

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Bureau Meeting  
Thursday 30 November 2017  
8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.,  
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri  
Conference Room 8

### **SECRETARIAT NOTES**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

1. H.E. Mr. John Moreti, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana, chaired the meeting, in which the following participated:

##### ***Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members***

- H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Vice Chair, Asia-Pacific Group;
  - H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia, Vice Chair, Group of Latin America and Caribbean States;
  - H.E. Ms. Tarja Fernandez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland, Vice Chair, Western European and Other States Group;
  - H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Permanent Representative of Poland, Rapporteur, Eastern European Group;
2. The Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly was represented in an ex-officio capacity by:
    - H.E. Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica;
    - H.E. Ms. Marta E. Juarez Ruiz, Ambassador on Special Mission to UN Environment Programme, Costa Rica;
  3. The Secretariat was represented by:
    - Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme;
    - Ms. Rosemary Mukasa, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies, UN Environment Programme;
    - Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Legal Advisor, UN Environment Programme;

#### **2. Update on the Third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent**

## **Representatives**

### **a) Contact groups**

1. The Chair invited the facilitators to update the meeting on the progress of negotiations in the Contact Groups.
2. The facilitator of Contact Group 2 reported that only two draft resolutions remained for negotiations as the overlapping resolutions had agreed to merge and that the Philippines delegations had withdrawn their draft resolution. She drew members attention to a concern that the climate change section was a challenge due to strong opposition from the delegations of the United States of America to the term “Climate Change”. In addition, she emphasized that small delegations were not able to cover more than two simultaneous consultations.
3. The meeting was updated by the facilitator of Contact Group 3. She reported that the draft resolution on air pollution would resume consultations at 2 p.m. and the other draft resolution on pollution in conflict areas at 4 p.m.
4. The facilitator of Contact Group 4 updated the meeting that they had nearly finished the negotiations on the draft resolution on soil pollution, with only two or three outstanding points being consulted in capitals. The other draft resolution on innovative environmental solutions was less controversial and was expected to be cleared soon.
5. The Chair reported from the Plenary Contact Group that they had not convened yet and therefore had no update.
6. The Deputy Executive Director informed the group that two new resolutions may yet be tabled, one of South-South Cooperation and one from Kenya on wildlife and pollution, and sought for advice how the group wish to proceed with these.
7. A member emphasized the need to make the most of the time available and ensure two consultations were ongoing at all times. She also expressed frustration at the confusion around meeting room logistics.

### **b) Ministerial Outcome Document**

8. The President of the UN Environment Assembly delivered a report on the negotiations surrounding the Ministerial Outcome Document, which had begun the night before. He reported that the group went through the entire declaration paragraph-by-paragraph in 1.5 hours with good responses and an overall supportive of the result and full of praise for the open and inclusive process. He announced that a revised version would be ready and distributed by the following morning.
9. A brief conversation followed on the optimal means for the contact groups to share information and drafts with Member States, whether the chairs should be empowered to do so.

10. The President excused himself to attend another meeting.
11. After a few technical questions on downloading of resolutions and allocating rooms, the Secretariat informed members that the Secretariat was working on resolving technical issues as rapidly as possible, and that regrettably the United Nation Office at Nairobi facilities were somewhat constraining, with either very big or very small conference rooms. Further to feedback on facilities, he informed members about a process in New York to review facilities, adding that a short decision by Bureau members would be helpful to call on investment into facilities.
12. The meeting closed at 9:08 a.m.