

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Tuesday 12 May 2020  
2 pm – 5 pm  
United Nations Office of Nairobi  
Online meeting

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### *Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives*

#### **Agenda item 1: Agenda item (1) Implementation of paragraphs 9-13 of Decision UNEP/EA.4/2 entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the UNEA”.**

1. The Co-facilitators, Mr. Marcus Davies of Canada and Mr. Mapopa Kaunda of Malawi, invited the Committee to consider subparagraph 10 d) of UNEA Decision 4/2 which reads “Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme of work and budget and of the resolutions of the Environment Assembly”, on the basis of a [Secretariat note](#) entitled “Options under subparagraph 10 (d)”, which was already endorsed by the CPR at its subcommittee meeting on 27 February. On this basis, the Co-facilitators invited delegations to raise any issues relevant to the subparagraph 10 d) that would go beyond the content of the Secretariat note.
2. Delegations who took the floor confirmed their support for the approach taken in the Secretariat proposal, and asked the Secretariat to clarify the status of implementation, including to which extent the online tool for reporting on implementation of UNEA resolutions will also cover UNEA ministerial declarations. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the efforts to adapt the quarterly reports as well as development of the online tool are proceeding as planned, and that the first version of the online tool is expected to be ready for piloting by interested delegations at the end of May.
3. One delegation requested the Secretariat to explore options to rationalize and streamline mandated reporting requirements to future UNEA meetings by consolidating the reports into shorter and/or fewer reports that summarize general progress in implementation while referring more detailed information to the online tool, thereby also potentially saving significant costs for report-writing and translation.

#### Emerging consensual elements by the co-facilitators

4. The Co-facilitators invited the Committee to consider [Version III of the document “Converging elements of consensus”](#), developed by the co-facilitators, including [Annex II – “Draft guidance to Member States on submission of draft resolutions to the UN Environment Assembly”](#).
5. In summary, delegations expressed support for the general direction of the document, while raising the following comments and concerns on the main text:
  - Paragraph 1, 7, 10, 12, 13 and 14: no specific comments raised by delegations.
  - Paragraph 2: Some delegations considered that the final clause on avoiding formal negotiations during weekends should cover any type of negotiations.

- Paragraph 3: some delegations asked to maintain the notion that the OECPR should be convened under the auspices of the UNEA Bureau, while others insisted on its deletion and on keeping the reference to the chairmanship; the Co-facilitators suggested to organize a dedicated meeting for interested delegations at a later stage to consider the matter in-depth with a view to finding a common understanding. Two delegations placed a general reservation on the renaming of the OECPR and of the Annual Subcommittee (paragraph 4).
  - Paragraph 4: some delegations underlined the importance of clarifying that the meeting of the Annual Subcommittee, if renamed, will formally maintain its status as a meeting of the CPR Subcommittee.
  - Paragraph 5: One delegation proposed to soften the language regarding the scheduling of side events and other events.
  - Paragraph 6: Several delegations expressed support for the content of the paragraph in principle, while some delegations expressed a preference for the previous language and one delegation suggested to revise and shorten the paragraph.
  - Paragraph 8: Some delegations expressed reservations about the role of the UNEA Bureau with regard to strengthening of the science policy interface.
  - Paragraph 9: Several delegations advised against singling out individual major groups, and some delegations and major group representatives disagreed with the deletion of the reference to contributions from Major Groups.
  - Paragraph 11: one delegation suggested a specific reference to virtual meetings.
  - Paragraph 15: some delegations suggested that the CPR should engage in negotiations or at the very least initiate in-depth consideration of draft resolutions as soon as possible, and establish dedicated working groups to this end.
  - Paragraph 16: Several delegations expressed general support for the content of this paragraph.
6. In addition, the following comments were made in relation to Annex II of that document.
- Delegations expressed general support to the aim to seek agreement on concrete guidance to Member States on submission of draft resolutions to the UN Environment Assembly, in line with the draft guidance in Annex II.
  - Several delegations suggested to review the introductory part, to highlight the rationale for the guidance and make the text less stringent.
  - Under Section A, one delegation suggested longer time frames, and another delegation proposed to include a reference to the role of the meeting of the annual subcommittee.
  - For Section B, delegations made several proposals, including:
    - Under a), refer to scientific assessments;
    - Under c), refer to Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
    - Under d), make the requirement to provide information on financial requirements less demanding;
    - Under f), include a reference to timelines.
  - Finally, it was proposed to include a new section C, which would provide additional guidance on the preferred format and content of draft resolutions.
7. The Co-facilitators thanked delegations for their inputs which will be captured in a revised version of the document and annex, and reminded delegations that consideration of Annex 1 to the document “Converging Elements of Consensus”, entitled “[Draft terms of reference of the Bureaus of the United Nations Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#)” will take place at the [next subcommittee meeting](#), scheduled for 21 May (pm).

**Agenda Item 2: Closing of the meeting.**

8. The meeting closed at 5:30 p.m.