

Summary of the Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme

6 February 2019

On 6 February 2019, members of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme held a joint meeting via video-conference. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler, President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment of the Republic of Estonia, and H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana. A list of participants is made available in the annex to this summary.

This summary summarizes the key decisions and points of discussion during the joint Bureaux meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The meeting opened at 2.30 pm. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of work of the Bureaux

2. The Secretariat provided an update on the organization of work of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and Committee of Permanent Representatives, during the intersessional period, at the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, and at the Environment Assembly.
3. The Secretariat provided an overview of the number draft resolutions, noting that over 35 resolutions had been submitted and that the deadline of 21 January for submission had been largely respected. The Secretariat also gave a short update on the work of the co-facilitators through informal consultations including with a view to consolidate similar draft resolutions.
4. The meeting considered the work of the co-facilitators. It was expected that their work may, subject to further confirmation of the joint Bureau, continue until the end of the Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR). This matter was subject to further discussion among the Bureau members, and it was agreed that the nomination of co-facilitators will be revisited at the OECPR, with a view to facilitate broad agreement on all draft resolutions by the end of its meeting.
5. In view of the large number of draft resolutions, the meeting underlined the need for an efficient and productive session of the OECPR, and to that end members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the nominated Chair of the Committee of the Whole were invited to present a proposal for the organization of work for the OECPR at the 145th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the basis of consultations with the regional and political groups, taking into account the need to limit the number of working groups running in parallel to the plenary to a maximum of two so as to allow for small delegations to follow the negotiations.
6. The meeting adopted a revised structure of the UN Environment Assembly, taking into account the need to postpone the opening of the high-level segment from 10 am to 11 am on 14 March, so as to ensure the participation of high-level participants that also attend the opening of the One Planet Summit, starting at 9 am.

7. The President of the Assembly proposed to adopt the draft Terms of Reference of the **B** Bureaux of the Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in line with previous decisions by the Bureaux. Some members of the Bureau asked for more time to consider the matter. The President of the Assembly repeated the call for the submission of written comments to the draft ToRs with a view to their further consideration and possible endorsement at the next joint meeting of the Bureaux.
8. The Special Envoy of the President, Mr. Ado Lohmus, reported back from initial discussions of the informal drafting group on governance of the Bureaux, with a view to consider whether and how to consider governance-related at the next and upcoming Assembly meetings in the context of a draft decision on the date and agenda for UNEA 5 which will be shared with the Bureaux and with Member States as soon as finalized.
9. The meeting welcomed the update and invited the working group to include consideration of the 50-year anniversary of the UN Environment Programme in 2022, taking into account the need to avoid duplication with the ongoing work on a possible Global Pact for the Environment, and an independent study financed by the Nordic Council and prepared by the Center for Governance and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts.

Agenda Item 3: Preparations for the UN Environment Assembly

10. The Secretariat provided an update on the preparations for the Assembly with regard to the final selection of 14 UN Environment Assembly Side Events, and on the preparations for the three Leadership Dialogues during the high-level segment focusing on the agreed three focus areas of the main theme of Assembly, including with regard to proposed moderators, introductory expert speakers and contributing Ministers of the Environment.
11. The meeting welcomed the work undertaken by the Secretariat, took note of the list of side events, and requested the Secretariat to develop a list of participating ministers (up to 20 ministers per dialogue on a first come/first serve-basis) for the Leadership Dialogues, as well as a list of experts.

Agenda Item 4: Date of the next joint Bureaux meeting of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

12. The meeting agreed that the next Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be held on 25 February 2019 in Nairobi.

Agenda Item 5: Other matters

13. The Secretariat presented an overview of the budget for the UN Environment Assembly and informed the meeting of a number of rationalization efforts designed to minimize the remaining funding gap of approximately 200.000 USD.
14. The meeting agreed to encourage member States to contribute to closing the budget gap through voluntary contributions.
15. The Acting Executive Director, Ms. Joyce Msuya, thanked the members of the joint Bureaux for their leadership and guidance, and expressed the hope of high-level ministerial participation at the Assembly.

Agenda Item 6: Closing of the meeting

22. The meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Annex: List of participants Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, 6 February 2019

UN Environment Assembly Bureau	
COUNTRY REGIONAL GROUP	NAME DESIGNATION
Estonia Eastern European Group	H.E Mr. Siim Valmar Kiisler, President, Minister of Environment
Switzerland Western European and Others Group	H.E. Mr. Felix Wertli, Vice President and Head of Section, Global Affairs, Federal Office of the Environment of Switzerland
Antigua and Barbuda Latin America and the Caribbean Group	Mr. Michai Robertson Representing H.E. Mr. Molwyn Joseph, Vice President and Minister of Health and the Environment of Antigua and Barbuda
Brazil Latin America and the Caribbean Group	H.E. Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Vice President and Permanent Representative
Iran Asia-Pacific Group	Mr. Ahmad Ghalandari, Representing H.E. Dr. Naser Moghaddasi, Vice President and Deputy Head of Department of Environment and Chief of International Affairs and Convention Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Czech Republic Eastern European Group	H.E. Mr. Pavel Řezáč Ambassador and Permanent Representative Representing H.E. Mr. Vladislav Smrž, Vice President and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
Finland Western European and Others Group	Ms. Tita Korvenoja, Representing H.E. Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Housing
South Africa Africa Group	Ms. Shakira Parker, Representing H.E. Ms. Nomvula Mokonyane Vice President and Minister of Environment Affairs of the Republic of South Africa
Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau	
Ghana Africa Group	H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative
Colombia Latin America and Caribbean Group	Mr. Sergio Salazar Alzarte Representing H.E. Mrs. Elizabeth Ines Taylor Jay, Vice Chair and Ambassador - Designate and Permanent Representative
USA Western European and Others Group	H.E. Ms. Lori Peterson Dando, Vice Chair and Permanent Representative
Korea Asia Pacific Group	Mr. Changgyu Lee, Deputy Permanent Representative
Poland Eastern European Group	H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Rapporteur and Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Nairobi Based Representatives	
Argentina Latin America and Caribbean Group	H.E. Mr. Martin Gomez Bustillo, Vice President, Ambassador and Permanent Representative