Preparations for the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) Nairobi, 3-5 December 2017

Jan Dusik, UN Environment Europe Office
27 January 2017
Progress in preparation for UNEA-3

1. 2017 Environment Assembly Preparatory Joint Retreat of the CPR Bureau and UNEA Bureau (27-28 October 2016)
2. UNEA Bureau and Extraordinary Meeting of CPR on Theme of 2017 Environment Assembly 5 December 2016
3. 137th meeting of the CPR (16 January 2017)

UNEA Bureau:
- Costa Rica
- Nigeria
- Gabon
- Iraq
- USA
- Barbados
- Montenegro
- Philippines
- Czech Republic
- Belgium

CPR Bureau:
- Romania
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Pakistan
- Finland
UNEA-2 broke new grounds and established the UN Environment Assembly as one of the key global international meetings on sustainability

- Overwhelming response to and participation in UNEA-2, with 170 countries having registered delegates of which 123 were at the ministerial level;
- Participation of the heads of over 27 UN Agencies and 15 International Organizations;
- Over 300 accredited organizations of the Major Groups and Stakeholders in the GMGSF alone;
- Over 400 civil society participants throughout the UNEA week;
- 600 businesses and foundations in the Sustainable Innovation Expo (SIE2016);
- 250 top scientists in the Science and Policy Forum and the participation of the leading world media.

In a survey conducted by UN Environment:
- 76% evaluated that UNEA-2 was successful;
- 79% said that it was effective.

**Key recommendations for improvement:**
- Better management of the inter-sessional period;
- Strengthen the procedures and governance of the Assembly;
- Transparency, ownership and inclusiveness;
- Early consensus on strategic and structural issues;
- Resourcing for the meetings of the Assembly;
- A more effective high-level segment and a stronger UNEA as the voice for the environment.
Main Joint Decisions:

- The bureaux work together in preparation for UNEA3 and hold a joint meeting (via video-conference) in early spring 2017.
- Second Preparatory Retreat in June 2017 (subject to availability of resources).
- Only one theme for UNEA3.
- Consultation process on the theme with Member States through CPRs and UNEA Bureau members.
- Submissions available at [http://web.unep.org/about/cpr/submissions-member-states](http://web.unep.org/about/cpr/submissions-member-states).
- The UNEA Bureau to decide the theme (5 December 5 2016).
- To set preliminary deadlines for indicating intention to submit draft resolutions.
- Secretariat to prepare a joint “Road Map” towards UNEA3 including milestones and deadlines, and adjusted as required by the bureaux.
Five broad topics critical to the success of UNEA3

1. The theme and High-level Segment:
   - Interactive dialogue at the High-level Segment;
   - Regional preparations in conjunction with regional ministerial gatherings

2. Partnerships with stakeholders (Civil Society and the Private Sector)
   - Discussion on a new Stakeholder Engagement Policy to continue (likely be tabled at the 2019 UNEA);
   - MGS events preferably focus and contribute to the main theme;
   - Strengthen involvement private sector and their networks and organizations;
   - Create a business coalition for UNEA

3. Outcome of the ministerial segment
   - Strive for a negotiated ministerial outcome document linked to the theme of the high-level segment;
   - Target groups for the outcome document are the political leadership, the UN system, the High-level Political Forum, the private sector, civil society and citizens at large;

4. Preparations for the Third Session of the Assembly
   - Submit draft resolutions in good time before the Assembly.
   - Resolutions to be related to the theme, and global in focus and actionable;
   - CPR provide political oversight of implementation of resolutions
   - Finalize handbook for negotiators by March 2017, which should, among other aspects, clarify the rules applying to voting and quorums.

5. Global Environmental Outlook-6
   - Background documentation based on the Geo-6 process to underpin the discussions of the main theme
   - Resolution providing for final release of GEO 6 in 2019 at the 2019 UNEA.
Recommendations and agreed action points

• **Expand opportunities for participation** of member states, which do not have resident missions in Nairobi through other means:

- Remote participation in the deliberations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

UN Environment is using on-line tools to allow the member states and the accredited non-governmental organizations that are not resident in Nairobi or are unable to physically attend the meeting be able to join the meeting via an audio or video connection.

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- Finland
Recommendations and agreed action points

Excellency,

I would like to inform your Excellency that in my capacity of President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and after considering previous discussions, including those held at the Bureau joint retreat on October 27, 2016, I would like to promote the creation of the “Friends of UNEA” in relevant venues within the UN framework.

I trust that your Excellency shares the view on the need to improve UNEA’s visibility and engagement with key actors and organizations working in the social and economic dimensions. Current sustainable development challenges force us to work in ensuring the adequate implementation of UNEA’s outcomes, including its resolutions and political declarations. In this regard, the follow-up process of those outcomes needs to be reinforced in order to guarantee the fulfillment of its mandates and provide the environmental and political impact that an Assembly of this nature is determined to have. We need to establish an efficient way to share its findings and develop strategic relationships and partnerships with key actors and organizations at the regional and global level.

The “Friends of UNEA” would be composed of Member States that would gather informally in relevant multilateral duties stations including Nairobi, Geneva and New York. Its main objective would be to support the efforts undertaken by the President, the Bureau and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at UNEA’s outcomes, exchanging information on the work of the UN Environment Assembly, engaging with stakeholders, securing funds for the Environmental Fund and promoting the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A “Friends of UNEA” group has already been established in Geneva, where the relationship with the promotion and development of human rights and the work of relevant organizations based there will be critical for the future work of UNEA.

Among its key target audiences are those countries that do not have a permanent representation in Nairobi. The opportunity to reach out these missions, will allow for more countries to engage actively and hopefully, take an interest in improving their level of representation in Kenya.

I strongly believe that the crucial role of the UN Environment Assembly in the achievement of sustainable development, its universal membership, as well as the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, have the capacity to positively influence global outcomes for the benefit of us all.

As a platform for leadership on global environmental policies, UNEA will continue highlighting global environmental issues closely related to peace, poverty, health, security, finance, hunger, biodiversity and trade; and only our joint efforts will ensure a successful Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to be held in Nairobi from 4 to 9 December 2017 under the theme of “pollution”.

I am convinced that this initiative serves as the means to reach out on these elements, helps to increase UNEA’s visibility and engagement globally, facilitates the interaction between key actors and promotes stakeholders’ participation consistent with the intergovernmental character of the Assembly.

I therefore kindly thank you for your support to this endeavor and look forward to be in contact with you as soon as possible in order to advance in our common objectives.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

H.E. Dr. Edgar Gutiérrez Espinosa
Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica
President of the United Nations Environment Assembly

- Friends of UNEA Group
• 137\textsuperscript{th} meeting of the CPR:
  • confirming the dates 4 - 6 December 2017 for UNEA3, and
  • 29 November, 2017 to 1 December, 2017 for 3rd Meeting of the Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives
• Pollution-free world to be the theme for UNEA-3
  - Based on review of inputs on proposed themes from over 100 Member States, as well as Accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders
### Fourth Annual sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

6 to 9 March 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, March 6</th>
<th>Tuesday, March 7</th>
<th>Wednesday, March 8</th>
<th>Thursday, March 9</th>
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<td><strong>Opening of the meeting</strong></td>
<td>Implementation on UN Environment work on Environmental Governance and Chemicals and Hazardous Waste.</td>
<td>Contribution of the Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum</td>
<td>Preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly (Dialogue on theme of the Assembly)</td>
<td>The 138th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives</td>
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<td>Resource Mobilization and update on UMOJA</td>
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<td>Implementation of UN Environment work on Climate Change</td>
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<td>Implementation of UN Environment work on Disasters and Conflicts and Ecosystem Management.</td>
<td>Implementation of UN Environment Work on Resource Efficiency and Environment under Review</td>
<td>Continued...Contribution of the Environment Assembly to the High Level Political Forum</td>
<td>Preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly (Timelines of Submission of draft resolutions; structure of the High-Level Segment; Outcome of the High Level Segment; Budget of the 2017 Environment Assembly)</td>
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Upcoming preparations for UNEA-3

- CEP briefing and briefing to Geneva missions (27 January 2017)
- UNEA-3 European consultation in the margins of the 6th Environment and Health Ministerial conference (Ostrava, 13-15 June 2017)
- Major Groups and Stakeholders consultation (date and venue to be confirmed)
- Preparation of Pollution Free Planet Report
- Joint retreat of UNEA and CPR bureaux (June 2017)
- CEP -23 discussion (14-17 November 2017)
Evidence exists of a polluted planet that impacts human health, ecosystems, and economies.

- What would a pollution free planet look like
- Transformative Actions and Leadership required
- Putting words into action
- Informing the outcomes of the UNEA-3 (resolutions, outcome document)
- Taking stock of existing instruments and data (including from the UNECE region)