

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Wednesday, 4 May 2022
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Executive Office Boardroom
Hybrid Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

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 and welcomed the CPR Bureau Members, extending his sincere appreciation to H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Ambassador of Mexico to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, for his able leadership as Acting Chair during the interim period since the resignation of the previous Chair, H.E. Ms. Luisa Fragoso, Ambassador of Portugal to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
2. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, provided initial opening remarks, in which she welcomed the Chair in his new role, as well as the representative from Morocco representing the President of UNEA-6, and briefed the meeting on recent meetings in New York in preparation for the Stockholm+50 International Meeting.
3. The Chair outlined three key principles and objectives for his term:
 - Continue the collaborative approach of working among CPR Bureau members as established by the previous Chair.
 - Focus on the implementation of UNEA-5.2 outcomes, including supporting the establishment of an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution through the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), and ensuring that the CPR is kept informed.
 - Collaborate with the Moroccan UNEA-6 Presidency, including with regard to the consideration of a theme for UNEA-6 and the organization of joint retreats.
4. 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)

5. The Secretariat presented a draft document brief on lessons learned from UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50, to be considered at the CPR Subcommittee meeting on 5 May 2022.

6. Bureau members generally welcomed the document and agreed on the importance of ensuring Member States ownership in finalizing the document. Two Bureau members suggested that the document should better reflect the work done by the CPR during the intersessional period. One Bureau member also suggested that the document would benefit from a reference to the rich discussion held at the CPR Subcommittee Meeting on 11 April 2022. Two Bureau Members suggested that the intersessional period should be used more effectively in the future.
7. Three Bureau members reminded of the Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the working methods agreed in it.
8. One Bureau Member underlined the need to ensure that online meetings do not undermine the role of Nairobi as the UN environment headquarters.
9. On resolutions, two Bureau Members underlined the benefit of a collective understanding on a balanced number of resolutions while respecting the Member States right to bring forward draft resolutions.
10. On side events, one Bureau Member advocated for greater Member States ownership and one for greater transparency in the selection process and enhanced in-person participation.
11. The Chair acknowledged the positive feedback on the document and thanked Members for their contributions. As UNEA-6 is only in 2024, the CPR Bureau should put emphasis on oversight of the implementation of existing agreements during the next 12 months.
12. The Executive Director welcomed the comments and recalled the important guidance already provided in the outcome of the CPR-based review. She also recalled that COVID-19 was the reason for many events held online, but this shall not necessarily confine the format of future events. She also noted that online side events had enhanced online participation from capitals, including from Small Island Developing States, thus enriching UNEA-5.2. She also confirmed that the preparation of Secretariat technical assessment notes on draft resolutions will continue.

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”

13. The Chair invited the Executive Director to provide an update on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/14, including with regard to nominations for members for the Open Ended Working Group and the INC Bureaux, and the ongoing preparations for the OEWG in Dakar, Senegal from 30 May to 1 June 2022.
14. The Executive Director noted an interim Secretariat for the OEWG has been put in place within the Ecosystems Division, to organize the work and advance the necessary agreements and documentation required for the meeting in a timely manner, recalling that UNEA had instructed that the meeting of the OEWG should take place before mid-2022. The Secretariat has been working hard to put in place a Host Country Agreement and necessary logistics to avoid clashing with several other important meetings scheduled for May and June 2022. She confirmed that the OEWG will be held in hybrid format and conducted in the six official UN languages and Member States should register through the registration portal by 13 May 2022.

15. Regarding the nomination of Bureau members, the Executive Director informed that as of 2 May, communication indicating respective nominations for the OEWG Bureau had been received from several Member States, and reminded that the nominations should be coordinated and confirmed through the Chairs of the regional groups in Nairobi.
16. The Legal Advisor reminded the Bureau of the responsibilities and obligations of the Executive Director as set out in operative paragraphs 1,5,7,8 and 12 of the resolution, through which the Executive Director is given a clear mandate to proceed with implementation, and that the OEWG is expected to give direction on how the INC shall be organized, and that there is no mandate in the resolution for consultations with the CPR on the INC process as such.
17. In the following discussion, Bureau Members took note of the information provided by the Executive Director and the Legal Advisor, and underlined the importance of ensuring that the CPR is kept informed about relevant UNEP-related matters and processes stemming from UNEA decisions, while respecting the mandates provided in the UNEA resolutions. Two Bureau Members requested information on UNEP's criteria for choosing meeting venues. The Legal Adviser replied the Secretariat would share the information on the criteria.
18. The Chair thanked Bureau Members and the Executive Director for their contributions and noted that the resolution provided tight timeframes. He looked forward to continuing the discussion at the CPR Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for 5 May.

Agenda Item 4: Organization of work.

19. The Chair announced that he aims to continue with the practice of dividing the chairing of CPR Subcommittee meetings and asked for volunteers to chair the meetings on 9 and 14 July 2022. It was agreed that Slovakia would chair the meeting on 9 June, and that Mexico would chair on 14 July.
20. The Secretariat presented a revised roadmap and tentative agendas for the upcoming CPR meetings. It was agreed that the practice of holding a preparatory Bureau meeting in advance of regular CPR meetings should be kept.

Agenda Item 5: Other matters.

21. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 6: Closing of the meeting.

22. The Chair closed the meeting at 1:45 pm.

Annex: List of Participants

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau Members:

H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP

H.E. Mrs. Selma Malika Haddadi, Ambassador of Algeria to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, Vice Chair of the CPR.

H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Ambassador of Mexico to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, Vice Chair of the CPR.

H.E. Mrs. Katarina Leligdonova, Ambassador of Slovakia to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

A representative of the President of the UN Environment Assembly participated in an ex officio capacity:

Ms. Siham Mourabit, Deputy Head of Mission from Morocco and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP.

The UN Environment Program Secretariat was Represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.

Ms. Sonja Leighton-Kone, Acting Deputy Executive Director.

Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff.

Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Ms. Susan Gardner, Director of Ecosystems Division.

Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Legal Advisor.