

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday 7 July 2022  
10:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 2, United Nations Office at Nairobi  
Hybrid Meeting

### **DRAFT 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 and Ambassador of Finland to Kenya, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Update on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/8 entitled “Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution”**

3. The Secretariat provided a presentation which outlined the activities completed to-date and a proposal for holding of the first Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) in October 2022. The presentation highlighted the formal communication from UNEP to member States and major groups, requesting nominations for national focal points, regional representation via a bureau, expressions of interest to host one of the planned 3 OEWG meetings, and provision of extrabudgetary resources to support the process and UNEP Secretariat. The presentation also acknowledged the request from member States that the Bureau be extended from 5 to 10 members to allow for a balanced representation from across the 5 regional groups. In addition, the presentation highlighted that the proposed dates in October were the result of a highly congested calendar of meetings, expressions of interest from member States, and availability of suitable venues. The presentation is available [here](#).

4. Several delegations expressed that the development of the Science-Policy Panel should be a member State driven process, including in-person and virtual participation of capital-based delegates, that addresses all forms of pollution, including air pollution.
5. Several delegations also expressed views in favour of postponing the first session of the OEWG to late December 2022 or early January 2023. One delegate reminded of the mandate in resolution 5/8 that the OEWG should begin its work in 2022 hence suggested keeping the meeting as originally planned for October 2022. In light of the mandate, some delegations suggested opting for a short meeting of the OEWG in October 2022 and a more substantive discussion to be held in the beginning of 2023.
6. Several delegations supported expanding the composition of the bureau from five to ten members, while some suggested that the expansion should result in the extension of the deadline to submit nominations. One delegation emphasized the importance of adhering to the established practices with respect to the composition of the bureau of a subsidiary organ of UNEA. One delegation wanted to know whether the decision to increase the number of bureau members could be made by the CPR or by UNEA.
7. The representative of Brazil offered to host one of the sessions of the OEWG.
8. Some delegations asked for additional information on the role and composition of the Executive Director's advisory group.
9. Several delegations also asked for details on the meetings documents to be prepared for the first session of the OEWG.
10. One major group highlighted the direct impact of chemical waste and pollution on children and young adults and requested that youth-based organizations be allowed to intervene and make proposals and statements.
11. In responding to the comments and questions, the secretariat stated that the possibility of postponing the meeting to a later date in November or December will be discussed to ensure that it is in line with the resolution which asks for the work of the OEWG to start in 2022. Regarding the Technical Advisory Group, the secretariat clarified that the group, which is informal in nature, is yet to be constituted, and will be tasked to provide advice to the Executive Director in key aspects of the panel establishment. The secretariat also stated that the documents will include, procedural documents, four Option Papers looking at the name and scope of the panel and options for principal functions and operating procedures, two Introductory Notes looking at the rules and policy procedures of the new panel and the options for developing the Programme of Work and budget and some documents originally planned as meeting documents are

proposed to be Information Documents (INF), which would all be made available on the web page. The secretariat clarified that financial support for the participation of delegates in the session of the OEWG would be based on the established practice of UNEA and subject to the availability of funding. Similarly, participation of major groups and other stakeholders would be in accordance with the rules of procedure of UNEA and subject to the availability of funding.

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

12. The Secretariat provided a presentation on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/14 entitled “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument”, and the outcome of the first open-ended working group to prepare for the intergovernmental negotiating committee on plastic pollution held on 30 May and 1 June 2022 in Dakar, Senegal. The presentations also addressed the preparations for the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) tentatively planned to take place from 28 November to 2 November in Uruguay. It was proposed to have a seven-day meeting for INC-1 (5-day INC, 1 day for the multi-stakeholder forum, and 1 day for regional meetings and Bureau meetings). The secretariat encouraged member States to nominate a focal point for the process, to nominate Bureau members and to contribute financially to the process as documented in the letter from the Executive Director dated 24 June 2022. The presentation is available [here](#). The letter sent to member States, dated 24 June 2022, is available [here](#).
13. Several delegations requested for an extension of the deadline for the nomination of focal points and members of the Bureau of the INC. They also expressed concern about the increased cost estimate, compared to the estimates provided in the technical note and requested clarification on the increase and whether the cost will be covered by the Environment Fund. The secretariat noted that the technical note provided prior to UNEA was only an indicative budget prepared without the knowledge of the actual parameters. It was added that the new cost estimates are based on the cost incurred for the OEWG and are again indicative as the venue of the subsequent sessions of the INC are not known yet. It was clarified that some costs would be covered by the host country. It was also clarified that the INC process is to be funded through extrabudgetary resources and that there are some provisions in the programme of work that will contribute to the INC through the Environment Fund.

14. The representative of Ukraine expressed its gratitude to the UNEP INC Secretariat and the Government of Senegal for their organization of the first OEWG meeting and further highlighted difficulties during the negotiations in Dakar due to interventions by the representative of the Russian Federation. The delegation of Ukraine also condemned any attempts to use the INC to put forward national interests and stressed that environmental-related issues should be at the center of all discussions.
15. The representative of the Russian Federation objected the views expressed and highlighted that environmental related concerns should be the subject of discussion at UNEP meetings rather than political concerns.
16. The Secretariat took due note of all views expressed to contribute to the effective implementation of UNEA resolution 5/14.

**Agenda Item 4: Briefing on the implementation and mainstreaming of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Action Programme.**

17. The Secretariat provided a presentation on the implementation and mainstreaming of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Action Programme. Examples of successful mainstreaming of poverty, environment and climate objectives in plans, policies, budgets, and investments were provided. Through the four-year project, Poverty-Environment Action's integrated, programmatic approach to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals had been applied in eleven countries of Africa and the Asia Pacific region at national and district level. The presentation is available [here](#).
18. Several delegations welcomed the work of the Action Programme emphasizing that it is important to showcase how unsustainable use of natural resources impact on the GDP; how sustainability and resilience can help support poverty eradication; and the connection between poverty and environment.
19. One delegation requested details on the lack of progress in influencing the private sector, while some delegations requested an update on the way forward bearing in mind that the Action Programme would be ending soon, as well as details on how poverty might be mainstreamed in the work of UNEP.
20. The secretariat explained that work was underway to discuss the sustainability of the Programme through a paper, guided by the Board members who are the donor countries and organizations. Background papers, tools, reports, and guidance will be made available on the website as well as a help desk will be set-up to help UNEP mainstream

poverty. It was also clarified that incentives for the private sector are not that strong in many countries due to government policies, trade policies and tax provisions. It was noted that UNEP, with the continued support of member States and donor governments, will sustain its efforts to assist Governments to mainstream and integrate poverty-environment objectives into plans, policies, budgets and investments for sustainable development; after the Poverty-Environment Action project concludes, a transition period is recommended to disseminate poverty-environment tools, lessons and applications throughout UNEP programming and among its partner institutions; and a coordinated and streamlined approach to delivering poverty-environment technical advisory and capacity building services should be established by UNEP and its partners by 2023.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Briefing on the Day of Clean Air for blue skies, 7 September 2022**

21. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the day of the Clean Air for blue skies, commemorated annually on 7 September in recognition of the fact that clean air is important for the health and day-to-day lives of people, while air pollution is the single greatest environmental risk to human health and one of the main avoidable causes of death and disease globally. In addition, the secretariat also introduced the objectives of the Day of Clean Air for blue skies and the previous observances along with the themes they were observed under, enumerating the digital influence and impact of the campaign held in 2020 and 2021. Finally, the secretariat shared the theme for the Day of Clean Air for blue skies this year i.e. “The Air We Share” which focusses on the transboundary nature of air pollution stressing on the need for collective responsibility and action and global, regional, and local cooperation to tackle air pollution. Finally, the secretariat encouraged member states to join the observance by registering events and undertaking their own campaigns in the run-up to or on the Day of Clean Air for blue skies itself or alternatively by joining the coalition of countries supporting the observance. The presentation is available [here](#).
22. Some delegations requested detailed information on the celebration of the International Day which the secretariat indicated will be shared in August. One delegation while expressing its support, stressed the importance of de-stigmatization of developing cities regarding pollution adding that images associated with the event should be chosen carefully.

**Agenda Item 6: Other matters.**

23. The Chair, H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, announced a webinar to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July from 3:00 – 4:00 pm on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/5 on nature-based solutions for sustainable development.

24. One delegation reiterated its request to the secretariat for a full list of scientific assessment reports to be published by UNEP and a schedule of meetings for consultations with the CPR on the preliminary versions of these documents.

**Agenda Item 7: Closing of the meeting.**

25. The meeting closed at 12.45 p.m.