

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday 8 July 2021  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
United Nations Office of Nairobi  
Online

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

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

1. H.E. Ms. Luísa Fragoso, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal, opened the meeting.
2. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, provided brief introductory remarks and congratulated the Chair and the members of the new Bureau of the CPR for their first subcommittee meeting and expressed readiness to provide continued support during their term.
3. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

### **Agenda Item 2: Briefing on the preparations for the 2021 UN Food System Summit.**

4. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, recognized the importance of sustainable patterns for consumption and production with regards to food systems, including in other aspects such as trade and transport. She noted that the UN Taskforce is developing a set of deliverables for the UN system post-Summit which includes exploring engagement opportunities with the Rio Conventions and other Multilateral Environment Agreements, and noted that the conversation on sustainable food systems will continue at the resumed session of UNEA-5. Furthermore, she highlighted the role that UNEP can play in providing norms and standards to support countries.
5. Dr. Agnes Kalibata, UN Secretariat-General's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, provided Member States with an update on the preparations for the Food Systems Summit, in particular, the pre-Summit to be held in Rome from 26 to 28 July 2021. The presentation included information on planning considerations, the structure, main program and surrounding activities, in-person delegate composition, as well as the 2021 roadmap and collaboration with other UN Summits. Furthermore, she appreciated the support of UN agencies and thanked Ms. Andersen for her supportive role through the UN Taskforce. The presentation is available [here](#).
6. Member States congratulated the Chair and the new Bureau for their new function, thanked Dr. Kalibata and Ms. Andersen for their presentation, and provided the following comments on the state of preparations:
  - Commended the UN Secretary-General for the initiative and welcomed the work of the UN Taskforce

- Commended Italy for the preparation of the pre-Summit amidst the pandemic, noting that the success of such a hybrid meeting would set the tone for a number of important environmental meetings in the months to come,
  - Appreciated the work around the 5 action tracks of the Summit as well as the involvement of key non-state actors, and stressed the need to mainstream sustainable consumption and production in food systems, noting that it was an opportunity to build back better,
  - Emphasized the need for the Summit to highlight sustainable consumption and production in the food sector and food systems, access to climate adaptation finance, food accessibility for vulnerable groups such as refugees and victims of war and conflict and, in the context of climate change, for people in drought-stricken areas,
  - Some delegations provided information on the various activities that are being undertaken in their countries in support of the Summit, including the organization of dialogues or workshops on food systems, security, and nutrition,
  - Stressed the need to use official sources and scientific evidence in documents, noting that science should stay central in all the solutions put forward,
  - One delegation requested that the Secretary General's Draft Statement of Action be based on multilaterally agreed concepts and language in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and asked for clarification on how member States can have full participation and ownership in the coalitions.
  - Emphasized that the links between the Summit and both UNEA 5.2 and the Post 2020 Global Framework for Biodiversity be strongly featured.
7. Dr. Agnes Kalibata thanked delegations for their feedback and their expressions of support for the Summit. She informed the meeting that 138 Member States had committed to convening National Dialogues, 700 Independent Dialogues have been hosted, and Regional Dialogue early results will be launched within the week. Regarding coalitions, the Secretariat will be sharing information around emerging potential Areas of Coalition. These areas are being identified through the work in the Action Tracks and National Dialogues. Member States were encouraged to indicate where they would like to see partnerships emerge and which partnerships they would be interested in joining. Dr. Kalibata indicated that she would come back to delegations on the exact dates of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit expected to take place on the auspices of the UN General Assembly in September.
8. The Executive Director reassured the Committee that UNEP sees sustainable consumption and production as a dimension to its work and looks forward to supporting the office of the Special Envoy in the pre-Summit and Summit itself.

### **Agenda Item 3: Update on the Future of the Global Environment Outlook process.**

9. Mr. Jerome Lugumira, Vice-Chair of the Future of GEO Steering Committee, provided a progress update on the Future of GEO process so far and the main findings of the interim report, including a briefing on the main elements of the feasibility study on the options for the Future of the Global Environment Outlook. In addition, the meeting was briefed on the process agreed by the Steering

Committee for the development of the feasibility study, the expected outcomes of the feasibility study, the broad online consultations, and the final steps in the Future of GEO process, including the anticipated briefing at the CPR's annual subcommittee meeting. The presentation is available [here](#).

10. Member States thanked the representatives of the Future of GEO Steering Committee for their presentation, complemented the Steering Committee for the excellent work done, and provided feedback on the main elements of the feasibility study, as follows:
  - Expressed concerns about the level of participation of Member States in the work of the Steering Committee, noting that only a fraction of Member States are actively engaging and that it would be helpful if other Member State experts also provided their thoughts and advice,
  - Welcomed the interim report and stressed that all four options should be considered and analyzed equally so that a balanced and full spectrum of options can be presented in the final report to the resumed session of UNEA-5, further recognizing that the options currently being assessed by the Future of GEO process are not mutually exclusive,
  - Further noted that the options should allow for a stronger link to Global Environmental Data Strategy and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and ensure a stronger financial structure to support the GEO process,
  - Emphasized that the Steering Committee should keep its work focused on its three deliverables (a feasibility study, broad consultation and a final report) and not bring other products into the discussion,
  - Stressed that the Future of GEO process should recognize that there are methodological and capacity gaps in measuring environmental data for countries in the Global South, and efforts should be made to close those gaps,
  - Highlighted the importance of environmental information provided by GEO and other UNEP products to serve user needs to maintain added value, credibility and relevance of the Global Environment Outlook.
  
11. The Secretariat and the representative of the Future of GEO Steering Committee appreciated the comments and feedback provided and informed the meeting that they were working to create a balanced assessment of the options against the report's criteria. The meeting was informed that the Steering Committee will have the opportunity to express their opinion on whether the analysis is balanced and that linkages will be included in the analysis. The Secretariat assured the Committee that the comments and recommendations of the CPR will be presented at the next meeting of the Steering Committee and thanked governments for the continued support to the process.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Update on action for biodiversity: the road to Kunming CBD COP15, UNEP's new MTS and Beyond**

12. The UNEP Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity jointly provided an update on the activities to ramp up impact for biodiversity and the ongoing negotiations towards the new Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted at the 15th

Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition, the meeting was briefed on the opportunities for engagement and collaboration, and linkages to UNEA-5, UNEP's new medium-term strategy (2022-2025) and wider UN initiatives for supporting implementation and mobilizing whole-of-society support. The presentation is available [here](#).

13. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the presentation.

- Stressed the importance of the provision of regular updates to the CPR on how UNEP's work supports the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and commended the CBD Secretariat and the Host Country of CoP15 for the preparations and efforts to find workable modalities to hold the CoP in the current circumstances.
- Several Member States reiterated their commitment to developing an ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that delivers transformational change for society and the environment.
- One delegation informed of plans to host a high-level virtual meeting at the start of the second week of negotiations of the Open-Ended Working Group for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity (OEWG) Framework on Monday 13 August 2021, while another delegation offered to host in-person meetings of the two Subsidiary Bodies to the Convention, and potentially also of the OEWG, in Geneva in January 2022.
- While some member States expressed some appreciation for UNEP's work on synergies between the biodiversity-related Conventions, others cautioned that the synergies efforts could result in aspirations and commitments that go beyond the scope of the Conventions, thus interfering with their respective mandates.
- Noted that due to the inability to hold in-person meetings, consensus on the GBFs goals and targets had yet to be reached and that UNEP should not be associating or aligning itself with concepts, goals and targets the Convention had not approved.

14. The Secretariat clarified that its intention was not to prejudge the outcomes of decisions by the CoP and that the alignment of the Medium Term Strategy would be wholly within the scope of the content of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as agreed by the Parties of the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Agenda Item 5: Briefing by the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) on the report "Lessons in Multilateral Effectiveness: Pulling together - the multilateral response to climate change"**

15. The Secretariat of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) provided a briefing on a learning study undertaken to understand how multilateral organizations are supporting and responding to climate change challenges at the policy, program, and project levels in conformity with the normative principles underlying Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement. The study forms part of the new MOPAN series "Lessons in Multilateral Effectiveness" and is independent of MOPAN assessments. It examined a sample of 11 multilateral organizations, including international financial institutions (AfDB, ADB, IDBG, EIB, IMF, and WBG), vertical funds (GCF and GEF), and UN agencies (IFAD, UNDP and UNEP) and 5 countries (Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia and Jamaica). The report provides key lessons

and policy options for accelerating climate action as the international community prepares for COP 26. The report is available [here](#), and the presentation is available [here](#).

16. Member States thanked the MOPAN secretariat for their informative and valuable presentation and shared their views on the findings and lessons from the report, as follows:
- Welcomed the observations and findings of the report and indicated that they would require some more time to study the report. To this end, some delegations expressed concern that the report was not circulated early enough in advance of the meeting. Thus, they reserved the right to provide their comments in writing later.
  - Would like to hear more concretely on the lessons learned and the recommendations specifically for UNEP
  - Encouraged UNEP to further engage with the private sector, stakeholders and the public, stressing that UNEP should continue to promote stakeholder involvement in all open meetings and update the partnership strategy in light of the new Medium-Term Strategy and the UN reforms;
  - One delegation representing a political group reminded the CPR that it is the shared responsibility of Member States to contribute their fair share to the Environment Fund in order to ensure that UNEP can fulfil its mandate. Furthermore, it stressed the importance of enhancing UNEP's contribution within the UN system, the UN Environment Management Group, and the UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies for the Environment, as well as its engagement with the UN country teams, further recommending that UNEP better explore coordination within the UN Executive Board and UNEP's multilateral response to climate change
  - Emphasized the importance of countries raising their ambitions on the NDCs and the need to catalyze resources to tackle climate change. One delegation noted that the lack of climate finance, especially for developing countries, was not highlighted in the presentation.
  - One delegation encouraged the role of multilateral organizations in mainstreaming climate into operations and policies and recognized that COVID-19 recovery strategies are closely linked to sustainable development and the socio-economic goals of countries
17. The Secretariat welcomed the timely and valuable report and expressed their gratitude to the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) for the assessment and for presenting the findings to the CPR. The Secretariat, inter alia, informed that it will continue to provide technical support and normative advice for decarbonization and building resilience and advocate for a stronger focus on mitigation and adaptation win-wins as a direct means for securing funding for adaptation efforts and enhancing resilience, as well as continue to work with the global recovery observatory and on carbon neutrality strategies.

**Agenda Item 6: Other matters.**

18. Regarding the scheduling of meetings, one delegation suggested exploring morning sessions for the CPR meetings when several substantive agenda items are to be discussed, rather than holding the meetings in the afternoon (GMT+3).

**Agenda Item 7: Closing of the meeting**

19. The meeting closed at 4:30 pm.