

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 22 April 2021
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (GMT+3)
Online Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H.E. Mr. Maarten Brouwer, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representative and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands opened the meeting.
2. The Secretariat provided a brief overview of the participants present at the meeting. The list of participants is made available as an annex to this meeting summary.
3. The [meeting agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Update on UNEP's engagement in the One Health collaboration.

4. The Secretariat provided an [update](#) on UNEP's engagement in the One Health collaboration, including activities led by the Tripartite Alliance on One Health consisting of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health, and the World Health Organization, on the process to create a High-Level Expert Panel on One Health, and plans to initiate a new programme of work dedicated to strengthen the environmental dimension of One Health approaches under the framework of the newly approved UNEP Mid Term Strategy for the period 2022-2025. The presentation is available [here](#).
5. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and for taking the initiative to engage and support One Health actions, expressed broad support and provided further guidance and feedback on UNEP's contribution to the initiative, as follows:
 - Supported the One Health Collaborative initiative and UNEP's active role in the alliance, noting that UNEP can provide insight on the science-policy aspect and the role of integrating environment in health processes, and further supported UNEP's full inclusion as a member of the Tripartite Alliance on One Health;
 - Recognized that One Health is at the backbone of green and sustainable recovery, that there is a need to frame future one health actions at all levels, and highlighted the need for coherence across health, environment, and agricultural sectors. To this end, one Member State proposed a dedicated meeting to discuss the impacts of the One Health initiative at national level;
 - Welcomed the creation of a high-level expert panel and requested additional information on the selection of the experts to the panel. Some member States further expressed the wish to see UNEP and the expert panel contribute to the discussion on standardized methodologies and antimicrobial resistance in animals and its risks to humans;

- Welcomed dedicated activities to strengthen the environmental dimension of the One Health process and expressed interest in its programme of work. Some Member States requested clarification on how this programme of work relates to the existing as well as the recently approved UNEP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2022– 2023, including on whether it will cut across the subprogrammes of UNEP and how the proposed activities within the new programme of work will be financed;
 - Invited the Secretariat to consider translating the concept of One Health into all of the 6 UN languages;
 - One stakeholder representative expressed regret that references to animals and their welfare had been deleted in the previous documents, and announced that they will initiate a campaign to table a UNEA resolution on animals welfare at UNEA-5.2 and welcomed all interested parties to join this initiative.
6. The Secretariat welcomed the comments received and the support expressed for UNEP's engagement in the One Health collaboration. In terms of next steps, UNEP stands ready to receive an invitation to formally join the Tripartite Alliance as was indicated in November 2020. Regarding funding, while limited funding is made available from UNEP core resources, it is foreseen that joint fundraising efforts will be done by the partnering organizations, and interested Member States and partners are invited to contribute. The Secretariat highlighted that the work of the One Health collaboration aims to support strengthening frameworks to include the environment dimension in national and international decision-making and noted that addressing health risks of environmental issues is of crucial importance to achieve sustainable development.
 7. The Chair highlighted broad support for the One Health Collaboration, UNEPs role and the High Level Expert Panel and encouraged the secretariat to take good note of the comments provided.

Agenda Item 3: Update on the UNEP management reform.

8. The Secretariat provided a [progress update](#) on the implementation of the UNEP management reform, further to the [roadmap](#) presented by the Secretariat at the 146th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The presentation is available [here](#).
9. Delegations thanked the Secretariat for the presentation, and provided further guidance and feedback on the information provided by the Secretariat, as follows:
 - Stressed the importance of providing a regular update to the CPR on progress made with the management reform and progress made on implementing recommendations of relevant evaluations and audits in a transparent manner, as agreed in previous meetings, including the CPR Bureau.
 - Requested for future briefings to provide an overview of relevant policy decisions made, policy documents developed and actions taken, but specifically on the results achieved in implementing the roadmap.
 - This would facilitate the CPR to perform their overview function, and at the same time provide opportunity for UNEP to receive valuable inputs to further strengthen the organization, as well as to positively highlight progress made.
 - Welcomed the successful closure of the OIOS travel audit for UNEP in 2018, and requested additional information on the lessons learnt;
 - Requested additional information on how the reforms are enhancing staff well-being, welfare, motivation, satisfaction and morale, including in the context of COVID-19, as well as career opportunities for all staff members regardless nationality;
 - Recommended that the CPR/UNEA website should be improved to ensure that all relevant documents related to evaluations, audits and management reform are readily available and easy to find for Member States and relevant stakeholders;

- Requested additional information on UNEP's implementation of UN strategies to combat discrimination and sexual harassment;
 - Asked for further information on how the new UNEP management and cooperation mechanisms and structures relate to the broader UN system;
 - One stakeholder representative stressed that UNEP should apply a bolder approach in communicating its achievements and generate greater visibility for its work.
10. The Secretariat thanked the delegates for the rich feedback, took note of the comments received and provided further information on the work being done with regards to staff well-being and engagement, including with reference to leadership initiatives, several surveys undertaken which indicate a positive trend in these areas, and training initiatives undertaken in partnership with UNON and the Joint Medical Service in support of psychological well-being of staff. The Secretariat also announced that UNEP management reform is transitioning from a relatively reactive approach towards a more future-looking, proactive and adaptive approach, including with regard to improved reporting and results based management and monitoring.
 11. The chair concluded that Member States may have had expected from the briefing to be provided with a broader context and a richer overview of results achieved on the efforts to continuously strengthening UNEP in advance of the meeting, noting that additional information and clarifications were provided to the meeting. He furthermore encouraged the Secretariat to provide a next update on the state of play at the Annual Subcommittee meeting in October, taking into account the guidance provided.

Agenda Item 4: Other matters.

12. A representative from the Major Group for Children and Youth requested to take the floor at the subcommittee meeting scheduled for 6 May 2021 to present the key activities and proposed roadmap for youth engagement towards the resumed session of UNEA-5 in February/March 2022.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.

13. The meeting closed at 3:10 p.m.

List of Participants to the Subcommittee Meeting of the CPR on 22 April 2021 (Online Meeting).

Member States

1. Egypt
2. Singapore
3. Kenya
4. Uruguay
5. Netherlands
6. Angola
7. Brazil
8. Chile
9. China
10. Costa Rica
11. D.R. Congo
12. Denmark
13. European Union
14. France
15. India
16. Indonesia
17. Iraq
18. Belgium
19. Bangladesh
20. Malawi
21. Poland
22. Australia
23. Mexico
24. Austria
25. Colombia
26. Algeria
27. Nicaragua
28. Nigeria
29. Norway
30. Peru
31. Portugal
32. Saudi Arabia
33. Spain
34. Sri Lanka
35. Sweden
36. Switzerland
37. Turkey
38. United States of America
39. Venezuela
40. Zambia
41. Malaysia
42. Tunisia
43. Iran
44. State of Palestine
45. Ukraine
46. Singapore
47. United Kingdom

48. Libya
49. Japan

Major Groups and Stakeholders

1. Association for Rural Area Social Modification, Improvement and Nestling
2. Center for International Environment Law (CIEL)
3. World Federation for Animals (WFA)
4. Institute of Planetary Synthesis
5. Welfare Togo
6. Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development (ForUM)
7. AEGEE-Europe, European Students' Forum
8. SustainUS Inc.