

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of UN Environment Assembly and
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Friday, 11 February 2022
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Virtual

Draft Summary of the Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Meeting documents can be accessed on the [meeting portal](#)

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

1. The President of the Assembly, H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, welcomed participants and opened the meeting, followed by opening remarks from H.E. Ms. Luisa Fragoso, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director UN Environment Programme. A list of meeting participants can be found in the Annex.
2. The meeting agreed to adopt the [agenda](#) with the clarification that the issue of the contribution of UNEA to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development would be addressed under item 5 any other business.

Agenda Item 2: Update on the consultations on the draft ministerial declaration for UNEA-5.2.

3. The President referred to the latest version of the draft ministerial declaration which had been shared with Member States in view of upcoming consultations.
4. Bureau Members thanked the President for the update and asked for further clarification on the process and timing for the consultations on the draft ministerial declaration.
5. The President clarified that consultations were scheduled for 14 February 2022 and would continue during the resumed fifth meeting of the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and looked forward to continued constructive support from Bureau Members towards a substantive and impactful ministerial declaration to be adopted at UNEA-5.2. Some delegations once again raised concerns regarding the fact that this document is not being negotiated as per previous practice.

Agenda Item 3: Stock-taking of the consultations on draft resolutions for UNEA-5.2.

6. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives reminded Bureau Members that the CPR had received 17 draft resolutions and decisions in total, including 15 submitted by Member States and 2 from the Secretariat, noting that deadlines have been largely respected, which has enabled the Committee to start working on the resolutions at a relatively early stage, under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Erasmio Martínez, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The draft

resolutions were categorized into 5 clusters, each led by 2 co-facilitators nominated by all regional groups.

7. H. E. Mr. Erasmo Martínez, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico, provided a brief complementary update on the progress made under each cluster.
8. Bureau Members expressed appreciation for the updates from the Vice Chair and the Chair of the Committee. One Member clarified that a further review of the three draft resolutions submitted by the African Groups would take place during the upcoming meeting with the African Ministers of the Environment. Other Members underlined the need to avoid duplication of work, that sufficient time was allocated to all clusters as well as to the consultations under General Assembly resolution 73/333, and that the negotiations would be amenable also for small delegations and delegations attending fully online. Several Members underlined the need for sufficient time to be allocated to the draft resolution on plastic pollution.

Agenda Item 4: Update on the logistical preparations for UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50.

9. The Executive Director provided briefing on the state of logistical preparations for UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50, with reference to the Secretariat notification from December 2021, including with regard to registration, high-level representation, national statements, leadership dialogues and side events, COVID-19 guidelines, rapid COVID tests and vaccination requirements.
10. Members of the Bureau thanked the Executive Director for the update and underlined the importance to secure full online attendance for delegations and Ministers who wish to do so.

Agenda item 5: Organization of work.

11. The Chair of the CPR provided a short briefing on the organization of work of the fifth resumed meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, including the need to conclude negotiations on the proposals and recommend for adoption at the resumed fifth session of the Assembly, or deferral to the sixth session of the Assembly of draft decisions and resolutions on which consensus cannot be reached; the status of consultation on the draft Ministerial Declaration; and update on the preparations and outcome of the special session of UNEP@50. With regard to the consultations on draft resolutions, two working groups would be established to facilitate line-by-line negotiation and finalization of the draft resolutions and decisions.
12. The President referred to the agreed work programme and structure for UNEA-5.2 and reminded Bureau Members of the need to nominate a Chair for the Committee of the Whole to facilitate final negotiations on the draft resolutions and decisions, and of the need for a division of work for the Members of the UNEA Bureau to preside over the plenary meetings of UNEA-5.2. As for the nomination of a Chair for the Committee of the Whole, reference was made to the decision adopted at the extraordinary meeting of the CPR held on 23 June 2022, which reads as follows: (para 8) *“Further recommends that the Vice-Chair representing the Latin American and Caribbean Group be tasked with the coordination of the negotiating processes of draft decisions and draft resolutions to be submitted for the consideration of the Assembly at its resumed fifth session, including during the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, and also recommends that the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly consider designating a representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Group to chair the Assembly’s Committee of the Whole. “*

13. On this basis, the President asked the Bureau Members from the Latin American and Caribbean Group if they wish to nominate a Chair of the Committee of the Whole from their Group and called for assistance with the presiding over the UNEA plenary meetings.
14. A representative from the Latin American and Caribbean Group announced the nomination of H.E. Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Vice President of the UNEA Bureau and Minister of Environment and Energy from Costa Rica, as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, subject to final confirmation by the Group at an upcoming meeting.
15. The President concluded that the joint Bureau supported the nomination of Minister Meza as Chair of the Committee of the Whole and proposed to revert to the division of work for presiding over the plenary meetings of UNEA 5.2 at the next UNEA Bureau meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Any other matters.

16. The President referred to a letter from the President of ECOSOC to the UNEA President dated 26 November 2021, in which UNEA is asked to provide contribution to the forthcoming meeting of the 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 forum will be held in New York from 5-7 July and from 11-15 July with a deadline of 1 March 2022 for receiving contributions from UNEA to the main report to the Forum. The President proposed to that UNEA defer its consideration of the contribution to the High-Level Political Forum until after UNEA5.2 and UNEP@50, and to refer the matter to the CPR for consideration and finalization based on a draft provided by the secretariat.
17. As there were no objections, the President suggested that the Chair of the CPR conveys this message to the OECPR for final consideration.
18. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 7: Closing of the Meeting.

19. Following closing remarks from the President, the Chair of the CPR and from the Executive Director, the meeting closed at 18:00 (GMT+3).

ANNEX – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly

H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, UNEA President, Minister of Environment and Climate – Norway;
HE Kuster Ménager, Ambassador and Permanent Representative representing H.E. Ms. Bérangère ABBA, UNEA Vice President, Secretary of State for the Biodiversity - France;
H.E. Ambassador Dragan Zupanjevac, Ambassador and Permanent Representative representing H.E. Mrs. Irena Vujovic, Vice President and Minister of Environment – Serbia;
H.E. Ms. Giovanna Valverde, Ambassador and Permanent Representative representing H.E. Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Vice President and Minister of Environment and Energy - Costa Rica;
Mrs. Luma Al Mahroos Act. Director for Environmental Monitoring & Protection Supreme Council for Environment representing Mr. H.E. Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Daina, UNEA Vice President, Special Envoy for Climate Affairs and Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment - Bahrain;
H.E. Mr. Reggy Nelson, UNEA Vice President, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Suriname;
H.E. Ms. Laksmi Dhewanthi, UNEA Vice President and Senior Advisor to the Minister of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia;
H.E. Mr. Ado Lohmus, Vice Chair, Permanent Representative representing H.E. Mr. Erki Savisaar, Vice President, Minister Representative of Environment – Estonia;
Ms Shakira Parker, Director at the Department of Environmental Affairs, representing Hon. Ms. Barbara Creecy, UNEA Rapporteur, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries - Republic of South Africa

Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

H.E. Ms. Luísa Fragoso, Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative – Portugal;
H.E. Mr. Ado Lohmus, Vice Chair, Permanent Representative – Estonia;
H.E. Mr. Erasmo Martínez, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative – Mexico;
H.E. Ambassador Selma Haddadi, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative - Algeria;
H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Rapporteur, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative - Pakistan

UNEP

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director
Ms. Sonja Leighton Kone, Deputy Executive Director a.i
Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff
Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies
Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies
Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Principal Legal Advisor.