
Joint Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
10 May 2023, 16:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online Meeting

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 UN Environment Assembly 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 meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Consultations on the draft ministerial declaration for UNEA-6.

3. The President of UNEA provided a briefing on the content and status of consultations on the [zero draft Ministerial Declaration](#) for UNEA-6, followed by an exchange of views with the Members of the UNEA and CPR Bureaux.
4. Bureau Members thanked the UNEA-6 Presidency for preparing the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration for UNEA-6 as a solid basis for open, inclusive and transparent consultations, welcomed the [related roadmap of consultations](#) and provided preliminary comments on the content adding that Member States would have the opportunity to provide comments during the informal consultations planned. Several Members welcomed the proposal that the declaration will provide a contribution from UNEA to the Summit of the Future. One Member expressed concern with linking international security with the concept of the three planetary crises while another Member proposed to include a reference to sand and dust storms. In addition, one Member suggested stronger language on issues such as protection of oceans, conservation and sustainable use of forests and engagement of young people and another Member proposed inclusion of just energy transition.
5. The UNEA President thanked Bureau members for their guidance and recalled that written comments for the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration should be submitted by the end of May, followed by a first informal consultation on the zero draft scheduled for 15 June 2023, and that the two Bureaux will revert to this issue at the Joint Retreat on 6 and 7 July in Morocco.

Agenda item 3: UNEA sessions and related consequences for the Medium-Term Strategies and Programmes of Work and Budget of UNEP.

6. Following a presentation from the Secretariat, Bureau Members had a preliminary exchange of views on options for the timing of future UNEA sessions and related consequences for the Medium-Term Strategies and [Programme of Work and Budget](#) of UNEP.
7. Bureau members thanked the Secretariat for preparing the background paper and for initiating this important discussion, noted that this will require a broader consultation with Member States and in this regard welcomed the proposal to consider this matter further at the 10th annual subcommittee scheduled for November 2023, and asked for several clarifications relating to the two options, including with regard to budgetary and programmatic consequences, cost implications of holding additional UNEA sessions, as well as alignment with the UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy

Review.

8. One Member asked for more information on a possible alternative option to organize UNEA 7 in two steps, with UNEA-7.1 to be held in 2025 back-to-back with the annual subcommittee, with the sole purpose of approving a new Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work, and UNEA 7.2 held in 2027 to align the UNEA sessions to odd numbered years.
9. The Executive Director and the Secretariat responded that having UNEA 7 divided into two parts from 2025 to 2027 would imply that the Bureau of UNEA 7 would have a three-year term; both option 1 of convening a special session in 2025 or having UNEA 7 divided into two parts will have considerable additional unbudgeted financial implications from approximately \$US250,000 for a decision through silence procedure to \$US850,000 - 900,000 for a hybrid meeting; and consultation have been planned for the subcommittee meeting in June as well as consultations will continue as needed including during the annual subcommittee meeting.
10. The UNEA President thanked Bureau members for their guidance, noted that this issue will be further considered under the auspices of the CPR and highlighted that the issue may also be addressed at the Joint Retreat in Morocco in July.

Agenda item 4: Implementation of the reform of the UN development system.

11. The Executive Director while drawing attention of the two Bureaux to the [letter from the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN](#) addressed to the President of UNEA and the accompanying [checklist on the UN development system reform](#), explained that the Deputy Secretary-General has suggested that governing bodies include reporting against the checklist as part of their annual programme of work, either as an additional agenda item on the implementation of the reform of the UN development system or to complement or replace reporting on an existing agenda item on the topic; that the checklist aims to fill a gap in the oversight of the implementation of the UN development system reform, and it ensures that the governing bodies can refer to a single tool to assess the implementation of the reform by their respective entities.
12. The Executive Director informed that (i) the Secretariat will work on the checklist and share it with Member States ahead of the 10th annual subcommittee meeting for discussion in the context of a broader United Nations reform; (ii) Member States will have the opportunity during the annual subcommittee meeting to provide guidance/comments on UNEP's responses to the checklist and how to proceed with the checklist, including endorsing or taking note of the checklist; and (iii) proposed that UNEA could also take an oral procedural decision to take note of the checklist once it is finalized after the ASC meeting and that the decision could be taken under the item "Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues".
13. The Chair of the CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare the draft inputs to the checklist for further consideration and finalization at the 10th annual subcommittee meeting scheduled for November 2023.

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

14. A representative of the UNEA Presidency provided an update on the state of preparations for the Joint Bureaux retreat to be held on 6 and 7 July in Tangier, Morocco, and announced that the invitation will be shared with the Bureau soon. An online registration portal for the Joint Retreat will open from 22 May to 21 June 2023.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 18:00 (GMT+3).

Annex: List of Participants

The United Nations 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 of Brazil in Nairobi.
3. H. E. Ms. Susana Muhamad, Vice President and Minister of Environment of Colombia.
4. H. E. Mr. Jafar Barmaki, Vice President, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Nairobi.
5. H.E. Mr. Jose Duarte Piteira Silvestre Cordeiro, Vice President and Minister for the Environment and Climate Action of Portugal was represented by Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Portugal in Nairobi, Ana Filomena Rocha.
6. Mr. Alioune Ndoye, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition of Senegal was represented by Mr. Cheikh Fofana, Director of Environment and Deputy Director of Environment of Senegal
7. H.E. Mr. Ján Budaj, Vice President and Minister of Environment of Slovakia was represented by Mrs. Lucia Rohaľová, Foreign Affairs and Environmental Policies Directorate of the Ministry of Environment of Slovakia.
6. Mr. Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi, Rapporteur, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine.
9. H. E. Ms. Trudy Harrison, Vice President and Minister for International Environment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was represented by Mr. Tom Chairles, UN Environment Programme Lead for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Committee of Permanent Representative 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. Katarina Leligdonova, Vice Chair of the CPR and Ambassador of Slovakia to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
3. H.E. Mr. Wael Attiya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt (participated as an observer representing the African States).

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Muruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director OF UNEP.
3. Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff, UNEP.
4. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies, UNEP.
5. Mr. Stadler Trengove, Senior Legal Officer, UNEP.