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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Committee of Permanent Representatives to
the United Nations Environment Programme
Open-Ended meeting

Nairobi, 4-8 March 2019

Draft Chair's summary of the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives

Chair: Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton

Introduction

- 1) By its decision 27/2, on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Governing Body of the United Nations Environment Programme, among other things, reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the role of the Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority. To that end, by the same decision, the Governing Body decided to convene an open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, while ensuring support to developing country representatives; to enable the participation of capital-based representatives as well as stakeholders for a period of five days to contribute to the preparation of the agenda of its governing body, the United Nations Environment Assembly; and to provide advice to the Assembly on policy matters.
- 2) Accordingly, the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives was convened at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, from 4 March to 8 March 2018.

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

- 3) The meeting was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 4 March 2019, by Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana. 173 Member States, in addition to Observer States and accredited organizations were in attendance of the meeting.
- 4) The Chair, in her opening remarks, welcomed the participants to the meeting, pointing out that every effort would be made to finalize the proposed draft resolutions and decisions and draft ministerial declaration to be submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly for consideration and possible adoption at its fourth session the following week. In view of the ambitious agenda, she invited the Committee to work efficiently and make effective use of the limited time available.

*Draft Chair's Summary revised for technical reasons

- 5) The agenda was adopted on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.4/1/Rev.1).

II. Adoption of the minutes of the 145th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 19 February 2019

- 6) At the first session of the meeting, in the morning of Monday, 4 March 2019, the Committee deferred agenda item of the adoption of the minutes of its 145th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/OECPR.4/2). to the 146th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to allow delegations adequate time to consider the minutes.

III. Organization of work of the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives

7) The Committee agreed to establish five clusters to finalize the draft resolutions and draft decisions to be submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly for consideration and possible adoption at its fourth session. The first working group on Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges And Sustainable Consumption and Production, was co-facilitated by the H.E. Mr. Erik Lundberg (Finland) and H.E. Ms. Koleka Anita Mqulwana (South Africa), would consider nine draft resolutions: Clean and Electric Mobility, Enhancing environmental sustainability through green; World Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency; Sustainable Consumption and Production in a Circular Economy; Sustainable public procurement; Share and Scale Up Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Practices on the Ground by Development of National SCP Resource Pool and Promotion of Citizenship of All Stakeholders; Food Loss and Waste Management through Accepted Sustainable Practices; Innovative environmental solutions and mechanisms to reduce food waste in countries of hot climate and Sustainable Infrastructure.

8) The second working group on Resource Efficiency, Chemicals and Waste, was co-facilitated by H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Taylor (Colombia) and Mr. Marcus Davies (Canada), would consider nine draft resolutions: Sustainable Management of Plastic Waste including Micro Plastic through Innovative Solutions; Strengthened scientific foundation and global governance on marine plastic litter and microplastics ; Strengthening global governance on marine plastic litter and microplastics ; Zero Waste Project ; Resource Efficiency and Waste Management ; Innovative environmental solutions and national and regional strategies for solid waste management; Sound management of chemicals and waste; Lifecycle management and trade of recyclable, reusable, and recoverable materials and Sustainable Nitrogen Management.

9) The third working group on Ecosystems and Biodiversity Management And Protection, co-facilitated by chaired by H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki (Romania) and Mr. Martin Gronda (Argentina), would consider twelve draft resolutions: Deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains; Sustainable Peatland Management for Tackling Climate Change through Establishment of International Tropical Peatland Center; Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation; Sustainable Mangrove Management for Coastal Protection; Protecting Ecological Balance of Food Chains by Conserving and Sustainable Using the Mangrove Ecosystems; Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities; The Establishment of Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas; Sustainable coral reefs management; Sand and Dust Storms; Rangelands and Pastoralism; Sustainable Blue Economy ; Strengthening the international science-policy interface on chemicals and waste”.

10) The fourth working group on Environmental Governance, co-facilitated by H.E. Mr. Sunil de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Dr. Agus Justianto (Indonesia), would consider five draft resolutions: Geoengineering and its governance; Poverty Environment Nexus and Mineral Resources Governance; The fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V) – USA; “Promote gender equality, and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance”).

11) The fifth working group on UNEP Programme of Work and Related Issues, co-facilitated by H.E. Ms. Lori Dando (USA) and Mr. Lukas Pokorny (Czech Republic), would consider three draft resolutions and 3 draft decisions: Adoption of the Implementation Plan ‘Towards a Pollution-free Plan; Implementation and follow up of UNEA resolutions and related activities; “Improvements in future Global Environmental Outlooks and their integration into the broader mandate of keeping the Environment under Review”; Adoption of a new Programme of Work and budget for 2020-21”; Draft decision on the

Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly” and Management of Trust Funds”.

12) The Chair noted that in view of the large number of draft resolutions under consideration at the current meeting, the proponents could at any time during the meeting request that their proposed draft resolutions be withdrawn or merged with any of the others.

IV. Budget and Programme Performance, including implementation of the Assembly’s resolutions

13) The Committee took note of the following reports:

- 1) EA.4/INF/13: Background document on implementation of outcomes of the first and second sessions of UNEA Performance, including implementation of
- 2) UNEP/EA.4/3: Implementation plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”: Note by the Executive Director the Assembly’s resolutions.
- 3) UNEP/EA.4/5: Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/1 on pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism: Report of the Executive Director
- 4) UNEP/EA.4/7: Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/4 on environment and health: Report of the Executive Director
- 5) UNEP/EA.4/9: Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/6 on managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development: Report of the Executive Director
- 6) UNEP/EA.4/11: Analysis of voluntary commitments targeting marine litter and microplastics pursuant to resolution 3/7: Report of the Executive Director
- 7) UNEP/EA.4/12: Progress report on the work of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics established by resolution 3/7, Report of the Executive Director
- 8) UNEP/EA.4/23: Progress in the implementation of resolution 2/12 on sustainable coral reefs management: Report of the Executive Director
- 9) UNEP/EA.4/INF.6: Analysis of global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms related to the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs
- 10) UNEP/EA.4/INF. 7: UN Environment’s Marine and Coastal Strategy
- 11) UNEP/EA.4/13: Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality global: Report of the Executive Director
- 12) UNEP/EA.4/14: Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/9 on eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries: Report of the Executive Director
- 13) UNEP/EA.4/15: Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/10 on addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems: Report of the Executive Director
- 14) UNEP/EA.4/16: Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”: Report of the Executive Director
- 15) UNEP/EA.4/17: Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production: Report of the Executive Director
- 16) UNEP/EA.4/19: Final assessment of the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV) and proposals for a future programme: Report of the Executive Director
- 17) UNEP/EA.4/21: Global Chemicals Outlook II: Summary for policymakers: Report of the Executive Director
- 18) UNEP/EA.4/22: The International Resource Panel Report on the “Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want”: Summary for Policy Makers

UNEP/EA.4/INF/16: Evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste: Note by the Executive Director

14) The Committee took note with an amendment consisting of the inclusion of an annex of the following report:

- 1) UNEP/EA.4/INF. 14: Possible options for the future of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: An analysis, entitled “Roadmap and timeline for final decision on the GPA” providing for:
 - a. Initial consultation at Open-Ended -CPR in Nairobi during week of 4-8 March 2019
 - b. Informal consultation during UNEA 11-15 March 2019.
 - c. Informal consultation with CPR members in Nairobi.
 - d. An extraordinary Intergovernmental meeting of the GPA to take the final decision on the future of the GPA. The extraordinary meeting can be held in coordination with UNEA-5 (2021) or another meeting occurring sooner.”

V. Administrative and budgetary matters

15) Introducing the item, the Chair pointed out to the draft decision on the “Proposed programme of work and budget for 2020–2021” and to the “Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021: Report of the Executive Director” (UNEP/EA.4/4) and requested the plenary to undertake discussions on the same in the context of the working group chaired by Ms. Lori Dando (USA) and Mr. Martin Grando (Argentina).

16) The Committee took note of the following reports:

- 1) UNEP/EA.4/INF/3: Programme Performance Report 2018-2019
- 2) UNEP/EA.4/INF.5: Report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions UNEP/EA.2/Res. 20: (OP 14 & OP 17)
- 3) UNEP/EA.4/INF/11: Voluntary indicative scale of contributions: Note by the Executive Director
- 4) UNEP/EA.4/INF/10: Funding Implications of the Policy-Making Organs in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021: Note by the Secretariat

VI. Update on the sixth Global Environment Outlook

17) The Committee took up the item at its 2nd session, on the morning of Tuesday, 4 March 2019. Chair, reminded the representative of the Acting Executive Director, introduced the document, UNEP/EA.4/18: The Sixth Global Environment Outlook: Summary for policymakers and document, UNEP/EA.4/INF/18: GEO-6 Key Messages (Developed by the Bureau members of the Summary for Policymakers meeting) Note by the secretariat, which was an outcome of the negotiation meeting of the Summary for Policymakers of the sixth Global Environment Outlook held from 21-24 January 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

18) The Committee welcomed the following report:

- 1) UNEP/EA.4/18: The Sixth Global Environment Outlook: Summary for policymakers

VII. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

19) During third session of the meeting, on the morning of Tuesday 5 March 2019. The Secretariat made a presentation on the progress of implementation of resolution 3/3 on contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development (UNEP/EA.4/6) and the “Contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development: responses to the questions raised by the President of the Economic and Social Council” (UNEP/EA.4/INF/15).

20) Subsequently the Committee decided to request the Executive Director to revise the document, taking into account document UNEP/EA.4/INF/15: “Contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development: responses to the questions raised by the President of the Economic and Social Council”.

VIII. Report on consultations on the ministerial declaration

21) During the 2nd session of the meeting, on the afternoon of Monday 4 March 2019. The President of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Mr. Siim Kiisler, Minister of Environment of Estonia, provided an update on the status of consultations on the draft ministerial declaration, which was proposed as the main outcome of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. He mentioned that the revised draft of February 2019 was the product of an inclusive, participatory and transparent process. With the support of the members of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the UNEP secretariat, consultations had been held with member States, the major groups and stakeholders, and regional ministerial forums of the environment in order to reach consensus on a ministerial declaration.

22) Following consultations between the President of the UN Environment Assembly and Member States, the Committee endorsed the draft Ministerial declaration of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly as circulated on 8 March 2019, without prejudice of the rights of member States to make further adjustments and improvements

IX. Preparation of draft resolutions for transmission to the fourth session of United Nations Environment Assembly

23) The Committee endorsed the following draft resolutions and decision for submission to the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly:

- 1) “Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Indonesia.
- 2) “Sustainable Management for Global Health of Mangrove”, draft resolution submitted by the Governments of Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
- 3) “Sustainable coral reefs management”, draft resolution submitted by the Governments of Indonesia and Monaco.
- 4) Sustainable Peatland Management for Tackling Climate Change through Establishment of International Tropical Peatland Center, draft resolution submitted by the Governments of Indonesia.
- 5) “Sustainable Nitrogen Management”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of India.
- 6) “Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V): Delivering for People and the Planet”, draft resolution submitted by the Governments of the United States of America and Uruguay.
- 7) “Implementation and follow up of UNEA resolutions”, draft resolution submitted by the Group of African States.
- 8) Management of Trust Funds and earmarked contributions – draft decision submitted by the Secretariat.

24) The Committee decided to refer for further consultations the following draft resolutions and decisions:

- 1) “Sustainable Consumption and Production in a Circular Economy”, draft resolution submitted by the European Union and the Government of Colombia.
- 2) “Food Loss and Waste Management through Accepted Sustainable Practices”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Sri Lanka.
- 3) “Clean and Electric Mobility”, draft resolution submitted by the Governments of Argentina, Chile, Peru and Costa Rica.

- 4) “Enhancing environmental sustainability through green business”, draft resolution submitted by the Group of African States.
- 5) “Sustainable Infrastructure”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Mongolia.
- 6) “Promoting Innovative Solutions for curbing food loss in hot and other climates”, draft resolution submitted by the Group of Arab States and the Government of Sri Lanka.
- 7) “Strengthening global governance on marine plastic litter and microplastics”, draft resolution submitted by the Governments of Norway, Japan and Sri Lanka.
- 8) “Promoting Innovative Solutions for Solid Waste Management” draft resolution submitted by the Group of Arab States and the Governments of Chile, Sri Lanka and Turkey.
- 9) “Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”, draft resolution submitted by the European Union.
- 10) “Phasing-out Single-use Plastic Products”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of India.
- 11) “Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation”, draft resolution submitted by the Group of African States and the Government of Iran.
- 12) “Deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains”, draft resolution submitted by the European Union.
- 13) “Rangelands and Pastoralism”, draft resolution submitted by the Group of African States.
- 14) “Sustainable Blue Economy”, draft resolution submitted by the Group of African States.
- 15) “Geoengineering and its Governance”, draft resolution submitted by the Governments of Switzerland, Burkina Faso, Federated States of Micronesia, Georgia, Lichtenstein, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Niger, and Senegal.
- 16) “Promote gender equality, and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Costa Rica.
- 17) “Poverty Environment Nexus”, draft resolution submitted by the Group of African States.
- 18) “Mineral Resource Governance”, draft resolution submitted by the Governments of Mexico and Switzerland.
- 19) “Adoption of the Implementation Plan “Towards a Pollution-free Planet”, draft resolution submitted by the Government Costa Rica and the European Union.
- 20) “Environment Under Review: Enhancing UNEP’s Science-Policy Interface and Endorsement of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook report”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of the United States of America.
- 21) “Proposed programme of work and budget for 2020–2021”, draft decision submitted by the Secretariat.
- 22) “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”, draft decision submitted by the Secretariat.
- 25) The Committee decided to undertake no further action on the following draft resolutions:
 - 1) “Sustainable Mangrove Management for Coastal Protection”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Indonesia.
 - 2) “Sustainable Public Procurement”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Chile.
 - 3) “Resource Efficiency and Waste Management”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Chile.
 - 4) “World Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Japan.
 - 5) “Sustainable Management of Plastic Waste including Micro Plastic through Innovative Solutions”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Sri Lanka.

- 6) “Strengthened scientific foundation and global governance on marine plastic litter and microplastics”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Japan.
- 7) “The Establishment of the Regional Capacity Center for Clean Seas”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Indonesia.
- 8) “Share and Scale Up Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Practices on the ground by development of National SCP Resource Pool and Promotion of Citizenship of All Stakeholders”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Indonesia.
- 9) “Strengthening the international science-policy interface on chemicals and waste”, draft resolution submitted by the Group of African States.
- 10) “Sand and Dust storms”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Iran.
- 11) “Protect ecological balance of food chains by conserving and sustainably using the Mangrove ecosystem”, draft resolution submitted by the Government of Sri Lanka.

X. Adoption of chair’s summary

26) At the 4th session of the meeting, on the evening of Friday, 8 March 2019, the Chair drew attention to the draft report of the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/CPR/146/2), noting that the full report would be submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 146th meeting for its consideration and possible adoption.

X. Other matters

27) A number of representatives raised concerns on the proposed organization of work set out for the open-ended consultations to be held between the 9th and 10th of March as well as of the pace of consideration of resolutions.

XI. Closure of the meeting

28) The meeting was declared closed on Friday, 8 March 2019 at 22:00 hrs.