

Reference: Not-INC-2023-0025

25 May 2023

Dear Madam/Sir,

At the request of the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), we hereby circulate a Note Verbale Ref 491, dated 24 May 2023, and a letter from the Permanent Representative of Romania to UNEP, as the Nairobi Chair of the Group of Eastern European States, regarding the outcomes of EEG meeting that took place on 26 April 2023, in a hybrid format.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

The INC Secretariat



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN NAIROBI

No: 491

The Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) presents its compliments to the UNEP Governing Bodies has the honor to refer to its Note Verbale no. 377 of 27th of April 2023, requesting, **the circulation of the letter no. 377(1) of 27th of April 2023 signed by the Permanent Representative of Romania to the UNON, in his capacity of Chairman of the Eastern of European Group – EEG at the UNON**, concerning the outcome of the hybrid meeting of the EEG Member States of 26th of April 2023.

In that respective Note, this Permanent Mission requested to have it and the letter circulated to all the parties interested. By “all parties interested”, it was meant to be circulated to ALL INC and SPP Member States, respectively, including also the Chairpersons of ALL UNON Regional Groups, except the EEG.

Therefore, **the Permanent Mission of Romania to UNON is kindly requesting the INC Secretariat to circulate as soon as possible the above-mentioned letter to the INC Member States, in advance to the INC-2 session. It is also kindly requesting to publish the letter, as soon as possible, on the INC website.**

The same procedure has to be followed with the respect of the SPP Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the UNEP Governing Bodies the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nairobi, 24th of May, 2023



The UNEP Governing Bodies unep-executiveoffice@un.org; unep-sgb@un.org

- in town -

H.E. Ambassador Gustavo Meza- Velásquez

Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment (INC)

H.E. Ms. Gudi Alkemande

Chairman of the ad-hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Science Policy Panel (OEWG-SPP)



**PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN NAIROBI**

No: 377(1)/27th of April 2023

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

I would like to refer to our hybrid meeting held on 26 April 2023 (convened following my letters of 4th and 13th of April 2023, respectively), over which I presided as Chair of the Group of Eastern European States ("EEG") in Nairobi. The meeting was attended by the following twenty-one members of the EEG: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czechia; Estonia; Georgia; Latvia; Lithuania; Montenegro; North Macedonia; Poland; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Ukraine.

The purpose of the meeting was to give a clear indication on the preferences of the Member States of the Group regarding the EEG nominations to the Bureaux of:

- (i) the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment (INC); and**
- (ii) the ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group on a Science-Policy Panel (OEWG/SPP).**

As indicated in my letter of 13th April 2023 to the EEG the candidates nominated by their Governments for the Bureau of the INC from the EEG were as follows:

- (a) Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia);
- (b) Mr. Kaupo Heinma (Estonia);
- (c) Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation); and
- (d) Mr. Roman Filonenko (Ukraine).

The candidates nominated by their Governments for the Bureau of the OEWG/SPP from the EEG were as follows:

- (a) Ms. Ana Berejiani (Georgia);
- (b) Mr. Alexandru Roznov (Romania);
- (c) Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation); and
- (d) Mr. Roman Filonenko (Ukraine).

The EEG members accredited to UNEP

H.E. Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velásquez

Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment (INC)

HE Ms. Gudi Alkemade

Chairman of the ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group on a Science-Policy Panel (OEWG/SPP)



I also indicated in my previously mentioned letters that, in the absence of consensus, I intended, in my capacity as the Chair of the Group to call for an informal election of the representatives of the EEG to each Bureau at our 26 April meeting, through a roll call vote. In the absence of any formal rules of procedure of the EEG, this would be without prejudice to any formal election by secret ballot that may be conducted at any future meetings of the INC or of the OEWG/SPP, respectively. The informal election would not be binding on the EEG, but it would identify which representatives within the Group enjoy the greatest support for each Bureau and would constitute a clear sign of the preferences of the EEG Member States..

The agenda for the meeting was adopted at our meeting on 26 April with 19 votes in favour and two against.

The first step was an attempt by the Chair to reach a consensus solution for the nominations to the two bodies, the Bureaux of INC and OEWG/SPP, respectively.

The representatives of Georgia and Ukraine, respectively, formally announced an agreement between them to withdraw their candidatures as follows: Ukraine from the INC and Georgia from the OEWG/SPP.

In the light of these developments, the Russian Federation announced its intention to withdraw one of its candidatures with the understanding that the remaining candidature of the Russian Federation would be supported by the EEG Member States present at the meeting.

It came out that the consensus was not at all possible.

There were certain EEG Member States who did not agree to the Group proceeding to a vote and, accordingly in order to do so, I put the proposal to conduct the informal roll call vote on the candidates for the INC and OEWG/SPP to a procedural vote.

The main objection raised by one EEG Member State was that it is up to the plenary meetings of the INC and the OEWG/SPP, respectively, to come out with a formal result/decision by voting. Another objection mentioned by that EEG Member States was that, if there will be a vote, this has to be secret and that all candidates should be present in person at the meeting.

These objections were dismissed as follows:

- a secret vote is not compulsory, as the EEG, in the absence of any formal rules of procedure, can decide on the way it wishes to proceed by the majority of its members present; and
- all the candidates who were nominated by their respective Governments endorsing their professional capabilities and their biographies were duly distributed in advance twice (initially by the UNEP Secretariat upon receipt of the nominations and also by the EEG Chair during the preparation for the meeting).

The proposal on conducting the informal roll call vote on the candidates for the INC and OEWG/SPP to a procedural vote was adopted at our meeting by 18 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

One Member State also requested the postponement of the meeting on a later date as it didn't have instructions from the Capital concerning their preference on the candidatures. This request was also supported by another Member State.

As all other present Member States did not express their support for the postponement of the meeting, the Chair decided to continue with the election through an informal roll call vote .

The Group accordingly then proceeded to an informal roll call vote on the three nominated candidates for the Bureau of the INC after the previously mentioned announcement. The three



candidates were: Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia); Mr. Kaupo Heinma (Estonia); and Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation).

As I clearly stated in the meeting, the result of the informal roll call vote for the INC was as follows: Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia) obtained 16 votes; Mr. Kaupo Heinma (Estonia) obtained 16 votes; and Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation) obtained 1 vote. Three countries abstained and one country did not participate in the informal roll call vote, invoking politicization of the process.

The Group then proceeded to an informal roll call vote on the three nominated candidates for the Bureau of the OEWG/SPP, after the previously mentioned announcement. The three candidates were: Mr. Alexandru Roznov (Romania); Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation); and Mr. Roman Filonenko (Ukraine).

As I clearly stated in the meeting, the result of the informal roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Alexandru Roznov (Romania) obtained 15 votes; Mr. Roman Filonenko (Ukraine) obtained 15 votes; and Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation) obtained 1 vote. Four countries abstained and one country did not participate in the informal vote, invoking politicization of the process.

This letter is communicated to the respective Chairs of the INC and OEWG/SPP for the purpose of providing information to the INC and OEWG/SPP respectively, that may assist in finalizing the election of each Bureau.

The letter will also be sent to the UNEP Governing Bodies for further distribution to all parties interested.

Yours sincerely,


Dragoș Țigău

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania
Chair of the Eastern European Group at the UNON**

