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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**137th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**
Nairobi, 16 January 2017, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Chair's Report of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. Since the 136th meeting of Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 29 September 2016, there have been eight Subcommittee meetings, three meetings of the Informal open-ended working group created by the Committee and one briefing.
2. The Sub-Committee meetings took place on 13 October 2016, 18 October 2016, 25 October 2016, 3 November 2016, 17 November 2016, 24 November 2016, 29 November 2016 and 8 December 2016. They focused on the following issues: progress in the implementation of the programme of work and budget; establishment, structure and agenda of the Informal open-ended working group; preparations for the joint United Nations Environment Assembly and Committee Bureaux Retreat; theme of the 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly; draft communication guidelines; progress of work on marine and coastal ecosystems and; update on the UN Environment Organogram.
3. The Sub-Committee reached consensus on a single theme, pollution in its generic form, as the theme for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly as a result of a consultative process. This consensus was formally endorsed at an Extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 5 December 2016 and transmitted to the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly on the same day. Early agreement on the theme for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly was an important highlight in the Sub-Committee's work during this period.
4. Member States have been requested to submit additional inputs on framing the theme, types of outcomes to be expected and the wording of the title by 12 January 2017. The first outline of the report on the theme of the Environment Assembly will be prepared by the Executive Director and will be discussed during the 4th Annual Sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. During the meeting on implementation of the work programme and budget, Member States who have not yet done so, were encouraged to contribute to the Environment Fund and to help offset the current deficit through financial contributions for the 2017 Environment Assembly.

6. In the discussions on marine and coastal eco-systems, the Sub-Committee agreed on the need to establish a Friends of Oceans Group to follow up ocean and marine-related programmes and look at possible outcomes on oceans at the 2017 Environment Assembly.
7. At its 136th Meeting, the Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed to establish an informal working group to begin discussing the recommendations contained in the Chair's document and identify recommendations that could be implemented over the following year. The Informal open-ended working group held three meetings in which it discussed: modalities for its operation; preparations for the Joint Bureaux retreat held from 27-28 October 2016; documentation, translation and interpretation and; structure and agenda for the 4th Annual Sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
8. A joint briefing by the Secretariat of Governing Bodies and the Division of Conferences Services of the UN Office at Nairobi enhanced the understanding of member states on the rules, procedures and modalities regarding documentation, translation and interpretation. The structure and agenda of the 4th Annual Sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be considered under agenda item 6 at this meeting.
9. On 17 November 2016, Member States received comprehensive briefings on: the outcomes of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; the 28th Meeting of the Parties (MOP 28) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and; preparations for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that was held in Cancun.
10. I wish to thank all members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their hard work, active and flexible engagement and cooperation during this period.