
Extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme

Nairobi, 23 June 2021

Online meeting

16:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

This Chair's summary complements the detailed minutes of the meeting developed by the UN Office in Nairobi. The decision of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as agreed by the Committee at this meeting, has been annexed to this summary. All pre-meeting and post-meeting documents, including written statements by delegations, are available [here](#).

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

1. H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, opened the meeting.
2. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, provided introductory remarks and a brief update on the successful activities, engagement and media presence related to the 2021 World Environment Day and the launch of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration that took place on 5 June 2021, and expressed her appreciation to the government of Pakistan for their leadership as host of the World Environment Day as well as the support provided by many member States to the activities of the Day and the launch of the Decade.
3. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Election of Officers.

4. The Chair recalled that following a series of informal consultations and several Bureau meetings, an informal contact group comprising two representatives from each regional group had been tasked to prepare draft elements for a CPR decision to be considered in the context of the election of officers for the next Bureau of the Committee. The outcome prepared by the informal contact group had been available to all delegations in advance through the online meeting portal.
5. Representatives of three regional groups expressed support for the outcome prepared by the informal contact group as an expression of balanced compromise and therefore supported the election of officers to the CPR Bureau as per the announced nominations. They further expressed readiness to work collaboratively with the incoming Bureau.
6. The representative of another regional group noted that while the draft elements provided a good basis to move forward, it constituted a significant step away from their original position, which involved avoiding that representatives from the same regional group would chair both the CPR and UNEA bureaux at the same time. The representative asked for further clarification on: (i) if the outcome prepared by the informal contact group could be reflected in a Chair's meeting summary instead of a CPR decision; (ii) the modalities to decide on the chairmanship of joint bureaux meetings; (iii) possible implications for the informal consultations under the auspices of the CPR relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333, and (iv) the meaning of the term "exceptional" in paragraph 6 of the draft. The representative also proposed to include language referring to the process for review by the CPR the consideration of systemic problems in relation to the cycle of term of office of the bureaux of the CPR and of UNEA.

7. Following the statements by delegations, the Chair clarified:
 - That the compromise proposal had been purposely drafted by the informal contact group as a CPR decision so as to consolidate in written form a set of decisions that, when approved, would be included as an annex to the meeting's summary;
 - That it is the prerogative of the Bureaux of UNEA and of the CPR themselves to define the organization and agendas of their joint meetings, and that the practical arrangements reflected in the draft decisions will provide useful guidance in this regard;
 - That the nomination of Mr. Ado Lõhmus and H.E. High Commissioner Saqlain Syedah as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the incoming CPR Bureau paved the way for a smooth continuation of the process of the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 73/333 under the auspices of the CPR, where they act as co-facilitators, ensuring a balanced representation between developed and developing countries;
 - That the reference "exceptional basis and without creating a precedent" in paragraph 6 of the draft decision refers to the time period between two sessions of the Assembly and not to the Presidency of a representative the African Group;
 - That the CPR could agree that, following up on the mandate received from Decision 5/3 adopted at UNEA-5.1, the process for review by the CPR would, as appropriate, continue the consideration of possible systematic problems related to the cycle of the term of office of the CPR Bureau in relation to that of the UNEA. The organization of this would be considered by the forthcoming Bureau.
8. The Chair also proposed to add a footnote to the decision, which reads "*This decision should be read in conjunction with the meeting summary of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 23 June 2021*".
9. Upon recommendation by the Chair, the Committee decided to adopt the draft decision, as amended, and to include it as an annex to the present meeting summary and to the meeting report.
10. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that, in accordance with the mandate outlined in paragraph 7 of UNEA Decision 5/3, the process for review by the CPR should, as appropriate, consider "*in view of systemic problems and in a comprehensive manner, the cycle of the term of office of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in relation to that of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly*", under the leadership by the incoming CPR Bureau.
11. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the UN Environment Assembly, which apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Committee the elected by acclamation the members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023, as follows:
 - **Chair:** H.E. Ambassador Luísa Fragoso, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal
 - **Vice Chairs:**
 - H.E. Mrs. Selma Malika Haddadi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Algeria
 - H.E. Mr. Erasmo R. Martínez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico
 - Mr. Ado Lõhmus, Permanent Representative of Estonia
 - **Rapporteur:** H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan
12. The newly elected Chair and Members of the Bureau thanked delegations for their congratulatory remarks and committed to work in a cooperative, inclusive, open and transparent manner, and recognized the strong dedication and leadership of the outgoing CPR Bureau, especially during this time of an unprecedented pandemic. The Members of the Bureau also

expressed their readiness to work collaboratively with the secretariat and looked forward to their continued support.

13. Members of the outgoing Bureau thanked all Member States as well as the Executive Director and the Secretariat for all the support provided and committed to continue to support the work of the Committee towards a successful UNEA-5.2 and the full implementation of UNEP's programme of work.
14. Several delegations thanked the Members of the outgoing CPR Bureau for their hard work during the past two years, and gave special recognition to H.E. Fernando Coimbra, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, for his exemplary leadership as Chair of the Bureau.
15. The Executive Director of UNEP congratulated the Members of the new Bureau and committed to provide continued support from the Secretariat, while expressing her sincere gratitude to the outgoing Bureau Members for their contributions during their tenure.
16. The Chair also congratulated the new CPR Bureau and thanked delegations for their words of appreciation, noting that it was his last meeting as the Chair of the Committee. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the other Members of the outgoing Bureau, the CPR, the presidency of UNEA, the Executive Director, and the secretariat for the excellent support and collaboration. The Chair noted that most of the work conducted by the CPR under the previous two years was undertaken under the extraordinary circumstances imposed by the pandemic. He recalled that since in-person meetings became unfeasible, in early 2020, the Committee found itself striving to reach the delicate balance between ensuring business continuity and recognizing the inherent limitations of online diplomacy, including in terms of inclusivity and transparency. The Chair shared his assessment that the willingness by delegations to work online during the pandemic demonstrates a strong commitment to UNEP and the environmental dimension of sustainable development, while noting that these extraordinary circumstances should not be conflated with an assumption that online or hybrid meetings would become the "new normal" of multilateral diplomacy. Recalling the many substantive tasks ahead for the CPR, the Chair expressed his hope that the UN compound in Nairobi will open soon to allow for in-person meetings.

Agenda Item 3: Other matters.

17. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 4: Closing of the meeting.

18. The meeting closed at 5.30 PM (GMT+3).

Decision of the Committee of Permanent Representatives¹

The Committee of Permanent Representatives,

Recalling Rule 63, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly (“Rules”) that requires each subsidiary organ of the United Nations Environment Assembly to elect its own Officers;

Recalling Governing Council Decision 19/32, paragraph 9 that “the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall elect a Bureau composed of a Chairperson, three Vice Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, for a period of two years, taking into account the principles of rotation and equitable geographical representation”;

Recalling that the Committee of Permanent Representatives last elected a Bureau at its 146th meeting held on 20 June 2019; and that there should be an election for a new Bureau to take office on 1 July 2021;

Recalling Decision 5/3 of the 5th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, entitled “Adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”;

1. *Elects by acclamation* the following representatives as members of its Bureau for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023:
Chair: H.E. Ambassador Luísa Fragoso (Portugal)
Vice-Chairs: H.E. Ambassador Erasmo R. Martínez M. (Mexico); Mr. Ado Lohmus (Estonia) and H.E. Selma Malika Haddadi (Algeria)
Rapporteur: H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah (Pakistan)
2. *Reaffirms* that the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall conduct its work in a collaborative manner and, in light of the tasks expected of it, *recommends* that it adopts, under the leadership of its Chair and in a balanced manner, practical arrangements to share responsibilities amongst the Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur;
3. *Further recommends* that the Vice-Chair representing the Latin American and Caribbean Group be tasked with the coordination of the negotiating processes of draft decisions and draft resolutions to be submitted for the consideration of the Assembly at its resumed fifth session, including during the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, and also *recommends* that the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly consider designating a representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Group to chair the Assembly's Committee of the Whole,
4. *Further recommends* that the Vice-Chair representing the African Group be tasked with the facilitation of the preparations within the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme,
5. *Further recommends* that the Vice-Chair representing the Eastern European Group and the Rapporteur representing the Asia-Pacific Group continue to be entrusted with the co-facilitation of the informal consultations under the auspices of the CPR on the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 73/333;
6. *Also recommends* to the fifth session of the Assembly to decide that, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, its sixth session shall be held no earlier than February 2024 to ensure a full two year term for the Presidency of the sixth session.

¹ This decision should be read in conjunction with the meeting summary of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 23 June 2021