

## **Summary of the 2017 Environment Assembly Second Preparatory Retreat**

### **Joint meeting of the bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme 9 -10 June, 2017, Puntarenas, Costa Rica**

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On 9 and 10 June 2017, members of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly and members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme came together in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, for their second joint preparatory retreat.

The meeting allowed participants to take stock on the status of the preparations for the Environment Assembly and to take decisions and recommendations aimed towards its successful organization.

The meeting was co-chaired by the President of the UN Environment Assembly, Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta of Costa Rica, and the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador Julia Pataki of Romania. In attendance were also representatives from Permanent Missions based in Nairobi as set out in the participants list.

Participants expressed appreciation to the Government of Costa Rica as host of the joint preparatory retreat and commended the leadership of the Government of Costa Rica for the organization of the Global Dialogue on Oceans which was attended by H.E. Luis Guillermo Solís. Participants underscored that the Global Dialogue on Oceans provided contributions to help address the pollution of the Oceans in line with the theme of the Assembly and the outcomes of the UN Conference on Oceans.

The Preparatory Retreat allowed participants to address six broad topics critical to the success of the 2017 Environment Assembly:

1. Stocktaking on the 2017 UN Environment Assembly preparations;
2. Preparations for the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives;
3. Private Sector Engagement in the UN Environment Assembly;
4. Main recommendations from the Background Document on Pollution;
5. Consultations on the outline for the ministerial declaration
6. Visibility of the UN Environment Assembly

This document summarizes the main joint decisions, recommendations and discussions of the meeting.

#### **Summary of main conclusions:**

1. The meeting agreed to recommend that the Assembly holds four leadership dialogues under the following themes: (1) Science, evidence and citizens awareness for change; (2) Regulatory frameworks and institutions and the rule of law to address pollution; (3) practical solutions for a pollution-free planet; (4) Financing and innovation to combat pollution.
2. The bureaux agreed to recommend to Member States to endorse these proposed themes at the 139th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be held on June 19th on a non-objection basis.
3. The meeting agreed to reaffirm the timelines set out in the outcome of the fourth annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the submission of draft resolutions, and emphasized that draft resolutions should be limited in number, linked to the theme of the Assembly (Towards a pollution-free planet) and drafted in succinct and simple language while addressing issues of global concern.
4. The Secretariat was requested to refine the selection criteria and launch as soon as possible the call for proposals for side events.

5. Participants agreed to request the Secretariat to send a letter to all regional groups encouraging them to undertake early consultations on the possible chair or co-chair of the Committee of the Whole and to consider the matter at their next joint meeting.
6. The meeting requested the Executive Director to submit to Member States by June 26, an advanced version of the Background Report for the theme of the 2017 Environment Assembly for information purpose. It was expected that the conclusions contained in the advanced report should not be changed substantially.
7. The meeting agreed that the structure of the outline for the ministerial declaration represents a good basis of the zero draft to be released on the 30 of June and welcomed the transparency and inclusive approach taken by the President of the Assembly in developing a declaration as the main outcome of the Assembly.
8. Participants expressed commitment towards raising the profile of the Assembly at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development building on the standing invitation by the General Assembly for the President of the Assembly to address in such capacity the Forum.
9. Participants appreciated Secretariat's efforts to mobilize commitments from Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations and Private Sector Organizations and requested to be briefed at their next meeting in addition to updating the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the same.

### **Stocktaking on the 2017 UN Environment Assembly preparations**

#### **(a) Organization of the Leadership Dialogues**

- The participants appreciated the process of consultations on the themes and organization of the Leadership Dialogues to be held during the high-level segment of the 2017 Environment Assembly.
- The meeting agreed to recommend that the Assembly holds four leadership dialogues under the following themes: (1) Science, evidence and citizens awareness for change; (2) Regulatory frameworks and institutions and the rule of law to address pollution; (3) practical solutions for a pollution-free planet; (4) Financing and innovation to combat pollution.
- The bureaux agreed to recommend to Member States to endorse these proposed themes at the 139th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be held on June 19th on a non-objection basis as set out in the Annex to this Summary.
- The Secretariat was also requested to provide more information on the organizational arrangements of the Leadership Dialogues underscoring the critical importance of maximizing the number of interventions and to connect the dialogues with other outcomes of the Assembly.

#### **(b) Timelines for Resolutions for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly**

- The meeting agreed to reaffirm the timelines set out in the outcome of the fourth annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the submission of draft resolutions, and emphasized that draft resolutions should be limited in number, linked to the theme of the Assembly (Towards a pollution-free planet) and the five most pervasive forms of pollution<sup>1</sup>, and drafted in succinct and simple language while addressing issues of global concern.
- The participants also recommended that the Committee of Permanent Representatives should take the process forward for organizing the draft resolutions, taking into account options to cluster draft resolutions.
- The meeting agreed that the third meeting of the Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will be the main platform to finalize the draft resolutions towards the Assembly as well as the draft Declaration, taking into account the interests of all Member States.
- The Secretariat was requested to activate a virtual platform for consultation on draft resolutions and to compile a list of possible procedural resolutions and submit for information at

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<sup>1</sup> Air pollution, marine pollution, land pollution, air pollution and sound management of chemicals and waste.

the next joint bureaux meeting. The platform should include the information on the zero draft of the Declaration and promote continuous information sharing with the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

**(c) Update on Side Events**

- The Secretariat was requested to launch as soon as possible the call for proposals for side events. The Secretariat was requested to refine the selection criteria and to conduct a transparent selection process given the limited number of side events. The meeting also requested the Secretariat to refine the suggested cross cutting themes as a helpful non-prescriptive guide to the election process.
- Regarding the Media Events, the Secretariat was requested to draft a note on these events to be held during the Assembly for the information of Member States.

**(d) Funding Status on the 2017 UN Environment Assembly**

- Participants recognized the efforts made by many countries, developed and developing alike, to contribute to funding the shortfall of the 2017 Environment Assembly and encouraged all Member States to help close the funding gap. The Secretariat was also urged to give due priority to supporting least-developed countries.

**(e) Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum**

- Participants took note of the Note provided by the Secretariat and enquired further on the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and on the possible organization of a Science Policy-Forum.

**(f) Preparations for the Third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Committee of the Whole of the Environment Assembly**

- Participants appreciated the advanced information provided by the Secretariat concerning the **draft** provisional agendas and organization of work for the third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Committee of the Whole of the Environment Assembly, and requested the Secretariat to amend these as set out in the Annex to this summary.
- Participants agreed that the amended draft provisional agenda of the third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives should be further considered by the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives before its endorsement no later than the 140th meeting of the Committee.
- On the organization of the Committee of the Whole, the meeting requested the Secretariat to amend the draft proposed Agenda and Structure as set out in the Annex to this summary for further consideration. It was highlighted that the organization of the Committee of the Whole, including the need of its establishment, shall be dependent on the outcomes of the third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.
- Participants reaffirmed their conclusions regarding the early selection and appointment of chairs of the Committee of the Whole, sessional working groups, if needed, and their early involvement in the preparatory work in the inter-sessional period by the bureau of the Assembly and the Committee in order to promote greater transparency and inclusiveness as set out in the summary of their first joint preparatory retreat held on the 27 – 28 October, 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Participants agreed to request the Secretariat to send a letter to all regional groups encouraging them to undertake early consultations on the possible chair or co-chair of the Committee of the Whole and to consider the matter at their next joint meeting in September.

## **Private Sector Engagement in the UN Environment Assembly**

- Participants recognized the importance of scaling-up the engagement of the private sector in the UN Environment Assembly including in the implementation of its outcomes. While progress had been achieved with the organization of the Sustainable Innovation Expo, organized in May 2016 in the margins of the Assembly, several participants encouraged the meeting to go beyond such in terms of engagement.
- Participants noted the ongoing activities to engage the private sector in the lead up to the Assembly and encouraged the Secretariat to be more proactive by including business representing all regions of the world and stages of development. To achieve meaningful change in terms of a global agenda to address pollution the engagement and partnership of specific companies and business organizations which are not accredited to the UN Environment Assembly should be considered.
- With regards to the proposal to organize an Innovation and Technology Hub (or Sustainable Innovation Hub), as set out in the note by the Secretariat, participants acknowledged the costs associated and cautioned against using resources allocated to the Assembly. Furthermore, participants debated on the value-added by the proposed hub and underscored that its organization should not affect the meetings of the Assembly.
- The joint bureaux took note of the submission by the Major Group of Business and Industry on “Engaging the Business and Industry Major Group: a Business Coalition Update” and agreed to consider the matter further at its next meeting. They requested the Secretariat to extend an invitation to a representative of the Group to make a presentation.

## **Main recommendations from the Background Document on Pollution**

- The meeting requested the Executive Director to submit to Member States by June 26, an advanced version of the Background Report on the Theme for the 2017 Environment Assembly for information purpose. It was expected that the conclusions contained in the advanced report should not be changed substantially.
- The participants considered that the report should be relevant and avoid being prescriptive. It should also draw from recommendations made in other relevant international assessments. The Secretariat was also encouraged to circulate in a timely manner an Information Document on the sixth Global Environment Outlook as prepared by its High-Level Group.
- Participants encouraged the Secretariat to include a robust set of recommended transformative actions by all actors to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Assembly such as the Declaration, resolution and voluntary commitments.
- With regards to the definition of a “pollution-free planet”, the Secretariat was requested to reconsider in favor of a definition that is more realistic and focused on the changes required to address pollution. Furthermore, principles identified in the Report must be relevant, integrative and universal and could be used as a basis to define further actions.

## **Consultations on the outline for the ministerial declaration**

- Participants welcomed the transparency and inclusive approach taken by the President of the Assembly in developing a ministerial declaration as the main outcome of the Assembly. The meeting also agreed that the structure of the outline for the declaration represents a good basis of the zero draft to be released on the 30 of June.
- Participants agreed that the declaration must be a short, global document connected to the other outputs of the Assembly and should include actions that make a difference in everyday people’s lives.

- The meeting encouraged the President of the Assembly to strike a balance between a global, action-oriented document owned by all, with respect for national processes and non-binding commitments.
- The Secretariat was asked to actively raise awareness about the Declaration with representatives of non-resident missions and was in this regard requested to draft one page document on principles of working towards adoption of the Declaration in order for Bureau members to explain the process and rationale for its adoption.
- Some participants suggested that thought be given to a Chairs summary as contingent and to consider calling the document 'Negotiated Outcome' instead of Ministerial Declaration.

#### **Visibility of the UN Environment Assembly**

- Participants expressed commitment towards raising the profile of the Assembly in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development building on the standing invitation by the General Assembly for the President of the Assembly to address in such capacity the Forum.
- They further underscored that the forthcoming session of the High-Level Political Forum will provide an opportunity to continue to raise the profile of the Assembly, and noted the importance of the role of the President, as the face of the Environment Assembly, the only other universal body representing all Member States.
- The idea of a long-term programme of action to address pollution was introduced by participants as a potential partnership that could result in the Assembly impacting the broader UN system and other international processes. To this end, the Secretariat was requested to assist with a note on this proposal for consideration at the next joint meeting.
- Participants appreciated the Communications Strategy for the 2017 Environment Assembly as presented by the Director of the Communications Division.
- Participants further appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to mobilize commitments from Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations and Private Sector Organizations and requested to be briefed at its next meeting in addition to updating the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Specific interest was expressed in the revised template as well as the process for collecting, validating, analyzing, aggregating and publishing voluntary commitments. Participants also expressed interest on the process to follow-up on such voluntary commitments.
- In addition, a citizen-led social media campaign (Clean Planet Charter/Peoples' Pledge) was welcomed by participants as a revolutionary tool to make the Assembly relevant for everyday people's lives. Participants provided useful guidance to the Secretariat on how to improve the campaign.

#### **Closing and date for the next meeting**

- Participants agreed to convene the next joint bureaux meeting in September via video-conference and requested the Secretariat to identify a suitable date.

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**UNEP**/OECPR.3/1<sup>1\*</sup>



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**United Nations Environment  
Assembly of the United Nations  
Environment Programme**

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**Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

**Third meeting**

Nairobi, 29 November – 1 December 2017

**Provisional agenda for the third meeting of the Open-ended  
Committee of Permanent Representatives**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 140<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 10 October 2017.
3. Organization of work of the third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.
4. Preparation of draft resolutions for transmission to the third session of United Nations Environment Assembly.
5. Administrative and budgetary matters.
6. Update on the Sixth Global Environment Outlook.
7. Report on consultations on the Ministerial Declaration.
8. Budget and Programme Performance, including implementation of the Assembly's resolutions.
9. Adoption of Chair's Summary
10. Other matters.
11. Closure of the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> \* This agenda and the following structure have been amended considering inputs received from the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the Second Joint Preparatory Retreat which took place on 9-10 June 2017.

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**Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

**Third meeting**

Nairobi, 29 November – 1 December 2017

**Annotated provisional agenda of the third meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives**

**1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

H.E. Mr. John Moreti, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana, is expected to open the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 29 November 2017. He will propose the adoption of the provisional agenda as set out in UNEP/OECPR.3/1.

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the 140<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 10 October 2017.**

The Chair will propose the adoption of the minutes of the 140<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in UNEP/OECPR.3/2.

**3. Organization of the work of the third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.**

Under this agenda item, the meeting will discuss the organization of its work. It is expected to establish two working groups for the finalization of resolutions. The plenary may take early decision on resolutions that do not require discussion in a working group.

**4. Preparation of draft resolutions for transmission to the third session of United Nations Environment Assembly.**

The meeting will have before it a compilation of draft resolutions and decisions, which have been proposed by Member States for consideration and adoption at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. During the organization of work of the meeting under the Agenda Item 3, these resolutions may be allocated to different working groups for negotiation. The compilation will be updated after the third meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and transmitted to third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

**5. Administrative and budgetary issues.**

The meeting may consider other relevant administrative and budgetary matters on the basis of a presentation by the Secretariat.

**6. Update on the Sixth Global Environment Outlook.**

The meeting is expected to consider the progress report of the Executive Director on the Sixth Edition on the Global Environment Outlook.

## Annex 1. Revised agenda and structure of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives

### 7. Report on consultations on the Ministerial Declaration.

The President of the United Nations Environment Assembly, H.E. Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, is expected to update the Committee on the status of consultations on the Ministerial Declaration.

### 8. Budget and Programme Performance, including implementation of the Assembly's resolutions.

The Chair will invite the meeting to consider the following updates of the Executive Director, which have been prepared in response to the various decisions and resolutions of the previous sessions of the Environment Assembly:

- 1) Progress on the contribution of the UN Environment to the implementation of the delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (EA.2/Res.5)
- 2) Update on progress made pursuant to the Assembly resolution on the role and functions of regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities (EA.2/Res.2)
- 3) Update on progress to the Assembly resolution on investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training (EA.2/Res.3)
- 4) Update on progress made pursuant to the Assembly resolutions on the role, functions and modalities for UN Environment implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a mean of facilitating achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (EA.2/Res.4)
- 5) Update in progress made pursuant to the Assembly resolution on the support to the implementation of the Paris Agreement (EA.2/Res.6)
- 6) Update on progress made pursuant to the Assembly Resolution on sound management of chemicals and waste (EA.2/Res.7)
- 7) Update on the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution on sustainable consumption and production (EA.2/Res.8)
- 8) Update on progress made pursuant to the Assembly Resolution on the prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste (EA.2/Res.9)
- 9) Proposal from the Executive Director on the United Nations Environment's 2011 marine and coastal strategy (replacement) pursuant the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution (EA.2/Res.10)
- 10) Update on progress made pursuant to the Assembly Resolutions on marine plastic litter and micro plastics (EA.2/Res.11)
- 11) Update on progress made pursuant to the Assembly Resolutions on sustainable coral reefs management (EA.2/Res.12)
- 12) Update on progress made pursuant to the Assembly Resolution on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products (EA.2/Res.14)
- 13) Update on progress made pursuant to the Assembly Resolution on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict (EA.2/Res.15)

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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