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**United Nations Environment Assembly  
of the United Nations Environment Programme  
Sixth session**  
Nairobi, 26 February–1 March 2024

## **Draft report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Rapporteur: Silvio Albuquerque e Silva (Brazil)**

### **Introduction**

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its sixth session, in the morning of Monday, 26 February 2024, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme established a committee of the whole to consider the draft resolutions and draft decisions prepared by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its sixth meeting under items 5 and 11 that remained to be finalized for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.
2. In accordance with the decision of the Environment Assembly, the Committee of the Whole held [--] meetings between Monday, 26 February, and Wednesday, 28 February 2024. As decided by the Environment Assembly, the Committee was chaired by Norbert Kurilla (Slovakia) and Silvio Jose Albuquerque e Silva (Brazil) served as Rapporteur.

### **I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

3. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the meeting at 1.15 p.m. on Monday, 26 February 2024.
4. The Committee adopted its agenda, on the basis of the draft provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.6/CW/1).

### **II. Organization of work**

5. At its 1st plenary meeting, in the afternoon of Monday, 26 February 2024, the Committee agreed to establish two contact groups with a view to finalizing, by Wednesday, 28 February 2024, the outstanding draft decisions and draft resolutions for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly at its sixth session.
6. The Chair proposed a general approach to the Committee's work, summarized in eight guiding principles that were aimed at harmonizing and streamlining the negotiation process during the work of the Committee and maximizing the conditions for a successful outcome to its work.
7. Statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States of America.

8. The Committee agreed to conduct its work in accordance with the following eight guiding principles:

- (a) For each draft resolution or decision, the contact group in the cluster was to agree on which document would form the basis of the negotiations at the outset of its meeting, based on the recommendation of the Co-Chair of the contact group;
- (b) In the absence of an agreement, negotiations were to resume based on the most recent version of the draft document, as introduced by the co-facilitators of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives before the close of its sixth meeting, on Friday, 24 February 2024, with the content of the non-paper integrated where available;
- (c) Delegations were encouraged to respect the time allocation proposed by the Co-Chairs for each draft resolution;
- (d) Delegations were encouraged to give particular priority to discussing operative paragraphs and to avoid spending more time on preambular parts;
- (e) Delegations were encouraged to refrain from proposing that any new ideas or concepts be added to the draft documents at the current late and advanced stage of negotiations;
- (f) Delegations should be given sufficient time to review new versions of the drafts, as made available on the portal;
- (g) Given the large number of draft documents under consideration, it was proposed that additional informal-informal consultations take place in parallel with the meetings of the two contact groups, on the condition that the results of such consultations were duly and fully reported to the contact groups or to the Committee for further consideration before any possible action or decision was taken;
- (h) The Co-Chairs of the contact groups were encouraged to coordinate with each other and, with the help of the Secretariat, as far as possible to ensure consistency with regard to the use of agreed legal concepts and definitions.

### III. International environmental policy and governance

9. At its 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 26 February 2024, the Committee agreed to establish two contact groups with a view to finalizing, by the afternoon of Wednesday, 28 February 2024, the 2 outstanding draft decisions and 19 outstanding draft resolutions for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly at its sixth session.

10. It was agreed that the Co-Chairs and the work of the contact groups would be as follows:

- (a) Contact group 1, to be co-chaired by Nana Ama Owusuaa Afriyie Kankam (Ghana), Rohit Vadhvana (India), Yume Yorita (Japan) and Gudi Alkemade (Kingdom of the Netherlands), would address the draft resolutions entitled “Highly hazardous pesticides”; “Sound management of chemicals and waste”; “Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally”; “Combating sand and dust storms”; “Solar radiation modification”; “Strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities drought resilience”; “Development of criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for nature-based solutions to support sustainable development”; “Strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution”; and “Effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies to achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.
- (b) Contact group 2, to be co-chaired by Robert Bunbury (Canada), Alejandro Montero (Chile), Nader Radi Abd-Alkareem Al-Tarawneh (Jordan), Tobias Ogwen (Kenya), Karin Snellman (Sweden) and Felista Rugambwa (United Republic of Tanzania), would address the draft resolutions entitled “Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs”; “Enhancing the role and viability of regional environment ministerial forums and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges”; “Promoting synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development”; “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice”; “Stepping up efforts to accelerate transitioning domestically, regionally and globally to circular economies”; “Environmental aspects of metals and minerals”; “Environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts”; “Behavioural changes towards sustainable lifestyles”; “Circularity of a resilient, low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry; and amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured

Global Environment Facility". It would also address the draft decision on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions.

11. At the 2nd plenary meeting, in the evening of Tuesday, 27 February 2024, the Co-Chairs of the contact groups delivered oral reports on the progress made by the contact groups.
12. Statements were made the representatives of the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
13. The Senior Legal Advisor delivered a statement in response to a request for information.
14. Additional statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Cameroon, Kenya and Portugal.
15. The Committee endorsed two finalized draft resolutions on the circularity of a resilient, low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry and on amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, as well as the finalized draft decision on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.
16. [to be completed]

#### **IV. Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly**

17. At the 1st plenary meeting, in the afternoon of Monday, 26 February, the Committee decided that the draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly would be addressed by contact group 2.
18. At the 2nd plenary meeting, in the evening of Tuesday, 27 February, the Committee endorsed the finalized draft decision on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

#### **V. Adoption of the report**

19. [to be completed]

#### **VI. Closure of the meeting**

20. [to be completed]
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