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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
Fifth session
Nairobi (online), 22–26 February 2021*

Report from the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Note by the secretariat

Since the closure of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives have convened eight regular meetings. At all of the meetings except the meeting directly preceding the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly, the Committee has considered a written report of the Executive Director and engaged in an exchange of views with the Executive Director at the meeting.

At its 146th meeting on 20 June 2019, the Committee elected new officers to the bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, considered follow-up action from the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and considered a roadmap for strengthened foundational controls and principles for management and administration[1].

At its 147th meeting on 11 October 2019, the Committee considered and adopted a draft Chair´s summary of the 6th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives[2].

At its 148th meeting on 10 December 2019, the Committee considered the status and future of funding of the United Nations Environment Programme, an analysis of lessons learned for the Mid-Term Strategy, findings from the Emission Gap Report 2019, and the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and selected decisions and resolutions from the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1, United Nations EP/EA.4/2, UNEP/EA.4/Res.22 and UNEP/EA.4/Res.23)[3].

At its 149th meeting on 18 February 2020, the Committee considered an update on the commemoration of the creation of UNEP, follow up of United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333, and interagency collaboration in the context of the Environment Management Group[4].

* In accordance with the decisions taken at the meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly held on 8 October 2020 and at the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 1 December 2020, the fifth session of the Assembly is expected to adjourn on 23 February 2021 and resume as an in-person meeting in February 2022.

[1] For more information, visit the meeting portal: https://www.unep.org/events/cpr-meetings/146th-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives

[2] For more information, visit the meeting portal: https://www.unep.org/events/cpr-meetings/147th-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives

[3] For more information, visit the meeting portal: https://www.unep.org/events/cpr-meetings/148th-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives

[4] For more information, visit the meeting portal: https://www.unep.org/events/cpr-meetings/149th-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives

At its 150th meeting on 30 April 2020, the Committee considered the implementation of paragraph 8 of Decision UNEP/EA.4/2 and preparations for the fifth session of the Environment Assembly.[5]

At its 151st meeting on 14 September 2020, the Committee undertook a consultation on the preparation of a new UNEP Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work and Budget, and heard progress updates on the consultation process under the UN General Assembly 73/333, on the work of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics and on the implementation of the Pollution Action Plan adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.[6]

At its 152nd meeting on 19 November 2020, the Committee continued its consultation on the preparation of a new Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work and Budget, considered the structure and possible outcomes of the fifth session of United Nations Environment Assembly, and adopted a draft Chair´s summary of the 7th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.[7]

At its 153rd meeting on 26 January 2021, the Committee considered the status of preparations for the fifth meeting of the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including with regard to draft resolutions, and of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the United Nations Environment Programme.[8]

The Committee has also convened two meetings of the annual subcommittee; at the 6th and 7th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held in October 2019 and 2020, the Committee principally considered the UNEP Programme performance review 2018-2019, including relevant United Nations Environment Assembly Resolutions (decision UNEP/EA.4/2 and resolution UNEP/EA.4/22), the Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as mandated in decision UNEP/EA.4/2, and the preparation of a Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2022-25[9].

At the online fifth Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which took place online 15-18 February 2021, the Committee took note of the working document of the Executive Director to the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and agreed to recommend three following three draft decisions for adoption by the Assembly:

- UNEP/EA.5/L.2 - Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
- UNEP/EA.5/L.3 - Medium-term strategy for 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023, and
- UNEP/EA.5/L.4 - Adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

The Committee also heard a briefing from the President of the Assembly regarding the consultations a proposal for a possible consensual message from the online session of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly. The Committee took note with appreciation of the intention to put forward the proposed message for final consideration and possible endorsement by the Assembly. The proceedings and outcomes of the meeting are summarized in a Chair´s Summary, available on the meeting portal[10].

An over view with active links to all meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives is made available through an online roadmap for the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Bodies[11].

[5] For more information, visit the meeting portal: https://www.unep.org/events/cpr-meetings/150th-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives

[6] For more information, visit the meeting portal: https://www.unep.org/events/cpr-meetings/151st-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives

[7] For more information, visit the meeting portal: https://www.unep.org/events/cpr-meetings/152nd-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives

[8] For more information, visit the meeting portal https://www.unep.org/events/cpr-meetings/153rd-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives

[9] For more information, visit the following meeting portals:

- https://www.unep.org/events/annual-subcommittee-cpr/6th-annual-subcommittee-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives
- https://www.unep.org/events/annual-subcommittee-cpr/7th-annual-subcommittee-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives

[10] Available here: https://www.unep.org/events/open-ended-cpr-oecpr/fifth-meeting-open-ended-committee-permanent-representatives

[11] Available here: https://www.unep.org/resources/other-evaluation-reportsdocuments/roadmap-un-environment-programme-governing-bodies