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**United Nations Environment  
Assembly of the United Nations  
Environment Programme**

**Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations Environment Programme  
Sixth meeting**

Nairobi, 19 February – 23 February 2024

10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00

Hybrid meeting

**Final Chair's Summary of the sixth meeting of the Open-ended  
Committee of Permanent Representatives**

**Chair: H.E. Mr. Firas Khouri**

**Introduction**

1. By its decision 27/2, on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the role of the Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority. To that end, by the same decision, the Governing Council decided to convene an open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives while ensuring support to developing country representatives; to enable the participation of capital-based representatives as well as stakeholders for a period of five days to contribute to the preparation of the agenda of its governing body, the United Nations Environment Assembly; and to provide advice to the Assembly on policy matters.
2. Accordingly, the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives was convened at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, from 19 February to 23 February 2024.

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

3. The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 19 February 2024, by H.E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
4. The Chair welcomed the participants to the meeting, pointing out that every effort would be made to collectively finalize the proposed draft resolutions and decisions, as well as the draft ministerial declaration, to be submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly for consideration and adoption at its sixth session in the following week. In view of the ambitious agenda, the Committee was invited to work expeditiously and make effective use of the limited time available.
5. The meeting adopted the agenda, as contained in document UNEP/OECPR.6/1/Add.1.
6. The meeting heard statements from the Executive Director and from representatives for regional and political groups and from Member States, as well as from Major Groups and Stakeholders.

## II. Organization of work

7. The Committee approved the draft programme of work and five clusters of draft resolutions and decisions, with the understanding that the programme would be reviewed and revised as necessary at the stock-taking plenary meeting on 21 February.
8. The Committee agreed to establish two working groups and five clusters to finalize the draft resolutions and draft decisions to be submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly for consideration and possible adoption at its sixth session.
9. The first cluster was co-facilitated by Ms. Yume Yorita, Secretary of Embassy of Japan and Ms. Nana Ama Owusuaa Afriyie Kankam, First Secretary and Head of Chancery of Ghana High Commission, and considered the following draft resolutions: a draft resolution on highly hazardous pesticides; a draft resolution on sound management of chemicals and waste; draft resolution on promoting regional cooperation to improve air quality globally; a draft resolution on combating sand and dust storms; and a draft resolution on Solar Radiation Modification.
10. The second cluster was co-facilitated by Mr. Rohit Vadhwana, Deputy Permanent Representative of India and Ms. Gudi Alkemade, Deputy Permanent Representative of Netherlands, and considered a draft resolution on effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; a draft resolution on strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities' resilience to drought; a draft resolution on criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for the implementation of nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development; a draft resolution on management of cascades systems and a draft resolution on strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution.
11. The third cluster was co-facilitated by Mr. Alejandro Montero, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Chile and Mr. Karin Snellman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden, and considered a draft resolution on fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements; a draft resolution on enhancing the role and viability of regional environment ministerial forums and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges; a draft resolution on promoting synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development and a draft resolution on Effective, Inclusive and Sustainable Multilateral Actions towards Climate Justice.
12. The fourth cluster was co-facilitated by Ms. Felista S. Rugambwa, Head of Chancery of High Commission of United Republic of Tanzania and Mr. Robert Bunbury, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada, and considered a draft resolution on Stepping up efforts to accelerate transitioning domestically, regionally and globally to circular economies, a draft resolution on environmental aspects of minerals and metals; a draft resolution on environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts; a draft resolution on sustainable lifestyles and a draft resolution on circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agroindustry.
13. The fifth cluster was facilitated by Mr. Nader Al-Tarawneh, Deputy Permanent Representative of Jordan and Mr. Tobias Ogwen, Counsellor of Kenya, and considered a draft resolution on amendments to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility; a draft decision from the Secretariat on provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly; and a draft decision from the Secretariat on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions.
14. The Chair noted that in view of the large number of draft resolutions under consideration at the current meeting, the proponents could, at any time during the meeting, request that their proposed draft resolutions be withdrawn or merged with another draft resolution.

## III. Budget and Programme Performance, including implementation of previously adopted Assembly resolutions and decisions.

15. Following a presentation by Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Committee took note of the following working documents:
  - 1) UNEP/EA.6/2 – Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution - Report of the Executive Director
  - 2) UNEP/EA.6/3 – Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/3 on sustainable mobility - Report of the Executive Director

- 3) UNEP/EA.6/4 – Progress in the implementation of resolutions 4/14 and 5/2 on sustainable nitrogen management: Report of the Executive Director
  - 4) UNEP/EA.6/5 – Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/1 on the animal welfare–environment–sustainable development nexus: Report of the Executive Director
  - 5) UNEP/EA.6/6 – Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste: Report of the Executive Director
  - 6) UNEP/EA.6/7 – Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/9 on sustainable and resilient infrastructure: Report of the Executive Director
  - 7) UNEP/EA.6/8 – Progress in implementing resolution 5/11 on enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production: Report of the Executive Director
  - 8) UNEP/EA.6/9 – Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management
  - 9) UNEP/EA.6/10/Rev.1 – Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/13 on due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations: Report of the Executive Director
  - 10) UNEP/EA.6/11 – Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/14 on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution: Report of the Executive Director
  - 11) UNEP/EA.6/12 – Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility - Report of the Executive Director
  - 12) UNEP/EA.6/13 – Implementation of decisions 5/4 on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly – Report by the Executive Director- to be issued.
16. The European Union noted that implementation of previously adopted resolutions seems to have made progress, and expressed appreciation to UNEP’s work in this regard. Further information was requested on whether UNEP had analyzed the cost of implementation of the resolutions, compared with the original budget estimates in the technical notes, and to what extent the resolutions supported the implementation of UNEP’s Programme of Work. The EU also suggested to expand consideration of this agenda item at future UNEA sessions.

#### **IV. Administrative and budgetary matters**

17. The Committee considered the implementation of decision 5/4 of the Environment Assembly on the extension of the programme of work for the period 2022-2023 by two years to the end of 2025, with the budget and targets being pro-rated accordingly.
18. Following a presentation from the secretariat, the Committee took note of document UNEP/EA.6/13 on the implementation of decisions 5/4 on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly – Report by the Executive Director.
19. The Committee also considered the draft decision on the dates and venue of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly, as contained in document UNEP/OECPR.6/L.2/Rev.1, taking into account document UNEP/EA.6/INF/17 on implementation of decision 5/4 on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
20. Following a presentation from the secretariat, the Committee agreed to undertake further in-depth consideration of the draft decision under cluster E in the working groups to be established under agenda item 6, and that final consideration and possible endorsement of the draft decision will be considered under that agenda item 6 at the closing plenary on Friday afternoon.

#### **V. Contributions of the Environment Assembly to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.**

21. The Committee decided to recommend that the Environment Assembly defer the consideration of its contributions to the forthcoming meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, taking place in New York in 2024 and 2025, to future meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

## **VI. Preparation of draft resolutions and decisions for transmission to the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.**

22. The Committee decided to refer for further consultations the following draft resolutions and decisions:

- 1) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.1 – Draft decision on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, submitted by the Secretariat, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
- 2) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.2 – Draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, submitted by the Secretariat, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
- 3) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.3 – Draft resolution on environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts, submitted by Ukraine.
- 4) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.4 – Draft resolution on effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice, submitted by Sri Lanka.
- 5) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.6 – Draft resolution on strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities drought resilience, submitted by Saudi Arabia.
- 6) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.7 – Draft resolution on fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP, and MEAs, submitted by Malawi and Morocco on behalf of the group of African States.
- 7) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.8 – Draft resolution on enhancing the role and viability of regional environment ministerial forums and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges, submitted by Malawi on behalf of the group of African States.
- 8) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.9 – Draft resolution on Highly Hazardous Pesticides, submitted by Ethiopia on behalf of the group of African States.
- 9) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.10 – Draft resolution on development of criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for nature-based solutions to support sustainable development, submitted by Cameroon on behalf of the group of African States.
- 10) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.11 – Draft resolution on sustainable lifestyles, submitted by India.
- 11) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.12 – Draft resolution on promoting synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development, submitted by Japan.
- 12) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.13 – Draft resolution on sound management of chemicals and waste, submitted by Switzerland.
- 13) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.14 – Draft resolution on Solar Radiation Modification, submitted by Monaco and Switzerland.
- 14) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.15 – Draft resolution on environmental aspects of minerals and metals, submitted by Switzerland and Senegal.
- 15) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.16 – Draft resolution on promoting regional cooperation to improve air quality globally, submitted by the United States of America and Canada.
- 16) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.17 – Draft resolution on combating sand and dust storms, submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 17) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.19 – Draft resolution on stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically, regionally and globally, submitted by the European Union, on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
- 18) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.20 – Draft resolution strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution, submitted by Costa Rica and the European Union, on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
- 19) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.21 – Draft resolution on circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agroindustry, submitted by Cuba.
- 20) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.22 – Draft resolution on amendments to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured global environment facility, submitted by the Secretariat, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
- 21) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.24 – Draft resolution on effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies to achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, submitted by the European Union, on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

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23. The Committee decided that no further action was needed on the following draft resolutions, which were withdrawn by the proponents:
- 1) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.5 – Draft resolution on sustainable management of Cascades Systems, submitted by Sri Lanka.
  - 2) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.18 – Draft resolution on effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, submitted by the European Union, on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
  - 3) UNEP/OECPR.6/L.23 – Draft resolution on living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth and Mother Earth Centric Actions, submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia
24. During the closing meeting, the representative of the UNEA-6 Presidency, Morocco, informed of the outcome of the informal consultation held on Thursday, 22 February, in the evening. Following consultations between the President of the Environment Assembly and the Member States, the Committee transmitted a revised final draft ministerial declaration, as circulated to all delegations on 15 February 2024, without prejudice of the rights of Member States to make additional proposals for further consideration and adoption by UNEA at its closing plenary meeting.

## **VII. Other matters**

25. No other matters were raised.

## **VIII. Consideration of the Chair's summary**

26. At the sixth session of the meeting, on the evening of Friday, 23 February 2024, the Chair drew attention to document UNEP/OECPR.6/8 on draft Chair's summary of the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives for consideration and adoption.
27. One delegation asked for a revision to the report under agenda item 3, to reflect their intervention made under that agenda item.
28. The report was adopted, subject to final review and finalization by the Rapporteur of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

## **IX. Closure of the meeting**

29. The meeting was declared closed on Friday, 23 February 2024 at 21:35.
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