

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 16 June 2022
14:00 p.m. 17:00 p.m.
Conference Room 2, United Nations Office at Nairobi
Hybrid Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H.E. Ms. Katarina Žuffa Leligdonová, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador of Slovakia to Kenya, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Briefing on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/3 entitled “Future of the Global Environment Outlook”

3. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the implementation of UNEA5/3 resolution entitled “Future of the Global Environment Outlook”, including a draft timetable for meetings and nomination of experts. The presentation is available [here](#).
4. Member States thanked the secretariat for the informative presentation on the preparations for GEO-7 and provided the following feedback:
 - Expressed support for the proposed process for the preparations of GEO-7, called for continued regular updates and briefings to the CPR on the GEO process, and requested further clarification on the role of the CPR;
 - Emphasized the importance of including Indigenous people and Traditional and Local Knowledge in the GEO-7 process;
 - Asked whether the invitation letters for the September and October meetings are separate from the letters on the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) ;
 - Reiterated that the composition of experts needs to ensure geographical representation and the selection of an even and balanced panel;
 - Requested additional information on the current funding situation and needs for the GEO-7 process;
 - With regards to the solutions-focus of GEO, requested further clarification on how this new approach will be reflected in the scoping, the author selection and drafting process, and other processes. One delegation requested additional information on how the new focus approach meets the resolution request to cover the usual GEO elements.
 - A stakeholder representative expressed strong interest for meaningful engagement of civil society and stakeholders during the GEO-7 process.

5. The secretariat thanked Member States and stakeholders for their guidance and took note of the comments received and committed to provide regular updates to the CPR. On funding, while some resources will be secured from the Environment Fund and from the regular budget, extrabudgetary financial support from governments would be appreciated. Letters for nominations to the advisory groups will be sent within short. Extra efforts will be undertaken to ensure a balanced geographical representation, while also taking into account the need for qualified and technical expertise and balance on gender and different scientific expertise. Member States will be involved in the scoping meeting, by proposing the policy questions to be answered by GEO-7. On balancing the traditional requirements for GEO with the new approach, the secretariat is considering how to make the policy section more solution oriented and the pathways more evident. In the outlook chapters, the economic and social impacts will be considered from a solutions perspective. The secretariat welcomed further guidance from Member States to this effect.

Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference

6. A representative of the delegation of Portugal provided a briefing on the preparations for the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 27 June to 1 July, and highlighted the theme of the conference as well as various issues that the conference will address including the need for synergies, the ocean-climate nexus, and loss of marine biodiversity. She stressed the importance to keep the momentum to achieve biodiversity targets, maintain a high level of ambition in the run up towards the CBD COP 15 scheduled to take place in Kunming, China, and the need to build on results achieved by UNEA-5. She also expressed hope that the conference would build momentum to establish an international target of conservation of the marine environment. Furthermore, she informed that a text for action-oriented and science-based declaration, drawing from the outcomes of recent meetings and consultations amongst UN Member States on international ocean governance, will be submitted for adoption at the Ocean Conference, to build momentum for the implementation of SDG 14. The conference will also host 8 interactive dialogues related to ocean protection and governance as well as several special/associated events to promote stakeholder participation.
7. The United Nations Secretariat/Division for Economic and Social Affairs provided complementary information, including with regard to the official programme, special events and side events. The presentation is available [here](#).
8. The UNEP Secretariat also provided an update on UNEP-led activities, dialogues, and events, and highlighted UNEP's coastal and marine work. The presentation is available [here](#).
9. As co-host of the Ocean Conference, a representative of the delegation of Kenya appreciated the leadership and support of Portugal and of the Secretariat, and called for meaningful engagement of stakeholders, the private sector, and civil society.
10. Delegations appreciated the information provided, and a stakeholder representative thanked the Secretariat for their support and reiterated the need to involve and provide speaking slots to youth and stakeholders in the interactive dialogues and special events of the conference.

Agenda Item 4: Briefing on the preparations for the 4th Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

11. The Secretariat of the Convention of Biodiversity provided a presentation on the preparations for the meeting of the fourth open ended working group on the post 2020 global biodiversity framework which is scheduled from 21-26 June 2022 in Nairobi. The presentation is available [here](#).
12. Member States appreciated the briefing and the timely presentation and provided the following feedback:
 - Asked for more detailed information on when and where the CBD COP 15 will take place;
 - Requested further clarification on the structure, timing and expectations for the 4th Open Ended Working Group meeting;
 - Stressed the importance to ensure a smooth meeting building on the lessons learnt from the logistical challenges of UNEA such as COVID-related measures, accreditation, badges, and the timings for negotiations, cautioned against limiting the number of participants in plenary, and recommended organizers to avoid late negotiations and parallel meetings;
 - Requested additional information on lessons learned from the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with one delegation highlighting that it would be beneficial to concentrate on implementation of already existing targets instead of developing new targets;
 - Expressed appreciation for organizing the CBD Open Ended Working Group meeting in Nairobi and expressed hope that other MEAs will follow suite;
 - A representative of the host country Kenya informed that delegations must apply for visa through the official website, and send the corresponding CEV number to the secretariat to speed up the application process;
13. The Secretariat of the Convention of Biodiversity took note of the comments received and thanked Kenya for their support with visas and logistics as host country. In relation to logistical matters, the secretariat informed that there will be an “overflow” room for the plenary meetings with no restrictions on presence in the overflow plenary room. COVID tests will be provided to all delegations. No more than two meetings will be taking place at any given time, and no parallel meetings will be held during the plenaries. On targets, the secretariat recognized that there were many relevant lessons learned from the implementation of the Aichi Targets.

Agenda Item 5: Other matters.

14. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 6: Closing of the meeting.

15. The meeting closed at 4:15 pm.