

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 14 July 2022
10:00 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. and 14:00 p.m. – 18:00 p.m.
Conference Room 2, United Nations Office at Nairobi
Hybrid Meeting

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H. E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador of Mexico to Kenya, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.
3. The Acting Deputy Executive Director in briefly introducing UNEP's Programme Performance Report for 2020 – 2021 period, stated that the report covers the delivery of UNEP's 2020-2021 programme of work which represents the last half of the 2018-2021 Medium Term Strategy (MTS). She added that UNEP has delivered impressive results, despite the disruption caused due to COVID-19, while acknowledging UNEP's valuable partnerships. She thanked all Member States and stakeholders for their effort and contributions and stressed the importance of keeping the outcomes of Stockholm+50 alive. She also informed that UNEP has recently conducted a revamping process of its publishing system as part of the digital transformation for enhanced transparency and an annual list of publication which is being worked on will be made available at the next meeting of the CPR in September.

Item 2: Briefing on the UNEP Programme Performance Report – 2020-2021.

4. The Secretariat introduced the Programme Performance Report 2020-2021, based on PowerPoint presentations on programme performance, resources and management, and evaluations. A management response was provided on the evaluations. All presentations are available online on the [meeting page](#).

Programme Performance

Overview

5. Delegates who took the floor made the following overarching observations:
 - a) UNEP's progress and results achieved in the 2020 - 2021 biennium was commendable, factoring in the impact of COVID-19 and the UNEP response to it.

- b) While UNEP's overall performance on indicator achievement was laudable, higher benchmarks may need to be set and certain indicators may need to be recalibrated.
 - c) Indicator achievement alone does not provide the full story of interventions and impact needs to be measured and elaborated upon more explicitly, including with a shift in focus from numeric indicators to qualitative indicators.
 - d) Focus more on engagement with countries and the private sector and publicize success stories.
 - e) In preparing future programme performance reports, the Secretariat was requested to:
 - Provide more analysis on key challenges and lessons learnt, how they are informing future UNEP activity and how they will be mainstreamed into the implementation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2022-2025;
 - Elaborate upon the methodology and corresponding policy and initiatives utilized to set indicator targets and the means for verification;
 - Explain why certain indicators greatly exceeded their targets (overachievement) and why certain indicators only partially achieved their targets (underachievement).
6. Delegations who took the floor shared observations and guidance on the subprogrammes as follows:

Climate Change

Delegates who took the floor:

- Highlighted the need to scale up existing solutions and queried how UNEP would deliver greater impact in this area.
- Called for a balanced approach to adaptation and mitigation with a focus on Nature-based Solutions.
- Deemed certain lessons learnt to be overly generic and highlighted the need to expound upon them more clearly.

Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts

Delegates who took the floor:

- Noted that the emergence and incidence of COVID-19 had highlighted the challenge of adequate preparation and queried whether UNEP planned to develop tools/strategies to rethink disasters ahead of time in order to better manage its response.

Healthy and Productive Ecosystems

Delegates who took the floor:

- Appreciated that the Subprogramme had exceeded targets on all of its six performance indicators.
- Noted the role of biodiversity and ecosystems as a key solution to addressing the triple planetary crisis and commended UNEP's efforts to address the nature challenges in relationship with climate and pollution issues in moving forward with the implementation of the MTS.

- Made reference to UN-HABITAT's work on ecosystems and UNEP's work on urban and peri-urban agriculture and recommended that collaboration between the two be further strengthened where relevant to avoid duplication of work and enhance complementarity.

Environmental Governance

Delegates who took the floor:

- Encouraged the Subprogramme to further its engagement with the private sector.

Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality

Delegates who took the floor:

- Inquired about the key lessons from the implementation of the Programme of Work (PoW) for 2020-21 that will be carried forward for the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme into the current MTS and PoW.

Resource Efficiency

Delegates who took the floor:

- Welcomed the ongoing development of a global strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) led by the 10-Year Framework Programme of Action on SCP and noted the importance of integrating this strategy across UNEP's various workstreams.
- Recommended that messaging on food waste be further disaggregated and reflect developed and developing countries' differentiated perspectives and approaches.
- Commended UNEP's tracking of the sustainability dimensions of recovery spending and recommended improved communication on the measurement of indicators.

Environment under Review

Delegates who took the floor:

- Recognized UNEP's ongoing efforts to support countries to implement the Environmental Dimension of SDGs, particularly in strengthening capacity on methodologies, monitoring and reporting.
- Reiterated that access to UNEP information is important and close collaboration with other UNEP Subprogrammes to ensure the quality of the outputs was equally important.
- Sought clarity on how UNEP's Science Policy Interface (SPI) relates to the work of SPI panels where UNEP provides Secretariat services.

7. Observations by the secretariat in response to delegates' comments included:

- a) All targets for indicators are defined and approved in the PoW for 2022-2023 in alignment with the MTS. They are based on performance trends in previous years and aligned to specific interventions under implementation. For instance, provisions

for qualitative indicators have been made in the PoW under the Nature Action Subprogramme.

- b) Key lessons learned have been taken into consideration in the design of the present MTS and the ongoing delivery of the current PoW. For instance:
- The main lesson learned from the Subprogramme implementation on the need to address the nature challenges in relationship with climate and pollution issues were taken into consideration in the design of the current MTS.
 - For Subprogramme 4, some lessons learnt touch upon the crosscutting nature of results emanating from its work; going forward, it is aiming at finding some level of linearity of results on its work across the triple planetary crises. To scale up its engagement with Member States on legislation, UNEP has, through the Montevideo Programme, created the LEAP programme that seeks to support Member States on environmental legislation.
 - On Chemicals and Pollution Action, the new MTS will focus on an integrated approach to chemicals by looking at high impact sectors such as textiles, mobility and extractives; the health and pollution nexus will focus on the 10 chemicals of public health concern (WHO International); additionally, the new indicators are more ambitious and concrete as they will track pollution levels.
- c) The call to further engagement with other UN system entities, Member States and the private sector was welcomed as timely and pertinent. For instance, joint work with UN-HABITAT under the Cities Hub has been instrumental in building relationships with Brazil and Argentina on sustainable urban development.
- d) Despite inadequate statistics provided by Member States on SDG indicators, progress had been made since the launch of the 1st Measuring Progress Report in 2019. There is a need to focus UNEP work on environmental statistics in close collaboration with the UN Development System, in order to report on significant progress in the 3rd Measuring Progress Report.
- e) On the Science Policy Interface (SPI), the two foundational Subprogrammes, Environmental Governance and Science Policy, will lead and work together to bring together science and MEAs to provide policy coherence to tackle the triple planetary crises.
- f) On data, UNEP's data governance group aims to engage and ensure that UNEP's data and knowledge are part of one platform. UNEP, through its regional presence, is also engaging with UN Country Teams in the conduct of Common Country Assessments.

Resources and Management

8. Delegates who took the floor:

- a) Requested reporting on the efficacy of budget expenditures and simpler reporting on budget performance, with a view to clarify multi-year and earmarked funds and carry-overs.

- b) Noted the imbalance between core and earmarked funds and suggested that funding be conditionalized, with targeted percentages of contributions going to the Environment Fund.
 - c) Suggested a review of the Resource Mobilization Strategy, given that some subprogrammes are receiving less funding despite increasing contributions to the Environment Fund.
 - d) Noted progress on gender and geographical balance and requested updates on the implementation of the UNEA decision on equitable geographical balance.
 - e) Called for more analysis on poverty reduction related results and more details on the effects of policies, indicators, results and achievements.
 - f) Requested more dynamic reporting on the Environmental Management System, incorporating lessons learned and the way forward.
 - g) Noted the work on the policy side of Risk Management and requested that more be done on the implementation side.
 - h) Called for the organization of side meetings dedicated to specific topics (management, travel, financial management, resource mobilization) during Annual Sub-committee meetings.
9. The Secretariat agreed to dedicated sessions on finances, resource mobilization and other corporate topics. It confirmed that for multi-year agreements, income is recognized in the year the agreement is signed although the agreement spans several years. The available resources represent the actual amount of cash received as opposed to the amount pledged. Expenditure is the actual amount spent during the period. The budget is based on what UNEP committed to deliver based on priorities but is never 100% funded. Audited financial statements capture the differences. The move towards loosely earmarked thematic funds is aimed at more equitable distribution of resources, especially to areas that are ‘less attractive’ to donors. It confirmed its commitment to report on UNEA decision on equitable geographical balance and highlighted ongoing efforts on gender and geographical balance, including outreach in underrepresented regions.

Evaluation

10. Delegates who took the floor:
- a) Appreciated the comprehensive update on evaluations and enquired how evaluation recommendations are communicated to the staff involved.
 - b) Welcomed the improvements in recommendation compliance but noted that the category of recommendations that were closed as “Not compliant” had risen between biennia.
11. The Secretariat noted that the Quarterly Business Review had helped bring attention to recommendation compliance and that evaluation recommendations are communicated to senior managers as well as at the project level. Evaluations aim to strike a balance between meeting accountability requirements and learning. There are robust efforts to improve project approval processes and how they assess and address risk and there is a new online training for project managers that comprehensively covers aspects of project design. On recommendation compliance, whilst the proportion of “Closed Not Compliant” recommendations had increased between biennia, the coverage of projects

had increased considerably in the same period with the improvements in compliance greatly outweighing the slight increase in non-compliance.

Item 3: Briefing on the outcomes of the Stockholm+50 international meeting.

12. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the outcomes of the Stockholm+50, an international meeting convened by the United Nations General Assembly and held in Stockholm, Sweden from 2 to 3 June 2022 to commemorate the 50 years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, followed by an exchange of views with delegations. The background document can be found [here](#). The outcomes of the Stockholm+50 meeting can be found [here](#).
13. The representatives of Sweden and Kenya gave a joint statement as co-hosts of the international meeting. The representative of Sweden noted how the meeting delivered on a high note, thanks to the wide range of stakeholder consultations that took place before and during the meeting based on the three principles of engagement (intergenerational responsibility, interconnectivity, and implementation opportunity). They enabled thousands of people around the world to engage in the discussions and put forward their suggestions and sent a strong message through the Co-Presidents' ten recommendations in the Stockholm+50 Agenda for Action, Renewal and Trust.
14. The representative of Kenya underlined that the Stockholm+50 Agenda provided a blueprint for the future systemic transformation of societies and economies. It also highlighted the need for national implementation while underlining the value of rules-based multilateralism, providing a push for ongoing intergovernmental processes, and building momentum for others. The Co-Presidents' joint media communiqué called all multilateral institutions, including international financial institutions, to work towards a common goal, meeting existing commitments, scaling up financing for environment and development, and the creation of green and blue jobs for resilient and sustainable economies. She also remarked how Stockholm+50 set new standards in inclusive multilateralism, including meaningful youth participation. Noting how the global push for green and fair transitions also resonated in the UN Ocean Conference, where over 400 decisions were adopted towards accelerating actions. She added that Kenya looked forward to similar legacies for holistic approach and tangible actions in other upcoming intergovernmental forums.
15. The delegations provided the following feedback:
 - Several delegations highlighted the extraordinary work of Stockholm+50 and suggested to use it as an inspiration for the work of UNEP to improve its efficiency and actions.
 - One delegation requested some elaboration on the steps for the implementation of green jobs and the solutions hub.
 - Some delegations noted that the outcomes of Stockholm+50 should be considered in connection with the outcomes of UNEA to encourage the complementarity of the two.
16. The secretariat provided the following answers:
 - The Secretariat took due note of all matters and suggestions by the delegations and outlined that the green jobs for youth pact will be collaborating with institutions of all sorts to contribute to a greener future. The Secretariat further

noted that the project will start with a few pilot countries which will then be expanded and stressed the importance of network support collaborations.

Item 4: Other matters.

17. The chair announced the dates of upcoming CPR meetings in September as follows:

- A CPR Bureau meeting on 1 September 2022;
- An Orientation Session for new Members of the CPR on 8 September 2022;
- A CPR subcommittee meeting on 15 September 2022; and
- The 159th CPR regular meeting on 29 September 2022.

Item 5: Closing of the meeting.

18. The meeting closed at 17:45 pm.