Joint meeting of the Bureau of UNEA and of the CPR Bureau
Monday, 17 October 2022
16:00 p.m. to 18:00 p.m. (GMT+3)
Online meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. H.E. Ms. Leila Benali, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, followed by opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

2. The agenda was adopted (available here).

Agenda item 2: Consideration of options for defining the theme for UNEA-6.

3. The President reminded the participants that the UNEA Bureau, at a meeting held on 1 July, agreed on the guiding principles and basic criteria in defining a theme as well as a tentative roadmap for consultations on the theme and requested the secretariat to prepare a paper with proposed themes for discussion at the joint meeting of the two Bureaus on 17 October.

4. Members of the two Bureaus were invited to have an initial discussion on the options for the theme for UNEA-6, based on a discussion paper prepared by the secretariat, and discuss the next steps with a view to taking a decision by the UNEA Bureau in early 2023.

5. The Executive Director presented the following three options for the theme of UNEA-6, emphasizing that the discussion paper is to serve as a "fire starter" and the consultations on the theme will be a Member States driven process led by the President of UNEA and her team:
    1) Environmental multilateralism fit for the future: Towards healthy economies, healthy societies and a healthy planet.
    2) Towards the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
    3) Multilateral solutions for climate change, nature loss and pollution.

6. The President of UNEA suggested adding "peace and prosperity" in the title of the first option, which would therefore read "Environmental multilateralism fit for future peace and prosperity: Towards healthy economies, healthy societies and a healthy planet". She then proposed the following timeline for consultations:
    - 27 October –a formal discussion with Member States and Major Groups and stakeholders during the 9th annual subcommittee. At the meeting, the Secretariat will present its three proposals, and the President will convey the views of the two Bureaus while being in a listening mode.
    - Month of November – inclusive, transparent and participatory informal consultations held with the regional and political groups led by the Presidency's team (dates/timing to be decided); online consultations with Major Groups and Stakeholders led by the Presidency's team (dates/timing to be decided); and online consultation with the Chairs of the regional and political groups led by the President.
    - 7 December – UNEA Bureau meeting held to review a revised options paper, reflecting comments received from consultations with Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders.
    - 13 December – the President and/or her team to update the CPR at the subcommittee meeting.
    - January 2023 – additional consultations to be held as needed
    - 30-31 January 2023 – a formal decision to be taken by the UNEA Bureau during the joint UNEA and CPR bureaus retreat scheduled for 30-31 January 2023 in Morocco. The President mentioned that based on past practice, the UNEA Bureau will decide on a theme by consensus. The retreat will provide an opportunity for the two Bureaus to hold a final round of discussion to agree on the theme, but as per decision 5/4, the final decision will be made by the UNEA Bureau.

7. All delegations thanked the secretariat for the options presented. Two delegations expressed their preference for option three, given the large impacts of climate change and the potential of this option to carry a broad consensus.

8. One delegation expressed their preference for option two. The delegation also addressed the impacts that current events in Eastern Europe have on the environment. The delegation appealed for a universality of the UNEA theme to address the needs of all regions to create an instrument in order to protect the environment. The delegation also proposed an addition to UNEA-6 theme two, which would then read "Safe environment for all: Towards the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment through a legally binding instrument".

9. One delegation mentioned that GRULAC plans to review the proposed options at a meeting planned on19 October and presented his national position expressing a preference for option one, which seems to reflect the recurrent discussion in Nairobi on the status of UNEP and the

measures for its strengthening, adding that option 2 is valued to the extent that it increased concrete actions to address the environmental crisis.

10. One more delegation speaking on behalf of a regional group conveyed their favor for option one and three and noted the importance of including the needs of African countries such as desertification, adaptation, common but differentiated responsibility principle, means of implementation, transfer of technology and capacity building. The Group noted the introduction of new terms to replace the established definition of “biodiversity loss” with the term "nature loss". Regarding the consultation timeline, the delegation expressed the hope that the Joint retreat will be held in a hybrid format.

11. On the proposal of the President, the two Bureaus agreed that in view of the short time in advance of the annual subcommittee meeting, the Secretariat’s options paper remains unchanged; the President would convey to delegations at the annual subcommittee the comments provided at the joint meeting of the Bureaus, and following the annual subcommittee meeting the Bureaus can collectively decide on the way forward. The President also took note of the comments on the timeline for consultations.

Agenda item 3: Preparations for the 9th Annual Subcommittee meeting.

12. Members of the two Bureaus were provided with an update from the Secretariat on the preparations and expected outcome for the 9th Annual Subcommittee meeting, to be held from 24 – 28 October, based on the agenda, structure and meeting documentation made available on the meeting portal.

13. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives provided an overview of the agenda of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting.

14. Following a statement by the Executive Director emphasizing the importance of the annual subcommittee meeting, a presentation was provided by the Secretary of the Governing Bodies on the organization of work for the week.

15. One delegation expressed the wish to make some extra time available on Friday, 28 October 2022, to discuss updates on specific areas of interest of certain UNEA resolutions and to also discuss funding options.

16. The Secretariat proposed to aim for Friday morning to address any specific matters regarding the UNEA resolutions and noted that any questions regarding funding could be potentially discussed under agenda item 7, scheduled for Wednesday, 25 October in the afternoon.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

17. The President of UNEA reminded the Bureaus of the Joint Bureaus retreat to be held next year in Morocco and noted that it will be held in a hybrid format.

18. One delegation expressed the need to find consensus on the co-chairing of the intergovernmental negotiation to be held pursuant to UNEA resolution 5/5 entitled "Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development" and highlighted the importance of transparency and respect of the UNEA rules of procedures.

19. The UNEA-6 President reconfirmed its commitment to ensuring a transparent and legally correct process.

20. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives assured that all procedures will be followed in a fair, transparent and legally correct way.

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting.

21. The meeting closed at 17:30.

Annex: List of Participants

The United Environment Assembly Bureau Members:

1. H.E. Ms. Leila Benali, President of UNEA and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco

2. H.E. Mr. Jose Duarte Piteira Silvestre CORDEIRO**,** Vice President and Minister for the Environment and Climate Action of Portugal

3. H.E. Ms. Sherry Rehman, Vice President of UNEA and Minister for Climate Change of Pakistan

4. H.E. Mr. Silvio Jose Albuquerque e Silva, Vice President and Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brazil in Kenya

5. H.E. Mr. Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi, Rapporteur of UNEA and Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine

Others

1. H.E. Mr. Ndongo DIENG, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Senegal in Kenya and Mr. Baba DRAME, Directeur de Cabinet, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal

2. Ms. Cheryl Case, Deputy Director International Environment Negotiation, representing the Right Honourable Lord Zac Goldsmith, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Pacific and the Environment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

3. Mr Michal Kica, State Secretary, representing H.E. Mr. Jàn Budaj, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Slovakia

4. Sergio Salazar Alzate, Chargé d'affaires a.i. Embassy of Colombia en Kenya and Mr. Miguel Angel Perez, From the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Directorate of International Affairs, representing H.E. Mr. Carlos Eduardo Correa, Vice President and Minister of Environment of Colombia

5. Mrs. Sara Mashhadi Ali Akbar, Deputy Permanent Representative, representing Dr. Jafar Barmaki, Vice President, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iran in Kenya

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau Members:

H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP

Mr. Billel Hassani, Deputy Permanent Representative representing H.E. Mrs. Selma Malika Haddadi, Ambassador of Algeria to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, Vice Chair of the CPR.

H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Ambassador of Mexico to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, Vice Chair of the CPR.

H.E. Mrs. Katarina Leligdonova, Ambassador of Slovakia to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

The UN Environment Program Secretariat was Represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.

Ms. Sonja Leighton-Kone, Acting Deputy Executive Director.

Mr. Rafael Peralta, Chief of Staff.

Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Ulf Björnholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Stadler Trengrove, Legal Advisor.