

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Bureau Meeting  
Tuesday, 14 February 2023  
9:00 – 11:00 (GMT +3)  
Conference Room 9  
Hybrid meeting

### **Draft 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: Contribution of UNEA to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.**

3. The Bureau was invited to consider the [Contributions of UNEA to the High-level political forum](#) on Sustainable Development.
4. Bureau members provided the following comments:
  - a. Recommended to follow the established practice from previous years to submit UNEA contributions to HLPF, whereby the discussions in the subcommittee will not be a line-by-line negotiation, and the Secretariat to take into consideration the comments provided by Member States at the subcommittee meeting as well as the written inputs reflecting the general consensus, to avoid contentious issues while using already agreed language to the extent possible.
  - b. Requested that the available draft be uploaded on the portal of the CPR Subcommittee meeting of 16 February 2023.

#### **Agenda item 3: Preparations for the 161<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.**

5. The Bureau was invited to consider the preparations for the 161<sup>st</sup> Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 9 March 2023, based on a [draft annotated agenda. No comments were made on the agenda.](#)
6. The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that, at the resumed 160<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPR, the representative of the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) informed the CPR that the provision of interpretation for hybrid meetings using online platform, i.e. remote interpretation, was a business continuity measure put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, all duty stations, including UNON, have been provided with two options for interpretation for hybrid meetings, namely, (a) , for a 3-hour meeting held in a hybrid format, interpretation of statements by online participants will be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes, though if written statements are provided in advance those interventions will not fall within the 30 minutes; and (b) if the duration of the meeting is reduced to 2 hours no such limitation would be in place. In both options, two meetings

per day can be held, namely, morning and afternoon meetings. The Secretariat also reminded the Bureau that prior to the pandemic, though the CPR quarterly meetings were held in a hybrid format but interpretation was not provided for online participants since the technology for “remote simultaneous interpretation” was not available then.

7. Following in-depth consideration within the Bureau, whereby Members of the Bureau underlined the importance of equal treatment of all delegations in terms of meeting interpretation, the Chair summarized the discussion as follows:
  - noted with concern the information that as of recent, all UN meetings, including future quarterly meetings of the CPR as serviced by UNON interpreters, held for a duration of three hours, a maximum of 30 minutes of interpretation per session will be provided for interventions made by online participants (remote interventions). As an exception, those online remote interventions for which written statements are provided in advance of the meeting will not be counted into the said 30 minutes;
  - also noted that no such limitation is in place for meetings held for a duration of two hours each;
  - further noted that this limitation does not relate to in-person interventions delivered in the meeting room;
  - agreed that the agenda for each upcoming quarterly CPR meeting would be assessed in advance, in particular with regard to the expected length of the meeting and interpretation requirements, to allow for maximum provision of interpretation;
  - underlined the importance of informing delegations in advance of this arrangement and for the arrangement for each meeting;
  - encouraged delegations to provide written statements to the Secretariat in advance of the meeting, especially in cases where interventions are made remotely. Interpretation will be provided for online remote interventions beyond the 30 minutes limitation, if written statements are made available in advance; and
  - acknowledged that prior to the hybrid arrangements developed in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, interpretation was not provided for online participants.
8. The Bureau was further invited to consider a [revised secretariat background note on the implementation of paragraph 41\(j\) of the chairs summary of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of the committee of Permanent Representatives.](#)
9. The Bureau agreed with the gist of the revised note on implementation of paragraph 41 (j) of the Chair’s Summary of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR and noted that - depending on the discussions during the 161<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CPR - the CPR would either endorse, welcome or take note of the recommendations in the revised note.
10. Two Bureau members referred to the roadmap of meetings which was referred to in the note and questioned the rationale for holding the 10<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting one month later than previous years, given the need to make full use of the intersessional period between the annual subcommittee and the open-ended meeting of the CPR to allow for adequate time to table and initiate in-depth consultations on draft resolutions. One Bureau Member saw merit in the proposed timing of the annual subcommittee meeting, provided that Member States were encouraged to prepare draft resolutions in advance of the meeting.
11. The Secretariat clarified that the proposed timing for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee at the end of November was based on the lessons learned from UNEA-5 and on the recommendation in paragraph 41 (m) of the Chair’s Summary of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual

subcommittee meeting, and that this timeframe would provide Member States with adequate time to be in a position to present initial concept notes or draft resolutions in advance of the annual subcommittee meeting, which could also allow for earlier clustering of draft resolutions and appointment of co-facilitators. The timing would also allow for consideration of advance versions of UNEA-6 working documents which might be helpful for delegations when considering draft resolutions.

12. The Chair noted that further reflection may be needed on the date of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting, and that the incoming CPR Bureau would need to be involved.

#### **Agenda item 4: Organization of Work**

13. The Bureau was invited to consider the organization of work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, based on a [roadmap for the UNEP Governing Bodies](#).
14. The Bureau agreed to consider an earlier date for the next meeting of the CPR Bureau, and to mark the date for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR as “to be confirmed” (TBC).
15. The Bureau was reminded that the next CPR Bureau will be elected at the 162nd CPR meeting on 15th June.

#### **Agenda item 5: Other matters.**

16. The Executive Director informed the Bureau about a reception to be held on 9 March after the 161<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CPR, in honor of the incoming Deputy Executive Director and to appreciate the service of the outgoing Acting Deputy Executive Director.
17. The Bureau also agreed to hold an informal meeting of the outgoing and the incoming CPR Bureau.

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

18. The meeting closed at 11:15.

## **Annex: List of Participants**

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

H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP

H.E. Mrs. Selma Malika Haddadi, Ambassador of Algeria to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, Vice Chair of the CPR.

H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Ambassador of Mexico to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, Vice Chair of the CPR.

H.E. Mrs. Katarina Leligdonova, Ambassador of Slovakia to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

Mr. Nasser Mohammed Alfaridi, Rapporteur, 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 (nomination under silence procedure until 28 February 2023)

### **A representative of the President of the UN Environment Assembly participated in an ex officio capacity:**

Ms. Siham Mourabit, Deputy Head of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative of Morocco to UNEP

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

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.

Ms. Sonja Leighton-Kone, Acting Deputy Executive Director.

Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff.

Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies.