

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Wednesday 24 November 2021
10:00 am - 12.00 p.m. (GMT+3)
Conference Room 9

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. H.E. Mrs. Luísa Fragoso, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal opened the meeting.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members

H.E. Mrs. Selma Malika Haddadi, Ambassador of Algeria to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, Vice Chair of the CPR

H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Ambassador of Mexico to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, Vice Chair of the CPR

Mr. Ado Lohmus, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN Environment Programme, Vice Chair of the CPR

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, Rapporteur of the CPR

The Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly, represented *ex officio*

H.E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN Environment Programme

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director

Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director

Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff

Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Secretary a.i. of Governing Bodies

2. The Chair opened the meeting and invited UNEP's Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen to deliver opening remarks. The ED congratulated the bureau members for the progress made in the preparations for UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50, and acknowledged the support of UNON to elaborate guidance on the format of future meetings in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the 156th meeting of the CPR.

Format and Modalities

4. The Chair informed the Bureau on the most recent developments associated to the format and modalities of the resumed session of UNEA-5, including with regard to recent meetings with the UNON, UNEP and the host country, as well as UNON's briefing to the CPR subcommittee on 23 November, recalling some of the key principles established by UNON such as the requirement for all UN staff and meeting delegates attending in person meetings to be fully vaccinated, to ensure compliance with host country regulations and the need for physical distancing in UN conference rooms.
5. UNON provided additional information on potential meeting restrictions related to COVID-19. Regarding the in-person participation, UNON suggested limits to the number of delegates in the room and restated information provided to the CPR subcommittee on 23 November that the number of delegates in the compound itself would not be a problem due to its dimension.
6. The secretariat updated the bureau on the budget situation for UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50, welcoming significant contributions from several Member States which have closed the budget gap, while noting that a significant gap remains due to the fact that resources from the UN regular budget is not foreseen to be available, and that additional costs may incur due to extraordinary health measures such as temporary infrastructure on the UN compound, rapid antigen tests, etc.
7. The Bureau welcomed the update and thanked UNON and UNEP for the walk through the facilities before this meeting. The Bureau noted that additional extrabudgetary funding may be required to increase health security for an in-person meeting. Questions were raised regarding which vaccinations would be acknowledge by UNON, the role of non-formal activities such as the sustainable innovation expo, side events, the science policy business forum, etc. One member also pointed out that there should be no meetings on weekends during UNEA and emphasized the importance to make the most of the time available towards UNEA. The Bureau further stressed the importance of deciding on the modalities soon to send out the invitations and to start the procurement processes, if required.
8. UNON clarified that any vaccine authorized by national authorities will be accepted for in-person meetings at UNEA.
9. The Chair request UNEP to, in close cooperation with UNON, prepare a detailed note on proposed format and modalities for UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50. The note should consider all practical aspects and include, when appropriate, the budgetary implications, , for consideration at the joint Bureaux meeting on 8 December 2021.

Stock-taking of draft resolutions

10. Upon invitation by the Chair, H.E. Mr. Erasmo Martinez, Vice Chair of the CPR, provided a brief overview on the latest developments regarding draft resolutions, and presented a draft note on clustering of the existing initiatives. He also noted that nominations for facilitators were largely still due, and suggested to consider other options such as inviting the authors and co-sponsors to lead in-depth consultations, where possible.
11. Members of the Bureau thanked the Vice Chair for his leadership in this process and the Secretariat for the proposed draft clustering of resolutions, and agreed that in-depth discussion should be initiated soon as possible for all drafts that have been tabled – while noting that capital-based consultations was still ongoing for the two draft resolutions on plastic pollution.

12. The Chair noted that the government of Ghana has submitted a concept note and draft resolution on “Animal Welfare”, requested the secretariat to prepare a technical note for this initiative, and recommended individual Bureau Members to encourage Member States within their groups to present their draft resolution as soon as possible.

The proposed action plan on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the Rio +20 Outcome document

13. The Chair invited the Bureau to consider the way forward on implementation of the proposed action on paragraph 88. The Executive Director reiterated that the action plan is a secretariat document that responds in full to the request laid down in UNEA decision 4/2 and is based on a very thorough consultation process with Member States. She also underlined that the new developments mentioned – such as the thematic funds, the digital hub and the possible refurbishment of the UN complex – are still under discussion and are not yet mature to be reflected in the action plan. Given the fact that the deadline to submit draft official working documents to UNON for editing and translation has already passed, the Secretariat suggested to consider the action plan in the context of the UNEA-6 resolution.
14. The Bureau and the Chair thanked the secretariat for the update and underlined the importance of clarity on the decision-making process in view of the preparations for UNEA-5.2, and suggested that the matter be brought to the attention of the 156th meeting of the CPR on 30 November.

Visual Identity

15. Upon an invitation from the Chair, the secretariat provided an update on issue of the UNEP logo and visual identity and suggested that it be considered at a future CPR subcommittee meeting.
16. The Chair requested the secretariat to update Member States on the various options on how to tackle this issue at the next possible subcommittee meeting.

UNEP@50

17. Upon invitation by the Chair, H.E. Selma Haddadi, Vice Chair of the CPR, provided an update on progress made on the preparations for the special session of UNEP@50, with reference to the subcommittee meeting held on 23 November. Notably, a draft agenda was almost agreed, clarifications had been made regarding the WESR and SPI report, and the draft structure was evolving based on several comments including with regard to the level of participation, time allocation, and possible parallel meetings.
18. The cofacilitators for the 73/333 process also provided a short briefing on the outcome of the second informal consultation meeting and the proposed way forward, and announced that a new version of the draft declaration will be made available at least 2 weeks ahead of the OECPR.
19. The secretariat informed the meeting that it will prepare a short note on the concept and modalities of the leadership dialogues, and that a new website on UNEP@50 will be launched by mid-December. Bureau Members were also informed that an invitation to the resumed session of UNEA-5 and to UNEP@50 will be shared very soon with all Member States.

20. The Chair thank the Bureau for their dedication and commitment, as well as the hard work by the secretariat, and looked forward towards a fruitful 156th meeting of the CPR.

Agenda item 3: Organization of Work.

21. The Secretariat presented an updated roadmap of the Governing Bodies. The Bureau confirmed the dates for the upcoming meetings in December, noting that the meeting on 7 December will be dedicated to preparation for UNEP@50 and the meeting on 14 December will discuss draft resolutions for UNEA-5.2. One member of the Bureau recommended that information on the draft resolutions to be consider at each in-depth consultation be circulated well in advance of each meeting.
22. The Chair noted that there were no objections to the proposal to organize the third informal consultations on the draft political declaration under 73/333 from 16-18 February 2022, suggested to organize the next CPR Bureau meeting on 15 December, e.g. to consider the meetings dates in January-February 2022 and beyond.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

23. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.

24. The meeting closed at 1:45pm.