

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 25 November 2021
10:00 – 13:00, 15:00 – 18:00
Conference Room 1, United Nations Office in Nairobi
Hybrid Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Vice Chair, Ambassador of Mexico to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.
3. As per the request at the subcommittee meeting of 23 November, representatives of the chairs of the regional and political groups in Nairobi provided an update on the nominations for an informal contact group tasked to agree on a theme for UNEP@50, as follows:
 - The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would be represented by Chile and Brazil
 - The Africa Group would be represented by Malawi, Kenya, and Zimbabwe
 - The Asia-Pacific Group and the Western European and other States Group would revert later to announce their representatives for the contact group.
4. The Chair announced that a meeting of the informal contact group was scheduled for Monday 29 November 2021, with the objective to find consensus on a theme for UNEP@50, with a view to present a proposal at the 156th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 30 November.

Agenda Item 2: Consultations on a draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA-6.

5. The secretariat referred to an updated background note and provided additional information on the impact each of the scenarios has on the Quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) cycle under the General Assembly. The secretariat also informed the Committee that holding UNEA-6 in two parts will have significant financial consequences, as there would be no regular budget allocations for the second part – similar to the situation for UNEA-5.2.
6. One delegation expressed support the scenario A or C as it would be more in line with the UN Reform process.

7. Another delegation stressed that UNEA 6 should not be held earlier than 2024, and that the presidency of UNEA-7 should also serve a full 2-year term.
8. The Committee considered the draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly paragraph by paragraph, resulting in the following proposals:
 - Some delegations proposed the addition of a preambular paragraph referring to UNEA decision 5/3, and to the decision of the extraordinary meeting of the CPR held on 23 June 2021.
 - One delegation representing a political group proposed a placeholder for an additional operative paragraph on the outcome of a possible meeting of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting under the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.
 - Delegations noted that further consideration was needed on all operative paragraphs relating to the date of UNEA-6.
 - One delegation suggested the deletion of operative paragraph 3, while several other delegations preferred to retain it.
 - Discussions on operative paragraph 9 were referred to the 156th meeting of the CPR on 30 November 2021.

Agenda Item 3: Consultations on a possible draft decision on the Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)

9. The secretariat presented a [draft decision](#) for possible adoption by a dedicated Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR) on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), to be organized prior to the resumed session of the fifth Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 21-25 February 2021. The version presented proposed changes to the version that was considered at the subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on [23 April 2020](#). At the subcommittee meeting on 23 April, there was general support on how to move forward, except for a reserve on the operative paragraph 1 from one delegation, as well as a request to add a reference to the SDG target 6a from another delegation. Following informal consultations, some minor additions to the text on the *Preambular Paragraph 2* and *Operative Paragraph 1* had been proposed that would allow Member States to move forward on the process. The presentation is available [here](#).
10. Delegations thanked the secretariat for the presentation and requested several clarifications on the formal requirements and process to organize an IGR, including with regard to invitations, attendance, duration, format and modalities, decision-making and preparatory processes, and relationship to the CPR.
11. The secretariat informed that a meeting of the IGR to consider that draft decision could be held in early February prior to the meeting of the OECPR-5.2, tentatively as a half-day virtual or hybrid meeting, in Nairobi. The secretariat will send invitations to the national GPA focal points and to the CPR, and the composition of the delegations would be determined by Member States. The secretariat also clarified that UNEP provides the secretariat function for the GPA and that consultations on the draft decision are held under CPR with no further preparatory meetings

planned prior to the IGR. The secretariat thanked delegations for the comments received, and noted that they would be duly considered in view of the organization of the upcoming meeting of the IGR.

Agenda Item 4: Consideration of draft resolutions for the resumed session of UNEA-5

i) Draft resolution and concept note from the Government of Ghana on the Animal Welfare – Environment – Sustainable Development Nexus

Ghana presented the [draft resolution on Animal Welfare – Environment – Sustainable Development Nexus](#), which is co-sponsored by Burkina Faso, Senegal, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Democratic Republic of Congo. It was explained that human actions with negative impact on animal health and welfare are identified as the critical drivers of biodiversity loss and zoonotic disease emergence and contribute significantly to climate change and environmental pollution. It follows that improving animal welfare must be fully incorporated into the UNEP's Programme of Work in an integrated manner to deliver actions that are needed to reshape our consumption and production patterns towards sustainability. Therefore, the draft proposes that UNEP should take action to undertake a thorough analysis of the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development to develop a greater understanding of how improving animal welfare can assist UNEP in delivering on its mandate and streamline its efforts to

“Strengthen Actions for Nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. It was also explained that the consideration of animal welfare within UNEP's policy mandate would help to broaden and enrich its science-policy base, leading to better-informed and more effective policymaking and programme development. It will also help with the achievement of many SDGs and the prevention of future pandemics. Ghana also informed that a workshop is being organized in Amboseli, from 26 - 28 November 2021, to share information and further the understanding on the proposed draft resolution.

Notwithstanding the in-depth analysis of the draft, in its initial feedback the secretariat informed that most animal welfare issues occur in the context of livestock, where the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) have mandates. It informed that UNEP has no in-house expertise on this matter, but that it has been working with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on this matter, from a broader perspective, in the context of the One Health Approach.

Several delegations thanked Ghana for the presentation and provided several comments and questions, including on how the resolution relates to the Programme of Work and mandate of UNEP and what are the cost implications of the proposal. Delegations also asked if other UN agencies would be asked to join and emphasized the need to assess if there are possible duplications. One delegation noted that the resolution request may be asking for expertise that is not in-house and requested that this aspect be included in cost implications. The secretariat was requested to include all these elements in the technical note and analysis.

Ghana thanked delegations for their comments and informed that they would submit a revised text reflecting some of the input. Furthermore, the secretariat informed that it would develop a technical note covering some of the issues which had been raised. The secretariat

also encouraged all initiators of draft resolutions to reach out to the secretariat technical focal points to seek clarifications or to correct any factual mistakes in the notes, as needed.

ii) Possible draft resolution on the Future of the Global Environment Outlook

The secretariat and a representative of the GEO Steering Committee presented an update on the ongoing work to submit a final report and to develop a draft resolution on the Future of the Global Environment Outlook, based on the latest discussions within the Steering Committee. Delegations were informed that the Steering Committee is still consulting on a draft and that interested Member States were to join a “Friends of the Chair” group who are working to develop a draft, which could be presented at the subcommittee meeting on 14 December 2021, noting that this date is close to the deadline for submission of draft resolutions for UNEA-5.2 (20 December 2021).

Delegations who took the floor emphasized that the future of GEO must be responsive to the needs of Member States, add value, and not duplicate the work of other bodies, and stressed the need to scope the work in depth with the relevant actors. It was suggested that the draft resolution should contain a roadmap to establish the future of the GEO process. One delegation requested more clarity on what is expected from the group of “Friends of the Chair”.

iii) Proposed clustering of draft Resolutions for UNEA-5.2

The secretariat introduced a document with a proposed clustering of draft resolutions for UNEA-5, adding that the document may still change as new draft resolutions are submitted.

Delegations thanked the secretariat for the document and asked for more clarity on how the facilitators will be organized within the clusters and on the relationship between the two initiatives on plastic pollution in cluster 1, with some delegations encouraging the proponents of these drafts to try to find ways to merge the resolutions. Some delegations also expressed concern that the clustering may be unbalanced with regard to the different number of resolutions in each cluster.

The delegation of Costa Rica announced that they will withdraw the initiative to present a draft resolution on financial mechanisms for forests ecosystems and biodiversity and will instead work to include elements in the draft resolution on nature-based solutions to be submitted by the EU and its Member States.

The Chair underlined the need to initiate the work on clustering of the resolutions to ensure an orderly working process, taking into account the limited time available, and stressed the need to nominate resolution facilitators as soon as possible. He clarified that the arrangement of work for the facilitators can only be determined once they have been appointed and remained open to reorder some of the resolutions to different clusters, as required. He also urged Member States who had announced their intention to submit a resolution to do so as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 5: Secretariat briefing on recent UNEP climate change gap reports

12. The Secretariat presented the main findings from the recent climate gap reports — [Emissions Gap Report 2021](#) (released on the 26th of October 2021), [Adaptation Gap Report 2021](#) (released on the 4th of November 2021) and [Production Gap Report 2021](#) (released on the 20th of October 2021), which were launched before and during the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), held in Glasgow. The presentations are available online under [Post Meeting Resources](#).
13. Several delegations thanked the Secretariat for the presentations and welcomed the reports, with additional comments summarized as follows:
 - Some delegations underlined the added value for CPR members to be made aware of UNEP’s products and reports before they are publicly released. One delegation expressed concern that UNEP’s reports were presented and launched before they were shared with the members of the CPR and requested for them to be discussed within the Committee before publication.
 - Other delegations emphasized that while they wish to be briefed about the reports, UNEP’s assessment should remain scientific pieces and Member States should not interfere with, or undermine, a science-based approach.
 - Some Member States made reference to the research and assessments carried out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and recommended that UNEP focuses on areas that are not covered by other thematic reports or institutions. It was also highlighted that UNEP reports should first and foremost rely on statistical data provided by governments, rather than data from other studies.
 - Several delegations emphasized the importance of looking for a better geographic balance and regional representation from the Global South, in the authorship of UNEP’s reports.
 - Some delegations highlighted that the gap reports should look at demand and consumption side of fossil fuels, rather than, for instance, the production of those fossil fuels, and underlined the importance of assessing emissions in the context of historical emissions and to consider equity and fairness aspects when it comes to responsibilities and obligations for emissions reductions for Annex 1 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in particular.
 - Some Member States highlighted that while more countries have included climate change adaptation in national policy and planning, financing for climate change adaptation is still inadequate and the COVID-19 pandemic has made the situation worse.
 - Progress had been made to keep the 1.5 degrees objective “alive”, and work should continue building on the outcomes of the climate change COP-26 held in Glasgow, UK.
14. The Secretariat thanked members states for the constructive feedback, took note of the comments received and provided clarifications to the questions raised, by explaining the review processes that are applied to the various gap reports in light of their tight production timelines and cost implications. The Secretariat also explained the efforts made to ensure that country-specific information cited in the reports is accurate and distributed to the representatives of the countries analyzed prior to publication for feedback. The secretariat added that the current practices of informing CPR members will continue and be reinforced where needed, including by making sure that the CPR members are informed when the secretariat shares draft reports with member states climate focal points. Whereas the geographic and gender balance in the authorship of UNEP’s climate gap reports improves each year, the Secretariat recognized and committed to continue to address the need to ensure equal representation from all regions. The secretariat also clarified how data from independent sources is used, as well as the approach applied when it comes to assessing historical emission and underlined the importance of comparability of data of different countries.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters.

15. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 7: Closing of the meeting.

16. The meeting closed at 6:00 pm.