

SESSION 06-05 OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

SUMMARY RECORD

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council, represented by its Alternate Representatives, met via conference call on 20 June 2006. Mr. Jerry Clifford (United States) chaired the meeting, Mr. José Manuel Bulás and Mr. David McGovern represented Mexico and Canada, respectively. Mr. William Kennedy, CEC executive director, represented the Secretariat, Mr. Carlos Sandoval, JPAC chair, and Ms. Nathalie Daoust, Council secretary, acted as secretary for the session. Other officials of the Parties and the Secretariat were also in attendance.

The Chair opened the session and expressed pleasure in hosting the Council Session the following week. He reported on a recent briefing with Administrator Johnson, during which the latter expressed that he as well looked forward to the Council Session and to the scheduled bilateral meetings.

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The Alternate Representatives adopted the agenda.

Item 2 Interventions by the executive director and JPAC representative

In the interest of time, the executive director indicated he would not make any intervention.

The JPAC chair reported that JPAC was finalizing the coordination for the public workshop. He acknowledged the efforts of the JPAC working group on renewable energy, whose input and hard work had been extremely valuable. He listed the names of the confirmed experts and indicated that their presentations would be followed by breakout sessions and a general discussion on the results of each of these sessions with the public. Finally, he mentioned that the outcome of the workshop would be shared with Council on 28 June.

The US Alternate Representative thanked the JPAC chair for his intervention and mentioned that a letter to JPAC would be forthcoming noting the Parties' interest in involving indigenous peoples in capacity building activities. He asked whether JPAC would like to consider including this topic as part of their 27 June workshop. The JPAC chair responded that JPAC would certainly welcome the interest of Council on this issue and look forward to seeking the public's views.

Item 3 2006 Council Session

Item 3.1 General program for the Council Session

The Alternate Representatives approved the general program for the Council Session.

Item 3.2 Council in-camera session

Item 3.2.1 Council agenda

Item 3.2.2 Adoption of the Council Resolutions

The Canadian Alternate Representative conveyed there were ongoing discussions within the Government of Canada on the Council resolution regarding SMOC future directions and that Canada was not yet in a position to give final approval to this presentation for the Council agenda. He promised to inform the Parties as soon as possible. He also asked that the Lindane NARAP resolution be withdrawn, given that Minister Ambrose had not been briefed on the issue yet. He offered to have it signed by the Alternate Representatives on the first possible occasion. Both Mexico and the United States agreed and indicated they were in a position to sign both SMOC resolutions at any given time.

Regarding the presentation on Mexico's RETC, the Mexican representative indicated it would be distributed to the Parties and the Secretariat shortly.

Regarding the 2007 funding resolution, the Canadian representative reported that Canada would not be in a position to sign the resolution before next fall. Consequently, it was agreed that the funding resolution should be removed from the Council agenda.

Having agreed to the above changes, the Alternate Representatives adopted the agenda for the Council in-camera session.

Item 3.2.3 Ministerial Statement

The US representative commented that the ministerial statement needed further revisions to be made more interesting. The Mexican representative added it needed to be shortened and should express the challenges lying ahead for the CEC. The Alternate Representatives agreed that the Parties would be working with the Secretariat in drafting a revised version that would refer not only to program accomplishments but also to future challenges.