

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Thursday 30 July 2020, 10.00 - 11:00 am
Online meeting

Note from the Secretariat on the organization of work for the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Consideration of key dates and format of upcoming meetings under the CPR

The Roadmap for the UN Environment Programme Governing Bodies, available [online](#), indicates the following key dates and meetings during the period September 2020 – February 2021:

- 3 September 2020: Meeting of the Subcommittee of the CPR
- 14 September 2020: 151st meeting of the CPR
- 19-20 September: Joint meeting of the Bureaus of UNEA-5 and of the CPR
- 12-16 October 2020: 7th meeting of the annual subcommittee, including a 2-day stock-taking meeting of the CPR-based Review¹ (tentatively scheduled for 12-13 October)
- 9 November 2020: Meeting of the Subcommittee of the CPR
- 19 November 2020: 152nd meeting of the CPR
- December 2020 – January (exact dates yet to be determined): Meetings of the Subcommittee of the CPR
- 26 January 2021: 152nd meeting of the CPR

Other related meetings include:

- 3-5 November (proposed): 2nd consultation on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333, as suggested by the co-facilitators, noting that this would depart from the [roadmap](#) adopted at the 149th CPR.
- 9-13 November: meeting of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics (virtual meeting), as recently decided by the AHEG Bureau.

With regard to the format and exact timing of these meetings, the UN Office in Nairobi has indicated that the current COVID-19 related restrictions in place for the UN compound will in all likelihood remain in place at the time of the annual subcommittee.

Recommendation

On this basis, the Secretariat suggests:

1. That the dates as outlined above are maintained, with the following exceptions:
 - The subcommittee meeting currently scheduled for 3 September should be fully devoted to the process for review by the CPR and moved to 10 September.
 - The joint meeting of the UNEA and CPR currently planned for 19 or 20 September (a weekend) may need to be rescheduled to another date before the meeting of the annual subcommittee.
 - The stock-taking meeting for the process for review by the CPR (tentatively scheduled for 12-13 October) may need to be shortened from 2 to 1 day to ensure that sufficient time is devoted to other important issues at the meeting of the annual subcommittee.
2. That the meetings under the CPR until at least the end October 2020 be held virtually. This will require a strategic approach and a strict priority-setting in terms of planning and organizing the

¹ Paragraph 13 in UNEA Decision 4/2 reads " Requests the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to hold a stock-taking meeting, not exceeding two days in duration, under the framework of the seventh annual subcommittee meeting, with the goal of considering the endorsement of the progress achieved at that time".

meetings, and in setting the agendas. It will also – especially for the meeting of the annual subcommittee which is designed to encourage participation of experts from capitals – need careful consideration of meeting accessibility in terms of different time zones.

3. That, as a general rule and until in-person meetings can resume, CPR regular and subcommittee meetings are organized between 2 – 6 pm, and that the meeting of the annual subcommittee is organized between 1 – 6 pm. In both cases, a short break may be included in the middle of each meeting, as appropriate. This proposal aims to facilitate the participation of experts from capitals by providing the most amenable timing possible for delegations that connect from different time zones while broadly retaining the time frame compared to an in-person meeting (5 hours instead of 6 hours per day). It also takes into account the positive experience from the recent consultations on resolution 73/333, which seemed to work well from a time zone perspective.
4. That the agendas for the upcoming CPR meetings in September and October include the following key items:

Meeting of the CPR Subcommittee – 3 September 2020:

- **Fully devoted to finalization of the consultations under the process for review by the CPR, led by the co-facilitators from Canada and Malawi.**

Proposed timing: 2 – 6 pm, possibly with a short break at around 4 pm (Nairobi time)

151st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives – 14 September 2020

1. **Consultation on the Medium-Term Strategy 2021 – 2025 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022 – 2023**
2. **Draft decision for the IGR for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities**
3. **Progress update on the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics**
4. **Progress update on the implementation of the Pollution Action Plan adopted at UNEA-4**

Proposed timing: 2 – 6 pm, possibly with a short break at around 4 pm (Nairobi time)

7th meeting of the annual subcommittee, 12 – 16 October 2020

1. UNEP Programme performance review: January – June 2020

The review will be based on a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation provided 3 weeks in advance of the meeting, complemented by the two quarterly reports to the CPR (Jan-March and April – June 2020).

2. Consideration of a draft UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023

3. Implementation of UNEA decision 4/2

- Stock-taking meeting for the process for review of by the CPR
- Preparations for UNEA-5, including a possible scoping exercise and/or timetable for the tabling of resolutions for UNEA-5
- Preparations for UNEP@50

4. Implementation of UNEA resolution 4/22: Implementation and follow up of UNEA Resolutions - Launch of UNEA Monitoring and Reporting Portal

5. Implementation of UNEA resolution 4/23: consultation of the future of the Global Environmental Outlook

6. Consideration of a draft Chair's summary

Proposed timing: 1 – 6 pm for all five days, possibly with a short break at around 3.30 pm (Nairobi time), and with the possibility of organizing breakout groups or informal meetings during other hours.

5. That the CPR Bureau meets shortly after the meeting of the annual subcommittee to further consider the exact dates and agendas for the remaining regular and subcommittee meetings of the CPR until February 2021, taking into account e.g. the evolving situation related to covid-19, progress made in areas under the responsibility of the CPR, and the tabling of draft resolutions for UNEA-5.

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