

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 23 April 2020
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Online Meeting

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Background documents and other documentation we available on the [meeting portal](#).

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

1. H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representative, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil opened the meeting.
2. The Secretariat provided an overview of the Member States connected to the meeting.
3. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Draft decision for the IGR for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

4. The Secretariat presented a [revised version](#) of the draft decision on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, taking into comments made at the [subcommittee meeting](#) on 27 February 2020 as well as comments submitted in writing.
5. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the presentation as well as the revised document, and provided the following comments:
 - One delegation introduced a general reservation on paragraph 1, on the basis that it may be premature for UNEA to come up with a definitive decision on the IGR, referring also to the ongoing considerations under the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics.
 - One delegation on behalf of a group of member States expressed a preference to revert to the previous formulation of paragraph 1, with a clear decision to discontinue the IGR as an intergovernmental body and fully integrate the GPA in UNEP's Programme of Work.
 - One delegation expressed doubt about the concept of linking the work of the expert group on marine litter and microplastics to the discussions about the future of the GPA.
 - One delegation requested a stronger reference to international cooperation and capacity building for developing countries in paragraph 2.
6. The Chair considered that more time will be needed to find full agreement on the text, and requested the Secretariat to incorporate the comments by Member States in a new version of draft, for further reflection by member States ahead of the 7th Annual

Subcommittee Meeting. The Chair also invited interested delegations to consider taking up sponsorship of the draft decision, in view of final consideration at the next IGR and UNEA-5.

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of UNEA resolution 2/3 - Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training.

7. The Secretariat provided a [progress update](#) on the implementation of UNEA resolution 2/3 entitled “Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training” on the basis of the five key components of the resolution and indicated the possibility of setting up an informal working group with interested Member States. The Secretariat also provided an overview of [Earth School](#), which is a 30-day online school curriculum between Earth Day and World Environment Day, initiated by UNEP and TED-Ed in coordination with 30 collaborators, including National Geographic, WWF and UNESCO, to help students improve their understanding of the environment and human activities.
8. Member States welcomed the presentation and provided the following general guidance and feedback:
 - Requested a more structured report providing information on the level of implementation of all mandates in the resolution and requested regular updates.
 - Welcomed the idea of an informal “friends group” whereby interested member States can be informed of and provide support to the implementation of the resolution, with some delegations indicating interest to take part.
 - Expressed general support to the future priorities that was outlined and welcomed the emphasis on youth engagement and green jobs within the scope of work, and suggested that this work is closely aligned with the workstreams on green and circular economy.
 - Underlined the importance of making better use of technology and online learning platforms as well as gender equality within the programme.
 - One delegation requested additional information on the work on higher education, and encouraged the Secretariat to scale up engagement with key education sectors and develop follow-up mechanisms to measure the results.
 - One delegation requested that the content of the Earth School be translated in order to popularize the content.
 - One delegation highlighted the linkages between this UNEA resolution and [UNEA Resolution 4/4](#) entitled, “Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices,” as well as with SDG 1.
 - A representative from the children and youth major group for provided an update on their work to engage youth in the activities and processes led by UNEP including through the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and UNEA 5.
 - Representatives from accredited stakeholders stressed that
 - youth engagement should be youth-led in order to facilitate better engagement with the UN system;
 - young people should be consulted in the development and design of processes or curriculum targeted at youth;
 - implementation, policy dialogues and decisions around digital learning tools should address inequalities associated with limited/lack access to digital platforms of learning for millions of children and youth, also taking into account the COVID-19 situation;
 - targeted involvement of faith-based organizations can support the science -faith interface to promote greening using factual information.

9. The Secretariat took note of the feedback, confirmed the need to seek youth engagement in the design of the school-related programmatic work, and committed to provide further updates to the CPR on implementation of the resolution. The Secretariat also informed the Committee that the Earth School content will be translated into 10 languages including all UN languages. The Secretariat welcomed further discussion with the CPR on the programmatic work on environmental education and encouraged interested delegations to reach out to the Secretariat to allow for informal follow-up.
10. The Chair recognized youth engagement and education as one of the backbones of Agenda 2030 and requested the Secretariat to keep the CPR be kept informed on the developments under this resolution.

Agenda Item 4: Other matters.

11. The Secretariat briefed the meeting on the open invitation for member States to participate in a “Discovery Session” for the Medium-Term Strategy planned for the first weeks of May, and emphasized that the discussion will be an open dialogue in an informal structure on an online platform.
12. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the briefing and encourage delegations to engage in the informal MTS sessions.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting

13. The meeting close at 10:55 a.m.