

**Summary of the 1st Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux of
the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives
22-23 March, 2018, Nairobi, Kenya**

On 22 and 23 March, members of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme came together in Nairobi, Kenya for a joint retreat. This document summarizes the main joint decisions and agreed overall recommendations from the meeting.

A. Decisions of the Members of the Joint Bureaux

1. The theme for the High-Level Segment of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly shall be: *“Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”* the decision was reached by the UN Environment Assembly Bureau based on recommendation of the Joint Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
2. The Secretariat is requested to develop a concept note that would outline a rationale and a set of focus areas and potential outcomes, relating to the theme.
3. The Secretariat is also requested to develop a communication plan relating to the theme
4. The Committee of Permanent Representatives is welcomed at its 142nd meeting to provide guidance to the Secretariat with regard to the concept note and communication plan on the theme of the next Assembly and a structure of the Assembly in view of further consideration by the Bureau of the Assembly.

B. Recommendations and considerations of the Members of the Joint Bureaux

1. Preparations for the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly

- The joint bureaux agreed to promote continuous improvement in the engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the preparation, participation and follow-up of future sessions of the Environment Assembly, within the framework of existing rules and procedures, with the support of the Secretariat.
- The joint bureaux invited the Executive Director to report to the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly on the status of stakeholders engagement, in light of the implementation of resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.11 entitled “Implementation of paragraph 88 (a)–(h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and requested the Secretariat to develop a note on the status of mobilization of resources for stakeholder engagement.
- The joint bureaux welcomed the President’s proposal to present a zero draft of the ministerial outcome document at the second joint preparatory retreat in early September 2018, and invited him to outline a clear, open and transparent consultation processes to achieve consensus on the outcome.
- The joint bureaux called-upon the Committee of Permanent Representatives to reach early consensus on the organization of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Subcommittee and the Fourth Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
- The joint bureaux emphasized the need for all member States to respect the decision of the Assembly to “encourage member States to submit to the Committee of Permanent Representatives draft resolutions for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly preferably five weeks in advance of the Fourth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, without prejudice to the rules of procedure, in particular rule 44”, in order to allow for adequate preparations and consultations

within and among member States through timely submission of resolutions.

- The joint bureaux took note of the proposed structure of the Assembly and its High-Level Segment and invited the Committee to further consider it at its 142nd meeting, in order for a revised final structure of the Assembly to be agreed at the second joint preparatory retreat in early September 2018. In particular the Committee of Permanent Representatives is invited, to provide further guidance on such elements as the timing of the gala dinner and of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, the timing for and number of side events, the focus and modalities for national statements and high-level dialogues.

2. Outreach and visibility

- The joint bureaux requested the Secretariat to take into account the specific comments provided by members of the bureaux on the draft Secretariat note entitled “Contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Responses to the questions raised by the President of the Economic and Social Council”, and to consult further with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and submit a final document for submission to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York in July 2018.
- The joint bureaux underlined the importance of strengthening the links between the Assembly and the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements and considered ways and means to enhance outreach and visibility of the UN Environment Assembly at these meetings.
- The joint bureaux took note of a brief presentation by the Secretariat on regional preparations for the fourth session of the Environment Assembly and requested the Secretariat to provide more detailed information in writing. The Joint Bureaux further noted the importance of regional Ministerial meetings and other related consultation mechanisms and agreed that members of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly may participate at these meetings, with a view to inform preparations for the 4th session of the Assembly.
- The joint bureaux took note of a brief presentation by the Secretariat on the ongoing process at UN Headquarters in New York regarding the proposed establishment of the Global Pact for the Environment. The Joint Bureaux noted the positions of some members of the UNEA Bureau on the proposed Global Pact, including those in support of its establishment, as well as the concerns raised by some regarding the management of the ongoing negotiation process in New York vis-à-vis Nairobi, the anticipated specific role of the Secretariat of the United Nations Environment and financial implications.

3. Other matters

- There were no other matters raised by the bureaux members.

4. Next steps – Date and venue for the next meeting of the 2nd Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and Committee of Permanent Representatives

- The President invited all Bureaux members to the next Joint Retreat in Tallinn, Estonia, on 6-7 September 2018, and informed the meeting that the Retreat will be preceded by a related thematic conference on 5 September which will be hosted by the Government of Estonia.