

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 14 June 2018
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 4

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. H.E. Mr. John Moreti, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, welcomed members to the meeting. The meeting agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of a draft concept note for the theme of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly.

2. The Secretariat presented a revised draft concept note for the theme of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly.
3. The meeting welcomed the efforts made by the Secretariat in revising the concept note. Member States made several additional comments to the draft, including issues relating to social innovations and new business models, food and energy security, life-cycle approaches and green business development. The African Group requested a reflection on effects that innovative solutions would have on investments, markets and productivity. The group also raised their concern that not all elements suggested by its membership were reflected in the note.
4. The Chair invited the meeting to submit detailed comments on the draft in writing to the Secretariat as soon as possible, in view of refining the concept note for final consideration by the Bureau members of the UN Environment Assembly at their meeting of 20 June, 2018, and to inform their respective bureau Members of their views.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation of the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report 2016-2017.

5. The Secretariat presented the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report for the period 2016-2017, which outlined project performance trends, lessons learned and recommendations the 2020-2021 Programme of Work of the UN Environment Programme.
6. The meeting welcomed the report as a useful guide, including in view of the development of a new Programme of Work 2020-2021. Member States stressed the usefulness of the report and underlined the importance of acting on the recommendations in the report, to ensure greater

sustainability and effective monitoring, as well as improved financial management and planning of projects. It was suggested that the senior management should present a plan for the implementation of the recommendations made in the report.

Agenda Item 4: Budget envelope for Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021.

7. The Secretariat presented a document outlining three possible options for agreeing on a Budget envelope for Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021, which reflected ~~three~~ major budget scenarios based on past trends.
8. The meeting took note of the different options for the Budget Envelope and considered it as a useful start for discussion. Several member States stated that they were not in a position to express a preference for any of the options, and requested additional time and more detailed information with a view to better understand the consequences of the different options. Other comments included:
 - The need to find a balance between reality and ambition with regard to the next budget cycle, also taking into account current budget constraints.
 - Calls for an analysis on the effect of under-achievement of the current budget projection for the Environment Fund (and the impact it has had on the VISC) and for the identification of core activities that may be financed from extra-budgetary resources.
 - The importance of a transparent, inclusive and open preparatory process to define a new Programme of Work and budget 2020 - 2021.
 - A call for the budget envelope to match the mandate of the UN Environment Programme to implement the environmental dimensions of the UN 2030 Agenda.
9. The Chair invited member States to send comments in writing and announced that the subject matter will be on the agenda of the next Subcommittee meeting on 26 June.

Agenda Item 5: Presentation of the resource mobilization strategy of the UN Environment Programme.

10. The Secretariat presented the resource mobilization strategy of the UN Environment Programme for 2018-2021, which was endorsed internally in 2017. The strategy outlines concrete proposals to generate funding from various sources to generate financial resources necessary for the implementation of Programme of Work.
11. The meeting welcomed the presentation of the strategy, underlined the shared responsibility to ensure effective implementation and called for a continuous dialogue on the matter. Member States raised the following points in the discussion:
 - The need for senior management to take ownership for the implementation of the recommendations;
 - Concerns that the Strategy was not discussed earlier with the CPR in contravention to its Resolution 2/20;
 - Opportunities to generate funding from crowd-sourcing and national committees;

- Concerns with regard to the widening gap between non-earmarked and earmarked funding;
- A suggestion to put more effort into engaging with middle- and low-income countries in generating funds;
- A request to develop a cost/benefit analysis of various resource mobilization efforts;
- Possible guidelines for “soft” earmarked funding and for risk analysis with regard to potential funding from the private sector;
- The possibility to develop an online system that shows financial contributions per donor.

Agenda Item 6: Other Matters

12. Onemember State presented the outcome from an International Workshop on International Environmental Governance, held in Switzerland on 6-8 June, with a specific focus on the division of work, mandate and functioning of the governing bodies of the UN Environment Programme. Following the presentation, a question was raised on how the participants for the workshop were selected, and why this had not been open to all interested member States. The organising member state explained that the membership of the workshops was by invitation and promised to increase the transparency of the selection process in the future.

13. The meeting closed at 12:30 p.m.