

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Friday 15 October 2021
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
United Nations Office of Nairobi
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 2

MEETING SUMMARY

Background documentation and written inputs from Member States and stakeholders are made available on the [meeting portal](#)

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

1. The Chair of the meeting, H.E. Ms. Selma Malika Haddadi, Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador of Algeria to the Republic of Kenya, opened the meeting.
2. The Chair recognized the meeting as a breakthrough towards a “new normal” for UN meetings in Nairobi, when delegations can meet face to face, both in a formal and informal setting.
3. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Preparations for the special session on the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50)

a) Secretariat note on the preparations for the special session

4. The secretariat presented a [note from the secretariat](#) on the preparations for the special session on the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the UNEP, which reflects the presentation made by the Executive Director during the informal consultations with regional groups. At the [155th meeting of the CPR](#), a [presentation](#) was made by the Secretariat on the initial feedback received at the regional consultations.
5. Delegations who took the floor thanked the secretariat for the presentation and provided feedback and guidance as follows:
 - Expressed appreciation to Chair for her leadership as focal point for the CPR to prepare for the special session and to the secretariat for the work undertaken so far.

Reiterated the importance of a special session on UNEP@50.

- Many delegations expressed support for the theme proposed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries and built upon by the African Group, along the following lines: “UNEP@50: Towards the implementation of the environmental

dimension of sustainable development for the future we want”, and further stressed the importance to address the participation of academia and scientists from the global south.

- Some delegations were of the view that, should there be a theme, it should reflect the need to further strengthen environmental dimension of SDGs and the global environmental governance and that this should encompass strengthening of UNEP, the role of UNEA and the implementation of international environmental law.
 - One delegation did not see the need for a special theme for the special session, and reminded delegations that the purpose of the event is commemorative in nature.
 - Asked for clarifications from the secretariat relating to the note, in particular regarding the sections on the objectives, the science policy interface, the global environmental data strategy and the World Environment Situation Room (WESR), the strengthening of UNEP’s finances, including on the “fair share” as represented by the VISC and creation of the three thematic funds to support the work addressing the three pollution crises, the high level dialogues and the structure and format of the meeting, including the expected level of representation.
 - Underlined the need for an effective communication strategy for UNEP@50 to magnify the event and bring it to the attention of different stakeholders, requested to include the date of the special session in the UNEP@50 logo, and requested information on how UNEP@50 was highlighted at the High Level Political Forum and at relevant meetings of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
 - Some delegations recalled the need to use multilateral agreed language in the communication plan, as well as the importance of multilingualism.
 - Underlined the need to actively involve the heads of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and ensure adequate inclusion and engagement of the private sector and stakeholders, and suggested that UNEP should promote and support communication activities at the national and regional level.
 - Requested clarification and additional information on the UNEP@50 and UNEA 5.2 budget, including with regards to the funding gap.
 - Requested more information on the format and modalities of UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50, with the aim of ensuring that both meetings will take place in-person.
 - Welcomed the appointment of the UNEP Executive Director as Secretary-General of the Stockholm+50 International Meeting.
 - Welcomed the appointment of UNEP@50 coordinator.
 - One stakeholder representative highlighted the need to further strengthen stakeholder participation including grassroot organizations and initiatives, and called for a UNEP@50 session dedicated to the topic “Role of young and future generations in environmental action” and to allow for a presentation of a Stakeholder report called “The UNEP We Want”.
6. The secretariat provided additional information on the digital hub and the WESR, the thematic funds and “fair share” as represented by the VISC and the proposed structure and suggested themes for the high-level dialogues. On UNEP@50 communication activities, the secretariat announced that it will make available substantive toolkits to allow Member States

and Stakeholders to communicate on UNEP@50 and that it is working on a series of multimedia stories and a revamped website. The secretariat also committed to share more information on the budget for UNEP@50 and UNEA 5.2 as well as on the enhanced data center

7. The Chair thanked delegations for their contributions, requested the secretariat to revise the background note to take into account the feedback from the meeting and make it available in advance of 8th meeting of the annual subcommittee, acknowledged the arrival of the new UNEP@50 coordinator from the secretariat, Mr. Juan Bello, and invited Member States to send in their interventions in writing.

b) Draft structure of the special session

8. The secretariat presented the draft structure of the special session, as contained in the Annex to the secretariat [note](#), as well as the organization of plenary and/or high-level political dialogues for the special session.
9. Delegations thanked the secretariat for the presentation, expressed hope that the special session will take place in-person, welcomed the draft structure and the high level dialogues in general terms, stressed that the high-level dialogues may need to be aligned to the theme of the special session, requested clarification on whether the dialogues will be held at heads of state or ministerial level, and underlined the need to decide on these modalities in a timely manner.

c) Possible political outcome from the special session

10. Delegations commented and elaborated on several proposals for a possible outcome of UNEP@50, with some delegations favoring a Chair's summary with key messages and others advocating for the adoption of a political declaration, either consisting of, or complemented by, the outcome of the 73/333 process.
11. Many delegations underlined that the outcome needs to be inclusive and impactful and include consideration of means of implementation and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities Those delegations indicated their willingness to engage on the possible outcome of UNEP@50 on the understanding that a clear roadmap regarding this process is agreed within the CPR and that the process is Member States owned and driven. Some delegations advocated for a more limited scope for the outcome, focusing specifically on the commemoration of UNEP.
12. Some delegations suggested that the commemoration should make reference to the “right to a healthy and sustainable environment”, as referenced in resolution H/HRC/48/L23, while another delegation objected to this idea.
13. Many delegations stressed that the outcome should strengthen UNEP and Nairobi's headquarter function and emphasized that if the political declaration under the 73/333 process is to be endorsed as the outcome of the special session, it will be necessary to include references to the means of implementation and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.
14. Some delegations called for the CPR to initiate consideration of the proposed action plan on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the Outcome Document from Rio + 20.

15. The Chair requested the secretariat to revise the note to provide additional clarifications on questions raised at the meeting, and noted that the next opportunity to consider this topic will be at the 8th meeting of the annual subcommittee, with agenda item 5 scheduled for 27 October, and invited Member States to be well prepared for the discussion, with the aim to agree on a comprehensive approach on the preparations for the special session at the next regular meeting for the CPR on 30 November 2021.

Agenda Item 3: Other matters.

16. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 4: Closing of the meeting.

17. The meeting closed at 1:45 pm.