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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**139th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**
Nairobi, 19 June 2017, 10:00 am to 13:00 pm

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

1. Since the 138th meeting of Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 10 March 2017, there have been seven meetings. Five Subcommittee meetings were held on 30 March 2017, 13 April 2017, 27 April 2017, 18 May 2017 and 24 May 2017. Two briefing sessions were held on 16 March 2017 and 13 April 2017.
2. The Sub Committee focused on preparations for the third session of the UN Environment Assembly and monitoring performance through updates on UN Environment work. Issues discussed included: outcome of the Fourth Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives; expected outcomes of the 2017 Environment Assembly; preparations for the Consultative Dialogue on Oceans and the Environment Assembly preparatory retreat; the structure of the 2017 Environment Assembly; the UN Environment Assembly budget; the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum; environmental governance; progress on the background report on the theme of the 2017 Environment Assembly; organization of the leadership dialogues of the 2017 Environment Assembly and progress with respect to draft resolutions; the theme for the third session of the UN Environment Assembly.
3. The Secretariat organized briefings that covered: water quality and environmental crime; the Environment and Emergencies Forum; the preparations of the Frontiers report; the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity project; and preparations for the commemoration of the 2017 World Environment Day.
4. Following agreement on pollution as the generic theme for 2017 UN Environment Assembly, Member States endorsed the wording of the Environment Assembly theme "Towards a pollution free planet" and the structure of the 2017 Environment Assembly. The Secretariat was requested to provide updates on the leadership dialogues and to share advance copies of the background report and to provide briefings on private sector engagement and the use of "UN Environment".
5. Through these meetings, the Sub Committee made commendable progress in preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly. It also monitored the work of UN

Environment in line with its mandate and helped enhance UN Environment's visibility through inputs for the contribution of the President of the UN Environment Assembly to High Level Political Forum. Members appreciated the briefings on topical environmental issues.

6. The Executive Director, Mr. Erik Solheim, hosted a farewell reception on 24 May 2017 in honour of the outgoing members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, namely the Chair of the Committee H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania; Vice-Chairs H.E. Ms. Marcela M. Nicodemos, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, H.E. Mr. John Moreti, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana and H.E. Raza Bashir Tarar, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan as well as the Rapporteur, Mr. Toni Sandell, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland.
7. This is my last report as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. I wish to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work, flexibility and active engagement during this period and throughout my tenure as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.