

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of UNEA-6 and of the CPR  
Monday, 30 January 2023  
16:00 – 18:00hrs  
Online meeting

**Draft summary of the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

**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 (UNEA) and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, followed by opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 2: Consideration of a theme for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.**

3. The President of UNEA briefed the Bureaux on the status of the consultations on the theme for the sixth session of UNEA, drawing attention to the [revised options paper](#), which contained a final proposal for the theme to read “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”, followed by an exchange of views with the members of the UNEA and CPR Bureaux.
4. The members of the two Bureaux provided the following comments:
  - a. Many Bureaux members welcomed the final proposed theme stressing that it was a good compromised text and thanked the Presidency for leading an open, transparent and inclusive consultation. Some Bureaux members expressed appreciation for the acceptance of the GRULAC proposal, which was reflected in the final theme.
  - b. One Bureau member added that while remaining broad, the theme reflects UNEP’s mandate, and, importantly, it would be easier to communicate to the public.
  - c. One Bureau Member, speaking in his national capacity, stated that the theme fully reflects current and emerging environmental problems; highlighted the need to now focus on draft resolutions to be submitted, adding that the quality of the draft resolutions mattered more than quantity; added the importance of inclusiveness, including the participation of youth in the environmental agenda; and appealed to keep the momentum further to the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.
  - d. One Bureau member added that the theme fulfils at least three important objectives, namely, puts multilateralism at the center for tackling environmental challenges; focuses on means of implementation; and is framed within the context of sustainability and the 2030 Agenda.
  - e. Another Bureau Member emphasized the importance of inclusivity and having meaningful participation of disadvantaged groups, youth, women and minorities in UNEA, and multilateralism for removal of barriers towards state, humanitarian and mitigation and adaptation responses in building longer-term environmental

- and climate resilience for societies.
- f. Some Bureau members asked for the background note to be revised as follows: more emphasis on the means of implementation and certain terms to be clarified; inclusion of a reference to cooperation with the Multilateral Environment Agreements; and inclusion of a reference to the UN water conference.
  - g. A Bureau member acknowledged that the theme supports UNEP's MTS, and the background note captures timely and predictable public and private financing; access to information and justice; the need for structural changes in economic governance; progress beyond GDP; and calls for the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.
5. The UNEA President thanked the members of the two Bureaux for their comments, and while reiterating UNEA decision 5/4, in which UNEA requested its Bureau to define a theme, invited UNEA-6 Bureau to agree on the theme.
  6. Subsequently, the UNEA-6 Bureau decided that the theme for UNEA-6 will be defined as follows: **“Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”**.
  7. The President suggested that the Presidency, working closely with the Secretariat, adjust the background note to reflect the few editorial suggestions provided; and the Secretariat to make available the final background note as a post-meeting document on the meeting portal.
  8. The President of the UNEA Bureau announced that she would write to the Ministers of the Environment to inform them of the UNEA Bureau's decision on the theme.

**Agenda item 3: Preliminary discussions on the process and roadmap for consultation on the draft Ministerial Declaration of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly.**

9. The UNEA President, while drawing attention to the [draft roadmap on the consultation process on the draft ministerial declaration](#), informed the Bureaux members that the draft roadmap is based on established practice and experience gained from UNEA-1 and outlines proposed milestones and key dates for the process of drafting and convening of the consultations, under the leadership of UNEA President. The President also informed of her intention to ensure the broadest possible ownership of the draft ministerial declaration through conducting open, inclusive, participatory and transparent consultations; have a concise and action-oriented draft ministerial declaration; and highlighted that the Presidency, while providing a leadership role, as penholder and facilitator of the consultations, would rely on the guidance and support of the two Bureaux. A presentation was made by the Secretariat of the draft roadmap.
10. The members of the two Bureaux provided the following comments:
  - a. The Bureaux members welcomed the draft roadmap with proposed dates and the number of drafts to be expected, as well as the inclusive approach with consultation with major groups and stakeholders.
  - b. One Bureau member suggested that drawing lessons from UNEA 5.2, the process should not exclude the “possibility of line-by-line negotiations” at the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6) should such negotiations be needed.
  - c. Another Bureau member suggested more consultations with the CPR, including in the month of December, to ensure collective ownership.
  - d. Another Bureau member recalled that in the past, in some cases, smaller contact groups had to be put in place to negotiate some contentious issues, including side chats; adding that since the ministerial declaration is to be adopted by consensus,

the possibility of “side-line consultations” and “open discussion” should be considered.

8. The Executive Director clarified that the past practice has been that the ministerial declaration was not negotiated “line-by-line” and that the process for the negotiations of the political declaration for UNEP@50, which was mandated by the UN General Assembly resolution, was slightly different.

9. The Secretariat further noted that based on UNEA practice since UNEA-1, the negotiation on the ministerial declaration had been led by the UNEA Presidency, with the bulk of the consultations done technically through the written inputs provided by Member States, observers and stakeholders and that in-person consultations took place towards the last stages, which didn't necessarily include line-by-line negotiation of the text.

10. The President thanked the Bureaux members for their views and noted that the draft roadmap could be finalized taking into account the need for additional consultations, as required, to ensure consensus on the draft ministerial declaration.

#### **Agenda item 4: Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly.**

11. The Chair of the CPR introduced the item agenda, followed by the Executive Director, who shared information on the progress made by the UNEA-5 Bureau with regard to the involvement of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the discussion on whether an MEA Day could be held or a panel discussion with the participation of the Presidents of MEAs. The Secretariat presented the way forward for the consideration of the two Bureaux regarding the recommendation contained in [paragraph 6 \(b\) of the CPR-based review](#) on the establishment of an agenda item entitled “[Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#)” in the agenda of UNEA.

10. The members of the two Bureaux provided the following comments:

- a. The Bureaux members welcomed the proposal to include the item in the agenda of UNEA-6.
- b. One Bureau member requested details on how the item will be considered, including which MEAs will be invited and how the dialogue will be conducted, adding the need for adequate and subsequent detailed discussion in the Bureau.
- c. One Bureau member recalled that UNEA, in its decision 5/4, has endorsed the outcome of the CPR-based review, which had suggested the inclusion of the item in the agenda of UNEA; therefore, a mandate already exists for the inclusion of the item in the agenda. The Bureau member echoed the need for clarification on how the item would be considered while taking into consideration the autonomy and independence of the MEAs.
- d. Another Bureau member repeated the importance of clarity in relation to the inclusion of this new agenda item, noting that this would help Member States in their oversight role mandate and to identify cross-cutting issues and interlinkages between MEAs.

11. The Chair of the CPR concluded as follows:

- The UNEA President, on behalf of the UNEA Bureau, would send a letter to the Executive Director requesting the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda of UNEA-6, entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements”; the letter to provide a supporting statement as an annex; and request the issuance of the letter as a document of UNEA.
- Subsequently, upon the issuance of the letter as a document, the Secretariat will revise the provisional agenda of UNEA-6 and include the supplementary item as item 10 and renumber the subsequent items.

**Agenda item 5: Other matters.**

12. The UNEA-6 President announced that the in-person joint retreat of both Bureaux would be held on the 6 and 7 July in Morocco, and the retreat will be preceded by a consultation with representatives of major groups and stakeholders.
13. The UNEA-6 President also announced that the UNEA Bureau meeting to be held on 3 May has been rescheduled to 10 May to be held from 16:00 to 18:00 Nairobi time.

**Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.**

14. The meetings closed at 17:55 (Nairobi time).

## **Annex: List of Participants**

### **The United Environment Assembly Bureau Members:**

1. H.E. Ms. Leila Benali, President of UNEA and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco
2. H.E. Mr. Silvio Jose Albuquerque e Silva, Vice President and Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brazil in Kenya
3. Dr. Jafar Barmaki, Vice President, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iran in Kenya
4. H.E. Ms. Sherry Rehman, Vice President of UNEA and Minister for Climate Change of Pakistan
5. H.E. Mr Alioune Ndoye, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition of Senegal.
6. H.E. Mr. Jàn Budaj, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Slovakia
7. H. E. Ms. Trudy Harrison Vice President of UNEA and Minister for International Environment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
8. H.E. Mr. Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi, Rapporteur of UNEA and Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine

### **Others**

1. Sergio Salazar Alzate, Chargé d'affaires a.i. Embassy of Colombia in Kenya representing H.E. Ms. Susana Muhamad Gonzales, Vice President and Minister of Environment and Sustainable of Colombia
2. H. E. Ms. Ana Filomena Rocha, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal in Kenya, representing H.E. Mr. Jose Duarte Piteira Silvestre CORDEIRO, Vice President of UNEA and Minister for the Environment and Climate Action of Portugal

### **The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau Members:**

1. H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP
2. H.E. Mrs. Selma Malika Haddadi, Vice Chair of the CPR and Ambassador of Algeria to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP,
3. H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Vice Chair of the CPR and Ambassador of Mexico to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, Vice Chair of the CPR.
4. H.E. Mrs. Katarina Leligdonova, Vice Chair of the CPR and Ambassador of Slovakia to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
5. H.E. Mr. Nasser Mohammed AlFaridi, Minister Plenipotentiary/Deputy Head of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative. Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Environment Programme (participated as an observer since his candidature as the Rapporteur was under the *silent procedure, in accordance of rule 19 of the rules of procedure of UNEA, until 28 February 2023*)

### **The UN Environment Program Secretariat was represented by:**

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
2. Ms. Sonja Leighton-Kone, Acting Deputy Executive Director.
3. Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff.
4. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
5. Mr. Alvin John Gachie, Legal officer.