

UNEA Bureau Meeting
Friday, 1 July 2022
16:30 pm to 18:30 pm
Online meeting - Teams meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H. E. Ms. Leila Benali, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, opened the meeting. In her opening remarks, she welcomed the new members of the bureau namely, H. E. Mr. Silvio José Albuquerque e Silva, Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP; and H. E. Mr. José Duarte Piteira Rica Silvestre Cordeiro, Minister of Environment and Climate Action of Portugal, who have been elected as Vice-Presidents. She also welcomed the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H. E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Permanent Representative of Finland to UNEP, who joined the Bureau as an ex-officio member.
2. In addition, she recalled the main outcomes of UNEA5.2 and UNEP@50 and highlighted that the current context facing the world, marked by the post Covid-19 recovery, the triple environmental crisis as well as the energy crisis, calls for the need to keep the environment at the top of the global agenda.
3. H. E. Ms. Benali reaffirmed also that UNEA should be the place to transform member States commitment into concrete actions to address these crises with the participation of all stakeholders for the well-being of present and future generations.
4. She then invited opening remarks by Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, who welcomed all the participants and reaffirmed UNEP's commitment to work with the Bureau towards a successful and impactful UNEA6.
5. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Introduction to the work of the UNEA Bureau

6. The Secretariat provided an introductory briefing on the roles and functions of the Bureau of the UNEA based on the rules of procedure of UNEA and the outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (see [background document](#)). It was highlighted that the President, when presiding over the meetings of UNEA is guided by section 6 of the rules of procedure on the conduct of business and that the President is supported by the 8 Vice-Presidents in chairing the

meetings; the Rapporteur has the responsibility of finalizing the report of UNEA; the bureau supports the President on all aspects of the preparations for the session, including consultations with their respective regional groups, logistical arrangements, preparation of the provisional agenda and organization of work, facilitating the negotiations on draft proposals; and review of the credentials. The importance of having elected Bureau members participating in the Bureau meetings was emphasized. The Bureau was also informed of the arrangements for Bureau meetings.

Agenda Item 3: Organisation of work

7. The secretariat presented a short term [roadmap](#) which was developed in consultation with the President, which includes a virtual joint bureau meeting of UNEA and CPR on 17 October to discuss the options for the theme for UNEA6; a virtual bureau meeting of UNEA on 7 December to review the comments and inputs provided by member States and stakeholders on the theme during the 9th Annual subcommittee meeting; and an in-person joint retreat of the bureaus of UNEA and CPR in late January, date to be determined, to finalize the theme for UNEA6.
8. One delegation agreed with the suggested dates and thanked the secretariat for the roadmap and the fact that it proposes a mix of virtual and in-person meetings.
9. As no other comment or questions were raised, the President thanked the bureau and concluded that the roadmap for the remainder of 2022 has been finalized and that the date for the retreat will be communicated in due course.

Agenda Item 4: Assessment and lessons learned from UNEA-5.2

10. The secretariat shared a presentation highlighting the lessons learned since UNEA1. The main take away being the need to strengthen inter-sessional preparation under the Committee of Permanent Representatives; the focus on resource mobilization; ensuring involvement and speaking roles of stakeholders; monitoring of the implementation of UNEA resolutions and decisions through the monitoring portal; and some form of hybridity of meetings will remain.
11. Several members of the Bureau thanked the work of the secretariat for facilitating the organization of UNEA5 and the quality of the lessons learned assessment.
12. One delegation stressed the need of adapting the available resources to support developing countries' participation and inclusiveness.
13. The CPR chair praised the secretariat for having successfully considered all comments received from the delegations in finalizing the lessons learned document. He presented the composition of the current CPR Bureau which will end its term on 30 June 2023. In addition, he informed that as soon as a theme for UNEA6 has been decided, the CPR through its bureau will start the intersessional work by organizing consultations for the draft resolutions and decisions and will support the Presidency in the process of drafting the Ministerial Declaration and organizing consultations as needed.

14. Another delegation thanked the secretariat for the preparation for UNEA5 and conducting the lessons learned process while emphasizing the issue of parallel meetings and a high volume of draft resolutions to be negotiated, which made it difficult for smaller delegations to participate. The delegation suggested addressing this issue while looking towards UNEA6.
15. The President concluded the discussion adding that the document contains useful recommendations that will guide the preparations for UNEA6, and the Bureau can re-examine the recommendations during the retreat in January 2023.

Agenda Item 5: Consideration of the process to define the theme for UNEA6

16. The President highlighted that UNEA, in its decision 5/4 on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session, requested the bureau of UNEA, in consultation with the CPR, to define a theme for the sixth session no later than 12 months in advance of the session. She reminded that the sixth session will be from 26 February to 1 March 2024; therefore, the mandate is to decide on the theme by February 2023.
17. The Executive Director highlighted that one of the lessons learned throughout previous Assemblies is that the clearer the theme is, the better is the delivery. She also confirmed the support of UNEP to assist the bureau in the scoping exercise based on the guidance provided by the Bureau. She reminded the Bureau that during UNEA5.2, important decisions were taken on the pollution dimension, such as the INC on plastics and the Science Policy Panel, which might be a point for consideration.
18. The secretariat confirmed that the theme should provide a common framework and strengthen the science-policy interface at UNEA. In the [background note](#), the Secretariat provided guidance that the theme should contribute to the implementation of commitments included in the 2030 Agenda, the MEAs, and relevant resolutions and declarations adopted by previous sessions of UNEA; and ensure broad, inclusive, and transparent consultations with all relevant stakeholders. The theme must align with UNEA mandate, be relevant with the UN system, understandable to a broader audience and cover more than one SDG.
19. On the suggestion of the President, the Bureau agreed to apply the guidelines and the roadmap suggested by the secretariat and requested the secretariat to prepare a paper with proposed themes for discussions at the joint bureau meeting to be held on 17 October.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters.

20. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 7: Closing of the meeting.

21. The meeting closed at 5:40 pm.

Annex 1: List of Participants

Bureau members of the UN Environment Assembly

1. H.E. Ms. Leila Benali, President of UNEA and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco
2. H.E. Mr. Carlos Eduardo Correa, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Colombia
3. H.E. Mr. Jàn Budaj, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Slovakia
4. H.E. Dr. Jafar Barmaki, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP
5. H.E. Mr. Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi, Rapporteur of UNEA and Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine

Others

1. Mr. Cheikh Ndiaye SYLLA, Directeur de Cabinet, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, representing H.E. Mr. Abdou Karim Sall, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal
2. Ms. Cheryl Case, Deputy Director International Environment Negotiation, representing the Right Honourable Lord Zac Goldsmith, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Pacific and the Environment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
3. Ms. Lucianara Andrade Fonseca, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP, representing H.E. Mr. Silvio Jose Albuquerque e Silva, Vice President of UNEA and Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP
4. Mr. Miguel Luís, Permanent Mission of Portugal to UNEP, representing H.E. Mr. José Duarte Piteira Rica Silvestre Cordeiro, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment and Climate Action of Portugal

CPR Bureau as ex officio

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

UNEP Secretariat

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director

Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies

Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies

Ms. Catalina Pizzaro, Law Division