

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
13 December 2022  
10:00 –13:00 & 15:00 –17:00 (GMT+3)  
Conference Room 2

### Chair's Summary

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

1. H.E. Mrs. Katarina Žuffa Leligdonová, Vice Chair, Ambassador of Slovakia to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The agenda was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 2: Update by UNON on plans to renovate the UN compound in Gigiri.**

3. The United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) provided a [presentation](#) on the [plans to renovate and upgrade the Gigiri compound](#), followed by an exchange of views with Member States and Stakeholders.
4. Delegations that took the floor welcomed the update and provided the following comments:
  - a. Noted the significant importance renovating and upgrading the UN headquarters in Nairobi, as the only UN headquarters in the Global South, to make it technically adept, financially competitive and environmentally friendly.
  - b. Expressed appreciation to the Government of Kenya as host country and its commitment to improve supporting infrastructure and relevant facilities surrounding the UN complex in Gigiri.
  - c. Requested information about contingency plans for the time period of upcoming renovations, including the impact on the calendar of meetings and how it may impact the capacity of the compound.
  - d. Underlined the need to improve existing meeting and IT facilities during the period of renovations.
  - e. Welcomed plans to invite members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee of the General Assembly to visit the compound in 2023.
  - f. Called for more meetings to take place in Nairobi and expressed concerns about high meeting costs, making the UN headquarters in Nairobi less competitive than other potential meeting venues.
  - g. Called on UNON to improve car access to the compound for delegates.
5. Representatives from UNON thanked delegations for their guidance and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. While acknowledging that meeting costs, including for interpretation, are higher in Nairobi than in some other UN venues, noted that the primary reason for the past decline in the number of UN meetings hosted within the Gigiri complex lies in the poor state and the limited capacity of the facility.
  - b. Further noted that the reasons behind decisions by other UN bodies to host UN meetings outside the UN compound in Gigiri are complex, including for example the competitive packages offered by hotels, accessibility and other aspects.
  - c. Recalled the actions already taken and the commitment and willingness of the host

- country to further improve the infrastructure facilities surrounding the complex, in line with the UN host-country agreement, which is expected to improve the competitiveness of the Gigiri Compound.
- d. Further pointed out the intention to create different entry and exit points for delegates' vehicles with a view to enhance the efficacy of the car access systems for delegates.
  - e. Confirmed that the construction will take place in a protracted and phased process and underlined that expected interruptions and inconveniences for UN meetings due to the construction process will be minimal.

**Agenda item 3: Update on the UN-Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, including its flagships selection and announcement process.**

6. The Secretariat provided a [presentation](#) on the update on the [implementation of the UN Decade and its flagships selection and announcement processes](#), followed by an exchange of views from member states and stakeholders.
7. Delegations that took the floor provided the following comments:
  - a. Congratulated the co-lead agencies, partners, and Secretariat for its important work to promote the restoration of various ecosystems across the globe and for increasing the number of partners in its network to over 200.
  - b. Welcomed the nominated and winning 2022 Flagship Initiatives in support of the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
  - c. Inquired whether there is a system in place to monitor and track restoration works on the ground.
  - d. Advised against giving priority to the climate crisis in relation to the other two planetary crises.
  - e. Thanked the UN Decade for mobilizing financial support for ecosystem restoration projects and invited urged support from member states for the Youth Challenge.
  - f. Encouraged Member States, civil society partners and private investors to contribute or scale up existing action.
  - g. The Kenyan delegation pledged to contribute to the Decade by, in cooperation with other partners, plant 15 billion trees and support the restoration of the ocean, mangroves, grasslands, wetlands, and savannahs in Kenya.
8. The Secretariat provided the following comments:
  - a. Acknowledged the interconnection of the triple planetary crisis and the need to address them together.
  - b. Confirmed that the monitoring task force, led by FAO, is tracking and reporting restoration activities using the Framework on Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring tool.
  - c. Welcomed the progress and ambition demonstrated by Kenya in the field of ecosystem restoration.
  - d. Invited all governments and stakeholders to initiate or intensify their work to develop and implement ambitious ecosystem restoration initiatives.
  - e. Recognized and thanked youth groups and representatives for their active engagement and efforts to promoting ecosystem restoration.

**Agenda item 4: 2022 Overview briefing on UNEP'S engagement in Disasters and Conflict.**

9. The Secretariat provided a [presentation](#) on [UNEPs engagement in Disasters and Conflict](#) followed by an exchange of views with Member States and Stakeholders, followed by a [presentation](#) on the key findings in the UNEP report "Preliminary Review of Environmental

## Impacts of Conflict in Ukraine”.

10. Delegations that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments:

- a. Appreciated the work of the Secretariat to support countries affected by conflict and crises aimed at minimizing the environmental causes and consequences of crises.
- b. Expressed support for the findings of the report on Preliminary Review of Environmental Impacts of Conflict in Ukraine, highlighting concern for the transboundary nature of the environmental impacts and potential impacts around nuclear energy sites.
- c. Noted that the Secretariat’s efforts to assess and address the environmental impacts of conflict in Ukraine align with past similar support provided to other countries in responding to environmental disasters and the environmental impacts of conflict.
- d. Encouraged the Secretariat to continue to provide support to the Government of Ukraine in assessing and addressing the environmental impacts of conflict.
- e. Requested the Secretariat to consider the full diversity of perspectives and data sources in assessing the environmental impacts of the conflict in Ukraine.
- f. Suggested that the Secretariat undertake annual reporting on the state of the environment in the State of Palestine, noting the importance of previous UNEP reports on the topic.
- g. Asked the Secretariat for more information regarding the mainstreaming of its work on disasters and conflicts as outlined in the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025, impacts on the broader UN system, and subsequent steps for its work in Ukraine following the Preliminary Review of Environmental Impacts.

11. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their guidance and provided the following responses:

- a. Confirmed that, regarding mainstreaming the disasters and conflicts agenda, the approach has enhanced the integration of UNEP’s subprograms and enabled utilization of the full expertise from across the institution for more effective information sharing, delivery, and fundraising.
- b. Clarified that the Secretariat’s work on disasters and conflicts influences broader UN goals for sustainable development by working through UN political and peacebuilding missions, Resident Coordinators’ Offices, and development and humanitarian agencies to, inter alia, better understand and address links between conflict and environment and integrate nature into response and recovery work.
- c. Recalled that the Secretariat has undertaken similar environmental impact reviews during ongoing conflicts as is currently the case for Ukraine, including in Liberia and in Iraq.
- d. Informed that, taking into account the findings in the report Preliminary Review of the Environmental Impacts of Conflict in Ukraine and subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat intends to provide continued support to the Government of Ukraine in further assessing and monitoring environmental impacts through the development of a dedicated environmental information management system.
- e. Noted the need for further financial support to deliver the services and assistance required for fully assessing and responding to the environmental impacts of conflict in Ukraine, as identified in the key findings of the Preliminary Review.
- f. Affirmed that the Secretariat continues to work closely with Palestinian Authority following the 2020 State of the Environment Report and Outlook Report for the occupied Palestinian Territories.

### **Agenda item 5: Consultations on the theme for UNEA-6**

12. The Presidency of UNEA6, represented by H.E.M. Abderrazzak LAASSEL, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco provided a [presentation](#) on the consultations on the theme for UNEA-6, followed by an exchange of views from Member states and

Stakeholders.

13. Delegations that took the floor thanked the UNEA6 Presidency for the update and provided the following comments:
  - a. Expressed general support among delegations on the new option B “Multilateral Solutions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”
  - b. Suggested inserting the words “inclusive” and / or “effective” in the proposal under option B either before or after the word multilateral.
  - c. Reiterated that the theme should be short, concise, and deliver the fundamental function of public communication, and expressed some concern regarding the consolidated proposal as being too long and difficult to communicate.
  - d. Reiterated the importance of open, transparent and inclusive consultations, noting that this would broaden legitimacy and enhance support.
  - e. Some delegations advocated to keep the reference to the terms clean, healthy and sustainable environment given that this term was recognized by the UN General Assembly.
  - f. One delegation suggested to add a reference to the term sustainable development in option A.
  
14. The Presidency thanked the delegations for their guidance and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. Noted that there was a broad support for the new option B, possibly with some small amendments.
  - b. Invited interested Member States to approach the Presidency or the Secretariat with specific wording proposals to this option for further consideration.
  - c. Noted that the term sustainable development may be redundant, in view of the aim to keep the theme short and focused.
  - d. Informed that a revised version of the options paper will be made available ahead of the CPR Subcommittee scheduled on 19 January for further consideration by Member states and stakeholders, in view of taking a final decision by the UNEA6 Bureau at its meeting scheduled for 30 January.

#### **Agenda item 6: Other matters.**

12. The Chair referred to the letter received from the CPR Chair on the nomination of co-chairs of the intergovernmental regional consultations to be convened pursuant to UNEA resolution 5/12 entitled “Environmental aspects of minerals and metals management” and informed that UNEA -6 President would send out a letter announcing the appointment of Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UNEP, and Mrs. Martine Rohn-Brossard, Deputy Head of the International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland, as the co-chairs.
  
13. The Chair reminded Member States to nominate one national focal point to participate in the Intergovernmental regional consultations on minerals and metals, to participate and guide UNEP in the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/12. The focal point should preferably be an expert in environmental aspects of minerals and metals. To date, only 21 nominations have been received from Member States.

#### **Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting.**

14. The meeting closed at 5:00 p.m.