

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 7 April 2022
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Conference Room 3, United Nations Office of Nairobi
Hybrid Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting agenda and background documents are available on the meeting portal [here](#)

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

1. H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Acting Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Briefing on the preparations for the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” (Stockholm+50)

3. The secretariat provided a [presentation](#) to Member States on the preparations for Stockholm+50 international meeting, to be held on 2 and 3 June 2022 in Stockholm, to commemorate the 50 years anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, which will be co-hosted by Sweden and Kenya.
4. The representative from Sweden highlighted the success of the preparatory meeting and expressed their continued support for Stockholm+50. She called for concrete recommendations and a multistakeholder approach at Stockholm+50, and for inputs from UNEA-5.2 as well as national, regional, and stakeholder forums to be considered within the discussions. She further highlighted the importance of the leadership dialogues and noted that they would be interactive, focused, and would take place at ministerial level while also involving stakeholders and civil society. She called on Member States in a position to do so to financially support the participation of representatives from least developed countries.
5. The representative from Kenya expressed appreciation to Sweden and to the Secretariat for the ongoing preparations and the successful outcomes of the preparatory meeting, and thanked Sweden for their sponsorship to travel for Member State and stakeholder representatives from developing countries. He emphasized the importance to ensure civil society and stakeholder engagement, especially for the youth, and reiterated the need for the key outcomes of UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50, and in particular, the plastic resolution, to be highlighted.

6. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the presentation, appreciated the co-hosts Sweden and Kenya for their leadership, and provided the following remarks:
 - Acknowledged that the preparatory meeting had advanced the discussions on the Leadership Dialogues and engaged a wide range of Member States and stakeholders.
 - Requested clarification on whether invitation for to Heads of State and Government had been issued to Capitals and also through the Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya.
 - Advocated for the event to result in concrete key messages, recommendations and commitments prepared by the informal working groups, and asked how to ensure monitoring of the outcomes from Stockholm +50.
 - One delegation suggested that key environmental issues to be addressed should go beyond the three planetary crises as defined by UNEP, for example a healthy planet and desertification.
 - Another delegation listed eight specific key areas, as follows: i) strengthening global environmental governance; ii) stepping up efforts for sustainable consumption and production; iii) transforming to sustainable food systems; iv) addressing the three planetary crises and fossil fuel subsidies; v) emerging risks and needs; vi) digital transformation; vii) strengthen commitments for a pollution free and the right to a clean and healthy environment; viii) addressing trade and environmental sustainability nexus, ix) 10 YFP
 - One delegation committed to providing travel support to the youth from developing countries.
 - One stakeholder representative called for meaningful engagement of civil society, as represented across the different Major Groups, requested for a space to coordinate the speaking slots for stakeholders, and called for further financial support from Member States to support the participation of stakeholder representatives.
7. The Secretariat thanked the co-hosts Kenya and Sweden for their leadership and guidance towards Stockholm+50, and invited Member States to consider financial contributions to allow engagement from all developing countries and relevant stakeholders. Invitation letters to Heads of State and Governments will be sent out from the UN Secretary-General's office shortly and will be copied to Missions in Nairobi and Geneva. A Science-Policy Business Forum will take place outside of the Stockholm+50 venue as an associated event. Priority areas for the Leadership Dialogues was still under consideration and would be further considered by the informal working groups. The Secretariat will consider further how to ensure meaningful participation and provide sufficient speaking slots for stakeholders, taking into account the established practice of self-organization of Major Groups.

Agenda Item 3: Update on the ongoing work of the United Nations Environment Management Group

8. The Secretariat provided an [update](#) on the achievements and ongoing work of the UN Environment Management Group (EMG), including on its contribution to Stockholm+50 on the basis of a highlight report. The Secretariat expressed their appreciation to the donor countries that support the EMG. The presentation is available [here](#).
9. Member States appreciated the presentation, welcomed regular briefings on the work of the EMG, and provided the following feedback:

- Welcomed the EMG contribution to the Stockholm +50 meeting as an important platform for the EMG to demonstrate its value, work and recent results.
- Highlighted the importance of the UN sustainability management strategy 2020-2030, and asked how the EMG intends to implement the strategy, as well as how the EMG is collaborating with the UN Sustainable Development Group.
- Expressed interest to receive updates, synthesis and summaries of relevant developments, the science-policy and knowledge products from the UN system (including the EMG) to inform the upcoming negotiations towards a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.
- Noted with appreciation the establishment of a UN Core Working Group on Plastic Pollution and looked forward to more information on the agreed terms of references and expected deliverables, as well as how the working group will support the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and promote cooperation and coordination with relevant regional and international conventions, instruments and organizations, while recognizing their respective mandates, avoiding duplication, and promoting complementarity of action.
- Stressed the importance of addressing all dimensions of pollution with regards to the EMG work on a Pollution-Free Planet.
- Requested for more time to read through the presentation and the written note as they contain a number of publications and details, on which basis they might provide written feedback and comments.
- Appreciated the active engagement of youth in the EMG technical groups and meetings, as well as the recent inclusion of the UN Youth Envoy as a member in the EMG Senior Officials meetings.

10. The Secretariat thanked Member States for their feedback, and informed that the EMG is now working on an implementation plan including a monitoring, reporting and accountability framework, to strengthen the implementation of the UN sustainability management strategy. With regard to the System Wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS), the third edition of the SWFS is expected to be published towards the end of 2022 and future editions of the SWFS report will contribute to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) by providing system-wide responses on the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. Building on its work on marine litter and microplastics and through its process on pollution free planet and plastic pollution core group, the EMG would support the INC process and the implementation of the UNEA resolution 5/14 by providing updates, synthesis, the science-policy and knowledge products from the UN system. In this regard, a request from the INC to the EMG for its contribution would be helpful to facilitate its contribution. The meeting was also informed that the new EMG Consultative Process on a Pollution-Free Planet and its Core Working Group on Plastic Pollution currently work towards a mandate given by the UN Senior Management Group (SMG, 1 September 2021). Expected deliverables include joint messages for communication and advocacy to maximize the effectiveness of communication on plastic pollution; an overview of how the UN system and stakeholders provide sustainable solutions to the challenge of plastic pollution; a common offer to support an inclusive and just transition towards a plastic pollution-free planet; and a set of targets and indicators on internal performance of UN entities. The EMG is also exploring options with UNEP to include the data in the UNEP Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML digital platform) to ensure broader access to the compilation of knowledge and

tools in the UN. Finally, the secretariat informed that the engagement with the UN Sustainable Development Group would be increased / worked on.

Agenda Item 4: Initial evaluation of the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) and the first special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50).

11. Owing to technical challenges relating to the online meeting platform, the meeting agreed to defer consideration of Agenda Item 4 to an extraordinary meeting of the subcommittee to be held on Monday, 11 April.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.

12. The meeting closed at 4:40 pm.