

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Tuesday 26 November 2019  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
United Nations Office of Nairobi  
Conference Room 4

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda**

1. H.E Mr. Fernando Coimbra of the committee of Permanent Representative, Ambassador and permanent Representative of Brazil, welcomed all member states and opened the meeting.
2. The agenda was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 2: Consultations on the theme of UNEA-5**

3. The Chair invited H.E. Ms. Elin Rognlie, Representative of the UNEA President and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway, to brief the meeting on the consultations on a theme and to present the latest document on the matter, entitled “Consensual elements for the theme for the fifth session on the UN Environment Assembly”. The Chair also reminded the meeting that it would be the final round of consultations in the Committee before a decision would be made by the UNEA Bureau in the context of a meeting of the Joint Bureaux on 3 December 2019.
4. Member States welcomed the briefing and expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the President of UNEA to identify a theme through a transparent and inclusive process, and made a number of comments which may be summarized as follows:
  - Several member States expressed support for a theme on nature-based solutions in the context of sustainable development, while concerns were expressed about the lack of an intergovernmentally agreed-upon definition of “nature-based solutions”;
  - Several member States underlined the importance of making a clear reference to the concept of sustainable development or to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, in the theme itself;
  - Some member States were in favor of combining some of the alternative theme formulations outlined in the background paper, and it was suggested that while the theme should be simple, it should not be equated to a “slogan”;
  - Many member States welcomed the reference to specific areas in the annex to the background documents, while some underlined the importance of reflecting other

key issues such as food security, poverty, finance, technology transfer and capacity building;

5. The Chair of the CPR and the representative of the UNEA President thanked member States for their constructive inputs. The representative of the UNEA President indicated that a revised document on the theme would be developed and shared with all member States before the joint Bureaux meeting.

**Agenda item 3: Implementation of UNEA Decision 4/2 entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”, para 8 on the commemoration of the creation of UNEP at the 1972 Stockholm Conference.**

6. The Secretariat made a presentation on the implementation of paragraph 8 of UNEA Decision 4/2, in particular with regard to the possible format and outcomes of the commemoration of the 50 year anniversary of the creation of UNEP in 2022, as well as a summary of views expressed by member States on this topic at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee meeting held in October 2019.
7. Member States broadly welcomed the presentation, and made a number of comments which may be summarized as follows:
  - The commemoration should be an opportunity to engage in a stock-taking exercise for the past 50 years, but also to look ahead and address global environmental challenges for the upcoming 50 years, taking into account the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and international environmental governance;
  - The commemoration also provides an opportunity to improve public and media awareness about UNEP and global environmental challenges, including through innovative approaches that reach out to and benefit from ideas from the broader public, and through complementary national initiatives possibly linked to the World environment Day in 2022;
  - The preparatory process for the commemoration should be member States-led, open, inclusive and participatory;
  - A strong science-policy input as a basis for the commemoration should be ensured;
  - Cost implications for various alternative formats of the commemoration should be elaborated, while acknowledging that this may require further clarity on the basic modalities for the event(s) to be decided by member States;
  - Some member States raised doubts regarding the Secretariat’s proposal to establish a panel of eminent persons under the UNEP Executive Director to provide inputs to the commemoration and requested further clarification in this matter;
  - Further clarity was also sought on the relationship between the commemoration of the creation of UNEP and the offer from the Swedish Government to host a high-level meeting in Stockholm in 2022 to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the 1972 Stockholm Conference.

- It was agreed to request the Secretariat to develop a questionnaire to seek the inputs of all member States on the relevant issues regarding the commemoration.
8. Representatives from Major Groups welcomed the plans to commemorate the creation of UNEP in 2022, and called for a broad and participatory process to ensure that representatives from Major Groups, including women's groups and local and rural communities, are actively engaged in the preparations as well as at the event itself.
  9. The Chair thanked member States for their inputs and proposed to revert to this topic at a future Subcommittee meeting in early 2020.

**Agenda item 4: Findings from the Resource Efficiency Subprogramme Evaluation**

10. Due to limited meeting time, the Chair decided to postpone this agenda item to a later date.

**Agenda item 5: Any other Business**

11. No other business issue was raised.

**Agenda Item 6: Closing of the meeting.**

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