

157th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
1 February 2022
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 delegations, 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 and congratulated Ms. Joyce Msuya on her recent appointment as Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, expressed her sincere appreciation to Ms. Msuya for her hard work and dedication as the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP for the last 3 years, and informed that Ms. Sonja Leighton-Kone would take up the mantle of Acting Deputy Executive Director. The speech of the Executive Director is available [here](#).
3. Delegations expressed their appreciation to Ms. Joyce Msuya and her achievements as the Deputy Director of UNEP and wished her well in her new role.
4. Ms. Joyce Msuya, the outgoing Deputy Executive Director, expressed her appreciation for the congratulatory messages and thanked both Delegations, Stakeholders and the Secretariat for all the support she had received during the past three years.
5. One delegation representing a political group provided an opening statement covering several agenda items of the meeting. The opening statement is available [here](#).

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 157th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

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

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 156th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

7. The [draft minutes](#) of the 156th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives were adopted.

Agenda Item 4: Preparations for the resumed session of Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the resumed fifth session of UN Environment Assembly.

a) Update from the President of the Assembly on the consultations on the draft ministerial declaration

8. A representative of the President of the Assembly provided an update on the consultations on the draft ministerial declaration and the comments received to inform the latest draft and outlined a preliminary schedule for the upcoming consultations.
9. Several delegations welcomed the update, encouraged continued inclusivity and transparency for the consultations process, and provided general comments on the draft, including with regard to the need to reflect an ambitious vision for people and planet, firm commitments to means of implementation, strong engagement with the private sector, and cooperation with financial institutions.
10. The UNEA presidency took note of the comments received and confirmed that it will finalize the draft in an inclusive, open, and transparent manner.

b) Draft agenda and programme of work for OECPR-5.2

11. Delegations who took the floor cautioned against parallel negotiations beyond the two existing working groups, to allow for active participation of smaller delegations, stressed the importance of interpretation in formal meetings to ensure multilingualism, and requested more information on the structure and organization of the meeting.
12. The secretariat took note of the comments and ensured that it would make the necessary adjustments to further improve the draft agenda and structure of the meeting.

c) Stock-taking of draft resolutions for consideration for the resumed fifth UN Environment Assembly

13. The Chair recalled that 16 draft resolutions and one draft decision had been tabled so far, that the drafts are all available on the UNEA resolution papersmart portal, and that discussions and consultations are taking place in 5 clusters under the leadership of 10 appointed Co-facilitators.
14. Ambassador Erasmo Martínez, Vice-Chair of the CPR with a special responsibility to coordinate the preparations regarding draft resolutions updated the Committee on the progress made and on the plans ahead of the OECPR, and invited the co-facilitators under each cluster to inform on the status of consultations and the follow-up steps.
15. Several delegations stressed the need to reduce the number of initiatives by merging similar resolutions with common objectives and seek to capture key elements in one initiative, with some delegations suggesting that proponents consider withdrawing or deferring initiatives to UNEA-6. Some delegations highlighted the importance of a transparent and equal treatment of draft resolutions.
16. Many delegations highlighted the plastic pollution resolutions to establish an INC to negotiate a global legal binding agreement on plastic as one of the most important initiatives for UNEA-5.

17. The Delegation of India briefly outlined the draft resolution tabled by that delegation on a framework for addressing plastic product pollution including single-use plastic product pollution.
 18. A representative of the UN Office in Nairobi reported on malfunction of electricity and internet at the subcommittee meeting on 20 January and outlined planned measures to avoid such incidents in future.
- d) **Update on the preparation of multi-stakeholder events of the Assembly, including on UNEA-5 leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues, UNEA Side Events and the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum.**
19. The Executive Director announced that concept notes for the leadership dialogues and multi-stakeholder dialogue had been made available on the pre-session documents website and provided an overview of planned format and modalities. She reminded Member States that 22 side events had been endorsed and that the majority of them would be held online, with 3-4 “flagship” side events to be organized in a hybrid format.
 20. Delegations who took the floor expressed differing views on the term “nature-based solutions” and requested an update on the list of stakeholders and civil society organizations accredited to UNEP.
 21. The Executive Director recognized that the term “nature-based solutions is subject of conversations among Member States, but noted that the term is used widely across the UN system, and committed to review the concept notes with this in mind. She further informed that an update of the list of accredited stakeholder organizations is being compiled and will be shared with delegations within short.
 22. The Chair invited Member States to provide comments in writing to the secretariat on the draft concept notes on the Leadership Dialogues for UNEA 5.2 until 3 February.
- e) **Update on budget, logistics and COVID-19 protocols**
23. The Executive Director provided a brief update on the UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 budget, thanked Member States who have contributed, and encouraged additional voluntary donations. She also recalled the minimum requirements, outlined the latest updates regarding COVID protocols, and underlined that UNEP is working closely with UNON and the host country through a joint task force to identify and implement appropriate measures within the compound in preparation for UNEA.
 24. The host country affirmed that they are working closely with UNEP to ensure solid logistical preparations for UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50 on several fronts, including on COVID-19 measures.
 25. Delegations expressed appreciation to the host country and secretariat for their efforts to prepare for COVID-safe meetings and looked forward to further guidance in writing.
 26. The secretariat clarified that the budget for sponsored delegates is sufficient to sponsor two delegates per country (head of delegation +1). In case the head of delegation is participating online, there is flexibility to sponsor the next delegate in rank.

Agenda item 5: Preparations for the commemoration of the special session on the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50).

27. 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 including on the agenda, the political declaration, and the leadership and the multistakeholder dialogues for UNEP@50. She referred to the concept notes for the dialogues which have been made available on the pre-session documents website. Member States were invited to provide feedback on the concept notes by 3 February and for Ministers and Heads of States to communicate their interest to participate in the UNEP@50 leadership dialogue by 10 February 2022.
28. Delegations welcomed the update and expressed the hope that UNEP@50 will reach a consensus on an ambitious political declaration for UNEP@50.
29. One stakeholder provided an update on the youth events planned for the coming weeks including the Global Youth Environment Assembly which will be held from 19-27 February in a hybrid format. Delegations were encouraged to ensure the youths presence during the leadership dialogues at UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50.

Agenda Item 6: Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

30. The secretariat provided a briefing on the process related to the UN Environment Assembly's contribution to the forthcoming meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" to be held in New York from 5-7 July and from 11-15 July, on the basis of the [letter from the ECOSOC President](#).
31. Following a brief discussion, the Chair suggested to reflect further on this matter, with a view to decide on the way forward at the resumed fifth meeting of the OECPR.

Agenda Item 7: Report of the Subcommittee.

32. 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 156th meeting on 30 November 2021.

Agenda Item 9: Other matters.

33. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 8: Closing of the meeting.

34. The meeting closed at 5:20 pm.