

Evaluation of the Second meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA-2): 135th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives - Tuesday 14 June 2016

New Zealand thanks H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), for the opportunity to evaluate UNEA-2 and welcomes the focus under this agenda item on "lessons learnt". As a country without resident representation in Nairobi, New Zealand wishes to share its experience of the intersessional negotiation of draft UNEA-2 resolutions. We request that these comments be circulated to the CPR and other UNEP member states.

During the February 2016 OECPR negotiations, New Zealand submitted a proposal for a new operative paragraph in one resolution. However, this proposal was not included in the draft resolution when it was circulated following the OECPR, as the OECPR negotiations had not reached that paragraph of the resolution.

New Zealand provided the proposal in writing to the UNEP Secretariat, requesting it be brought to the attention of the Chair of the CPR for inclusion in the draft resolution text during CPR discussions on that resolution, but the proposal was not included in the next version of the draft nor did we receive a clear response as to whether the proposal had been circulated or discussed. At the final CPR discussion on this draft resolution a new draft was tabled, and New Zealand's proposal (like the proposals of other states not present) was not included in the version of the resolution forwarded to UNEA-2 by the CPR.

After further efforts, New Zealand's proposal was eventually reflected in the L document available at UNEA-2, alongside the proposals of other member states. However the late inclusion meant that other states had less time to consider the proposal.

New Zealand is concerned that the process for the intersessional negotiation of UNEA-2 resolutions had the effect of disadvantaging states without permanent representation in Nairobi. It also hindered the CPR's ability to reach durable consensus on draft resolutions, since the views of all interested states were not necessarily taken into account and in some cases were reopened at UNEA-2. It is not the UNEP Secretariat's role to negotiate on behalf of member states, but there does need to be a clear process by which states not represented in Nairobi can provide written proposals and comments on resolutions under negotiation.

We look forward to clarification on the process for providing written comments on draft resolutions so that we and other states without resident representation in Nairobi can participate effectively in future intersessional negotiations. We suggest that a useful process in future would be to advise states once their proposals have been shared with the CPR Chair and circulated to other states, and for states to be advised of the outcome of CPR discussions on their proposals.

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