

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Monday, 12 June 2023
10:00 – 12:00 (GMT +3)
Conference Room 9
Hybrid meeting

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 (CPR), Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the 162nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. The Bureau was invited to consider the preparations for the 162nd meeting of the CPR scheduled for 16 June 2023, based on the [agenda](#).
4. The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that the 162nd meeting of the CPR will exceptionally take place on a Friday, 16 June 2023, from 10:00-13:00 and from 15:00-18:00.
5. The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that, as was the case for the 161st meeting of the CPR, interpretation services have been arranged for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon based on the understanding that interpretation will be provided for 30 minutes of the interventions made by delegates speaking on the virtual platform. This will not have an impact on delegates in the room speaking in person. The Secretariat also noted that during the 161st CPR meeting, delegates speaking online did not use the entire 30-minute allocation.

Agenda item 3: Implementation of paragraph 41(j) of the Chair's Summary of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

6. The Bureau was invited to consider the [implementation of paragraph 41\(j\) of the Chair's Summary of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#).
7. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the document was revised, taking into account comments and inputs provided by Members States at the 161st CPR meeting and through subsequent consultation. The document will be for final consideration by Members States at the 162nd meeting of the CPR.
8. The document originated from the CPR-based review and was discussed at the 9th annual subcommittee and subsequently at the CPR subcommittee meeting and the 161st CPR meeting. The document provides guidance on the preparation and conduct of CPR meetings,

including a strategic roadmap, tentative days for the presentation of the Annual Programme Performance Report, and dedicated briefings of the project and portfolios of the work programme. The document further emphasizes that CPR subcommittee meetings and quarterly CPR meetings should focus clearly on the implementation of the Programme of Work.

9. The Secretariat highlighted to the Bureau that paragraph 2 outlines the standing agenda items for the future CPR quarterly meeting and clarifies that the report of the Executive Director will highlight significant developments and updates on the implementation of the Programme of Work and budget and relevant UNEA resolutions and decisions. The standing agenda item also includes preparations for the upcoming UNEA.
10. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that there are two paragraphs regarding the availability of working documents for CPR quarterly and subcommittee meetings, as well as documents for the Bureau meeting. The Secretariat also stated that the last paragraph pertains to how consensual decisions, conclusions and recommendations from the meetings of the subcommittee and quarterly CPR meetings should be captured in the meeting report.
11. The Chair congratulated the Secretariat on coordinating with the delegations ahead of time.

Agenda item 4: Nomination of candidates for the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for 2023 – 2025.

12. The Bureau was invited to consider the [nomination of candidates for the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for 2023-2025](#).
13. The Executive Director reminded the Bureau that the Committee of Permanent Representatives, at its extraordinary meeting on 23 June 2021, had elected Bureau members of the CPR for the period 1 July 2021 to June 2023. Consistent with Rule 63, paragraph 3 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and in accordance with established practice, unless otherwise decided, the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall elect a new Bureau for the period of two years that will run from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025. The Secretariat has sent out a call for nomination of candidates for the new CPR Bureau to all Chairs of regional groups, with an initial deadline of 19 May 2023, which was subsequently extended to 31 May 2023.
14. The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the nominations received:
 - For the post of the Chair: the Asia-Pacific States Group has endorsed the candidature of the Permanent Representative of Jordan.
 - For the three posts of Vice Chairs: The Group of African States has endorsed the candidature of the Permanent Representative of Egypt; for the Eastern European States Group, the Secretariat has received the nomination of the Permanent Representatives of the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation from the governments of the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation, respectively; and for the Western European and other States group, the Secretariat has received the endorsed candidature of the Permanent Representatives of Norway.
 - For the post of the Rapporteur, the nomination from the Latin American and Caribbean States Group was pending.

15. The Chair acknowledged that for the Eastern European States Group, there were two candidates for the one seat to be filled. He informed the Bureau that the Chair of the Eastern European States Group convened a meeting of the Group on 31 May 2023, during which an informal vote was conducted; the result of the meeting was circulated to all Members States at the request of the Chair of the Group. The Chair informed the Bureau that the results of the informal vote showed that six Member States expressed their preference for the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic, and one Member State expressed a preference for the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation. The Chair added that it was important to discuss the scenarios for the election of the CPR Bureau at the 162nd meeting of the Committee. A Bureau member specified that at the meeting on 31 May, the Group of the Eastern European States conducted an expression of preference through a tour de table.
16. The Secretariat presented scenarios for the election of officers, namely, (i) only the Chair is elected, by acclamation, while the election of the Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur is postponed to a later date; (ii) the Chair and any other Bureau member whose candidature is not objected to is elected by acclamation while others are postponed; and (iii) all Bureau members are elected, including election by secret ballot as needed.
17. The Bureau held a discussion on the presented procedures. In response to a question by a Bureau Member, the Secretariat informed that the established practice in the UN General Assembly is to directly go for an election by secret ballot when there are more candidates than the number of positions to be filled or when a candidature is objected.
18. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to send out an information note to all delegations on the procedure for the election of the members of the CPR Bureau, including by possible secret ballot; also requested the Secretariat to organize a briefing for delegations on the election of the Bureau in advance of the 162nd CPR meeting; further requested the Secretariat to inform delegations of the possibility of election by secret ballot, which would require in-person participation of the CPR members; and decided that at the 162nd CPR meeting the item on the election of officers will be considered before the item on the report of the Executive Director.

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

18. A Bureau member informed that a letter was circulated by the Secretariat regarding the candidature of Mr. Norbert Kurilla, Advisor to the President of Slovakia, as the Vice-President of UNEA, replacing the Minister of Environment of Slovakia who stepped down due to a change in the government.
19. The Executive Director thanked the Bureau for attending the meeting and looked forward to seeing delegations during the 162nd CPR meeting on Friday, 16 June 2023.
20. The Chair bid the Bureau farewell, as this would be his last Bureau meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

21. The meeting closed at 12:00 (GMT+3).

Annex: List of Participants

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau Members:

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

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

H. E. Mrs. Katarina Leligdonova, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Ambassador of Slovakia to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

Mr. Nasser Mohammed Alfaridi, Rapporteur and Deputy Head of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNEP.

A representative of the Group of African States participating as an observer:

H. E. Mr. Chol M. U. Ajongo, Head of Mission and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Sudan to UNEP.

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

H. E. Mr. Abderrazzak Laassel, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to UNEP.

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.

Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff.

Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Stadler Trengove, Legal Advisor.