

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 17 March 2022
14:00 p.m. – 17:00 p.m.
Conference Room 1, United Nations Office of Nairobi
Hybrid Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H.E. Ms. Selma Malika Haddadi, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador of Algeria to Kenya, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Inputs to the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

3. In accordance with the mandate provided in paragraph 3 of the UNEA resolution 3/3 and the decision of the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly to defer its consideration of the contribution to the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to a future meeting of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representative, the Secretariat presented a [draft contribution of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2022 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) under the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The draft contribution was shared in response to the invitation in the [letter dated 26 November 2021](#) from H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council, to the President of UNEA, and takes into account UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy and UNEA outcomes, including the adopted resolutions, the Ministerial Declaration of the fifth session, and the political declaration adopted at the first special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme as well as UNEP’s report on ‘Making peace with nature’ and other reports in line with the invitation of the ECOSOC President. Additional inputs will be included into a revised document.
4. The Chair emphasized that the subcommittee will guide the secretariat in preparing the draft contribution and will thus not engage in any line by line negotiation of the text. Subsequently, the meeting was informed that going forward the secretariat will take note of the comments received and revise the draft document in view of the subcommittee meeting on 24 March 2022. Following the subcommittee meeting on 24 March, the document will be finalized by the secretariat to be circulated on 29 March 2022 to Member States and be put under a silent procedure until the 1st April 2022. In the absence of any comments from Member States, the contribution of UNEA to the HLPF will be transmitted to the UNEA President for subsequent submission to the President of ECOSOC.

5. Member States thanked the secretariat for the comprehensive draft contribution document and provided the following guidance:

- Several delegations noted that the document is well balanced and responds to the requests of the ECOSOC President and requested that the document be shortened and more succinct.
- Emphasized that the input should build on the outcomes and messages of UNEA-5.2 with one delegation, on behalf of a political group, requested that the document make clearer reference to the UNEA-5.2 Ministerial Declaration and the UNEP@50 Political Declaration, and further suggested that the declarations could be added as annexes to the contribution document. On the other hand, one delegation on behalf of a regional group, expressed concern that the Ministerial declaration was a compromise document that was not multilaterally agreed or fully negotiated by Member States and as such, should not take centre stage in the contribution document.
- One delegation representing a political group favored stronger references to Nature Based-Solutions and its implementation in subparagraph 3 in line with the resolution adopted at UNEA-5.2; the right to a healthy and clean environment; circular economy, sustainable consumption and production, and restoration and protection of biodiversity; and the eradication of pollution and the establishment of an open-ended working group on the science policy panel on chemicals and waste pollution.
- Some delegations, including one delegation representing a regional group, welcomed the document and highlighted the need to include references to the principal of common but differentiated responsibilities, means of implementation, environmental rule of law, the science-policy interface, and international environmental governance.
- Some delegations emphasized the need to avoid singling out specific resolutions and to use a balanced approach to equally consider all the outcomes of UNEA, noting that there was more prominence placed on some resolutions than others.
- Highlighted the need to recognize previous and still relevant resolutions and other relevant documents or reports produced by UNEP which could be referenced; however, one delegation cautioned against the use of UNEP reports that have not gone through an intergovernmental process.
- Requested clarification on the deadline and timelines to submit the UNEA contribution and stressed the need to ensure that the submission from UNEA is made on time in order to be considered effectively by the ECOSOC President
- Stressed the need to use multilaterally agreed language in line with agreed negotiated documents and to avoid the use of concepts that do not yet have a common understanding. One delegation highlighted the need to avoid introducing non-consensual ideas so as to avoid lengthy discussions that will delay the process of submission
- Requested a reference to transformational change and behavioural change on SDG 4, reference to gender equality and empowerment of women in decision-making, access to information and justice on SDG 5 as well as a reference to the Voluntary National reviews.
- Requested that the reference to SDG 14 should highlight national efforts and policies such as the 30/30 rule to protect 30% of the planet's land and sea by 2030.
- One delegation outlined the importance of recognizing that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights and for sustainable development in all its dimensions; welcoming the decision by UNEA to

establish an intergovernmental negotiating committee towards an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution; welcoming the outcomes of UNFCCC COP26; recognizing the principle of CBDR-RC; and promoting and strengthening nature-based solutions.

- One delegation pointed out that the zero draft of the ministerial declaration that will be the outcome document of the HLPF, is yet to be produced by the co-facilitators, in NY; the outcome document of the HLPF should be concise, streamlined, action-oriented and consensual; should also have a section on the COVID-19 pandemic; and should then consider a specific paragraph for each SDG under review in depth and evaluate the implementation progress, challenges, actions and solutions.\
 - One delegation emphasized the importance to build on the language of previous HLPF contributions and to include language from the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as the need to promote sustainable development in all its dimensions and place focus on African challenges.
 - One delegation noted that references in the document could be better contextualized in light of the theme of the HLPF. It also requested that desertification as a major environmental challenge be included in the document.
 - One delegation proposed that financial and technological support for developing countries be clearly indicated in the document.
 - One delegation requested for a reference to South-South Development Cooperation as reflected both in the Political and Ministerial declarations.
 - One stakeholder representative called for the inclusion of the environmental rule of law in the document, requested that the outcome of Stockholm+50 be reflected in the document given that the HLPF will be held after Stockholm+50; welcomed the references to youth and future generation in the document; highlighted that transformative education is crucial for the behavioral change including formal and informal education; stressed the need for action-oriented commitments; and the need for continued engagement with grassroots farmers, civil society, Major Groups, and all stakeholders apart from engagement with local actors and the private sector.
6. The secretariat thanked delegations for the comments received and informed that they would be considered in a revised draft to be made available by Monday noon the following week. Regarding submission timelines, the meeting was informed that UNEP had initially been given an extension to 15 March 2022 but seeing that the deadline had passed, the secretariat has reached out to Secretariat of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) regarding a late submission. The secretariat further informed that it would include more references to the Paris Agreement and Rio Conventions with a focus on the means of implementation. Moreover, references to the environmental rule of law would be added and the secretariat will balance the presentation of resolutions in the new text. The secretariat committed to getting back to the CPR as soon as possible in order to conclude the process as quickly as possible and that it would shorten the input so that it becomes more concise.
7. The Chair requested that Member States send their comments/inputs in writing to the secretariat by noon on Friday 18 March 2022 and expressed hope that there will be more discipline in the future with regard to the submission of UNEA's input to the HLPF within the timelines and deadlines. Furthermore, the Chair took note of guidance provided on the draft contribution and highlighted the following: 1) Need to be streamlined and shortened; 2) Need to ensure balance in the presentation of outcomes from UNEA and UNEP@50 while keeping in mind the theme

of the HLPF and the specific SDGs that have been referred to in the ECOSOC President's letter; and 3) Need to use agreed language in the text.

Agenda Item 3: Other matters.

8. A representative from the delegation of Ukraine briefed the meeting on the implications of the conflict with the Russian Federation on the environment of Ukraine and requested the secretariat to avoid acknowledging terms that are not part of internationally agreed language regarding conflict.
9. A representative of the Russian Federation stressed that UNEP is not the platform to discuss conflicts and cited that UNEP does not have a mandate for conflict identification and resolution. The representative further stressed the need to use diplomatic language in a diplomatic setting.

Agenda Item 4: Closing of the meeting.

10. The meeting closed at 4:00 p.m.