

## **SESSION 07-03 OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES**

### **SUMMARY RECORD**

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council, represented by its Alternate Representatives, met via conference call on 7 March 2007. Mr. Enrique Lendo Fuentes (Mexico) chaired the meeting, and Mr. Jerry Clifford and Ms. Jenna Mackay-Alie (on behalf of David McGovern) represented the United States and Canada, respectively. Mr. Evan Lloyd, acting director of programs, represented the Secretariat (on behalf of Adrian Vazquez), Ms. Irene Henriques, represented 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.

#### **Item 2 Intervention by the Executive Director**

The acting director of programs stated that the executive director had been held up in meetings in Washington and had asked him to represent him during the call. He reported that the series of bilateral meetings between the executive director and government officials from each Party had recently concluded and thanked the US EPA team for arranging meetings with officials in Washington. He reported that these meetings had been very informative and fruitful. He also conveyed that the executive director looked forward to meeting with the Alternate Representatives in person and discussing the upcoming Council Session.

The Canadian representative mentioned that the meeting with the executive director, held in Ottawa in February, had also been very productive and conveyed that Canada also looked forward to working with the Parties in planning the 2007 Council Session. The US representative reported that the meetings with Adrian Vazquez, Hans Herrmann and Luke Trip had involved representatives from across the US government and that he believed they had been instrumental in fostering a more collaborative relationship with the Secretariat. The Mexican representative echoed the comments made by his counterparts in regards to meeting with Adrian Vazquez in Mexico. He indicated he looked forward to working with his counterparts in ensuring a successful Council Session.

#### **Item 3 Intervention by the JPAC Chair**

The JPAC chair provided an update on the upcoming symposium on green buildings to be held in Seattle, 1–2 May 2007. She shared that much public interest for the symposium had been expressed thus far and that the meeting would likely be well attended. She explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on green buildings and prepare a report to be submitted to the Secretariat based on the public consultation. She also noted she

would be participating in a meeting with indigenous communities in Washington at the end of March and would be facilitating a meeting with indigenous representatives in Winnipeg in the fall.

Regarding the 2007 Council Session, she reported that JPAC was interested in fostering the participation of municipalities and cities in an effort to reach out to a wider range of stakeholders. She indicated that JPAC looked forward to hearing from the Council about the focus for the 2007 Council Session and assured everyone of JPAC's assistance in ensuring a successful meeting. She shared that, on the personal level, she had been promoting the work of the CEC through participation in seminars, including a recent conference of emerging global leaders in which she participated.

Finally, she shared three concerns requiring action by the Parties. The first concern related to the fact that Canada has not yet appointed a fifth JPAC member (a position left vacant since the departure of Dan Christmas). She suggested that consideration be given to appointing an indigenous representative. Her second concern related to the fact that there is currently no Canadian National Advisory Committee. She felt that the public had expressed disappointment in this regard. Thirdly, she indicated that JPAC was pleased with the publication of the Ontario Logging factual record but remained concerned by the pending SEM issues. She urged the Council to take necessary action on these.

The US Alternate Representative welcomed the JPAC chair to the upcoming Washington meetings (to be held in March with indigenous communities and in April with the US NAC/GAC). He also welcomed the opportunity to meet with her privately and also offered to arrange meetings with other officials. The JPAC chair welcomed his offer and promised to follow-up with the US GSC representative, Dan Thompson.

The Canadian representative commented on the interesting set of activities being planned by JPAC in the coming months. She also commended the leadership of the JPAC chair. Regarding the appointment of the fifth Canadian JPAC member and the formation of the Canadian NAC, she explained that her office was endeavoring to bring this issue to the attention of Minister Baird and that she was hopeful that appointments could be announced in the coming months.

The Mexican Alternate Representative shared that he had been reviewing the agenda for the symposium and that Mexico was very supportive of the agenda and impressed with the list of invited speakers, all of whom were recognized leaders in the field. He also took the opportunity to share Mexico's recent interest in promoting the participation of civil society in policy-making. He reported that two large meetings with civil representatives had been organized by Secretary Elvira in order to strengthen the communication between the government and civil society.

#### **Item 4 Budget matters**

##### **Item 4.1 2007 Funding resolution**

The Canadian representative explained that Canada was ready to sign the 2007 funding resolution and was now in a position to secure support to the CEC for the next five years. As a

result, she indicated she was very pleased to support the signing of draft Council Resolution 07-04. The US Alternate representative congratulated Canada and also expressed support for the draft resolution establishing CEC funding for 2007. He underlined, however, the need to update the CEC financial rules to ensure that current practices were consistent with the rules. This suggestion was welcomed by his counterparts, who charged the Secretariat to put together a proposal for consideration by the Alternate Representatives.

The Mexican Alternate Representative also expressed support for the funding resolution and noted that Mexico was still undergoing a very challenging budgetary process involving a mandate of austerity cutting across all federal agencies. He explained that, as part of the process, Mexico's international commitments were being re-considered. However, he reported on meetings with Secretary Elvira where he expressed strong support for the CEC and its 2007 funding resolution. He announced that Mexico was currently in the process of depositing US\$2 million as part of its first installment and that the remaining funds would follow in the coming months. Thus, draft Council Resolution 07-04 establishing funding of the CEC at a level of US\$9 million was adopted by the Alternate Representatives.

#### **Item 4.2 Use of CEC General Funds**

The Alternate Representatives adopted draft Council Resolution 07-05 authorizing the use of the 2005 General Fund to complete 2006 initiatives. The US requested that minor editorial changes be brought to the English version of the draft Council Resolution before it is signed by the Alternate Representatives in person. The Secretariat agreed to this request.

#### **Item 5 2007 Council Session**

The Mexican Alternate Representative reiterated the invitation to US and Canada to Morelia for the 2007 Council Session and asked them whether they had explored the availability of Minister Baird and Administrator Johnson on 19–20 June 2007. Although the US and Canadian representatives indicated they were not in a position to confirm the availability of their respective ministers, they asked whether it was possible for Mexico to propose alternative dates for additional consideration. Mexico suggested that the 26–27 June 2007 period also be explored and, following an exchange of views, the Alternate Representatives agreed to prioritize this second option.

#### **Item 6 Next meeting of the Alternate Representatives**

The Chair reiterated the invitation to hold the next face-to-face meeting in Cuernavaca. He indicated he looked forward to discussing the 2007 Council Session and was amenable to this meeting taking place either in Mexico or in Montreal to accommodate the US and Canadian representatives' schedule. Both the US and Canada indicated they were also eager to hold this meeting as soon as possible. The Alternate Representatives explored potential dates and agreed that the nearest mutually convenient period would likely be 26–27 April 2007. The Canadian representative indicated, however, that she needed to confirm with David McGovern. They agreed that holding the meeting in Mexico would be prioritized as an option.

Regarding the proposal to hold a meeting of the trade and environment officials on the margins of their next meeting, they agreed to explore this possibility but concurred that the meeting of the Alternate Representatives should not be delayed any further to accommodate the trade officials' schedule. However, they agreed with the US Alternate Representative's proposal that a meeting of the trade and environment officials be contemplated on the margins of the 2007 Council Session.

The Chair asked his counterparts whether they wished to raise any other issues. The Canadian representative indicated that Canada had almost completed the evaluation of Environment Canada's participation in the CEC and that they would be ready to share it in a few weeks. She thanked the United States and Mexico for the time they had dedicated to the evaluators. Both Parties indicated they were looking forward to seeing the report.

In closing, the Chair thanked his counterparts for the fruitful discussion. The Alternate Representatives took the opportunity to thank the GSC members for their hard work and deliberations leading up to the call that ensured its success.