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**Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme
166th meeting**
Nairobi, 13 June 2024

**Draft minutes of the 165th meeting of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment
Programme, held on 25 January 2024**

Agenda item 1

**Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives**

1. The meeting was opened at 12.20 p.m. on Thursday, 25 January 2024 by Firas Khouri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP.
2. The meeting was attended by 71 participants representing 48 members and 2 observer mission[s].

Agenda item 2

**Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 165th meeting of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives**

3. The agenda was adopted on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CPR/165/1).

Agenda item 3

**Adoption of the draft minutes of the 164th meeting of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives**

4. Consideration of the item was deferred to the 166th meeting.

Agenda item 4

Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits

5. In the absence of new evaluation reports or audits for consideration by the Committee, the Chair closed the item.

Agenda item 5

Preparations for the upcoming session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

6. In her oral briefing, the Executive Director, Inger Andersen, said that preparations for the sixth session of the Environment Assembly were well under way. As at 23 January 2024, over 60 ministers had registered for the session and she encouraged delegations to register as soon as possible.
7. The secretariat had prepared the concept notes, including guiding questions, for the high-level leadership dialogues and the multilateral environmental agreement dialogues, and had made them available on the website of the sixth session. The list of keynote speakers for the leadership dialogues was being assembled, along with the list of panellists for the multilateral environmental agreement dialogues, ensuring geographical and gender balance.
8. Inscription on the list of speakers for national statements to be delivered at the high-level segment on Thursday, 29 February and Friday, 1 March was open on the e-Speakers module and the e-deleGATE platform, and would close on 9 February. The secretariat would provide a provisional list of speakers on 15 February.
9. All pre-session documents had been made available in the six official languages of the United Nations on the website of the sixth session, including the unedited version of the scenario note, and the information note for participants.
10. Turning to funding for the sixth session, she said that, as at 17 January 2024, a shortfall remained in the budget of \$700,000, and she thanked Australia, the European Union, Finland, France, Hungary, Morocco, New Zealand, Portugal and Switzerland and the European Investment Bank for their contributions. To close the gap, she invited Governments to continue providing financial contributions to support the organization of the sixth session, in line with their individual circumstances and capacity, to ensure an inclusive, participatory and successful session, and she emphasized that no amount was too great or too small.
11. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation in four parts on preparations for the sixth session: practical and general information; the official programme of the sixth session; engagement with civil society and other related associated events; and the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.
12. Thanking the Government of Kenya for waiving the fee for the Electronic Travel Authorization for registered delegates to the sixth session, which had replaced the visa required to enter the country, she noted that the deadline for developing countries to request travel support had passed and the secretariat was reviewing and approving any such requests. Details on arrangements for the sixth session, including registration, were provided in the information note for participants, and the collection of badges for the sixth session would begin on Saturday, 17 February. The report of the Credentials Committee would be considered for adoption at the plenary session to be held in the afternoon of Thursday, 29 February.
13. The recreational centre at the United Nations Office at Nairobi was in the process of refurbishment, and would be available for use at the sixth session, including to host events. Medical services, and nursing and prayer facilities would be provided, and discussions were under way with the United Nations Office at Nairobi on extending the opening hours of the main cafeteria for the duration of the sixth session, as well as on the provision of late-night food and drinks.
14. Noting that the structure of the sixth session had already been presented at the 163rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 31 October 2023, she outlined the arrangements for the opening plenary session, the leadership dialogues, multi-stakeholder dialogues, national statements, the side events and the closing plenary. The programme was also available on the website and dedicated mobile phone application for the sixth assembly, and was set out in detail in the scenario note for the sixth session.
15. Several stakeholder engagement events would take place prior to the sixth session, including the 2024 Global Youth Environment Assembly and the seventh Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, while the multi-stakeholder dialogues would take place during the week of the sixth session, when a “green room” would be available for the major groups and stakeholders to conduct meetings. Thanking Sweden for its contribution to the Global Youth Environment Assembly, she also listed a number of associated events that would take place before and during the sixth session.
16. At its sixth meeting, to be held from 19 to 23 February, the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives would negotiate and finalize draft resolutions and draft decisions for

consideration and possible adoption at the sixth session. Among other issues, the Open-ended Committee would consider progress reports of the Executive Director and the contribution of the Environment Assembly to the annual meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

17. The representative of Morocco gave an update on the consultations on the draft ministerial declaration of the sixth session. The President of the sixth session had written to the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 29 December 2023, circulating the final draft of the ministerial declaration, which was the result of open, inclusive, transparent, informal consultations during which most of the inputs and comments sent to the presidency had been considered. In that letter, the President had requested the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations to continue engaging through bilateral meetings with representatives of Member States who had concerns in order to foster consensus on the ministerial declaration, as one of the main outcomes of the sixth session. Several bilateral meetings had been held, with more scheduled over the coming weeks. After those meetings, the President would circulate an updated version of the draft ministerial declaration. The President had indicated that more bilateral meetings could be held upon request by members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. A final consultation was scheduled for Thursday, 22 February, which would include engagement with all members to finalize a draft ministerial declaration that would send the appropriate message to the world.

18. Providing an update on the consultations on draft outcome documents of the sixth session, the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives said that, as at 22 December 2023, a total of 20 draft resolutions and 2 draft decisions had been submitted for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its sixth session. The Dominican Republic had informed the secretariat, on 23 January 2024, that it would not be submitting a draft resolution on sargassum seaweed, as initially announced during the tenth annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held from 20 to 24 November 2023, and reference to the draft resolution would therefore be removed from future documentation. The 22 drafts submitted to date had been grouped into five clusters and made available on the website of the sixth session. The Chair urged Member States, without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, to refrain from submitting last-minute draft resolutions.

19. At the two subcommittee meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 11 and 16 January, the main sponsors of draft resolutions had introduced their drafts cluster by cluster and the secretariat focal points had presented technical notes for each draft resolution. A question-and-answer session had followed, during which delegations had provided comments and sought clarifications. During the subcommittee meeting on 16 January, the secretariat had also presented two draft decisions and one draft resolution, followed by a question-and-answer session. The subcommittee meeting held on 23 January 2024 had afforded a second opportunity for delegations to familiarize themselves with the proposals and to provide additional comments or questions on the drafts that had been introduced on 11 and 16 January 2024.

20. The Chairs of the regional groups had informed the secretariat regarding the Nairobi-based delegates from each group who were to act as facilitators for the upcoming consultations on draft resolutions and draft decisions to be held in the lead-up to the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Capacity constraints had prevented the Eastern European States from identifying two co-facilitators, while the Latin American and Caribbean States had identified a first co-facilitator, but not a second. After consultation with the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the secretariat had written on 22 January to the regional groups of the African States, the Asia-Pacific States and the Western European and other States to invite them to identify, by 25 January at the latest, three additional Nairobi-based representatives to act as co-facilitators.

21. Pursuant to the decision taken by the bureaux of the Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the guidelines for the submission of draft resolutions and draft decisions, a letter on the appointment of the seven co-facilitators, co-signed by the President of the Environment Assembly and the Chair of the Committee, had been circulated on 25 January. Once the remaining three facilitators had been identified, a second letter would be circulated.

22. The proposed division of work between the co-facilitators identified to date, as shared by the secretariat with the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 24 January 2024, was as follows: discussions on cluster A would be led by Yume Yorita (Japan) and a third co-facilitator to be identified by the African States; discussions on cluster B would be led by Rohit Vadhwana (India) and the third co-facilitator to be identified by the Western European and other States; discussions on cluster C would be led by Karin Snellman (Sweden) and Alejandro Montero (Chile); discussions on

cluster D would be led by Robert Bunbury (Canada) and Felista Rugambwa (United Republic of Tanzania); and discussions on cluster E would be led by Tobias Ogweno (Kenya) and the third co-facilitator to be appointed by the Asia-Pacific States. An informal meeting would be held between the secretariat and the co-facilitators identified to date on Friday, 26 January 2024. The secretariat would organize an additional meeting for the three co-facilitators that were yet to be identified.

23. The Chair said that he expected the co-facilitators to elaborate a robust workplan for the conduct of their work during the additional subcommittee meetings planned for 1, 6 and 8 February 2024, noting that in the past, line-by-line negotiation of draft resolutions and draft decisions had not taken place in advance of the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives. However, in-depth consideration of the drafts, paragraph-by-paragraph, led by the co-facilitators, had contributed to advancing the preparations of the Open-ended Committee. Subject to the agreement of the proponents, ownership of the draft resolutions and draft decisions would then be transferred from the proponents to the co-facilitators for the remainder of the consultations and negotiations.

24. In order to prepare them for consideration at the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, the draft resolutions and draft decisions submitted to date would be edited by the Division of Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi. The editing would be carried out in accordance with standard United Nations practice and the draft resolutions and draft decisions would be assigned document symbols for the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Chair requested the main proponents to review proposed edits at their earliest convenience to enable final edited versions to be issued at the earliest possible date.

25. Co-facilitators and main proponents were encouraged to organize early consultations with major groups and stakeholders on the documents in order to benefit from their contributions. A list of focal points for major groups and stakeholders for each resolution to be considered at the sixth session had been made available on the resolution portal for the sixth session.

26. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the secretariat for its work in preparing for the sixth session, and the President of the Environment Assembly.

27. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that while her group had provided two co-facilitators, it would continue consultations on a third, as requested by the secretariat. The group welcomed the UNEP resolutions portal as a useful tool for Member States and other stakeholders to follow discussions on draft resolutions and contribute meaningfully to negotiations. Praising the utility of the handbook for delegates to the Environment Assembly, she welcomed the fact that the information in the handbook extended beyond the Environment Assembly to provide information on UNEP, the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the host country, Kenya, and she encouraged delegates to use it. Taking note of the concept notes on the leadership dialogues, she said that assessment of the documents by the members of the group was ongoing, and comments and suggestions would be shared as soon as possible.

28. One representative, thanking the representative of Morocco and the Chair for their comments and the secretariat for its briefings, said that her country was considering projects on their merits, and would participate in negotiations in a constructive manner, as was its tradition.

29. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the outcomes of the sixth session should seek to ensure the inclusion of the environmental aspects of sustainable development in the Summit of the Future. In that light, she thanked the Executive Director for the update on the upcoming global environmental foresight report, which would be an input to the Summit. She looked forward to the launch of the *Global Resources Outlook*, and welcomed the organization of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Day during the sixth session and the central place accorded to science-based policymaking on the agenda. She also welcomed the opportunity to discuss joint work between environmental decision-making bodies, and how stronger cooperation between the Environment Assembly and UNEP could strengthen actions at the national level. The science-policy business forum, to be held on 27 February, would provide an opportunity for dialogue between different stakeholders, while the 2024 Global Youth Environment Assembly would provide an opportunity for the voices of young people to be heard.

Agenda item 6

Report of the subcommittee

30. Consideration of the item was deferred to the 166th meeting of the Committee.

Agenda item 7**Any other business**

31. The representative of Canada recalled that his country's Minister of Environment and Climate Change had issued an invitation to a ministerial meeting on the fourth intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The meeting would be held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi on Wednesday, 28 February, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. and would be followed by a reception. A related concept note would be distributed shortly. Canada looked forward to the participation of ministers at the event.

Agenda item 8**Closure of the meeting**

32. Following a brief comment from the Executive Director, the meeting was declared closed at 1.15 p.m. on Thursday, 25 January 2024.
