

United Nations Environment Assembly
Bureau Meeting
Monday, 24 January 2024
16:00 - 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online - Microsoft Teams

President's Summary

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

1. Her Excellency 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 Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Update on the draft ministerial declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

3. The President recalled that a final draft of the ministerial declaration was circulated on 29 December 2023 and that in her accompanying letter, Member States were requested to engage bilaterally with the Permanent Representatives of Morocco in Kenya, on any remaining concerns about any aspects of the draft.
4. The Permanent Representative of Morocco, His Excellency Mr. Abderrazzak Lassel, provided a short update on bilateral meetings held to date.
5. The Ambassador announced that, if necessary, a revised final draft will be circulated to all delegations based on the bilateral consultations and that an additional informal consultation meeting may be organized before the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6) if need be. He also informed the Bureau that a final consultation will be organized during the OECPR-6 on Thursday, 22 February 2024, chaired by the President of UNEA.
6. One Bureau member stressed the importance of sharing the results of bilateral consultations with all delegations, with any changes clearly marked.

Agenda item 3: Update on the consultations on draft UNEA resolutions and decisions for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

7. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives provided an update on the consultation on the draft resolutions and decisions held under the auspices of the Committee, including with regard to clustering and the nomination process to appoint co-facilitators to lead future consultations.
8. One Bureau member asked about the draft agenda and structure of the OECPR-6 and the guidelines for co-facilitators to all delegations and inquired about the possibility of merging draft resolutions with similar content.
9. One Bureau member sought information on the possible submission of additional resolutions and emphasized the need to make sure that the draft resolution on combating sandstorms and the one on land degradation are not negotiated in parallel, considering that they are likely to be considered by the same experts.
10. One Bureau member acknowledged the capacity constraint to provide co-facilitators from his regional group and announced comments on the draft decision on trust funds would be provided.
11. The CPR Chair informed that submission of additional draft resolutions at this late stage should be discouraged.
12. The Secretariat informed members that the draft agenda and structure of OECPR-6 are available online through the UNEA-6 website. Detailed written guidance on the consultation/negotiation process on draft resolutions for the co-facilitators - which will also provide valuable information for

interested delegations - will be made available on the resolution portal soon. The Secretariat also noted that several Member States had suggested merging similar draft resolutions and that this is now in the hands of the proponents.

Agenda item 4: Update on the preparations for the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

13. The Secretariat provided an update on the preparations for the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 19 to 23 February 2024, based on the annotated agenda and structure.
14. Reflecting on past UNEA experiences, one Bureau member urged the CPR Bureau to prevent a proliferation of informal parallel meetings during OECPR-6, citing disruptions caused by numerous requests for additional negotiations during the previous UNEA, emphasizing the potential adverse impact on small delegations and the risk of undermining the legitimacy of the UNEA outcomes.
15. The Secretariat confirmed that the proposed OECPR structure only foresees 2 parallel working groups engaging at any given time.

Agenda item 5: Update on the preparations for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

16. The Secretariat provided an update on the state of preparations for the session. No Bureau Member took the floor.

Agenda item 6: Other matters.

17. The President reminded Bureau members of the joint UNEA-6 and CPR Bureaux meeting on Sunday, 25 February, which will consider the final preparations for UNEA-6, including with regard to the internal division of work during the UNEA-6 week and nomination of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole. The Secretariat was requested to reach out to the Bureau members to identify potential nominees.
18. The President also reminded Bureau members to facilitate the nomination of candidates to the UNEA-7 Bureau through the regional groups.

Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting.

19. The meetings closed at 17:20 (GMT+3).

Annex 1: List of participants of the UNEA Bureau

UNEA 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 Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP.
3. H. E. Mr. Jafar Barmaki, Vice President, Ambassador and former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iran to UNEP.
4. Mr. Norbert Kurilla, Advisor to the President of the Slovak Republic on Environment, Energy and Climate Action.
5. Mr. Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi, Rapporteur, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

Representation of UNEA Bureau members.

6. H. E. Ms. Susana Muhamad Gonzales, Vice-President of UNEA and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, **represented** by Ms. Maria Teresa Becerra, Head of the Office of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Environment of Colombia.
7. H. E. Mr. Jose Duarte Piteira Silvestre Cordeiro, Vice President and Minister for the Environment and Climate Action of Portugal, **represented by** Ms. Ana Filomena Rocha, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal to UNEP
8. Mr. Richard Thompson, Deputy Head of the International Multilateral Environment Negotiations Division, United Kingdom.
9. H. E. Mr. Alioune Ndoye, Vice President and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal, **represented by** Mr. Baba Drame, Director of Environment at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and Mrs. Khadija Drame, Focal point for UNEA.

Absent.

10. H.E. Ms. Sherry Rehman, Minister for Climate Change of Pakistan.

CPR Bureau member participating in an ex-officio capacity.

1. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to UNEP.

UNEP Secretariat

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director
3. Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
4. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
5. Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Officer.