

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, 14 December 2021
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room 1, United Nations Office of Nairobi
Hybrid Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. Mr. Ado Lohmus, Vice Chair of the CPR and Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Consultations on draft resolutions and decisions for UNEA-5.2.

3. The secretariat provided a brief overview of the five clusters of draft resolutions and on the organization of upcoming consultations. The Secretariat also informed the CPR that subcommittee meetings to discuss the draft resolutions have been scheduled every week starting from the second week of January 2022, through a [roadmap calendar](#) subject to review by the CPR Bureau on 15 December.
4. Prior to in-depth consultations on the draft resolutions, the following resolutions and updates were presented:
 - a) Japan presented the [draft resolution on an international legally binding instrument on marine plastic pollution](#), providing also an overview on the plastic threat, the transboundary nature of marine plastic pollution, and the need for a global response. Japan has further informed that it has been working to keep the momentum on marine plastic litter, including in high-level international fora such as the G20 Summit. The draft resolution proposes the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) at UNEA-5.2, emphasizing that the key to its effectiveness is to have the widest possible participation. They explained that the draft resolution identifies the items to be included as provisions in the global instrument, touches upon all aspects of the life cycle of plastics, calls on each country to further strengthen actions on plastic, and provides a general structure without prejudging the outcomes of the INC, noting that substantive matters should be discussed after the INC has been established. Japan acknowledged the need for additional time for Member States to review both marine plastic pollution resolutions and for the Secretariat to conduct its technical analysis.
 - b) The European Union and its Member States referred to the [concept note for a draft resolution on Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development](#) and informed that the draft resolution would be presented before the deadline on 20 December

2021. Costa Rica, as co-sponsor, expressed support for the draft resolution and stressed the importance of nature-based solutions, the integrity of all ecosystems, and the interconnection between nature and three planetary crises namely, climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and chemical and waste pollution.

- c) The European Union and its Member States announce that they would be postponing the draft resolution on “Accelerated adaptation measures to secure water quality and strengthened climate resilience in aquatic ecosystems”, whose concept note had been announced. Bearing in mind the calls for a manageable agenda for UNEA-5.2., this draft resolution will be revised and prepared for tabling at the UNEA-6. The European Union thanked Member States who had expressed support for this initiative and indicated that, given the need to strengthen the link between climate change and aquatic systems, and in light of the theme of UNEA 5, the EU and its Member States will seek to integrate some of the key messages of that draft resolution in other outcome documents of UNEA-5.2.
5. The Chair requested the secretariat to take ownership of the draft resolution on the Future of the GEO and to present the draft text at a subcommittee meeting scheduled in January 2022 for the consideration of Member States.
 6. Delegations were invited to continue consultations on the following resolutions and decisions:
 - a) **In-depth consultation on the draft resolution from Sri Lanka on Sustainable Nitrogen Management.**

At this first reading of the [draft resolution](#), several Member States provided textual proposals and requested to include references to the impacts of nitrogen on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Delegations emphasized the need for ambitious and achievable outcomes from UNEA, asking for clarification about the objectives to enhance synergies on nitrogen initiatives, to reduce nitrogen losses by at least 50%, and to report back to UNEA-6. One delegation expressed reservation regarding the mentioning of financial figures in the resolution. Another delegation asked about to what extent the targets mentioned in the resolution were committable. Delegations also requested the proponents or secretariat to make available the roadmap for the Colombo Declaration in order to understand the intent of the resolution, especially considering the limited endorsement of the Declaration by only 15 Member States. The Secretariat was requested to update the technical note and make references to the impacts of nitrogen on fresh water and aquatic ecosystems. To this end, one delegation placed a reserve on the operative paragraphs, pending clarifications on the intent of the resolution and a revised technical note.

The proponent (Sri Lanka) thanked Member States for their feedback and informed that they will circulate the roadmap and Declaration and welcomed questions and comments in writing.

The Chair stressed the need for Member States to be ready for the subcommittee meetings in order to present their resolutions and have detailed conversations on the resolutions.

- b) **In-depth consultation on the draft resolution by Ghana on animal welfare-environment and sustainable development nexus.**

Ghana presented a [revised draft resolution on animal welfare, environment and sustainable development nexus](#). Delegations requested clarification on the intent and the scope of the resolution, noting with concern that the topic of animal welfare is outside of the mandate of UNEP and that UNEP lacks institutional expertise on the subject area. Furthermore, reminding that other international organizations already focus their work on the topic of animal welfare, delegations noted the need for structural improvements to the operative section to clarify the scope and the intent of the draft resolution. Some delegations also proposed to better clarify the respective roles and mandates for UNEP and other MEAs in the draft resolutions. One delegation suggested that the resolution may be better suited for another time or a different forum. Another delegation highlighted links to the Tripartite Alliance for a unified One Health approach.

The proponent (Ghana) explained that the resolution is well anchored in the environment and sustainable development international agenda, and that the focus of the resolution is on the nexus between the well-being of animals, the environment, and sustainable development, further noting that most drivers of climate change are affecting animal welfare and that a recognition of the nexus will help improve the welfare of animals, the environment, and human health. To this end, Ghana requested the secretariat to revise the technical note taking into account comments received from delegations.

c) Presentation the draft resolutions by Switzerland on i) Draft resolution for a Science-Policy Panel to support action on chemicals, waste and pollution; ii) Draft resolution on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste; iii) Draft resolution on Mineral resource governance

Switzerland presented the [draft resolution for a Science-Policy Panel to support action on chemicals, waste and pollution](#) and explained that it emphasizes the need for an international inter-disciplinary panel to provide advice to governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders in support to MEAs and other instruments. They welcomed interested co-sponsors and invited delegations to a webinar to discuss the draft resolution on 15 December 2021. Several delegations expressed support for the resolution and noted that it is in line with the 2022-25 Medium Term Strategy, further noting that such a scientific panel could support Member States to better address all three planetary crises and the achievement of the SDGs.

Switzerland presented the [draft resolution on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste](#) and explained that it covers the following three main elements: i) extension of the Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the chemicals cluster; ii) mandate UNEP to play a full part in the negotiation and in the implementation of the new framework on chemicals and waste and host the secretariat iii) acknowledge and respond to the reports that UNEP has presented, in response to requests made at the third and fourth meetings of the Assembly, and which provide assessments of progress. They welcomed feedback from delegations, including on any other issues to be considered in the resolution to meet the needs of all Member States.

Switzerland presented the [draft resolution on Mineral Resource Governance](#) and explained that it aims at the sustainable management of mineral resources in alignment with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, also proposing the creation of an ad hoc open-ended working group to further work on these pressing issues. They expressed hope that the draft resolution will receive support from Member States.

d) Update on the ongoing informal consultations on a draft resolution from Rwanda/Peru, supported by several co-sponsors, on an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

Rwanda and Peru informed the meeting that 4 additional Member States are co-sponsoring the draft resolution, bringing the total to 46 Member States. They have also informed that negotiations are still ongoing at the capital level and that they will update the CPR in writing in January 2022 once these negotiations have concluded.

e) Update on the draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA-6.

The secretariat presented a [revised draft on the provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA-6](#), with regard to a new paragraph on the logo and visual identity of UNEP. Delegations thanked the secretariat for the revised draft and requested more time to consider the proposed full text.

7. The Chair announced that the regional groups had submitted their nominations for co-facilitators for the draft resolutions and informed that the assignment of their responsibilities per cluster would be discussed by the CPR Bureau. The appointed facilitators are as follows:
- H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan;
 - H.E. Firas F. Khouri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jordan;
 - H.E. Mr. Dampety Bediako Asare, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana;
 - H.E. Mr. Yusuf Yunusa, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Nigeria;
 - H.E. Mr. Dragan Zupanjevac, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Serbia;
 - H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Permanent Representative of Poland;
 - Mr. Sergio Salazar Alzate, DPR of Colombia;
 - Ms. Ana Elena Campos Jimenez, DPR of Costa Rica;
 - Mr. Robert Bunbury, DPR of Canada;
 - Mrs. Gudi Alkemade, DPR of the Netherlands.

Agenda Item 3: Update on implementation of UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.

8. The secretariat provided an update on the implementation of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#), including on the outline of the upcoming nomination process for the UN Decade Flagship Initiatives by Member States. The presentation is available [here](#).
9. The Major Group for Children and Youth provided an update on the activities and consultations of the youth to champion and support the Decade and informed that a youth task force had been constituted with 23 young people from the different regional groups who will work with the broader youth constituency.
10. Member States appreciated the presentation by the secretariat and the update from the youth, congratulated Pakistan for a successful World Environment Day, and looked forward to the Flagship Initiatives.

Agenda Item 4: Other matters.

11. One delegation asked for clarification on the selection of side events for UNEA-5.2 and pointed out that many are organized by UN agencies and other organizations rather than Member States. To this end, the secretariat clarified that more than half of selected side events are led by or co-organized by Member States and informed the meeting that the list had been reviewed and endorsed by the Joint UNEA and CPR Bureaux at their meeting on 8 December, following some adjustments to ensure that all regions are well represented, remarking that a record 175 side event proposals had been received and that 22 events had been selected alongside about 70 applications that were identified as potential contributors to the selected side events.
12. One stakeholder representative informed that they will be reaching out to Member States to consider accrediting youth members as part of the national delegations.
13. The Secretariat informed that the [notification for UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50](#) and for the preparatory meetings was available, and that the registration portal was now open.
14. The Chair clarified that the dates for the subcommittee meetings were already made available on the [UNEP governing bodies roadmap](#) and that specific agendas for these meetings were soon to be determined.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.

15. The Chair expressed holiday greetings to all attendees. The meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.