

Note by the Secretariat on Possible Elements for the Agenda of the Fourth Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN Environment

March 6-10, 2017

1. At its second session, the UN Environment Assembly decided that on an exceptional basis, the Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme (UN Environment) would take place in 2017. It mandated the Committee of Permanent Representatives to review the agenda and organizational modalities of the Subcommittee. (Decision 22/2, 3c)
2. It will be recalled that Governing Council decision 27/2 established a subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives that would meet annually for a period of five days to review, with the support of the secretariat, the medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget, in a manner coherent with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations, to be endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and for the governing body's approval, and to oversee their implementation and accountability by the Secretariat. Since a Programme of work and budget was adopted at the second session of the Assembly, the next Medium Term Strategy and Programme of work for UN Environment will be considered at the Fourth Session of UNEA in 2018.
3. The Fourth Annual Subcommittee meeting has been scheduled by the Bureau of the Committee from Monday 6th to Friday 10th of March 2017 (including the 138th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives).
4. The forthcoming Annual Subcommittee meeting is expected to focus on progress in the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget including of the resolutions adopted by the Environment Assembly; while also addressing the preparations for the third session of the Assembly.
5. Based on the above considerations and building on the guidance from the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives who discussed the matter at its meeting held on September 26th, 2016, the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives with the support of the Secretariat, puts forth for Members guidance the following substantive items for the provisional agenda of the Fourth Annual Subcommittee:
 - a) Programme Performance including implementation of Assembly's resolutions
 - b) Contribution of the Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum
 - c) Preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly
 - d) 138th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Programme Performance including implementation of Assembly's resolutions

6. This agenda item will allow participants to take part in a review of the status of implementation of the Programme of Work and resolutions linked to it.

7. The proposed agenda item would be discussed from Monday 6 to Wednesday 8 (noon). It is suggested that in order to allow adequate consideration, the subcommittee dedicates approximately 2 hours of discussions on each sub-programme in the following way:
 - a. An overview of the sub-programme priorities, major achievements and general direction (including how the resolutions are being implemented), and gaps/challenges
 - b. An illustrative case study with a UN Environment partner, a representative from the country in which the case study takes place and Multilateral Environmental Agreements as appropriate. There would be one case study per sub-programme intended to demonstrate impact and how results are being achieved.
 - c. Open discussion amongst participants.
8. Each session would be much more geared towards having a dialogue with Member States on how the programmes are evolving and helping them to see how the resolutions they adopt feature.
9. Given the short time available for its preparations the annual Programme Performance Report of the organization will not be presented during the Annual Subcommittee. The annual Programme Performance Report will be presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at a later stage.

Contribution of the Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum

10. Subject to confirmation from the Bureau of the Assembly, it is suggested that the fourth annual subcommittee meeting considers an agenda item on "Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development", with a view to ensuring that the voice of UN Environment is fully heard at the next meeting of the Forum, which will take place in New York from 10 to 19 July 2017 (with a ministerial segment from 17 to 19 July) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council. The theme of the 2017 High Level Political Forum is "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world".
11. The UN Environment, through the President of the Assembly, is expected to provide substantive inputs to the meeting. In providing these inputs, the Council President has invited UN Environment to consider the following template:
 - a. An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of "ensuring that no one is left behind" at the global level
 - b. The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges;
 - c. Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity;
 - d. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity;
 - e. Areas where political guidance by HLPF is required;

- f. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication.
12. The proposed agenda item, which could be discussed on Wednesday 8 March 2017 (afternoon), would provide an opportunity for the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to share views on what they wish to see UN Environment convey to the Forum, particularly in view of the fact that the next session of the Assembly which will take place in December 2017, with its outcomes feeding only into the 2018 Forum. The Secretariat would prepare a discussion note addressing the elements covered by the template. Member States will be invited to provide in advance contributions to the inputs to the Forum.

Preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly

13. It is suggested that the Subcommittee addresses the agenda item “Preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly on Thursday, March 9, through four sub-agenda items:
- a. Dialogue on the outline for the background document to the theme of the High Level Segment and communications campaign on the theme for the 2017 Environment Assembly;
 - b. Submission of draft resolutions for consideration of the Assembly;
 - c. Discussions about the Structure of the High Level Segment;
 - d. Outcome of the UN Environmental Assembly.
14. With regards to the first sub-agenda item (Dialogue on the outline for the background document on the theme for the 2017 Environment Assembly), the Subcommittee will be invited to react to the presentations from the Secretariat on a first draft outline of the Report and possible key-recommendations regarding the theme of the High-Level Segment. The presentation will further introduce how the process for the sixth edition of the Global Environmental Outlook will complement the preparations for the Report. In addition, Member States will be invited to provide inputs to the communication and outreach strategy linked to the theme of the 2017 Environment Assembly.
15. The second sub-agenda item will allow Member States to exchange views on how the Committee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives can support the process for presentation and negotiation of draft resolutions. The session will take into account the conclusions of the 2017 Environment Assembly Preparatory Retreat¹ which state that “the Committee of Permanent Representatives will set preliminary deadlines for indicating intentions to submit resolutions. Given the short time available, the number of resolutions for the consideration of the Assembly should be limited. Resolutions should be related to the theme of the Assembly, global in focus and actionable”.
16. The third sub-agenda item on the structure of the High Level Segment should be guided by the Summary of the 2017 Environment Assembly Preparatory Retreat. There was an

¹ Please see the [Summary of the 2017 UN Assembly Preparatory Retreat](#)

agreement to use innovative ways to improve the interactive dialogue at the 2017 Environment Assembly, drawing from best practices at other fora. Furthermore, the Secretariat is expected to “prepare and present to both bureaux, by January 2017, a concept paper that proposes a truly interactive modus operandi of the high level segment” – including such proposals for better time management. In addition to this it was suggested that UN Environment should consider regional preparations.

17. The fourth sub-agenda item should be discussed and guided by the conclusions of the 2017 Environment Assembly Preparatory Retreat which states that the “2017 Environment Assembly should strive for a negotiated ministerial outcome document linked to the theme of the high-level segment which should be succinct, actionable and drafted in such language that would be easy to understand by identified target groups. The text of the outcome document, under the leadership of the President and the Bureau of the Assembly, should be negotiated among member states prior to the Assembly, including during regional ministerial fora and the meetings of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives.” Transparency and the spirit of inclusiveness will be key to building consensus.

138th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

18. On Friday March 10th (morning) the Committee will be invited to take note of the Chair’s Summary of the Fourth Annual Subcommittee. In addition, the Committee will exchange views with the Executive Director of UN Environment on his quarterly report of activities. Other agenda items may be included at the discretion of the Bureau.

Documentation

19. In order to adequately support discussions on each of the proposed agenda items, the Secretariat will prepare short discussion notes. These notes will be made available no later than Friday, February 10th, 2017. Documentation for the Fourth Annual Subcommittee will only be available in English.

Preliminary structure of the the Fourth Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN Environment

	Monday, March 6	Tuesday, March 7	Wednesday, March 8	Thursday, March 9	Friday, March 10
09:30 – 12:30	<p>Opening of the meeting</p> <p>Programme Performance including implementation of Assembly's resolutions</p>	<p>Programme Performance including implementation of Assembly's resolutions (ctd)</p>	<p>Programme Performance including implementation of Assembly's resolutions (ctd)</p>	<p>Preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly (Dialogue on theme of the Assembly)</p>	<p>138th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives</p>
12:30 – 14:30					
14:30 – 17:30	<p>Programme Performance including implementation of Assembly's resolutions (ctd)</p>	<p>Programme Performance including implementation of Assembly's resolutions (ctd)</p>	<p>Contribution of the Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum</p>	<p>Preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly (Submission of draft resolutions)</p> <p>Closing of the meeting</p>	