

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of UN Environment Assembly and
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Wednesday, 8 December 2021
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual

Draft Summary of the Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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

1. The President of the Assembly, H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, welcomed participants and opened the meeting, followed by opening remarks from H.E. Ms. Luisa Fragoso, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director UN Environment Programme. A list of meeting participants can be found in Annex 1.
2. The agenda of the meeting was adopted (available [here](#)).
3. Members of the Bureaux congratulated the recent appointment of H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide as new President of UNEA.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of the agenda, structure, format, modalities and side events for UNEA 5.2.

4. Upon invitation by the President, the Executive Director introduced a draft secretariat [notification](#) for the resumed session of UNEA-5 and the Special session on UNEP@50 (including proposed health protocols for COVID-19), the UNEA-5 [agenda](#), a revised draft [structure](#) for UNEA-5 and UNEP@50, a list of recommended [side events](#) for UNEA 5.2, as well as an updated note on budget.
5. Members of the Bureaux thanked the secretariat for the background documents and welcomed the agenda and draft structure.
6. With regard to the draft notification, the Members of the Bureaux UNEA underlined the importance of a meeting with universal in-person participation that will result in substantive, impactful and relevant outcomes.
7. Bureau Members acknowledged the significant uncertainties relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and expressed a range of different views relating to some of the proposed minimum requirements such as the proposed ceiling on the number of delegates per delegation present in the compound and in conference rooms, the need to respect the 1.5 m standard for physical distancing, the need to maintain a flexible approach to allow for future adjustments, and the need to consult closely with the host country to ensure alignment with national standards. Several Members underlined the importance to ensure full and equal speaking opportunities for virtual and in-person delegates, including during informal consultations and negotiations, the use of temporary infrastructure to create a safer meeting space, and the need to ensure meeting rooms for regional group meetings. Some Members also

requested more information on the requirements for the submission of credentials and letters of accreditation.

8. With regard to the proposed list of side events, Bureau Members requested further information on whether the events will be virtual or physical, also taking into account ministerial participation. One Member of the Bureau noted that the list did not include side event organizers from the Eastern European Group and requested the secretariat to complement the list accordingly.
9. Members of the Bureau took note of the revised budget, requested a more detailed budget breakdown, and committed to seek solutions to close the significant budget gap.
10. The Executive Director clarified that the capacity of the UN complex and meeting rooms, as well as restrictions relating to physical distancing, were based on the host country regulations as well as guidance from the UN Office in Nairobi. She suggested to clarify the rules and practices of credentials in a revised version of the notification and announced that invitation letters will be sent to all member States. It will be for Member States to decide whether they wish to attend virtually or physically, with full and equal speaking rights always ensured. She also pointed out that while the secretariat has carefully studied the experiences from COP 26 in Glasgow and other meetings, each meeting facility is different and will need tailor-made approaches.
11. Following the discussion, the meeting endorsed the draft provisional agenda and draft structure of UNEA5.2, as well as the list of side events, with the modifications proposed during the meeting. The meeting also took note of the draft secretariat notification and requested the secretariat to revise and finalize the notification taking into account the guidance provided by the two Bureaux in the discussion.

Agenda Item 3: Update on the consultations on the draft ministerial declaration for UNEA-5.2.

12. The President introduced a first full draft ministerial declaration and presented a timeline for the remaining consultation process. The President highlighted several important adjustments compared to the previous zero draft, based on suggestions from various Member States and stakeholders and announced that an informal consultation meeting was scheduled for 15 December 2021 and another one in January 2022.
13. The members of the Bureaux welcomed the new draft declaration, expressed support for an ambitious declaration and underlined the importance of a transparent and inclusive consultation process, that takes into account positions from all regions.
14. Some Bureau Members suggested that the draft should be subject to a line-by-line negotiation, other Members were of the view that the process should rather follow in-depth consultations with Member States and Stakeholders led by the President, to ensure that all different views would be heard and considered in the process.
15. A number of delegations pointed out that inputs provided had not been reflected in the draft, in particular for developing countries the reference to CBDR and the Rio Principles were omitted, amongst others. Another delegation proposed to add references to desertification, land degradation and drought.
16. The President thanked the Bureau Members for their comments and guidance, committed to consider any additional inputs that had been submitted on time but may not have been received by the

Presidency, and committed to a consultative process that would ensure maximum transparency and inclusiveness, including by working closely with the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Agenda Item 4: Stock-taking of the consultations of draft resolutions for UNEA-5.2 and the appointment of facilitators.

17. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, complemented by the Vice Chair of the Committee from Mexico, provided a progress report on the work of the CPR with regard to the consultations on draft resolution for consideration by UNEA 5.2.
18. Members welcomed the update and thanked the Bureau of the CPR for its leadership on this matter, expressed general support for the proposed clustering of resolutions, advised a well-organized intersessional period in the run-up to the resumed fifth Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in January and February in 2022, and reminded the secretariat of the request to provide a report on human resources and geographical balance in UNEP.
19. Members of the Bureau announced the nomination of several facilitators to support the future consultations on draft resolutions in the CPR subcommittee.
20. The Bureaux confirmed the nomination of facilitators from the following countries: Colombia; Costa Rica; Canada; the Netherlands; Pakistan; Poland and Serbia. The Chair thanked Members of the Bureau for their contributions and noted that one regional group had committed to send in their nominations to the secretariat as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 5: Update on the preparations for the special session on UNEP@50.

21. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives invited Vice Chair from Algeria to provide an update on the preparations for UNEP@50. The Vice Chair reported that the CPR had agreed on a theme for the special session entitled “Strengthening UNEP for implementation of Environment dimension of 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development”, as well as on the provisional agenda and structure. Further work will be needed to prepare for leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues.
22. The Executive Director thanked the CPR Bureau for their leadership and informed the meeting that the report on the Science Policy Interface would be made available soon as an input to the special session, complemented by the report on “the UNEP we want” prepared by Major Groups and Stakeholders. She also underlined the importance of strong communication activities, supported by several initiatives from secretariat such as toolkits for interested parties who wish to visualize UNEP@50.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters.

23. The President proposed the next UNEA Bureau meeting and/or joint Bureau meeting to be scheduled for first week of February 2022.
24. No other matters were raised.

Item 7: Closing of the Meeting.

25. The President of UNEA, Chair of the CPR and Executive Director of UNEP thanked all members for their contributions and wished everyone a happy holiday. The meeting closed at 6:45 pm.

ANNEX – DRAFT LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly

- H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, UNEA President, Minister of Environment and Climate – Norway;
- H.E. Ms. Bérangère ABBA, UNEA Vice President, Secretary of State for the Biodiversity - France;
- H.E. Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, UNEA Vice President and Minister of Environment and Energy - Costa Rica;
- H.E. Dr. Mohamed Bin Daina, UNEA Vice President, Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment - Bahrain;
- H.E. Mr. Reggy Nelson, UNEA Vice President, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Suriname;
- H.E. Ms. Laksmi Dhewanthi, UNEA Vice President and Senior Advisor to the Minister of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia;
- H.E. Mr. Ado Lohmus, Vice Chair, Permanent Representative – Estonia;
- H.E. Mr. Simeon Sawadogo, UNEA Vice President, Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change of Burkina Faso;
- H.E. Ambassador Dragan Zupanjevac, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Serbia representing H.E. Mrs. Irena Vujovic, UNEA Vice President, Minister of Environment Protection – Serbia;
- Ms. Shakhira Parker, Senior Policy Advisor representing Hon. Barbara Creecy, UNEA Rapporteur, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of the Republic of South Africa
- H.E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Ambassador and Permanent Representative – Norway;
- H.E. Ms. Giovanna V. Stark, Ambassador and Permanent Representative – Costa Rica;
- Mr Clément Payeur, Deputy Permanent Representative – France;
- Mr. Yago Abdoul Kader, Deputy Permanent Representative – Burkina Faso;
- Mr. Danny Rahdiansyah, Counsellor /Deputy Permanent Representative – Indonesia;

Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

- H.E. Ambassador Luísa Fragoso, Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative – Portugal;
- H.E. Mr. Ado Lohmus, Vice Chair, Permanent Representative – Estonia;
- Mr. Lino Santrus on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Erasmo Martínez, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative – Mexico;
- H.E. Ambassador Selma Haddadi, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative – Algeria;
- H.E. Saqlain Syedah, Rapporteur, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative – Pakistan;

UNEP Secretariat

- Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director;
- Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director;
- Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Secretary of Governing Bodies and Director of Governance Affairs Office;
- Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff;
- Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Senior Legal Advisor.