

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Friday, 10 March 2017, 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
CW 115 (Behind Conference Room 1)
United Nations Office at Nairobi

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania, chaired the meeting, in which the following participated:

Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members

- H.E. Mr. John Moreti, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana, Vice Chair, Africa Group;
- H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tara, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Vice Chair, Asia-Pacific Group
- H.E. Ms. Marcela M. Nicodemos, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, Vice Chair, Group of Latin America and Caribbean States;
- Mr. Toni Sandell, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland, Rapporteur, Western European and Other States Group

The UNEP Secretariat was represented by:

- Ms. Anne Le More, Chief of Staff (a.i.), Executive Office;
- Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies, Director, Governance Affairs Office;
- Ms. Rosemary Mukasa, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies

2. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda.

2. Agenda Item 2: Preliminary Assessment of the Fourth Annual Sub-Committee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

3. Members made a preliminary assessment of the Fourth Annual Sub-Committee. Overall assessment of the meeting by the members was positive. They said the meeting had provided an opportunity for delegations to discuss substantive issues on UN Environment

Programme's work and budget with in-depth assessment of the programme based on scientific data. Some members identified challenges such as: a) time management, in particular, lengthy presentations on implementation of UN Environment Programme's work under the sub-programmes; b) unforeseen technical issues and; c) an overflow of documentation for the meeting.

4. To help address these challenges, members made following recommendations: a) the length of presentations should be limited to maximum 15 minutes with a maximum of 10 minutes for case studies; b) presentations should provide more analytical data and be more legible and user-friendly in order to enhance interaction with delegations. The focus should be on progress or lack of progress and motives, challenges, gaps, recommendations/solutions as well as expectations from Member States and; c) more interactive dialogue with Member States was encouraged as their inputs were critical to improving the work of the UN Environment Programme.
5. On the way forward with respect to the discussion on the structure of the High-Level Segment, the Chair suggested that the Secretariat prepares one scenario taking into consideration of all comments received from delegations during the meeting. The scenario which should reflect all the different elements such as national statements and leadership dialogues could be discussed in the next sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Chair was of the view that the structure should be prepared by the end of March or early April.
6. In response to the suggestion above, the Secretary noted that early agreement on the structure and organization of the High-Level Segment would allow for efficient planning as well as identification and management of resources. The Secretary said the structure and organization of the High-Level Segment should be ready in April.
7. In response to a question on where interactive Davos-style structures had worked in an intergovernmental setting, the Chair cited the Dialogue organized by the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT), during the 25th Session of the its Governing Council in April 2015. There had been experienced facilitators and on the spot interventions from Member States. The Secretariat acknowledged the challenge in ensuring interactive dialogue and noted that in addition to innovative and interactive dialogues with experienced moderators, provision would be made for national statements to share national experiences and pledges.
8. One member stressed the need for adequate space for national statements and emphasized that the leadership dialogues and national statements should not compete. The member suggested that the number of side-events be minimized so they would not interfere with the dialogues and national statements. In addition, it was also suggested a more democratic arrangement which allowed Member States to select leadership dialogues of interest to them from a list circulated well in advance to delegations.

9. The Chair suggested that given the importance of time management, the Committee of the Whole should conclude its work afternoon of the first day of the Assembly so that the meeting could focus on the leadership dialogues and other activities in the High-Level Segment. The Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of the Whole should be the negotiating framework to finalize negotiations on resolutions.

3. Preparation of the 138th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

10. The Chair suggested that the Secretariat request Member States to send their inputs to the Chair's Summary of the Fourth Annual Sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, seeing that the document could not be finalized in time. The Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives would finalize the summary incorporating inputs from Member States at the Committee meeting. On the way forward with respect to the Summary, the meeting agreed that it would not be opened for discussion at the 138th Committee meeting. Member States would be invited to send their comments on the Summary directly to the Secretariat by Monday afternoon, 13 March 2017 as there could be many comments from the floor at the Committee Meeting.
11. The Rapporteur raised a procedural issue on the process of reviewing the draft Chair's Summary. He informed the meeting that he had not had a chance to review it before passing it to the Chair for approval, and that it needed improvement. He expressed reservations for instance about Paragraph 8 of the Chair's Summary.
12. One member suggested that the Committee could discuss the process and action on the outcomes of the Third Session of the 2017 Environment Assembly based on the President's Report to the Joint Bureaux meeting of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which would take place on 15 March 2017.
13. In response, the Chair proposed that discussion on this matter should start in a sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and requested the Secretariat to include it on agenda of the upcoming Joint Bureaux meeting.
14. The Secretary informed the meeting that the three substantive items on the agenda of the Joint Bureaux Meeting of the Committee and the UN Environment Assembly are: a) the outcome of the Fourth Annual Sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives; b) update on outcomes of the Third Session of the 2017 Environment Assembly and; c) the Consultative Dialogue on Oceans and the Environment Assembly Preparatory Retreat to be held from 8 to 10 June 2017 in Costa Rica.
15. One member requested the Secretariat to re-send the invitation and draft agenda for the Joint Bureaux meeting of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee.

16. The Chair requested the Secretariat to invite H.E. Ms. Marta E. Juarez Ruiz, Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica on Special Mission to UN Environment Programme to the next Bureau meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in ex-officio capacity.

17. The meeting closed at 9:15 am.