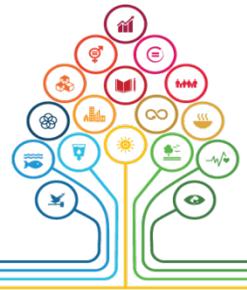




UNEA

United Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment Programme
Delivering on the 2030 Agenda



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Nairobi, Kenya

Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to United Nations Environment Programme, H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania to United Nations Environment Programme, for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, 23-27 May 2016.

Mr. President,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP, to the Second Session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly in Nairobi, our gracious host. Today I have the honor to report to you on CPRs activities since the first historic session of UNEA in June 2014, when the second universal assembly in the UN system was established, as a recognition of UNEP's role globally and due to the crucial importance of protecting the environment to preserve life on Earth for generations to come.

The Committee, as the inter-sessional body of this Assembly, focused on the successful preparation of this second session of UNEA. Our goal has been the positioning of the Assembly as the key player in the implementation of important international commitments made by MS last year: such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, with subsequently further strengthening UNEA and UNEP as the leading environmental authority globally.

During the last years the Committee had an intense schedule, addressed key and emerging policy issues and challenges, through professional and serious debates, conducted negotiations in an inclusive and constructive manner, in the spirit and under the guiding principles of "The

Future We Want". Through debates Delegates showed flexibility in their approach in identifying common ground and to develop universal solutions to universal environmental problems.

We conducted our activities based on transparency, consensus and consultations with Regional and Political Groups and stakeholders. As result we made good progress in developing the draft documents presented for your consideration this week.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Allow me to present you briefly the highlights of the Committee's work in the last 2 years:

1. Developed the roadmap to UNEA2 and considered that implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the cornerstone of international development, should be the focus of this session.
2. Pursuant to the mandate given by Decision 27/2, the Committee prepared and considered an unprecedented number of resolutions/decisions for further deliberation and endorsement by the Assembly, some follow up (as the illegal trade in wildlife or sustainable production and consumption), some new, touching emerging environmental issues (natural capital; protection of environment in conflict affected areas, oceans and seas), some mandatory (as the Medium Term strategy for 2018-2021 and biennial PoW and budget for 2018-2019), some old, in discussion for longer period of time (chemicals and waste), some focusing on transforming into action major international commitments (resolution on the role of UNEP and UNEA in implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda or the Climate Change Agreement). Debate was open and positive, supported by ongoing informal consultations to assure consensual outcome of issues. Nevertheless, we faced some challenges as length of documents, communication with and inclusion of non-resident MS into the negotiation process, reopening already agreed paragraphs, translation of documents into the 6 UN languages or discussions on sensitive political matters. The Committee almost completed some resolutions, and left others un-finished. But that is the nature of inter-governmental negotiations. In order to improve preparations for the next UNEA session, the Committee recommends an analyses of relevant paragraphs of the Rules of Procedures which, if amended, can increase the efficiency of negotiations in the inter-sessional period: such as considering setting up deadlines for resolutions or raising the efficiency of UNEA sessions by nominating the Chair of the CoW before the OECPR, allowing the person if she or he is

form capital to prepare in a timely manner, or change the timing of election of the UNEA Bureau (at the end of session).

3. Besides the draft resolutions/decisions, the Committee considered the review of the UNEA cycle and prepared options, different scenarios on shifting the Assembly's sessions, if it so decides, from even to odd years in order to align UNEA to the overall UN system. In its review of the financial, procedural and political implications of the cycle change, the Honorable Assembly should consider the possible negative effects on regional groups, specifically on duration of presidency.
4. The Committee also engaged in an informal process to discuss the scope, format and content of a potential UNEA outcome document. In the absence of convergence on the format of the outcome document whether it would be a President's summary or political (negotiated) declaration, the Committee focused on identifying key and strong messages for the Ministers in a concise, short document, in a meaningful, attractive manner, in a simple accessible language to the citizens. The draft document and the compilation of the input of delegations, Regional and Political groups has been shared with you, for your consideration.
5. The mentioned draft documents were considered by MS during 2 important and successful sessions of the CPR: the Third Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee in October 2015 and the Second Open Ended meeting of the Committee in February 2016, the last one witnessed record participation of MS – over 300 delegates from 90 countries, including representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders. The level and magnitude of participation, as well as the substantive debate, showed the growing interest and recognition, by MS, of the new global environmental platform created in 2014 and its universality.
6. Negotiations continued in the inter-sessional period from OECPR till the 134th meeting of the Committee held on May 3rd, when delegations endorsed the package of documents - the result of one-year work - for your consideration and approval.

I am confident, Mr. President, that the spirit of cooperation during CPR meetings – of finding universal solutions for universal issues – will guide our debate this week. I am also convinced that the Assembly will be able to successfully finalize the remaining contentious issues in the true spirit of Nairobi – by consensus.

The report of the Committee - which presents a compilation of the minutes of its meetings in the last 2 years - is available online reference number UNEP/EA.2/INF.25, together with the draft resolutions/decisions for your approval and it is available online with the reference number UNEP/EA.1/L.1.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

UNEA is a new structure, new platform of global governance, focused on identifying, analyzing, and developing universal solutions for global environmental issues to the benefit of all MS.

It is our duty to further strengthen it as The leading global authority in preserving the environment and health of this Planet.

By being courageous to have new initiatives, to accept new language, to generate new theories, policies, projects all which will make UNEA and subsequently UNEP a diverse, inclusive and progressive institution globally.

As I conclude my intervention allow me to express my gratitude and admiration for the incredible work, excellent working environment created based on trust and cooperation of the CPR members, in particular my fellow CPR Bureau members – ambassadors of Botswana, Pakistan and Brazil and their deputies, as well as to the Deputy PR of Germany.

A sincere thank you goes out to the Secretariat and staff of UNEP, they produced an incredible amount of documents, briefing papers, assisted us continuously.

And last but not least allow me, on behalf of the Committee, to express my sincere appreciation to the outgoing Executive Director Mr. Achim Steiner. Your legacy, Achim, is historic and will be measured probably in time. You have grown a strong and universal organization with capable and professional staff to continue your work, you have set the path for us all for years to come. Thank you!

Thank you all for your kind attention!