

MEETING SUMMARY

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

1. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania, welcomed members to the meeting. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of suggested themes for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

2. The Chair welcomed the comments received from the following Member States and Political Groups; Singapore, European Union and its Member States, United States of America, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Norway, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Holy See, Peru, China, and Japan. She encouraged delegations to express more opinions and preferences on the proposed themes to move the process forward to a consensus.
3. Most Member States supported theme one and gave the following reasons:
 - a. It provided opportunities for Ministers of Environment to display a leadership role.
 - b. It was clear, strategic, and global.
 - c. It was strongly correlated with the core mandate of UN Environment.
 - d. It focused on issues that UN Environment could address and was likely to have actionable outcomes.
4. Some Member States, while supporting theme one made the following comments:
 - a. It should be broadened to cover air, soil and water and impacts not only on human health but also on eco-systems and the economic costs.
 - b. It should include references to scientific studies.
 - c. It should be compatible with existing conventions in the field of pollutions such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
 - d. It should build on rather than replicate discussions at the second session of the Environment Assembly, with a focus beyond human health.
 - e. It should prioritize the specific groups of pollutants to help avoid the proliferation of initiatives that could result from addressing different types of pollution in isolation.
 - f. It should have an ambitious actionable outcome such as a global action plan.

- g. Member States should be realistic on what goals could be achieved within a year.
 - h. The title was still work in progress and the final version should be clear, shorter, more positive, and action oriented, communicating effectively to the general public.
 - i. The meeting could agree on the general theme on pollution and postpone discussion on contents.
5. One Member State supported themes two or three, with a preference for theme two. He stated that themes two and three were more compliant with the criteria proposed by the Secretariat for the selection of the theme for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
 6. The meeting agreed as follows:
 - a. There would be only one theme for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly.
 - b. Theme one on pollution would be selected in its generic form. Details would be agreed at a later date.
 - c. A general title will be used as a work in progress until Member States agreed on the actual title for the theme.
 - d. Member States with an interest in themes two and three could look into relevant elements of these themes that could be included in the concept paper for theme 1 on pollution. They could also highlight the importance of themes 2 on resilience and theme 3 on harmony with nature through resolutions as appropriate.
 - e. The Secretariat would prepare a brief document on the process and timelines for work on the themes to be considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives during its Extraordinary meeting on 5 December 2016 or its 137th Meeting on 16 January 2017.
 7. A representative of a Major Group and Stakeholders welcomed the meeting's conclusion on the selection of theme one which provided the opportunity for UN Environment through the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to take a leadership role on this important issue. He added that his organization would continue work on providing inputs.
 8. The meeting closed at 11:06 a.m.

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