

TWENTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE CEC COUNCIL
27–28 June 2017
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada

2017 CEC COUNCIL PUBLIC SESSION – SUMMARY RECORD

Item 3 – Introductions

The facilitator, Julian Portilla, gave an overview of the agenda for the afternoon session. After highlighting the opportunity for both in-person and online participants to send questions, he introduced the Alternate Representatives.

Item 4 – Video on CEC’s Accomplishments under the OP 2015–2016

The facilitator invited the CEC Executive Director, César Rafael Chavez, to [present the video highlighting trinationa achievements](#) of the CEC in its Operational Plan 2015–2016. The Executive Director said that, in order to be innovative, the usual PowerPoint presentation had been replaced by a video showcasing the achievements of the past two years.

Item 5 – Youth Innovation Challenge

Following the video, the facilitator invited the three winners of the [Youth Innovation Challenge](#) to come on stage and present their projects.

Vanessa Fiore, from Canada, presented her team’s project “*Small Scale Waste to Energy*,” Ernesto Alonso, from Mexico, presented his team’s project “*ROCAPET – Sustainable Structural Concrete*,” and Reyanne Mustafa, from the United States, presented her team’s project “*Restaurant Waste to Superfood Powder*.”

Item 6 – Council member announcements and engagement with the public on “Innovation for clean growth”

After thanking the contest winners, the facilitator introduced the theme for the public session “Harnessing Innovation for a Healthy Future,” and invited each Alternate Representative to present national initiatives from the three countries that relate to innovation and the transition to clean growth.

Catherine Stewart, Alternate Representative from Canada, presented national actions, including the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, and the Low Carbon Economy Fund stemming from Canada’s commitment to the Paris Agreement. After thanking Canada as the host country for the Council session, Enrique Lendo Fuentes, Alternate Representative from Mexico, presented national actions, including investments for innovation and research and development (R&D) in clean technologies, the design of a carbon market, and involvement in the international fora through the Mission Innovation initiative. Finally, Jane Nishida, Alternate Representative from the United States, presented national actions

demonstrating the United States' commitment to clean growth by working with local governments and tribal communities, as well as the Sustainable Materials Management initiative and the formation of the US Food Loss and Waste 2030 Champions group, carried out in collaboration with the US Department of Agriculture.

Following the presentations, the facilitator welcomed questions from the public to the Alternate Representatives.

“What are the initiatives taken by your government to create bridges between Canadian, American, and Mexican youth in order to enhance environmental cooperation?”

On this question, the US Alternate Representative indicated that CEC activities such as the Youth Innovation Challenge and the Innovation Jam are great examples of these bridging initiatives.

“How do you define Clean Growth, and is economic growth based on GDP a reasonable indicator of a clean growth, low-carbon energy future?”

On this question, the Alternate Representative from Canada indicated that clean growth is an opportunity to develop clean technologies and innovation, while at the same time growing the economy. Indicators such as the GDP and the amount of reduction in greenhouse gases (GHGs) are combined to measure results.

“What are the top two or three challenges faced by the CEC for the future?”

On this question, the Alternate Representative from Mexico indicated that one of the challenges is to transform the outcomes of pilot projects into mainstream processes at different levels in order to ensure their continuity. Another challenge is to effectively bring the North American perspective and experience on environmental issues at the international level in order to share knowledge and complement global initiatives. A third challenge is maintaining effectiveness of activities when faced with limited resources.

Item 7 – Closing Remarks

After again thanking Canada for hosting the event, the Alternate Representative from Mexico announced there will be a third cycle of the NAPECA grant program launched in the coming weeks. The Alternate Representative from Canada announced the adoption of the CEC's Operational Plan for 2017–2018, thanked the in-person and online audience and passed the Council Chairmanship to the United States. The Alternate Representative from the United States announced the approval of the new TEK Terms of Operation and invited Sarah Greenwalt, Senior Advisor to the Administrator of the US EPA, to announce the location of the 2018 Council session. Ms. Greenwalt announced officially that the location for the 2018 Council Session will be Oklahoma City and welcomed everyone to attend on behalf of Administrator Pruitt.

The meeting was adjourned.