

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
16 February 2023
14:00 – 17:00 (GMT+3)
Conference Room 1 and online

Draft Chair's Summary

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

1. H. E. Ms. Selma Malika Haddadi, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador of Algeria to Kenya, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Briefing on the outcome from the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-27).

3. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the [outcome from the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC COP-27), followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.
4. Delegations that took the floor provided the following comments¹:
 - a. Congratulated the Secretariat for the presentation on COP27 outcomes and thanked Egypt for hosting COP27 and the United Arab Emirates for their offer to host COP28.
 - b. Highlighted the success of COP27, notably the establishment of a loss and damage fund, the launch of the first work programme on mitigation, the progress made on adaptation, and the significant presence of youth.
 - c. Reminded developed countries of the pledges for adaptation finance and climate finance.
 - d. Recommended that countries enhance their level of ambition ahead of COP28.
 - e. Requested the Secretariat to provide further information on the African Carbon Markets Initiative and asked for clarifications on what African States can do at a national level in support of this initiative.
5. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their guidance and questions and provided the following comments:
 - a. Clarified that the African Carbon Markets Initiative derives jointly from the African States, the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, Sustainable Energy for All, and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, with a potential to raise 300 million carbon credits that could be worth \$6 billion and support 30 million jobs.
 - b. Considered that the African Carbon Markets Initiative may be a part of national transparency efforts in the reporting to the Convention, noting that the enabling conditions, investment circumstances, and transparency around the transaction will be determining factors of how countries can benefit from this initiative.

Agenda item 3: Presentation of the 2022 UNEP Adaptation Gap Report.

6. The Secretariat provided a [presentation](#) on the [Adaptation Gap Report](#). This was followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.

¹ Egypt, United States of America, Malawi, Ghana, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Canada and Children and Youth Major Group.

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7. Delegations that took the floor provided the following comments²:
 - a. Congratulated the Secretariat for preparing this important report, as an important tool to inform multilateral discussions on adaptation and on how to make the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) more achievable.
 - b. Expressed appreciation for the supporting products complementing the report, including the key messages document and the explainer video, which reach a broader audience.
 - c. Welcomed that the gender and geographic balance within the authors team of the report had improved, while noting that there is still room for improvement.
 - d. Noted with concern the main findings of the report concerning insufficient financing for adaptation for developing countries.
 - e. Welcomed further research on adaptation finance gaps, taking into account that National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NDCs are not costed while bearing a high implementation cost.
 - f. Welcomed the fact that many Member States have adaptation plans in place, and that they are becoming more inclusive regarding vulnerable groups, while noting that progress is still slow and that additional efforts by Member States and the UN system are needed to improve mainstreaming of the environment and climate into national policies.
 - g. Requested that future Secretariat presentations of similar reports be first delivered to the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representative in Nairobi and closer to the date of the official launch.

 8. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their guidance and questions and provided the following comments:
 - a. Noted the request to present relevant UNEP reports to the CPR in a timely manner, within the framework of the Secretariat's publishing policy, taking into account the production timelines for the reports.
 - b. Recognized the concerns raised by Member States regarding implementation, including with regard to finance as well as mitigation targets.
 - c. Confirmed that an increasing share of authors and members of the Steering Committee for the report are representatives from developing countries.

Agenda item 4: Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

9. The Secretariat provided an overview of the [revised draft of the Contribution of UNEA to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) followed by an exchange of views with Member States and Stakeholders.

10. Delegations that took the floor provided the following comments³:
 - a. Thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the revised draft.
 - b. Welcomed efforts to develop a concise document, as well as the integration of comments received and considered that the present draft was a significant improvement on the first one.
 - c. Highlighted the need to provide references to agreed UNEA outcomes in a concise and balanced manner and avoid content deriving from other UN bodies or processes.
 - d. Noted that some language relating to biodiversity and to mining and minerals seemed selective and could be better referenced in more generic terms.
 - e. Noted that in Section A, the reference to clean energy could also address the need for significant cuts in emissions.
 - f. Expressed concerns regarding the wording in section B on financing, keeping in mind that the COP-27 decision on loss and damage does not mention financial commitments per se.
 - g. Emphasized the need to ensure alignment to the UNEA outcomes and to relevant decisions

² Russian Federation, Kenya, European Union, Canada and Netherlands.

³ South Africa, Canada, European Union, United States of America, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Argentina, Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway, China, Netherlands, Brazil and Algeria.

- taken at various COPs.
- h. Highlighted the need to strengthen the text around SDG7 to reflect the need to accelerate the transition to clean energy and acknowledge climate impacts.
 - i. Requested the Secretariat to prepare a further revised version of the document ensuring that the contribution remains within the theme of the HLPF and focuses clearly on the role of UNEP and on UNEA's contributions primarily.
11. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their guidance and questions and provided the following comments:
- a. Explained that the draft reflected language from relevant resolutions from previous sessions of UNEA, including the fifth session, as well as outcomes of meetings in which UNEP has been engaged as they relate to the environmental dimension of the SDGs.
 - b. Also indicated that the draft has been linked to UNEP's programme of work and the medium-term strategy.
 - c. Further mentioned that the draft only addresses the SDGs that are under review by the HLPF, namely, SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.
 - d. Reminded delegations to provide inputs with reference to the source.
12. The Chair provided the following comments:
- a. Invited delegations to submit their comments in writing no later than 17 February 2023.
 - b. Reminded that that, based on past practice, the meeting was a consultation meeting, whereby the Committee will guide the Secretariat towards a document that enjoys broad agreement and acceptable, and not a drafting exercise or a line-by-line negotiation.
 - c. Indicated that a further revised version would be circulated on 22 February 2023, taking into consideration the comments received, and that any additional comments in writing, including sources, would have to be submitted by 24 February.
 - d. Emphasized the need for a concise document which takes into account the guidance provided in the letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council and reflects agreed language to ensure collective and consensus ownership of the document.
 - e. Noted that a final draft will be put under silence procedure from 28 February 2023 to 2 March 202 and that, if no further comments would be received by 2 March 2023, the document will be forwarded to the UNEA President for subsequent transmission to the President of ECOSOC.

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

13. The delegation of Malawi congratulated the two incoming Directors of the Regional Offices of Africa and Europe, noting positively that the appointment of the Director of the Africa Office has been done before the departure of the incumbent.
14. The delegation of Portugal, on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Nairobi Group of Friends to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Portugal and Chile), announced that the group will hold an online event regarding plastic pollution on 1 March at 15:30.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

15. The meeting closed at 16:45.