

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Tuesday 11 June 2019  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri  
Conference Room 4

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

1. H.E. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana opened the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda was adopted.
3. One member of the Committee repeated a request to the Secretariat to present an overview of the planning and timelines for the preparation of important work-streams in the coming period, following-up the outcomes of UNEA-4 (and other relevant decisions), while acknowledging that some of the documents for the 146<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives included such information for some of the workstreams.

### **Agenda Item 2: Lessons learned from the fourth session of UN Environment Assembly.**

4. The Secretariat presented the main lessons learned from the fourth session of UN Environment Assembly, as reflected in the background document for the meeting.
5. The meeting welcomed the draft lessons learned and recommendations in the background document, and made several observations and recommendations, especially relating to Lessons Learned #1, 3 and 10, which are summarized as follows:
  - The importance of seeking consensus on the identification of a theme for future Environment Assemblies at an early stage in the preparations; with varying views with regard to the idea of identifying themes covering more than one Environment Assembly.
  - The need to encourage timely and transparent preparation of the Ministerial Declaration, under the leadership of the Assembly President.
  - The need to limit the number and length of resolutions, including by linking them to the theme of the Assembly, avoiding duplication with the Programme of Work, seeking regional consensus beforehand, and recognizing the important role of the co-facilitators for the negotiations.
  - The importance of effective follow up on resolutions and decisions adopted by the of the Environment Assembly, including with regard to ensuring adequate financial resources for implementation.
  - The usefulness of fully utilizing the intersessional process to prepare and negotiate draft resolutions.
  - The necessity of further considering the timing and designation of the Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, for example by merging the OECPR and UNEA into one meeting of two weeks duration, with the aim of attracting more attention and interest from

- capital-based experts and negotiators.
  - The need to schedule meetings with due consideration to other major events including national or regional festivals.
  - The necessity to consider internet tools to widen participation and minimize the environmental footprint of the meeting.
6. The Chair requested the Secretariat to reflect the comments provided in a revised version of the document so that it can be tabled for final consideration at the 146<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 20 June 2019, and invited member States to send their inputs and recommendations in writing to the Secretariat by Friday 14 June.

**Agenda Item 3: A new draft strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.**

7. The Secretariat presented a progress report and a draft outline of a new strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the UN Environment Programme. Background documents as well as the powerpoint presentation are made available at the meeting portal.
8. Member States welcomed the opportunity to engage in consultations on this topic, and raises several questions and requests to the Secretariat, summarized as follows:
- Further clarification on the time frame for finalizing the strategy, also taking into account the roadmap presented at a previous Subcommittee meeting.
  - Further clarity the relationship with the strategy and the programme of work and budget.
  - Further information on the timing on and the ensuing dedicated Secretariat briefing special session to consult with member States was enquired. Furthermore, the importance to access meeting document and enough time to review them was underlined.
9. The Chair invited member States to send any specific inputs in writing on the draft outline of the Strategy to the Secretariat by 21 June 2019.

**Agenda Item 4: Secretariat update on private sector engagement and on the development of a private sector strategy.**

10. The Secretariat presented an annual update on the UN Environment Programme's engagement with the private sector and on the ongoing process to develop a private sector strategy. A report on strengthened engagement with the private sector through partnerships, as well as a PowerPoint presentation are available at the meeting Portal.
11. Member States welcomed the presentation and the efforts made to ensure a transparent and strategic approach to partnerships between the UN Environment Programme and the private sector. They also encouraged the development of a dedicated corporate private sector strategy, and made a number of specific points including the following:
- Further clarify how this work stream can be beneficial at regional and national levels.
  - Provide further clarity on how the normative role of UN Environment Programme can benefit from and contribute to the cooperation with private sectors entities.
  - Identify efforts to achieve transformative change through cooperation with the private sector with a focus on results.
  - Consider dividing private sector into different categories, for example relating to enhancing knowledge; scaling up; raising awareness; and mobilizing resources.
  - Carefully reflect further on aspects relating to resource mobilization and risk analysis involving cooperation with the private sector.

- Identify normative guidance on how member States can work with the private sector and create markets for environmentally sound products.
  - Complement the Report with missing relevant work streams such as the CCAC and on nutrients.
  - Consider putting the topic on the agenda of the 6th Annual Subcommittee.
  - Consider involving the Evaluation Office in this work stream.
  - Consider partnerships irrespective of size and finances, including small and medium-sized enterprises.
12. A representative of a Non-Governmental Organization (connected on-line) stressed the need for transparency and inclusion of small and medium-sized Enterprises and chief executive officers in the process.
  13. The Chair invited member States to send any inputs on the report in writing by 28 June and informed the meeting that further consultations on the development of a private sectors strategy is tentatively scheduled for the Subcommittee meeting in September.

**Agenda Item 5: Secretariat briefing on the preparations for the UN Climate Summit.**

14. The meeting was briefed on the preparations for the UN Climate Action Summit, to be held at UN headquarters in New York City on 23 September 2019, with the aim to bring together governments, the private sector, civil society, local authorities and other international organizations to develop ambitious solutions and concrete plans to address the issue of climate change. Member States were also updated on the specific work stream on nature-based solutions, where the UN Environment Programme is playing a leading role. Background documents as well as the powerpoint presentation are made available at the meeting portal.
15. Several Member States welcomed the briefing, expressed interest in enhancing cooperation in the area of nature-based solutions, and requested the Secretariat to provide further updates in the run-up and follow-up to the Summit.
16. One member State underlined that nature-based solutions will be a topic for the “Pre-COP” meeting for the next conference of parties to the climate convention, which will take place in Costa Rica in October 2019.
17. Another Member State informed the meeting about another workstream in preparation for the Summit on industry transition, including industry’s role in climate mitigation and invited other member States to engage in this initiative.

**Agenda Item 6: Other Matters.**

18. One member of the Committee requested more information on the Global Consultation Workshop on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Biosafety and the Cartagena Protocol, which is scheduled for 25 August 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Secretariat committed to share information on this event in due time.

**Agenda Item 7:**

19. The meeting closed at 1:30 p.m.