Message

From: Finman, Hodayah [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=92EFBC05989A49EC874C24BB790A872C-FINMAN, HODAYAH]
Sent: 3/8/2022 7:35:13 PM
To: Besch, Brianna [besch.brianna@epa.gov]; Kasman, Mark [Kasman.Mark@epa.gov]; Huber, Patrick [Huber.Patrick@epa.gov]
CC: Sims, JaniceHQ [Sims.JaniceHQ@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: UNEA and Ukraine
Attachments: NOTE 17344.pdf

Thank you, Brianna. We gave Jane a verbal readout of the Ukraine play and play. Jane expressed sincere thanks to you for all of your hard work at UNEA on many resolutions which Mark discussed at Senior Staff. She also was very appreciative of your contribution to the USdel response on Ukraine, including the walk out.

Please go ahead and send your write up below and the note verbale to Martin so he has it handy should it be needed.

Again, many kudos to you on your professionalism under very challenging circumstances at UNEA.

From: Besch, Brianna <besch.brianna@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Finman, Hodayah Finman.Hodayah@epa.gov; Kasman, Mark Kasman.Mark@epa.gov; Huber, Patrick Huber.Patrick@epa.gov
Cc: Sims, JaniceHQ Sims.JaniceHQ@epa.gov
Subject: UNEA and Ukraine

Hi Hodayah,

As requested, here is a short summary of the way the situation unfolding in Ukraine impacted UNEA 5.2.

On Thursday, February 24th, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Embassy of Ukraine in Kenya issued the attached Note Verbale asking the UNEP Secretariate and other member states to stop work on discussions on the draft resolution "Compliance with the principle of equitable geographic distribution in the composition of the secretariate of UNEP" co-sponsored by the Russian Federation. Discussions on the resolution were postponed. On Friday, Feb 25th during the OECPR closing plenary, Ukraine intervened on that resolution as well as the occupation of a nuclear power plant (53:15), followed by a Russian Federation intervention stressing that UNEP shouldn't discuss bilateral issues and making comments the resolution and the history Ukrainian-Russian conflict (55:05). This was followed by interventions of the EU, the US made by the head of delegation, Monica Medina (1:02:15), the UK, Canada, Japan and New Zealand sharing concerns on the resolution and condemning the attack by Russia on Ukraine. Russia also executed is right of reply to respond to the comments and removed Russian co-sponsorship for the resolution. Over the weekend, all co-sponsors withdrew from the resolution and it moved forward as a chair's text and was ultimately adopted. The US del continued to engage Russia in the context of multilateral negotiations but they did not intervene much in negotiations from Thursday forward, and we did not hold any bilateral meetings or discussions to my knowledge.

The war in Ukraine was also brought up at the opening plenary of UNEA on Monday, Feb 28th. Monica Medina addressed the war in the US National Statement to UNEA, condemning Russia's actions and asking the international community to stand with Ukraine. Ukraine made a strong statement at the UNEA closing plenary, which received a standing ovation by many delegates. During the Russian Federation's right of reply intervention many delegates walked out of plenary, including myself and the State Department layer who were the only US delegates there (with agreement from the State Department DAS via text).

Best,

Brianna Besch (she/her)
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