

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, 5 May 2022
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 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. Pirkka Tapiola, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: 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 provided a presentation to Member States on a first version of the [assessment and lessons learned document](#). The document is composed of 10 sections; (1) Background; (2) Key outcomes from UNEA-5.2; (3) Key outcomes from UNEP@50; (4) Participation and registration; (5) Challenges and opportunities stemming from the organization of hybrid meetings; (6) UNEA Documentation; (7) Preparations at regional levels; (8) Stakeholder participation; (9) Media and communication and (10) Looking ahead towards the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
4. Following the Secretariat presentation, the Chair invited delegates to provide comments on the draft document so that the secretariat can consider them while working on a revised version to be presented at the 158th meeting of the Committee scheduled for 26 May for final consideration.
5. Several Member States recognized that the document was useful as a basis for preparations for future UNEA sessions. They supported the Secretariat recommendation to organize UNEA-6 as an in-person meeting, while also acknowledging the usefulness of fully online meetings under certain circumstances, for example for informal consultations and information sharing. Many Member States expressed their preference for organizing UNEA-6 as an in-person meeting with a possibility for online participation and stressed the benefits of in-person negotiations. Several Member States saw hybrid meetings as an opportunity for greater inclusivity and flexibility.
6. Many Member States stated their preference of having the role of the CPR in preparing the draft documents during the intersessional period more clearly reflected throughout the document. Several Member States encouraged the Secretariat and the CPR to make a better use of the intersessional period.

One Member State requested improving the concept of Q&A Sessions regarding the draft resolutions during the intersessional period.

7. Several Member States asked the Secretariat to ensure that adopted resolutions are issued in all languages as soon as possible, and to minimize any delays at future UNEA sessions. Some Member States suggested reducing the number of draft resolutions to ensure that the workload is manageable, while recognizing the Member States' right to bring forward draft resolutions and have a narrower theme of UNEA-6 to promote this.
8. Some Member States asked for more clarity regarding the logistics of the meetings and for timely information sharing regarding the schedule, meeting rooms and other practical questions.
9. Many Member States also emphasized the need to avoid having more than two parallel meetings at any given time.
10. One Member State suggested improving the registration process for future UNEA sessions.
11. Several Member States supported the recommendation by the Secretariat to provide training to Member States on how to draft resolutions and facilitate negotiations and underlined the need to continue to make full use of the intersessional period to prepare the ground for UNEA to adopt decisions and resolutions.
12. Several Member States also suggested to include information and recommendations relating to travel support for delegates from developing countries, and that the selection of delegates eligible for such support should be within the discretion of countries. They also emphasize the need for developing countries to keep access to travel funds support for 2 delegates. One Member State expressed concern that hybrid meetings would be taken as a reason to provide less travel support for representatives of Developing States to participate in-person.
13. Several Member States referred to the Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives reminding of the importance of respecting the agreed working methods as outlined therein. Member States reminded the Secretariat on the request in the outcome of the Process for review by the CPR to prepare a handbook for UNEA delegates in support of the organization and preparation of UNEA-6.
14. One Member State recalled the practice of organizing a meeting with the Science Policy Business Forum back to back with UNEA meetings and recommended the Secretariat to evaluate positive and negative impacts of organizing the Forum on the sidelines of Stockholm+50 meeting.
15. One Member State suggested the Secretariat would continue to provide technical notes for the draft resolution texts in UNEA-6 while questioning the need for cost estimates of each resolution.
16. One Member State requested the Secretariat to make available a comprehensive list of reports that UNEP plans to publish this year, with a view to offer the opportunity for Member States to comment on the reports before finalization.
17. The Chair thanked delegations for the comments provided and invited them to share them in writing to the Secretariat by 11 May in view of preparing a revised document for final consideration at the 158th meeting of the CPR on 26 May.

Agenda Item 3: Update on the implementation of UNEA resolution UNEP/EA.5/RES.14 entitled “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument”

18. The Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/14 focusing on UNEP’s support towards an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution and the mandate of Executive Director to organize a meeting of an Open-Ended Working Group meeting (OEWG) within the first half of 2022 to prepare for the establishment of an International Negotiation Committee. The Secretariat informed that many of the OEWG’s meeting documents were to be made available in English before 8 May and would be translated soon. The Secretariat invited the Member States to nominate candidates for the OEWG and INC Bureaus through the regional groups. The Secretariat further informed that Uruguay had offered to host the first INC meeting and that Rwanda had offered to host the diplomatic conference for adoption of the agreement in 2025. Member States were invited to provide generic funding to the INC process rather than financing specific INC meetings or meeting venues to allow for greater flexibility in the planning of future meetings.
19. Several delegations, including the representation of a regional group, raised concerns about the lack of transparency and inclusivity in making the decision on the dates and venue for the OEWG and proposed that the Secretariat inform the Committee on such matters in a timely manner in future. Some Member States suggested that the Secretariat should organize an option for the willing delegates to convene in Nairobi to take part in the OEWG.
20. Several other delegations underlined that the Secretariat has acted in full accordance with the mandate provided in UNEA resolution 5/14 and noted that the OEWG and the INC are sovereign in taking their own decisions, and that the CPR has a limited role in the process.
21. One Member State announced a contribution of US\$100,000 towards the implementation of resolution UNEA 5/14.
22. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and noted that the resolution provides clear guidance to the Secretariat to conduct the process of selection of a venue for the OEWG, underlined that the decision was taken in good faith, and recalled that the timeframe to plan and organize the meeting had been very tight. The Secretariat confirmed that it had heard the call for more and better information-sharing with the CPR on this process and confirmed that it will facilitate online access to the OEWG meeting for all interested delegates based in Nairobi or elsewhere who may not be in a position to attend in-person. Finally, delegations were reminded of the position of the Executive Director that the future Secretariat of the legally binding instrument on plastic pollution should be established and settled at UNEP headquarters in Kenya. Delegations were also informed that in case no Member State offers to host an INC meeting, the default option is to organize the meetings in Nairobi.

Agenda Item 4: Other matters.

23. Sweden gave a briefing on the ongoing preparations for the Stockholm+50 International Meeting, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden on 2 and 3 June 2022. They encouraged all interested delegations to register and announced that more than 40 side events and associated events were programmed, with a full list of events available on the meeting’s website - <https://www.stockholm50.global/>

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.

24. The Chair closed the meeting at 5:30 p.m.