, took note of the various comments received, congratulated Member States for their initiatives in the field of environment, and looked forward to continuing UNEP's collaboration with countries. Regarding conflict identification and resolution, she confirmed that UNEP does not have the mandate to address these issues directly, but that the organization supports other UN entities who have this mandate by providing specific environmental expertise. She also noted that environmental justice is an evolving area especially within the context of the recent decision of the UN Human Rights Council to designate a clean and healthy environment as a human right, and that the UNEP-led Montevideo V Programme supports Member States within the context of the human rights agenda. On the MOPAN evaluation, she noted that there is still more work to do to address areas that need improvement, and that UNEP will continue to inform delegations on future developments. The Executive Director also recognized the need to ensure meaningful involvement of the civil society at UNEA-5.2, UNEP@50 and Stockholm +50.

Agenda Item 6: Preparations for the resumed session of UNEA-5, including stock-taking on the consultations of draft resolutions for the resumed session of UNEA-5.

8. The Executive Director provided a short briefing on the logistical preparations for UNEA-5.2 and announced that a draft guidance for in-person delegations is being prepared for consideration at the upcoming meeting of the joint Bureaux. She reiterated her commitment to ensure a session with universal in-person participation, possibly with a limitation on the size of delegations on the UN compound and in meeting rooms, building on recommendations from UNON and the host country. All delegates attending in person will be required to be fully vaccinated. She also noted that the guidance may evolve in the coming months, depending on evolution of the pandemic and host country guidelines.
9. Delegations who took the floor thanked the Executive Director for the presentation, and provided the following comments:
 - Expressed their support for a successful UNEA session with an ambitious outcome and recalled the importance of an inclusive and open process to negotiate outcomes.
 - Welcomed the secretariat's clustering proposal, stressed the need to make good use of the intersessional period, encouraged proponents of draft resolutions to present draft texts as soon as possible, and encouraged the nomination of facilitators to lead on informal consultations.
 - Requested the secretariat to clarify if financial support will be provided for delegates from developing countries, to ensure an inclusive meeting.
 - Some delegations stressed the need to avoid scheduling parallel meetings during UNEA-5.2, as well as negotiations over weekends, and requested clarifications on the participation and speaking rights of online delegates
10. The Executive Director clarified that while all Member States will be invited to participate in person, there may be ceilings on the total number of delegates on in the compound and in meeting rooms. All delegates may also participate virtually with full speaking rights. She also confirmed that secretariat will provide financial support to participants from developing countries, subject to availability of resources.

Proposed clustering of draft resolutions and decisions for UNEA-5.2

11. H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Vice Chair of the Committee, provided a short progress update on the consultations on draft resolutions, and noted that the CPR has considered 3 draft resolutions (on plastic pollution, sustainable lake management, and sustainable nitrogen management), and heard 5 presentations on the concept notes for draft resolutions. He urged the proponents of the announced initiatives to submit concept notes and draft resolution texts as soon as possible. He noted that the total number of initiatives amounts to more than 20 and invited the Chairs of the regional groups who had not yet submitted nominations for facilitators to do so. He highlighted the upcoming subcommittee meeting of the CPR scheduled for 14 December 2021 and announced the following tentative list of agenda items: (i) Update on draft resolutions from Rwanda/Peru, Indonesia, Ghana, and Sri Lanka; (ii) consideration of UNEA-6 Decision; (iii) presentation of a draft resolution on the Future of Global Environment Outlook. Further, Member States who have announced draft resolutions will be encouraged to present their drafts.
12. The Chair expressed appreciation for the progress made and noted that CPR Bureau will consider the scheduling of future subcommittee meetings at its at its meeting on 15 December 2021. She

clarified that the proposed cluster document is a living document and will be subject to change as the consultations move forward and invited all groups who have not yet nominated facilitators to do so as soon as possible, with a view to have a full list of facilitators appointed by the joint meeting of the CPR and UNEA Bureaus on 8 December. She also thanked the secretariat for the preparation of the technical notes on the available draft resolutions, which might be a useful tool for the further consideration of the draft resolutions.

13. Member States thanked the Vice Chair for his update and took note of the proposed clustering document as a living document that may evolve as any new resolutions and additional information becomes available.
14. Some Member States underlined that the draft resolution from Rwanda and Peru on plastic pollution is still being discussed in capitals and may not be mature for a discussion in the subcommittee on 14 December.
15. One stakeholder representative expressed support for the action and the draft resolution on plastic pollution and announced a civil society event on the topic.
16. The Vice Chair from Mexico underlined the need for the CPR to make progress and invited Member States to be prepared to engage in in-depth consultations on any draft resolution that has been made available so far.
17. The Committee endorsed the proposed way forward on the Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), as discussed at the subcommittee meeting on 25 November, thus recommending the draft decision for endorsement by the IGR at a dedicated hybrid meeting in Nairobi to be organized by the secretariat prior to the meeting of the Open-Ended CPR.

Action plan on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document from Rio + 20

18. The Executive Director outlined the proposed way forward regarding the action plan and suggested that Member States reflect any additional guidance in the context of the draft decision on the date and venue of UNEA-6 or in a dedicated new draft resolution, instead of re-opening the secretariat document.
19. Following a brief discussion among some Member States, the meeting agreed with the proposed way forward.

Budget for the resumed session of UNEA-5 and UNEP@50

20. The Executive Director informed delegations that despite generous contributions from several Member States, the budget gap for organizing UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 remained significant, at around 1 million USD, also due to new and additional COVID-related measures added to the previous budget, and invited Member States in a position to do so to consider additional financial, as well as in kind contributions.

Agenda Item 7: Preparations for the commemoration of the special session on the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50).

21. Ambassador Selma Haddadi, Vice Chair of the CPR with a special responsibility to coordinate the preparations for UNEP@50, provided an update on the progress made on the preparations and presented the proposal for the theme of the event based on the outcome from the contact group established during the Subcommittee meeting held on the 23rd November 2021, as follows: *“Without prejudice to the approval of General Assembly Resolution entitled “Report of the United*

Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”, which decides that UNEP@50 will be the appropriate United Nations high-level meeting for the adoption of the political declaration pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/333, the contact group recommends that the CPR endorse a chair’s summary as the outcome of UNEP@50 and the following theme for UNEP@50: Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” She also noted support for the draft agenda and revised structure, based on the discussions held at subcommittee meeting on 23 November. She referred to a recent briefing hosted by Kenya on UNEP@50 and noted that the secretariat was in the process of sending out meeting invitations to ministers of environment.

22. The Executive Director presented the [draft agenda](#) and a [revised structure](#) for the special session, and shared information on a new UNEP@50 website and a communications toolkit that has been made available to Member States and Stakeholders as a toll to increase the visibility of UNEP@50 at national and local levels.
23. The co-facilitators for the 73/333 process provided an update on the outcome from the second informal consultations that took place 17-19 November 2021, and proposed that the third and final consultation should take place 16-18 February 2022, just before the resumed fifth session of the OECPR.
24. Delegations thanked the Vice Chair and the Secretariat for the update, and provided the following comments in summary:
 - Several delegations expressed support for the proposed theme as agreed by the contact group, while some delegations asked for more time to consider the proposal.
 - The host country delegation, proposed a new alternative theme for UNEP@50.
 - Several delegations welcomed the briefing on the consultation under General Assembly resolution 73/333 and the progress made in the negotiations.
 - One delegation emphasized that UNEP@50 provides an opportunity to address geographical imbalance within the composition of UNEP staff and the need to improve the representation of academia from the global south in the context of UNEP’s work on the science policy interface.
 - One delegation suggested that the multistakeholder dialogue could be organized in parallel with the high-level dialogues, while another delegation expressed general concern over the organization of any parallel events.
 - Some delegations requested the reintroduction of the multistakeholder dialogue in the draft agenda.
 - Some delegations requested additional information on the modalities of the leadership dialogues and the format of the high-level opening.
 - Some delegations requested clarifications on the modalities of the adoption of the Chair’s summary.
 - One stakeholder representative requested that “the UNEP We Want” report should form the basis for the multistakeholder dialogue.
25. The Chair took note of the emerging support for the draft agenda and structure. On the theme for UNEP@50, she noted the support to the proposal that herself, the Executive Director or the Deputy Executive Director. and the Vice-Chair in charge of the preparations for UNEP@50, conduct consultations with the host country to get their views regarding the theme proposal as discussed and proposed by the contact group established to this end , and Kenya’s proposal, before the next meeting of the subcommittee. She invited the secretariat to provide clarifications on the issue of the Chair’s summary and invited Member States to find agreement at the next meeting of the CPR subcommittee scheduled for 7 December.

26. The Chair invited the CPR to confirm the dates of the 3rd informal consultations under General Assembly resolution 73/333, which will be scheduled for 16-18 February 2022. The Chair also reminded delegations of the request to nominate 2 members from each regional group in view of the appointment of a new UNEA-6 Bureau.

Agenda Item 8: Report of the Subcommittee.

27. The Committee adopted the report from the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the main activities and outcomes of the subcommittee meetings held after its 155th meeting on 28 September 2021.

Agenda Item 9: Other matters.

28. H.E. Mr Choi Yeongham, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, and Mr. Patrick Luna, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil, informed the meeting that their duty as diplomatic representatives in Kenya was about to end, and expressed appreciation to the CPR and the secretariat for their support and engagement.
29. The Chair and the secretariat expressed their profound appreciation for their leadership and for their contributions to the work of the CPR and UNEA and wished them well in their next assignments.

Agenda Item 8: Closing of the meeting.

30. The meeting closed at 5:20 pm.