

## **SESSION 09-01 OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES**

### **SUMMARY RECORD**

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council, represented by its Alternate Representatives, met via conference call on 28 August 2009. Mr. Enrique Lendo Fuentes (Mexico) chaired the meeting, Mr. David McGovern and Ms. Sylvia Correa (on behalf of the US Alternate Representative) represented Canada and the United States, respectively. Mr. Adrián Vázquez, CEC executive director, represented the Secretariat, Ms. Adriana Nelly Correa, represented the JPAC as its 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.

#### **Item 1 Adoption of the agenda**

The Alternate Representatives adopted the agenda based on the provisional agenda (Annex A).

#### **Item 2 Brief remarks by the Executive Director and the JPAC Chair**

The chair invited both the executive director and the JPAC chair to say a few remarks.

The executive director pointed out this represented his last meeting and thanked the Parties for the support provided to the Secretariat during his tenure. He affirmed he was leaving a staff in full capacity and well equipped to undertake the next steps. He reinforced that the Secretariat staff was cognizant of the fact that months ahead will be intensive and assured the Parties that everyone felt ready to take on the challenge.

The JPAC chair began by referring to JPAC's recent advice to Council that stemmed from the Denver workshop on Climate Policy Coherence in North America. She specified that the issues and recommendations included in the advice were largely based on the discussion between the JPAC members, experts and the public.

She then turned to the recently-created JPAC working group on effectiveness which met in Montreal on 24–25 August to discuss ways to enhance JPAC's mandate. The issues discussed included reaching a broader North American audience, re-defining the format of JPAC meetings, as well as enhancing JPAC's contribution to the work of the Secretariat. She indicated that a report had been commissioned on those topics which will be submitted to the Parties for their consideration in the coming weeks.

Regarding upcoming JPAC meetings, she said a private meeting would be held at the CEC Secretariat on 24–25 September to discuss JPAC priorities for the remainder of 2009 and for 2010. In addition, JPAC will be looking forward to receiving the 2010 Operational Plan and to discussing elements with the Secretariat staff on that occasion. She also reinforced the JPAC's desire to be engaged in the discussion of the development of the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan under the three new priorities. The JPAC chair also informed the Parties of the last JPAC meeting of

2009, to be held in Baja California at the end of November or early December. In closing, she turned to the CEC executive director and expressed, on behalf of the JPAC, gratitude and sincere appreciation for his numerous contributions to the CEC and to the JPAC.

The Canadian Alternate Representative thanked the executive director for the work accomplished during his mandate. He commended him for bringing about changes and stressed that Canada felt confident with the team he was leaving behind at the Secretariat. Regarding the report from the JPAC chair, he underlined how Minister Prentice valued JPAC's advice and that their recommendations on efficiency will provide timely information to the Parties, the new executive director and will assist in the development of future CEC work. Regarding the planned public meeting in Baja California, he indicated he might not be in a position to participate, given the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen occurring at the same time. However, he shared Canada's intent to play a more visible role in JPAC activities and indicated that his office will likely be represented at the meeting.

The US representative also thanked the executive director and echoed Canada's comment regarding the excellent group of people he was leaving behind at the Secretariat. Turning to the JPAC chair, she indicated that the US were in the process of naming new JPAC members and asked whether the September meeting could be postponed to allow their participation. The JPAC chair responded that the purpose of holding the meeting at the end of September was to ensure JPAC's timeliness in providing comments on the first draft 2010 Operational Plan. However, she expressed openness in discussing this further.

The Mexican Alternate Representative expressed sincere appreciation to the executive director, particularly for his openness and involvement. He commented that communication between the Secretariat and the Parties had much improved in the last three years. In addition, he underlined how the executive director had been helpful in providing insight on the future cooperative agenda. Turning to the JPAC chair, he acknowledged the importance of JPAC's contribution to the development of the next strategic plan. This, he said, is in line with what the ministers have agreed upon in Denver. In relation to the latest JPAC advice, he reported that processes were underway at the North American level on climate policy matters. He pointed, for example, to the recently-held North American Leaders Summit which gave the three governments a mandate to cooperate on environmental and sustainability issues, including a vision for a low-carbon North America. In closing, he indicated he looked forward to participating in the JPAC meetings and to receiving JPAC's advice on efficiency.

### **Item 3 Farewell message for Adrián Vázquez**

This item was covered under item 2.

### **Item 4 Appointment of Acting Executive Director**

The Alternate Representatives voted in favor of Council Resolution 09-02 designating Evan Lloyd as acting executive director of the CEC Secretariat until the appointment of the new executive director. They thanked him for accepting the mandate and indicated that they looked forward to working with him in that capacity. This sentiment was echoed by the JPAC chair.

**Item 5 Other issues**

No other issues were raised under this item.

The session was adjourned.