

144th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
Tuesday 8 January 2019
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 1

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Note: All pre-meeting and post-meeting documents, including statements provided in writing by member States, are available [here](#).

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

The meeting welcomed newly arrived Representatives to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and bid farewell to departing Representatives.

2. Adoption of the agenda of the 144th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

The meeting adopted the agenda of the 144th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. Adoption of the draft minutes of the 143rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

The meeting adopted the draft minutes of the 143rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 28 September 2018.

4. Election of officers to the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Following the vacant position of Vice-Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group in the Bureau of Committee of Permanent Representatives, the meeting endorsed the election of H.E. Mr. Choi Yeongham, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea.

5. Report of the Executive Director.

The Acting Executive Director, Ms. Joyce Msuya provided a brief update on key developments for the period August to October 2018, including with regard to the follow-up the audit report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on official travel of UN Environment Programme; the vacancy of the Executive Director post; the draft Programme of Work for 2020- 2021; and key accomplishments achieved.

In the pursuing dialogue, member States, *inter alia*, requested further regular information on reforms being undertaken as follow up to the audit report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on official travel; and further information on the implementation of the UN reform process, including as part of future Executive Director Reports to the regular meetings of the Committee. Additional information was also sought on the Global Pact for the Environment process and the negotiation meeting on the Global Environment Outlook.

6. Preparations for the fourth Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

a) Introduction of the second draft of the Ministerial Declaration by the President of the Assembly

The Special Envoy of the President of the UN Environment Assembly, Mr. Ado Lõhmus announced that a 1st full draft of the Ministerial Declaration would be made available on 8 January 2019, and invited member States to provide comments by 31 January.

The 2nd draft is expected by 19 February 2019 and the final consultations on the draft, led by the President, are planned during OECPR.

b) Draft resolutions for consideration for the fourth UN Environment Assembly

The Secretariat informed the meeting on the status of draft resolutions for the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly. Several member States raised concern over the high number of resolutions and appealed to the proponents to consider merging similar initiatives. The African Group informed the meeting that their group would be represented by the Chair of the technical expert group of the African Group, Mr. Zerubabel Getachew, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia.

Member States were informed that at the Joint Bureaux meeting of Committee of UN Environment Assembly and of Committee of Permanent Representatives on 7 January 2019, HE Fernando Coimbra, the ambassador of Brazil was nominated as Chair of the Whole for the Fourth Session of UN Environment Assembly.

c) Draft agenda and structure for the fourth Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

The meeting requested the Secretariat to ensure that the annotated agenda of the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives provided the opportunity to consider the draft Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21, the Implementation Plan on Pollution and the revised Oceans Strategy, before final adoption.

d) Report by the Executive Director to the High-Level Segment for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly

The Secretariat provide a short update of the preparation of the report of the Executive Director to the High-Level Segment of the Assembly.

e) Draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-21

The Secretariat provided an update on the draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-21. Some member States reserved the right to further consider the draft budget and requested the Secretariat to provide additional information on the rationale behind the proposed budget and its allocation among the different sub-programmes.

f) Draft Implementation Plan “Towards a pollution-free planet”

The co-facilitators for the draft Implementation Plan on Pollution, H.E. Ms. Marta Juarez-Ruiz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, and Ms. Miriam Ott, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany, briefed the meeting on the latest developments, informed the meeting of the intention to submit a draft resolution with a view to formally adopt the Plan at the Assembly, and invited interested member States to co-sponsor the initiative.

g) Information update on key events planned for the UN Environment Assembly

i. Leadership Dialogues

The Secretariat briefed the meeting on preparations of the Leadership Dialogues. Some members States expressed strong concern regarding the proposal to organize 3 parallel dialogues under each theme.

ii. The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

The Secretariat briefed the meeting on preparations for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue.

iii. Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum

The Secretariat briefed the meeting on preparations for the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum.

iv. Side Events

The Secretariat briefed the meeting on preparations for the side events. Member States were informed that from 129 applications 14 proposals had been selected. The Secretariat was requested to share the criteria of selection of side events with member States.

v. Sustainable Innovation Expo

The Secretariat briefed the meeting on preparations for the Sustainable Innovation Expo, and reminded member States about the deadline for application; 18 January 2018. It also clarified that there will be no charge for the exhibition space. Member States requested the Secretariat to extend the deadline for applications to the Sustainable Innovation Expo.

vi. The Science Policy Business Forum

The Secretariat briefed the meeting on preparations for the Science Policy Business Forum.

vii. One Planet Summit

Member States were informed that the 3rd edition of the One Planet Summit will place in Nairobi during UNEA4 on 14.03.2019, co-organised by France and Kenya.

h) Information update on the implementation of the Secretariat communication strategy for the UN Environment Assembly

The Secretariat provided a comprehensive update on the implementation of the Secretariat Communication Strategy for the UN Environment Assembly and announced that a communication toolkit for member States will be shared shortly.

7. Consideration of resolutions adopted at previous sessions of the UN Environment Assembly

a) UNEP/EA.3/Res.6: Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development

The Secretariat provided a briefing on the implementation of the UNEA-3 resolution on “Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development”. The PowerPoint presentation is made available at the meeting portal.

b) UNEP/EA.3/Res.9: Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries

The Secretariat provided a briefing on the implementation of the UNEA-3 resolution on “Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries”. The meeting requested additional information on pollution sources, incidents and challenges regarding the implementation of the resolution. The PowerPoint presentation is made available at the meeting portal.

c) UNEP/EA.3/Res.10: Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems

The Secretariat updated the meeting on UNEA-3 resolution on “Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems”. The PowerPoint presentation is made available at the meeting portal.

d) UNEP/EA.2/Res.10: Oceans and Seas

The Secretariat presented the latest draft revised Marine and Coastal Strategy for the UN Environment Programme, and invited member States to provide comments in writing by 15 January 2019. Member States provided several comments, including with regard to partnership-building, the future of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine Environment from land-based activities, the issue of tackling marine litter, and the need to make the document more strategic.

A revised version of the document will be presented at the next regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 19 February 2019, and made available as an INF document for the Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Environment Assembly for final consideration.

8. Briefing on South-South cooperation

Mr. Gary Lewis, Director of Policy and Programme Division, provided a briefing on UN Environment Programme's work on South-South cooperation. The meeting was informed that the strategy for this work stream is currently under review and will be shared for consultation with member States at a later stage. The meeting underlined the need for full transparency and called for additional information on South-South cooperation, as well as on other new and strategic initiatives of major significance, to be made available to the Committee on a regular basis.

9. Report of the Sub-committee

The Chair summarized the report of the Sub-committee for the period 29 September – 4 December 2018.

10. Other matters

No other matters were raised.

ANNEX

Documented requests from Member States requiring follow-up action from the Secretariat in writing:

1. The Secretariat was requested to provide regular information on the implementation of the recommendations in the audit report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on official travel, as well as on the implementation of the UN reform process, including as part of future Executive Director Reports to the regular meetings of the Committee.
2. The Secretariat was requested to provide additional information, on the Global Pact for the Environment process and the negotiation meeting on the Global Environment Outlook – briefings on both topics are tentatively planned for the subcommittee meeting on **29 January**.
3. The Secretariat was requested to revise the agenda of the Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into account comments made at the meeting.
4. The Secretariat was requested to share the criteria for the selection of side events with the meeting – these are made available on the following website:
<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/agenda-and-logistics#>
5. The Secretariat was requested to extend the deadline for applications to the Sustainable Innovation Expo – the deadline has been extended to **23 January**.