
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Thursday 27 May
10:00 am - 11:30 am, GMT+3
Online

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item: 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:

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members:

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

H.E. Mr. Maarten Brouwer, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Netherlands, Vice Chair, Western European and Other States Group

H.E. Mr. Chol M. U. Ajongo, Rapporteur, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Sudan

The Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly was represented *ex officio* by:

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

The regional groups were represented by:

H.E. Mr. Beyene Russom, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Eritrea, Chair of the Africa Group

Mr. Ado Lohmus Permanent Representative of Estonia, Chair of the Eastern European Group and co-facilitator for the process under General Assembly resolution 73/333

Mr. Asif Choudhury, Deputy High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of United Kingdom, Chair of the Western European and Others Group

H.E. Mr. Martin Gomez Bustillo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Argentina, Chair of the Latin American and Caribbean Group

Mr. Sebastian Gil, Deputy Permanent Representative of the EU delegation in Nairobi

Mr. Mapopa Kaunda, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malawi, representing H.E. Ms. Agrina Musa, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Malawi, Chair of the Group of G77 and China

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director;

Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director;

Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff;

Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies;
Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Officer.

2. The Chair welcomed all participants and opened the meeting.
3. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP thanked all groups for their strong commitment to find a solution to this important issue through an open, transparent and inclusive dialogue. She also offered that the secretariat would stand ready to provide further assistance to promote discussion and dialogue, including through liaising the UNON to provide facilities for small group in-person consultations within the UN complex in Gigiri.
4. The meeting agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of the cycle of term of office of the Bureau of Committee of Permanent Representatives.

5. The Chair referred to an elements paper that had been circulated shortly before the meeting, which sought to consolidate a number of elements that had been put forward by regional groups at previous meetings as well as during informal consultations. It was clarified that the paper should not be considered as a compromise proposal but rather as a thought-starter to stimulate discussions in order to identify an acceptable agreement in the form of a CPR decision in a timely manner. The Chair of the Bureau then invited the Chairs of regional and political groups to take the floor, followed by the Bureau members.
6. All participants who took the floor recognized the importance of finding a solution to the situation, expressed appreciation for the efforts made by all parties towards this end, welcomed the opportunity, as offered by the Executive Director, to meet in-person to facilitate further consultations, and expressed their readiness to engage in a continued dialogue to find a mutually acceptable agreement.
7. The elements paper received a variety of views, with some Chairs of the regional and political groups and Bureau Members expressing support in principle, while others considered it unbalanced and not a good basis for further consultations.
8. The Chair of a political group and the Chair of a regional group welcomed the elements paper in general terms. The Chair of the political group outlined three overarching priorities for the group: to secure a two year term for the UNEA-6 Bureau; to agree on a “bridging bureau” for the CPR that would resign after the resumed session of UNEA-5; and to agree on a division of labor within the CPR Bureau with regard to important processes such as UNEP@50, UNEA-5.2, and Stockholm+50.
9. The Chair of another political group and the Chair of another regional group did not support the elements paper, as it did not sufficiently capture their position on the matter. It was suggested to move beyond the three options outlined in the secretariat paper and to craft an agreement that takes into account the positions of all groups in a balanced manner, including the need to retain the current practice of rotations and chairmanship of the body. To reach consensus, direct engagement through in-person meetings would be needed. The Chair of the regional group also

suggested that the elements paper should be assessed by the UN Office of Legal Affairs in New York on its longer term and broader implications on governance in the UN system.

10. The Chair of a third regional group appreciated offer by the Executive Director to host physical meetings and underlined the need for an agreement to adequately address the positions from all regional groups in a comprehensive manner, including the risk of possible delays for future chairmanships of the CPR Bureau.
11. Members of the CPR Bureau supported the notion to organize in-person meetings to identify an agreement that can solicit broad support among all Member States. Two Members of the Bureau considered that the elements paper did not go far enough to integrate the positions from all regional groups, and that it therefore should not serve as a basis to move forward.
12. One member of the Bureau expressed concerns about inadequate collective division of work and a lack of sufficient consultation within the CPR bureau, which in some cases had resulted in a top-down decision-making process. The Chair categorically rejected these assertions, recalled that Bureau members have constantly been encouraged to bring forward ideas or suggestions, and recalled the consensual and collegiate nature of the decision-making process in the Bureau.
13. On the basis of the discussion, the Chair of the CPR concluded that the element paper would be withdrawn, and requested the Secretariat to assist in the organization of in-person informal consultations meetings between interested groups during the upcoming week, with the aim of developing proposals in writing to be submitted to the Secretariat by the end of that week that can serve as inputs to a draft decision that would be circulated and considered at an extended Bureau meeting scheduled for 10 June 2021.
14. The Executive Director confirmed that the Secretariat would provide further organizational, legal, procedural and budgetary support for the decision-making process.

Agenda Item 3: Other matters.

15. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 4: Closing of the Meeting.

16. The meeting closed at 11:20 am.