

The second UN Environment Assembly of the UN Environment Programme (UNEA-2)

The second UN Environment Assembly of the UN Environment Programme (UNEA-2) opened on Monday 23rd May 2016 at UN Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.



Outgoing UNEA President Oyun Sanjaasuren (Mongolia) opened the conference, inviting delegates to observe a minute's silence to remember those who have lost their lives in the protection of the environment. UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner described UNEA-2 as an expression of hope and "a clarion call" for the world, noting that with well over 2000 participants, 170 nations, and hundreds of stakeholders represented, "we truly have a UN Environment Assembly." Delegates heard opening messages, and adopted the agenda and organization of work. The plenary elected Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta (Costa Rica) as President of UNEA-2, and also elected Bureau members and a rapporteur.



In the afternoon, the Committee of the Whole (COW) met in plenary, where they discussed the organization of drafting groups to finalize the proposed resolutions. A working group met in the evening for a first reading of resolutions. The Sustainable Innovation Expo (SIE), organized by UNEP in parallel with the meeting, also opened today.



Priyankari Alexander
Programme Officer