

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Thursday, 30 January 2020, 3.00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Executive Office Board Room
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H.E. Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, opened the meeting.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members:

H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil;
H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania;
H.E. Mrs. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Rapporteur, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana;
Mrs. Gudi Alkemade, Deputy Permanent Representative, representing H.E. Mr. Frans Makken, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
Mr. Patrick Luna, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil;

The President of UN Environment Assembly was represented by:

Ms. Guri Sandborg, Deputy Permanent Representative, representing H.E. Ms. Elin Bergithe Rognlie, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway;

Regional Groups were represented by:

H.E. Dr. Suleiman Arabiyat, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jordan, representing the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group;

For consideration of agenda item 2, the following Permanent Representatives were represented:

H.E. Ms. Rose Makena Muchiri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya;
Ms. Frida Jangsten, Deputy Permanent Representative, representing H.E. Ms. Anna Jardfelt, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden;

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director;
Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director;
Mr. Rafael Peralta, Acting Chief of Staff;

Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Stadler Trengove, Law Division;
Ms. Tita Korvenoja, Law Division.

2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Implementation of paragraph 8 of UNEA decision 4/2

3. The Chair welcomed the representatives from Sweden and Kenya and invited them to provide an update on the consultations to collaborate in a joint endeavor on the 50-year commemoration of the Stockholm Conference and on the creation of UNEP in 2022.
4. H.E. Ms. Rose Makena, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya, thanked the meeting for the invitation and informed the meeting that the State Secretary for Environment of Sweden and Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya, held two high-level meetings in Nairobi to discuss the way forward on the commemorations of the Stockholm Conference and the creation of UNEP. In that regard, an agreement was made that Sweden will host a high-level meeting on a commemoration of the Stockholm Conference in the spring of 2022, and that a commemoration of the creation of UNEP would take place in Nairobi; however, some of the details of the agreement are still under discussion. The representative from Sweden confirmed the information provided.
5. Ms. Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of UNEP, provided an update on the work of the Secretariat to implement paragraph 8 of UNEA Decision 4/2 including plans to establish an advisory panel for the commemoration, put in place a Secretariat task force, to mobilize stakeholders, and to prepare relevant reports including with regard to ensure a solid science-policy input. She also announced that she was planning to undertake informal consultations with regional groups before the 149th meeting of the CPR, with a view to identify converging ideas to determine the way forward. The Executive Director also expressed appreciation and support for the progress made by Sweden and Kenya and underlined the importance of ensuring that the process will lead to a strengthening of UNEP. She further welcomed (side) events and receptions in the lead up to the commemoration of the Stockholm Conference and the creation of UNEP, to allow stakeholders not in a position attend those events to take part in the celebrations. Lastly, she proposed to report back to the Committee on the outcome of the informal consultations with regional groups at the 150th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
6. The Chair recalled the decision of the Bureau to draft a questionnaire as a basis for informal consultations with regional groups in order to allow member States to provide guidance to the Secretariat to fulfill the mandate under paragraph 8 of UNEA Decision 4/2, and recalled that while member States generally welcomed the [Secretariat note](#) on the commemoration of the creation of UNEP at the 6th Annual Subcommittee, some

member States had questioned the usefulness of establishing an advisory council of eminent persons. The Chair also recognized the proposal of the Executive Director to report back to the CPR on the informal consultations, and proposed that this would be done already at the 149th meeting of the Committee on 18 February 2020.

7. The Bureau welcomed the update on the consultations between Kenya and Sweden thanked the Executive Director for the information provided. Further, the Bureau members provided the following comments and guidance:
 - Welcomed the proposal by the Executive Director to report back to the CPR on the informal consultations with regional groups;
 - Agreed that the commemoration of the Stockholm Conference and of the creation of UNEP would provide an opportunity to strengthen the role of UNEP and create visibility for its work, and underlined that the commemorations should be complimentary in nature and contribute to the visibility and strengthening of UNEP;
 - Encouraged Sweden and Kenya to continue their consultations on outstanding issues and continue to inform the members of the CPR of the outcome, so that the membership as a whole can jointly discuss the issue.
 - Requested the Secretariat to provide additional information on the preparations, including on the proposed advisory panel of eminent persons;
 - Discussed the usefulness of an open questionnaire for all Member States, taking into account the ongoing informal consultations;
8. The representatives of Kenya and Sweden concurred with the aim to ensure complementarity between the two commemorations and of the importance of informing Member States progress made.
9. The Bureau agreed that the Executive Director will report back to the CPR on the outcome of the informal consultations with regional groups at the 149th meeting of the CPR on 18 February 2020 and that the Committee will be invited to provide guidance on the way forward at that meeting, including with regard to a possible questionnaire.

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 73/333

10. The Chair thanked H.E. Ms. Elin Bergithe Rognlie, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway, in absentia for jointly leading on the consultations for the process on the way forward to implement UNGA Resolution 73/333, and informed the meeting of the decision of both the Chair and the Presidency to endorse the Secretariat proposal on a draft roadmap for the consideration of the Bureau of the CPR.
11. The Secretariat provided an update on the process for consultations towards the preparation of the political declaration referred to in General Assembly resolution 73/333 and presented the draft [roadmap](#) endorsed by the UNEA President and the Chair of the CPR for further consideration at the 149th meeting of the CPR. The Secretariat also indicated that they had received good feedback from member states on the questionnaire and that they were in the process of analyzing the inputs received.

12. The Bureau welcomed the proposed draft roadmap.

Agenda Item 4: Implementation of paragraph 14 of on UNEA Decision 4/2

13. The Secretariat provided an update on development of an action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development entitled "The future we want", proposed two options for the upcoming consultations on the basis of the [synthesis report](#) presented at the meeting of the subcommittee on 23 January 2020, as outlined in the [note on consultations](#).

14. The Bureau expressed its preference to cluster the sub-paragraphs in accordance with Option 1 in the background document.

Agenda Item 5: Organization of work

15. The Secretariat provided an update on the [Roadmap for the UNEP Governing Bodies January 2020 – February 2021](#), and proposed that the implementation of paragraph 14 of Decision 4/2 on the development of an action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of "The Future We Want" will be considered at the subcommittee meetings on 5 and 26 March 2020. The Secretariat also proposed that consultations on the Global Programme of Action would take place at the subcommittee meeting on 27 February and on either 26 March or 23 April 2020. The Bureau advised to confirm the proposed meetings on the action plan for Paragraph 88 and tentatively hold the second meeting of the GPA on 23 April 2020.

16. The Secretariat highlighted a potential clash between the 151st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the UN Habitat Executive Board Meeting, both scheduled for mid-September 2020. The Chair and the Secretariat will seek alternative dates for the meeting.

17. At the request of one member of the Bureau, the Bureau agreed to request the Secretariat to provide options on possible division of labor for the Bureau members to discuss at the next Bureau meeting, with a view to support the Chair in his duties.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters.

18. The Executive Director highlighted the year 2020 as the "Super Year for Nature" and an important year for the work of UNEP as well as that of the CPR. She also recognized the remarkable efforts of Spain to collaboratively work with Chile to hold COP 25 of the climate convention in Madrid in December 2019. Furthermore, she underlined the need for ambition and increased finances to support actions for nature.

19. The Chair informed the meeting the Ambassador of Portugal to the UN in New York will be present in Nairobi and will ask for the floor under "Other matters" at the 149th meeting of the CPR on 18 February 2020, to provide an update on the preparations of the UN Ocean Conference from 2 – 6 June 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Agenda Item 7: Closing of the Meeting

20. The meeting ended at 5:00 pm.