

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
19 January 2023
10:00-13:00 and 15:00-18:00 (GMT+3)
Conference Room 1 and MS Teams

Chair's 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, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Overview briefing on preparations for the resumed first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (OEWG-1.2).

3. The Principal Officer and Head of the of the Secretariat of the OEWG SPP provided an [update on the preparations for OEWG-1.2](#), followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.
4. Delegations that took the floor provided the following comments:
 - a. Noted with concern that the election of officers is likely to divert time and attention from the substantive issues to be addressed at the meeting.
 - b. Noted the short timeline established under UNEA resolution 5/8, the significant workload and the limited human and financial resources available to support the process.
 - c. Advised to benefit from the experiences from the establishment of other similar bodies, such as IPBES, noting that certain decisions may be deferred to the Panel itself, once established.
 - d. Highlighted the importance of supporting participation by developing countries.
 - e. Welcomed the participation of youth representatives at OEWG-1.2.
5. The OEWG SPP Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and for the support to the OEWG process and reminded delegations that the timetable established for the OEWG was guided by [UNEA resolution 5/8](#).

Agenda item 3: Update on the outcomes of the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-1).

6. The Executive Secretary of the INC provided an update on the [outcomes and follow-up to the INC-1](#), followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.

7. Delegations that took the floor provided the following comments:
 - a. Congratulated the Government of Uruguay and the Secretariat for the successful convening of the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee from 28 November to 2 December 2022, in Punta del Este, and thanked the Executive Secretary for the extensive report on the outcomes of the meeting.
 - b. Thanked France for their offer to host INC-2 and wished it success in the convening of the meeting.
 - c. Welcomed Kenya's offer to host the third session of the INC in the second semester of 2023, noting that this meeting venue would facilitate the involvement of CPR members.
 - d. Further welcomed the efforts to ensure provision of travel support to two delegates from each developing country for participation at future sessions of the INC, and highlighted the importance of ensuring effective participation of all Member States, as well as of Stakeholders, including the private sector.
 - e. Underlined the importance of addressing substantive matters from the onset at INC-2, and noted with concern that some procedural matters remain pending, including the election of the remaining officers to the Bureau of the INC, and agreement on the formulation of Rule 37 of the draft Rules of Procedure.
 - f. Encouraged early consultations to seek consensus ahead of INC-2.
 - g. Announced some voluntary contributions to the INC process.
 - h. Welcomed initiatives organized by stakeholders in support of the preparations for INC-2.
 - i. Advocated for a life cycle approach of plastics with measures for each stage of production on sales, consumption and waste management and discharge.
 - j. Called on the Secretariat to ensure a more streamlined and user-friendly approach for making available INC pre-session submissions online.
 - k. Recalled the request at INC-1 to establish a dedicated voluntary fund for legacy plastics, which could include contributions from the private sector.
 - l. Inquired about the process of drafting the option for elements towards an international legally binding instrument to be considered at INC-2.
 - m. Requested an update on the status of the meeting summary of the INC-1, on the budget for the INC process, on information about organigram of the INC Secretariat, and on possible intersessional activities.

8. The INC Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and for the support to the INC process and provided the following comments:
 - a. Thanked the Member States that have provided financial support to the INC process.
 - b. Clarified that the budget and the organigram are currently being updated and finalized and will soon be shared with Member States, and that the final report of INC-1 will be made available online on the meeting portal in February.
 - c. Clarified that the option for elements towards an international legally binding instrument will draw on written submissions to be received.
 - d. Announced that a webinar on the written submissions on options received from Member States and stakeholders will be held online on 31 January 2023. More online webinars can be organized as needed.
 - e. Agreed to streamline the INC pre-session submissions page to facilitate the identification of newly uploaded submissions.

Agenda item 4: Update on the outcomes of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP-19).

9. The Executive Secretary of the CITES Secretariat provided an [update on the CITES COP 19](#), followed by an exchange of views with Member States and Stakeholders.
10. Delegations that took the floor thanked the CITES Secretariat for the briefing and provided the following comments:
 - a. Noted with satisfaction that the outcomes of the CITES COP-19 reflected the positive impact well-regulated international trade in species can have on species conservation.
 - b. Noted the upcoming 50-year anniversary of CITES to be celebrated on 3 March 2023 and welcomed the expression of interest by Kenya to host COP-20.
 - c. Welcomed the amendments to the Appendices and the forward-looking nature of the Strategic Vision and decisions associated with it that constitute strategic steps in taking the work of CITES forward.
 - d. Welcomed the decisions on collaboration with other biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the process to explore options to further strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the GBF were also welcomed.
 - e. Highlighted that measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention are important to ensure international trade is sustainable and to safeguard species for future generations.
 - f. Further highlighted that the relationship between the CITES Secretariat and UNEP can facilitate the contribution by CITES in the implementation of UNEA Resolutions and the UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025.
 - g. Emphasized the need to combat poaching and smuggling not only by regulating trade but also reducing the problematic demand for wildlife and wildlife products in countries.
 - h. Requested the Secretariat to support Member States through capacity building interventions, especially in the development of proposals to amend the Appendices, to address procedural matters raised at COP19.
 - i. Requested information about which sub-programme of UNEP'S MTS relates to the work of CITES, which part of the programme of work 2022-2023 relates to the work of CITES, and which UNEP division works closely with the substantive issues that are covered by CITES.
 - j. Requested information on whether UNEA has adopted any resolution that is related to the mandate of CITES.
11. The CITES Secretariat provided the following comments:
 - a. Noted that capacity building is a major focus of CITES to enable Parties to effectively implement the Convention, highlighting that the addition of new species to the appendices will require new non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings and capacity building, which will require financial support from Member States.
 - b. Clarified that the CITES Secretariat is administered by UNEP and that there is a close collaboration on several UNEA resolutions and priorities common to CITES and UNEP as contained in the UNEP Medium Term Strategy.
 - c. Highlighted the consultations carried out between the UNEP Ecosystems Division and the CITES Secretariat on guidance on the wildlife trade and zoonotic diseases, the collaboration on the World Wildlife Trade Report for COP-19, the joint work on national legislation to comply with the Convention requirements, including appropriate fines and punishment for those involved in illegal wildlife trade, and work

- on synergies with other conventions.
- d. Clarified that UNEA-resolution 5/1 on animal welfare and illegal wildlife trade relates to the work of CITES.

Agenda item 5: Consultations on the theme for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)

12. H. E. Mr. Abderrazzak Laassel, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco in Nairobi, on behalf of the President of UNEA-6, presented a briefing on the latest proposal for a [theme for UNEA-6](#), which read “Effective and inclusive multilateral solutions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”, followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.
13. Delegations that took the floor thanked the Presidency for its leadership on this process and for the transparent and inclusive consultations led by the Permanent Representative of Morocco to accommodate views expressed by member states, including the revised paper prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Presidency to better prepare the subcommittee meeting held on 19th January. While many delegations supported the theme proposed by the Presidency, several delegations also supported the suggestions to modify the proposed theme and background note, inter alia, to make reference to sustainability and to replace the word “solutions” with “actions” in the theme title.
14. The Permanent Representative of Morocco thanked delegations, on behalf of the Presidency, for their guidance and constructive discussions and proposed to modify the proposed theme for final consideration by the UNEA Bureau at the joint bureau meeting of the UNEA 6 and CPR Bureaus on 30 January 2023, as follows: “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”. He also asked the Secretariat to revise the background note on the theme to reflect the views expressed.

Agenda item 6: Updates on the outcomes of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-15) and meetings of its protocols.

15. The Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat provided a briefing on the outcomes of [Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15 meeting](#), followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.
16. Delegations that took to the floor thanked the CBD Secretariat for the briefing and made the following comments:
 - a. Pointed out the importance of the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity framework to be supported with a monitoring mechanism that will allow the ability to measure progress for implementation, recalling the request to UNEP to work together with UN country coordinators and Member States in delivering this framework.
 - b. Highlighted the need for the newly adopted framework to provide a strategic vision and global roadmap for the conservation, protection and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems for the next decade.
 - c. Further highlighted the need for the adoption of the five means of implementation as very important milestones toward its operationalization, also calling for resource mobilization.
 - d. Noted with concern that several key elements in the priority areas affecting African countries were not factored in the outcome of the document after the conference

urging for prioritization of key elements affecting the African group to be incorporated in the biodiversity deliberations such as adoption a post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, commitment to new and additional funding to close the financing gap and the establishment of a dedicated global biodiversity fund for biodiversity conservation and implementation of the GBF.

- e. Noted that certain delegations had issues in obtaining visas to attend the meeting, and recalled that it is the responsibility of the host country to facilitate visa approval to all delegations.

17. The CBD Secretariat thanked delegations for the feedback and clarified, regarding visa issues, that the Secretariat worked very closely with the host country but that in many cases, delegates submitted their request for visas late.

Agenda item 8: Other matters.

18. One Member State requested additional information on the process to agree on UNEA inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

19. The Secretary clarified that the Secretariat will provide a first draft of the input taking into account the outcomes and agreements of UNEA and based on initial inputs from Member States, keeping in mind the structure proposed in the letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council, followed by several consultations under the CPR to find consensus on the final submission to be sent to the HLPF Secretariat from the UNEA-6 President.

Agenda item 9: Closing of the meeting.

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