

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday 10 February 2022  
10:00 a.m. – 13:00 p.m., 15:00 p.m. – 18:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 2, United Nations Office of Nairobi  
Hybrid Meeting

### **DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

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

1. H.E. Mr Erasmo Martínez, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

#### **Agenda Item 2: UNEP annual report on private sector engagement.**

3. Ms. Sonja Leighton-Kone, the Acting Deputy Executive Director, presented the [UNEP annual report on Private Sector Engagement 2021](#). The presentation is available [here](#).
4. Delegations thanked the secretariat for the presentation, acknowledged the importance of engagement with the private sector, and provided the following comments and feedback:
  - Welcomed the information on UNEP's private sector engagement and recognised the importance of the private sector in achievement of UNEP's MTS and PoW indicators as well as leverage to achieve the SDGs
  - Appreciated the transparency in the annual reporting, especially the information from the budget side, and stressed the importance of due diligence process, which is well set and in place
  - Requested more information on the approach for partnership with the private sector and whether there are any specific timelines for these partnerships based on UNEP's sub-programmes of Work.
  - Inquired if there are evaluation mechanics to determine whether a partnership is beneficial or not and whether the evaluation is on an annual basis and is independent mechanism from UN Environment Programme.
  - Requested additional information on how private sector partnership requests are completed and how is outreach done at the country level, further stressing the need to ensure geographically balanced engagement and for UNEP to actively reach out to developing countries and under-represented regions to allow for more meaningful and impactful engagement in the work of UNEP
  - Noted that most companies listed in the report are established companies and multinationals and inquired if UNEP has been looking into partnerships with growing/start-up companies, in particular from developing countries.
  - Emphasized the need to improve engagement with micro-enterprises, especially for the development of their skills in resource efficiency and sustainable approaches.
  - One delegation stressed the importance of synergies in the UN and asked if the Global ABC platform includes participation from the sister agency, UN-Habitat.
  - One delegation expressed concern rapid increase in the number of the civil society organizations participating in work of UNEP and considered that this may jeopardize the

intergovernmental nature of UNEP, while also highlighting the need for geographical balance in UNEP's engagement with civil society, noting an unbalanced representation from different regions.

5. The secretariat appreciated and took note of the comments received and informed that UNEP's engagement with private sector in UNEP works both ways, sometimes it is UNEP approaching the private sector, sometimes, it is the private sector approaching UNEP. The engagement is driven by the need to meet the objectives set out in UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and its Programme of Work and Budget as approved by Member States. UNEP follows UN Global Compact (UNGC) processes and principles uses exclusionary criteria which does not permit UNEP to deal with companies that deal with armament, tobacco, or alcohol. UNEP does not have an independent mechanism to specifically evaluate private sector partnerships, but there is a robust process for the evaluation of UNEP's programmes and projects. UNEP is working on developing new evaluation mechanism for the private sector partnerships which could take up to 5-7 years to establish. UNEP's industry platforms and engagement with the UN Global Compact helps to monitor and benchmark its partnerships. Partnerships at the country level depend on UNEP's programmes and projects in particular countries. UNEP focal points at the country level advise on this aspect.
6. The secretariat also clarified that it organizes accreditation campaigns encouraging participation from all regions of the world. To this end, the statistics provided to Member States may be misleading, as one specific civil society organization established in one part of the world often represents multiple regions. UNEP follows established rules and protocols regarding accreditation and treats all entities equally. UNEP uses established criteria for accreditation, and including a strict requirement to work internationally (in at least two countries).

### **Agenda Item 3: Presentation of the report “the UNEP we want” by the UNEP@50 Task Force of Major Groups and Stakeholders**

7. Representatives of the UNEP@50 Task Force of Major Groups and Stakeholders from the Science and Technology and Children and Youth Major Groups gave a presentation on the findings, key messages, and recommendations of the report “the UNEP we want.” They referred to a complementary joint statement which calls upon UNEA to do more to support the human right to a clean and healthy environment at national and global levels, and to take action to support environmental human rights. The presentation is available [here](#).
8. Delegations appreciated the presentation and congratulated the work of the taskforce. Member States expressed general support for continued civil society engagement and highlighted the important role of governments to support civil society engagement with UNEP. Delegation also suggested that the statement be made available in all six official UN languages and committed to provide more concrete comments once the report was made available.

### **Agenda Item 4: Consultations on draft resolutions and decisions for UNEA-5.2**

9. The Acting Executive Director of UNEP provided a presentation on the Executive Director's report, UNEP/EA.5/26: Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/2 on the application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution within the recruitment strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme, followed by a question and answer session covering the definition of the terms for over-, under- and unrepresented States, the limitation to regular budget positions, the need to provide a breakdown of staff at headquarters and staff posted to other duty stations, and more insufficient information on gender parity. One delegation requested a more long-term review of the Human Resources data, while another delegation requested more clarity on the outreach strategy mentioned within the Report.

10. The Acting Executive Director explained that for Equitable Geographic Diversity, UNEP adheres to the General Assembly definition of different categories and clarified that the report reflects both positions under the regular budget funding - which only comprise of 5 percent of UNEP funding - and other positions, comprising of 95%. The report includes Gender Parity data from 2021. The outreach strategy was an internal UNEP document, which also reflected the Executive Director's Compact with the Secretary General in terms of staffing, and was also guided by the Geographic Diversity Outreach document provided by the Office of Human Resources in New York as guidance for UN human resources geographic diversity.
11. The Committee proceeded to consider the draft resolutions for the resumed session of UNEA5, cluster by cluster, under the guidance of the appointed CPR co-facilitators in the lead for each cluster, in the following order: cluster 5, 2, 3, 4, 1.

*Cluster 5*

12. Several delegations placed a reservation on the entire text on the draft resolution by the Russian Federation on Compliance of Equitable Geographical Representation and Balance in the Secretariat of UNEP and underlined that no paragraphs can be closed before the OECPR-5.2 meeting.

*Cluster 2:*

13. Under cluster 2, the cofacilitators informed that the consultations under this cluster had been productive, on also thanks to helpful written comments submitted to the proponents for consideration, all of which were available on the papersmart portal.

*Cluster 3:*

14. The cofacilitators for cluster 3 informed that they have had additional consultations with proponents to address the key concerns and determine a way forward. On the draft resolution on chemicals and waste, the proponents were considering a revised text to be presented during the informal consultation on Friday 11 February.

*Cluster 4:*

15. The cofacilitators informed that they had received rich inputs from several delegations and that consultations were still ongoing on all draft resolutions, for which revised versions would be uploaded soon on the papersmart portal.

*Cluster 1:*

16. The cofacilitators informed that following consultations they had submitted a single cofacilitators text on plastic pollution as a basis for further consideration. In parallel, discussions were ongoing on the draft resolution by India on Framework for addressing plastic product pollution including single-use plastic product pollution, with some Member States calling for key elements of that resolution to be incorporated into the above mentioned one draft on plastic pollution.

**Agenda Item 4: Other matters.**

17. No items were raised under this agenda

**Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.**

18. The meeting closed at 6:00 pm.