

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Tuesday 12 January 2021
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, chaired the meeting, in which the following members of the bureau participated:

H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland, Vice Chair, Eastern European Group;

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Vice Chair, Asia-Pacific Group

Ms. Gudi Alkemade, Deputy Permanent Representative on behalf of H.E. Mr. Maarten Brouwer, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Netherlands, Vice Chair, Western European and Other States Group

In addition, the bureau of the UN Environment Assembly was represented *ex officio* by:

H.E. Ms. Eline Rognlie, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director;
Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff a.i.;
Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Principal Legal Officer.

2. The meeting adopted the agenda.

2. Preparations for upcoming 153rd meeting of the CPR.

3. One member of the Bureau sought clarification with regard to the consideration of the CPR of the three draft decisions to be considered at the online meeting of UNEA-5, as well as the commemoration of UNEP@50, including the kick-off.
4. Following a discussion, the following clarifications were made:
 - The 153rd meeting of the Committee will offer an opportunity for delegations to provide further guidance on these three draft decisions while not engaging detailed discussions in line

by line, which is foreseen to take place at the fifth meeting of the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 15-16 February 2021.

- Following the guidance provided at the subcommittee meeting on 10 December 2020, the Secretariat will propose a new paragraph in the draft decision on the resumed meeting of UNEA-5 on the matter of process of consultations under General Assembly resolution 73/333. No substantive changes are foreseen in the three draft decisions that will be submitted for consideration at the 153rd meeting of the CPR.
- Taking into account the discussions at the subcommittee on 10 December, the Secretariat will also prepare a revised version of the draft strategic plan for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP, including additional information on the plans for a kick-off during the online meeting of UNEA-5, the planned launch of the synthesis report, and the visual identity.

5. To facilitate an informed discussion, the bureau requested the secretariat to reverse the order of agenda item 6, “preparation of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP” and agenda item 5, “consideration of draft decisions on administrative and budgetary matters for the virtual session of UNEA-5 in February 2021” in the agenda of the 153rd meeting of the Committee, due to the links between the commemoration of UNEP and the draft decision on date and format for the resumed session of UNEA-5.

3. Preparations for the 5th Open-Ended CPR meeting.

6. The Secretariat presented the draft agenda and structure of the fifth Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for consideration by the Bureau prior to sending out an invitation and availing relevant meeting documentation online for the meeting.
7. Following a proposal from one bureau member with regard to agenda item 7 “Progress update on the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 73/333”, the Bureau decided to amend the annotated agenda to clarify that the cofacilitators of the informal consultations on the implementation of UNGA Resolution 73/333 will also address in their briefing to the OECPR the timeline for the adoption of the outcome of that consultation process.
8. The Bureau also agreed that, given the fact that the meeting will take place online, it will be useful to – at the discretion of the Chair – include short breaks during the sessions to facilitate an interactive and effective exchange of views.

4. Contributions to the High-Level Political Forum

9. The Secretariat referred to the theme, template and deadline (15 March 2021) for the contribution to the next meeting of the High Level Political Forum as outlined in the [letter from the President of the ECOSOC](#) to the President of UNEA, and proposed two alternative roadmaps for the Committee to agree on a contribution to the Forum through a consultative process in the CPR subcommittee, mandated by the online meetings of OECPR-5 and UNEA-5.
10. Following a discussion, the bureau agreed to recommend the OECPR and UNEA to defer consideration of the matter to three meetings of the CPR subcommittee to take place after the online session of UNEA-5, on 4, 11 and 15 March, and to request the secretariat to send a letter to Member States inviting them to provide inputs in writing in response to the template shared by the ECOSOC president, and on this basis develop and distribute a draft contribution to the HLPF immediately after the adjournment of UNEA-5.

11. The Bureau also noted that the theme for the contribution, “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” fitted well with UNEP’s work in relation to the pandemic, the proposed Medium-Term Strategy, and the theme for the leadership dialogue for the online meeting of UNEA-5, allowing for a timely and substantive contribution with regard to the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

5. Preparations for the next meeting of the UNEA Bureau.

12. The representative of the President of the UN Environment Assembly provided an update with regard to the process to develop a possible consensual message or statement at the online meeting of UNEA-5, taking into account all the inputs and views expressed by Member States and stakeholders to date, both in writing as well as verbally during the informal consultation held on 10 December 2020, and noting that, in the view of the UNEA-5 Presidency, while some Member States still expressed concerns, the support for the initiative appears to be growing. A revised draft message will be shared with the UNEA Bureau for their consideration and guidance at their upcoming meeting on 20 January, thereafter, disseminated to all Member States and stakeholders.

6. Organization of work leading to the virtual session of UNEA-5.

13. Following a presentation by the Secretariat on the latest roadmap of UNEP governing bodies, the Bureau agreed to remove the 9 February meeting of the subcommittee but to reconsider the need for a meeting if necessary, in the light of future developments. The Bureau also agreed to hold a meeting after UNEA-5 to strategically consider the scheduling and substance of future meetings under the CPR, on the basis of a proposal from the secretariat.

7. Other matters.

14. No other matters were discussed.

8. Closing of the Meeting.

15. The meeting closed at 12.00.