

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday, 24 March 2022  
2:00 to 5:00 p. m.  
Conference Room 2, 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. Luísa Fragoso, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal, opened the meeting.
2. The Chair informed the meeting of her resignation as the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, effective 25 March 2022. She also informed that she would be taking up a new position in Addis Ababa as the Ambassador of Portugal to Ethiopia and the Africa Union. She expressed deep appreciation to her colleagues in the Bureau and to the full membership and recognized their hard work and support over the duration of her term. She advised that the Group of Western European and other States had nominated H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, to replace her as the Chair for the remainder of her term. To this end, she informed that H.E. Mrs. Selma Haddadi, Vice Chair and Permanent Representative of Algeria, would take over the chairing of the current meeting and that H.E. Mr. Erasmo Martinez, Vice Chair and Permanent Representative of Mexico, would serve as the Acting Chair of the CPR until the new Chair was formally elected.
3. H.E. Mrs. Selma Haddadi, Vice Chair and Permanent Representative of Algeria, took over the chairing of the meeting and expressed her deep appreciation to Ambassador Fragoso for her exemplary leadership during her term of duty. She also recognized that Mr. Ado Lõhmus, Vice Chair and Permanent Representative of Estonia, would also be departing soon following his end of term of duty. To this end, she expressed her appreciation for his work in the Bureau of the CPR and for his dedication and leadership as a co-facilitator for the negotiations under the UNGA resolution 73/333 process.
4. Mr. Ado Lõhmus, Vice Chair and Permanent Representative of Estonia, provided his farewell remarks, noting that this would be his last subcommittee meeting, and thanked delegations for their support during his term as Vice Chair of the CPR Bureau and in his role as one of the co-facilitators for the negotiations under the UNGA resolution 73/333 process. He also recognized and appreciated H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, for her hard work and support as a fellow co-facilitator for the negotiations under

the UNGA resolution 73/333 process, which led to the successful adoption of the UNEP@50 Political Declaration.

5. Member States thanked the outgoing Chair for all her hard work, efforts, and leadership, and bid her farewell, further expressing their best wishes in her next and future endeavors. The meeting also expressed their appreciation to Mr. Ado Lõhmus and congratulated him on the successful adoption of the UNEP@50 political declaration emanating from the GA resolution 73/333 process.
6. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

## **Agenda item 2: Inputs to the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

7. 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 [revised draft contribution of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2022 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#), taking into account the comments and guidance provided by Member States in writing and at the Subcommittee meeting on 17 March 2022.
8. Member States thanked the secretariat for the revised draft document and provided the following additional comments and guidance:
  - Several delegations noted that the document had significantly improved and was more balanced, and that comments and concerns raised in the previous meeting were adequately incorporated.
  - Several delegations highlighted the need to have more references related to the resolutions on plastic pollution and on the science policy panel and reiterated that it is imperative to reflect equal importance to all outcome documents.
  - One delegation noted that there was no need to mention the concept of nature-based solutions in the first page as it was already highlighted on the second page. If the reference to the promotion and strengthening of NBS is kept, it is important to state that nature-based solutions may be significant to climate action while recognizing the need for analysis in the long term of the effects and does not replace the need for rapid, deep, sustained reductions in greenhouse emissions but can improve actions on adaptation, resilience, and mitigation of climate change and its impacts.
  - Some delegations emphasized that if nature-based solutions should be mentioned in the key messages, the ecosystems-based approach should be mentioned as well.
  - Some noted that circular economy had been mentioned repetitively on page 4 adding that there was no need to emphasize one economic model or approach.
  - Some delegations welcomed the reference to means of implementation but stated that it should be complimented by the UNEP@50 call for the urgent fulfilment of existing financial commitments under various multilateral environmental agreements to assist

developing countries and stressed the importance of fulfilling relevant pledges as per the UNEP@50 political declaration.

- Several delegations welcomed references to the ministerial declaration and the political declarations agreed at UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50, respectively; the importance of access to information and public participation; recognition of clean, healthy, and sustainable environment; and importance of strengthening environmental governance.
  - One delegation highlighted the need to make clearer that addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution were crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda.
  - One delegation on behalf of a political group took note of the comments on the references to nature-based solutions in the document and highlighted that the references have been made as per the resolution adopted at UNEA 5.2, and clarified that the definition of a concept on nature-based solutions will be helpful for further work at UNEP and UNFCCC.
  - Several delegations recalled the need to use multilaterally agreed language and one delegation suggested replacing ‘triple planetary crisis’ with environmental challenges. One delegation suggested the use of ‘interconnected crises’ which was one of the agreed terms at UNEA 5.2. One delegation suggested the use of ‘triple crisis for our common environment’ as per the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA 5.2.
  - One delegation suggested deletion of the sentence “The UNEA resolutions to establish an intergovernmental negotiating committee towards and international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution and to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution” as its context has been included.
  - One delegation suggested a hyperlink to the webpage to find the resolutions of UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50.
  - One delegation highlighted the need to include language addressing the Bali strategic plan and on environmental education and training.
  - One delegation on behalf of a political group clarified that they did not ask for the inclusion of nature-based solutions in the contribution but to instead mention that the UNEA resolution on NBS agreed on the definition of the term that could be used by all relevant bodies.
  - In this regard, one delegation highlighted the need to be cautious about addressing other bodies, conferences, or MEAs and that it is upon these bodies according to their mandate and decision-making bodies on what they should take into account or decide.
9. The Chair took note of the comments and guidance provided and highlighted the following: 1) The document needed to be balanced, particularly, in relation to the reference to nature-based solutions 2) The streamlined nature of the document should be maintained 3) Suggested that the secretariat see if there was intergovernmentally negotiated agreed language that can translate a common understanding of the reference to the triple planetary crisis 4) Recalled the proposal to have the Ministerial Declaration ~~and~~, the Political Declaration and relevant UNEA 5.2 resolutions as annexes to the contribution of UNEA to the HLPF. She further requested the secretariat to ensure that the least common denominator was maintained to ensure collective ownership and consensus of views from Member States.
10. The meeting agreed that the secretariat would revise the document taking into account the comments received and circulate the revised document for silence procedure on 29 March. Should there be no objections in writing by 1 April, the contribution document will be

transmitted to the UNEA President for her consideration and onward submission to the President of ECOSOC, with a view of meeting the deadline before 10 April.

**Agenda item 3: Other matters.**

11. The representative of Ukraine briefed the meeting on the environmental consequences of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. The delegation emphasized that they do not support holding any discussions within UNEP that are not related to its mandate and are not raising at UNEP any issues related to war crimes of the Russian Federation or humanitarian/political consequences of the conflict. They reiterated the need to adhere to international agreed language on conflict.
12. The representative of the Russian Federation underlined that UNEP was not the right venue to address the conflict and stressed that UNEP does not have the mandate to discuss conflict resolution, further noting that discussions regarding nuclear energy are best suited for the International Atomic Energy Agency.
13. The representative of Argentina requested the secretariat to brief on the status of implementation of resolution UNEP/EA.5/RES.14 entitled, “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument” adopted at the resumed fifth session. The Environment Assembly, in this resolution, inter alia, requested the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC), commencing its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024, to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; and requested the Executive Director to convene an ad-hoc open-ended working group to hold one meeting during the first half of 2022 to prepare for the work of the INC. The Chair took note of the request and informed the Subcommittee that the issue will be discussed during the upcoming Bureau meeting of the CPR, to be followed by a briefing by the secretariat in the Subcommittee.
14. A representative of Norway requested the Secretariat to publish the final English versions of the resolutions adopted as soon as possible on the website so that Member States can continue with their work.

**Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.**

15. The meeting closed at 3:50 pm.