

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Tuesday 7 December 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 13:00 p.m., 15:00 p.m. – 18:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 1, United Nations Office of Nairobi  
Hybrid Meeting

## **MEETING AGENDA**

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

1. H.E. Ms. Selma Malika Haddadi, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador of Algeria to Kenya, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

### **Agenda Item 2: Preparations for the special session on the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50).**

#### **a) Update on the consideration of a theme for the UNEP@50 commemoration.**

3. The Chair provided a short recapitulation of the discussions within the CPR on the UNEP@50 theme and highlighted the consultations within the informal contact group that was established to reach consensus on the theme, as well as additional consultations with various delegations. She thanked Member States for their consideration, flexibility, and support on this matter and put forward the following proposed theme for endorsement: *“Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”*
4. The Committee endorsed the theme as proposed with the understanding that the agreement will be formalized through a decision of the 157<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPR on 1 February 2022 and noted that the theme would serve as guidance to Member States as well as to the secretariat in the interim.

#### **b) Provisional agenda and draft structure for the special session.**

5. The Secretariat presented the [revised provisional agenda](#) and [draft structure](#) taking into consideration the feedback received during the 156<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPR.
6. Member States thanked the secretariat for the presentation, welcomed the revised agenda and structure, and provided the following feedback:
  - Requested further clarity on the hybrid format for the national statements and leadership dialogues, including the possibility of pre-recorded statements and whether participants who will not be physically present, will be able to intervene and participate actively in the meetings.

- Recommended to consider fallback options in view of possible changes of the current situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Stressed that the special session should maintain high-level and universal participation and that the youth should be meaningfully involved.
  - Requested further information on the credentials and accreditation, on what is required from Member States for registration and whether there would be a need to reissue a letter of credentials or would delegates use the same ones from UNEA-5.1.
7. The secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and informed that it is aiming at universal in-person participation at the highest level possible; however, online statements can be considered, taking into account that the order of presentation may prioritize those present in-person in the room. Video statements from Member States will be made available on the website. The secretariat further informed that regional groups would have to request for meeting rooms in advance should they require one and that Major Groups and Stakeholders will have a tent provided for their meetings. Information regarding credentials is available through the [secretariat notification](#).
8. The Chair thanked delegates for the inputs received and noted that the agreement reached on the agenda and structure for the special session will be confirmed at the upcoming 157<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPR in February 2022.

**c) General approach for the leadership dialogues and the multi-stakeholder dialogue.**

9. The secretariat presented a [concept note](#) for the general approach for the organization of the two High Level Leadership Dialogues of the special session (Looking back - 50 years of UNEP, and Looking forward - Achieving the 2030 Agenda for people and planet), and of the Multi Stakeholder Dialogue. The presentation is available [here](#).
10. Member States thanked the secretariat for the concept note and presentation and provided the following feedback and views on the organization of the dialogues:
- Requested additional information on the expert speakers and the moderators for the dialogues, and on how they will be identified.
  - Suggested that all high-level dialogues should contribute to the overall theme of UNEP@50: “Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
  - Noted that the concept note needs to be clear on the type of contribution and exchange expected from Member States.
  - Stressed that the leadership dialogues should be inclusive and take into consideration gender and geographical balance.
  - One stakeholder representative highlighted the need for focus on future generations at the 2<sup>nd</sup> leadership dialogue on looking forward and informed that a youth plenary will take place in the lead up to the special session.
11. The secretariat took note of the comments received and informed that they will revise the concept note for further consideration. Regarding the recommendations from stakeholders, the secretariat informed that it will look at how best to frame the theme of the dialogue to incorporate the topic of future generations and look at options in terms of having youth voices in the dialogues.

12. The Chair requested Member States to send their written inputs on the concept note for the leadership dialogues by 15 December 2021.

**d) Update on the communications strategy for UNEP@50.**

13. The secretariat provided an update on the communication strategy for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of UNEP. The presentation is available [here](#).

14. Member States thanked the secretariat for the update provided the following feedback regarding the communication strategy:

- Welcomed the update and noted the utilization of an array of communication platforms and social media applications that will facilitate effective outreach.
- Suggested that the secretariat consider the use of social media influencers, such as artists, environmental activists, to reach out to new audiences.
- Requested additional information in the communications toolkit and inquired whether there will be a press release.
- Underlined the need for a vibrant and eye-catching logo.

15. The secretariat took note of the comments received and informed delegations that it is engaging with goodwill ambassadors and other influencers to amplify UNEP@50 and that it will expand to other influencers as the special session draws nearer. The secretariat also informed that the communications toolkit has been provided in all six UN languages, plus Portuguese and Kiswahili, and has, alongside other assets, been made available on through the web portal.

**e) General discussion on a possible Chair's summary.**

16. The Chair recalled the text that was agreed by the contact group, which refers to the chair's summary, including the word "also" as suggested by the Vice-Chair at the 156<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, and that reads 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 **also** 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.*

17. To this end, the secretariat informed the meeting that the Chair's summary is not a negotiated text and is not usually submitted for adoption but presented for Member States to take note as it is meant to highlight the Chair's perspective and capture the main elements of focus in the ensuing discussions.

18. Member States who took the floor stressed the need for the Chair's summary to be balanced and to reflect the key messages from UNEP@50, including the opening session, national statements, and leadership dialogues, in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the special session.

19. One delegation suggested that the 73/333 Political Declaration may be adopted at the UNEP@50 special session as part of the Chair's summary.
20. The secretariat clarified that the practice from previous UNEA sessions would suggest that the Chair's summary may be focused on the leadership dialogues, and that the proceedings/procedural report is a detailed, factual and formal report prepared by professional UNON report writers, which also cover the leadership dialogues. The secretariat further commented that the Chair's summary is a document that is produced and shared at the discretion of the Chair and is usually annexed to the procedural report.
21. The Chair recognized that the Chair's summary of the UNEP@50 special session would be a first of its kind and stressed that while it will be encompassing, delegations need to bear in mind that the UNEA-6 President would be bringing a personal perspective to the summary. She further emphasized that the Chair's summary and the procedural report are complimentary but not mutually exclusive.

### **Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the report “the UNEP we want” by the UNEP@50 Task Force of Major Groups and Stakeholders**

22. The representatives of the UNEP@50 Task Force of Major Groups and Stakeholder provided a presentation on the scope, process, and preliminary findings of “the UNEP we want” report. The presentation is available [here](#).
23. Member States thanked the task force for the insightful presentation, looked forward to the final report, further recognizing the need for meaningful engagement and perspectives from civil society and stakeholders at the special session.

### **Agenda Item 4: Other matters.**

24. One delegation referred to the subcommittee meeting scheduled for 14 December 2021 and inquired if capital representation is expected for the in-depth consultations on the draft resolutions and further requested the Bureau to set a timeline for these consultations, indicating when each resolution will be discussed.
25. The delegation of Mexico, whose Vice-Chair coordinates the process related to draft resolutions within the CPR Bureau, clarified that the meeting on 14 December 2021 would involve in-depth consultations on several draft resolutions and urged member States who have yet to do so to table and present their draft resolutions as soon as possible and by 20 December 2021 at the latest, and called on regional groups who were yet to do so to submit nominations of facilitators. Regarding capital representation at these hybrid meetings, it is up to Member States to decide. The timeline for January and February will be discussed at the Bureau meeting on 15 December.

#### **4. Closing of the meeting.**

26. The meeting closed at 5:15 pm.