

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Monday 11 April 2022
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room 2, 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: 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)

3. The Secretariat made a [presentation](#) to Member States on the results of an online survey sent to participants to the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), as part of an in-depth evaluation and lesson learned process which will be concluded by a presentation of a final Secretariat report at the 158th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 26 May. The Secretariat invited member states and stakeholders to share their reflections, comments and inputs in writing, including with regard to the following guiding questions:
 - What is the future of hybrid meetings – should all UNEA meetings be hybrid in future?
 - Should UNEA focus on political outcomes or on side events and exhibitions?
 - How can the role of the CPR, as the preparatory body, be further strengthened during the intersessional period?
 - How can Member States agree to table a manageable number of draft resolutions in a timely manner?
 - Should the Secretariat provide training opportunities to Member States on how to draft resolutions and how to lead negotiation as co-facilitators?
4. A representative on behalf of a regional group, supported by several other delegations, expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat, Presidency, Bureaux and the host country for a successful UNEA, they also expressed satisfaction with the outcome of UNEA-5.2 and the adoption of 14 resolutions and 1 decision, including resolution 5/14 - End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument. She raised concern regarding the letter

circulated by the Secretariat on Monday 4 April on the implementation of that resolution which announced a meeting of the INC open-ended working group to be held in Senegal in May/June, pointing out that the decision had been taken without consultations with member states and called for a meeting no later than 30 of April whereby all member states would be informed on the roadmap, venues and dates of future meetings relating to the INC. She also advocated for Nairobi to be the first choice to host all meetings related to environmental matters. She further questioned the call for national focal points in the letter and underlined the importance of sharing all relevant information with the missions in Nairobi. Finally, she requested the secretariat to organize regular briefings to the CPR on all matters relating to the follow up of UNEA resolutions.

5. A representative of a political group expressed appreciation for a successfully organized UNEA-5.2, including for example with regard to hybrid meetings, COVID-19 measures, conference servicing, and intersessional consultations ahead of the OECPR on draft resolutions, especially in the format of question and answers, to the benefit of both Member States and the initiators of a draft resolution. She also called for improved announcement of meeting rooms and links, and more timely updates of the list of participants.
6. One delegation raised concern that the dates of the INC Open ended working Group meeting are close to the S+50 meeting.
7. Several delegations underlined the need for effective use the intersessional period, to allow for all Member States (especially small delegations) to keep track of the consultations and negotiations and highlighted the importance to avoid more than two parallel negotiation meetings at any given time.
8. Several delegations requested the Secretariat to upload all final versions of the UNEA resolutions adopted by UNEA5.2 on the outcome webpage as soon as possible and expressed concern with the current delays.
9. Many delegations expressed appreciation for the hybrid organization of UNEA-5.2, which enabled broader participation and promoted inclusivity, supported the idea of providing training on facilitation and drafting resolutions, and welcomed the Secretariat's technical assessment notes on the draft resolution as useful background information for negotiations.
10. Some delegations underlined the need for the secretariat to give equal consideration to all the UNEA5.2 adopted resolutions, including with regard to communications from the Executive Director in her speeches.
11. One delegation raised strong concerns relating to the number of meetings and time allocation for the negotiations process which could undermine the legitimacy and relevance of UNEA outcomes in the future, expressed doubt about negotiation in a hybrid format, and argued that the intersessional period could be used more wisely.
12. One delegation pointed to the need for more effective registration procedures to avoid delays during collection of badges and late registration.

13. On delegation advocated for improved communication with regard to the expression of interest, selection and focal points for side events, also encouraged to analyze what were the key factors for this UNEA becoming such a successful meeting. Regarding registration, the delegation suggested to ensure timely and to the point information and some flexibility with regards to the selection of events to attend.
14. One delegation requested the Secretariat to make the [Process for review by the CPR](#) more prominent and easily accessible for delegations on the UNEA and CPR websites, and underlined the need for the Secretariat to stay neutral with regard to the tabling of draft resolution, as this is intergovernmental process where Member States should be fully on the lead.
15. The Secretariat welcomed the feedback which will serve as inputs to an assessment document that will be shared in advance of the next subcommittee meeting on 5 May, expressed regrets that the finalization of resolutions by UNON had taken more time than expected, and committed to make the English advance version of all the resolutions by 19 April at the latest.
16. With regard to the organization of the INC open ended working group meeting, the Secretariat recalled that resolution 5/14 calls for a meeting of the open-ended working group during the first half of 2022, and referred to the letter from the Executive Director dated 4 April in which it is announced that the meeting will take place from 30 May to 1 June in Dakar, Senegal. The decision on date and venue was based on formal offers received from two Member States to host the meeting, one of which also made an open announcement at the final plenary meeting of UNEA-5.2 and had received financial support by donors to cover incremental costs, and took into account the limited time available to organize the meeting due to several conflicting meetings already scheduled for June. The Secretariat also announced that meeting documentation for the meeting will be made available as soon as possible. A formal invitation will be sent to all Member States within a short, period of time alongside an online meeting registration link.
17. Following the Secretariat explanation on the date and venue for the INC open ended working group meeting, and considering the strong views expressed by member States on the matter, specifically on the lack of transparency and inclusive participation by member States in the decision-making, the Chair suggested to bring this subject to the attention of the CPR Bureau at its meeting scheduled for 29 April, and that outcome of this discussion will be considered at the next subcommittee meeting on 5 May.

Agenda Item 3: Other matters

18. The representative of Ukraine thanked the Secretariat for distributing the letter prepared by the Ukrainian Minister of Environment among CPR members and stakeholders on environmental damage due Russian invasion in Ukraine and referred to its contents. He called for an environmental assessment on the matter, undertaken by UNEP, in line with its mandate.
19. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed the view that UNEP and Nairobi is not the right place to discuss armed conflicts, disputed the information provided by the Government of Ukraine, and considered that UNEP's mandate only allows for it to assist once the conflict is over.

20. A representative of Indonesia thanked the Secretariat for the briefing on the preparation for to commemoration of the 50 years anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 (Stockholm+50) meeting held on 7 April, and reaffirmed its commitment to continue its role as a co-chair of leadership dialogue 2 on the achievement of sustainable and inclusive recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic together with Germany in the Stockholm+50 meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.

21. The meeting closed at 7 pm.