

158th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
26 May 2022
10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room 2 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 member States, 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. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP. 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.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 158th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

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

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 157th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The [draft minutes](#) of the 157th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives were adopted.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Executive Director.

5. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, provided a statement, available [here](#). The Quarterly Report of the Executive Director to the 158th meeting of the CPR is available [here](#). In the ensuing dialogue, delegations who took the floor, inter alia:
 - Welcomed the report and statement of the Executive Director;
 - Congratulated UNEP for the successful organization of UNEA-5.2 which delivered outstanding results and reinforced the value of UNEP and UNEA in setting the global environmental agenda;
 - Stressed the need to focus on the implementation of all 14 resolutions adopted by UNEA-5.2, and requested regular updates to the CPR;

- Welcomed that UNEP has joined the quadripartite alliance on One Health, and looked forward to receiving further updates going forward;
 - Welcomed UNEP's work on gender parity, re-emphasized the need for further progress on geographical balance, and requested additional information on the talent acquisition programme and its expected results; one delegation requested the secretariat to organize training sessions for interested Member States on the UN recruitment process;
 - Highlighted the need to further strengthen the science policy interface and, in particular, ensure a balanced engagement of scientists from the global south;
 - Welcomed UNEP's work to promote digital transformation, and expressed the wish to be regularly informed about progress made;
 - Expressed support for the initial efforts to prepare for a global legally binding instrument on plastic pollution treaty, and welcomed the plans to organize a meeting of an Open-ended Working Group on plastic pollution to be held in Dakar, Senegal, and looked forward to an ambitious outcome and a clear pathway for the INC process; three delegations expressed interest to host an INC meeting during the 2-year process; some delegations reiterated the hope that INC meetings will also be held in Nairobi; one delegation announced their candidature to the INC Bureau;
 - Looked forward to the upcoming meetings of Stockholm+50 and the 4th Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be held in Nairobi in June 2022.
 - Several delegations welcomed the planned assessment by UNEP to monitor the environmental damage caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in accordance with UNEP's mandate to assist countries' whose environment has been affected by armed conflict, upon request, with one delegation encouraging UNEP to make use of experts from UNEP's regional office in Europe and the UN Country Team in Ukraine to assess the environmental impact of the conflict; several delegations condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine;
 - Two delegations requested additional information on UNEP's plan for resource mobilization from the philanthropic sector;
 - One delegation requested more information on the preparatory process for the 6th Global Environment Outlook at an upcoming subcommittee meeting;
 - One delegation requested the secretariat to provide a full list of scientific reports that it plans to produce, as well as plans for consultations with the CPR;
 - One delegation requested specific further information on the implementation of the new subprogramme on finance and economic transformations, and how it relates to the previous subprogramme on resource efficiency.
6. The delegation of Belarus expressed concern over a fence erected on the border between Poland and Belarus due to the negative effects on the biodiversity in the area, and requested UNEP to facilitate a solution to this problem.
 7. The delegation of Poland, exercising its right of reply, questioned the validity of the statement made by Belarus and underlined that appropriate action is undertaken to mitigate any issue related to animal welfare at the border fence.
 8. A representative of Ukraine welcomed the rapid response of UNEP and its readiness to help in resolving environmental issues in Ukraine within its mandate, including by deploying a specialist

in Ukraine, and referred to an information note on the environmental damage caused by the invasion by the Russian Federation prepared by their Government and distributed to all CPR Members.

9. Exercising the right of reply, the representative of the Russian Federation questioned references of the term “war” in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine and reiterated that UNEP has no mandate in the identification, assessment, or resolution of any armed conflict. He further recognized that any action from UNEP to assess environmental impact should be done when the armed conflict is over, and questioned plans to deploy UNEP staff in Ukraine. The representative also deplored that CPR meetings have become politicized.
10. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their comments and took note of the views expressed. She explained that the follow up of UNEA resolution, including on plastic pollution and chemicals, was not covered in the report, as the report only tracks activities up until March 2022; however, they would be reflected in the upcoming report. On the subprogramme on finance and economic transformations, the Secretariat would report back on this at a future date. With regards to the philanthropic sector, she explained that UNEP will study how other UN organizations have engaged with the sector, with a view to identify areas of possible cooperation in the context of the implementation of the UNEP Mid Term Strategy. Regarding the talent programme, UNEP will endeavor to improve intake levels taking into account geographical diversity. Regarding the science policy panel on chemicals and waste pollution, efforts will be made to secure technical expertise and participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders. The Executive Director also thanked delegations for their support on the One Health process and announced that seminars under this process will be conducted in Nairobi. On UNEP’s role in Ukraine, she referred to the relevant UNEA resolution on armed conflicts and noted that UNEP has already monitored the environmental situation in several conflicts, with 54 responses since 2010 alone, including 21 active conflicts. Finally, she expressed readiness by the Secretariat to organize information sessions on the UN recruitment process to delegations.

Agenda item 5: Briefing on the preparations for the Stockholm+50 International Meeting and on the World Environment Day 2022

11. The Executive Director provided a short briefing on the preparations for the Stockholm +50 International Meeting and thanked the co-hosts, Sweden and Kenya, for their strong leadership and the co-chairs for the leadership dialogues, Ecuador Canada, Indonesia, Germany, Finland, and Egypt for their efforts and support. She assured that UNEP remains fully committed to a one UN approach and to an impactful outcome on transformative action where the needs and voices of Member States and stakeholders from both developing and developed world are heard. The presentation is available on the [meeting portal](#).
12. The secretariat provided a presentation on the upcoming activities and the communication strategy for [World Environment Day](#) on 5 June 2022, including the #OnlyOneEarth campaign. The presentation is available on the [meeting portal](#).
13. A representative of Sweden thanked the secretariat and their co-host, Kenya, for the support and partnership to organize and host Stockholm+50 and highlighted the importance to ensure gender and geographical equity. She explained that the co-chair’s summary will consolidate the views from the leadership dialogues and that more than 10 Heads of State and several high-level key persons are expected to attend the meeting. She informed that the list of speakers, including for the leadership dialogues, would be made available shortly on the Stockholm +50 website. Logistical information including on COVID requirements, visas, hotels, transport etc., is available

on the website. She then invited delegations to join the several associated and parallel events that will also be taking place in the margins of the meeting. The representative also provided a presentation on the activities and campaigns related to the World Environment Day 2022 which is hosted by Sweden.

14. A representative of Kenya informed that Stockholm +50 will reinforce the outcomes of UNEP@50 and that the plenary and the leadership dialogues will take place concurrently. She highlighted the topics of the three leadership dialogues and informed that the Kenyan President will preside over the final plenary, joined by Mr Keriako Tobiko, the Cabinet Secretary for Forestry and the Environment. She further informed that the side events will be organized as in-person events. She called on Member States to support all initiatives that strengthen UNEP and reiterated that Kenya looked forward to a successful meeting of Stockholm +50.
15. Delegations appreciated the presentations and commended Sweden and Kenya, and looked forward to learning about the outcomes of the meeting and the co-Chair's summary. One delegation emphasized the importance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the principle of leaving no one behind when tackling environmental challenges, and another delegation stated that it would be important to find a way to engage with Member states post-Stockholm +50. Stakeholder representatives stressed the need to mobilize political will and called for financial support for travel to allow for meaningful engagement of civil society and youth.

Agenda Item 6: Assessment and lessons learned from UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50.

16. The secretariat presented a revised document on assessment and lessons learned from the resumed fifth session of United Nations Environment Assembly and the Special Session to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account views expressed by Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders at meetings of the CPR subcommittee on 11 April and 5 May 2022, and by the CPR Bureau at its meeting on 4 May 2022.
17. Delegations thanked the secretariat for the [revised document](#) and provided the following comments:
 - Appreciated the successful organization of UNEA-5.2 and congratulated the former Chair and the former UNEA presidency for their hard work and efforts.
 - Welcomed the recommendation to organize UNEA-6 as an in-person meeting while offering hybrid meetings through online connection when appropriate.
 - Underlined the need to rationalize the number of draft resolutions and encouraged early submission, while avoiding protracted negotiation sessions and multiple parallel sessions.
 - Reiterated the need for the wise use of the intersessional period and for the CPR to be consulted on options for the UNEA-6 theme
 - Several delegations suggested that submission of a draft resolution by a Member State should be followed by an appointment of its focal point to facilitate follow up.
 - One delegation proposed to include a reference to the UNEA rules of procedure in the paragraph relating to Stakeholder participation.
 - One stakeholder representative suggested that Member State delegations should be well informed on the rules and practices of engagement of stakeholders.
18. The Secretariat suggested that the document should be revised on two points, to include the reference to the UNEA rules of procedure and the recommendation to Member States submitting draft resolutions to appoint focal points to facilitate follow up. Furthermore, the secretariat

informed that a UNEA handbook was currently being developed by the secretariat, to be presented to Member States sometime in September.

19. Upon a proposal from the Chair, the Committee endorsed the lessons learned document with the two minor amendments announced by the Secretariat. The final version is available [here](#).

Agenda Item 7: Report of the Subcommittee.

20. 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 157th meeting on 1 February 2022.

Agenda Item 9: Other matters.

21. A representative of Spain provided a short briefing on the Desertification and Drought Day 2022 which will be hosted by Spain on 17 June 2022, and encouraged Member states to reach out for additional information. The press release is available [here](#).
22. A representative of the Russian Federation reiterated their request for a full list of scientific reports that are to be published by UNEP and for a schedule of consultations with Member States on these reports.

Agenda Item 8: Closing of the meeting.

23. The meeting closed at 6:00 pm.