

Dear Colleagues ... Excellencies ... Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Thank you to UNEP Governance Affairs Office for organising this very successful orientation session for new members of the CPR, which was also a refresher to old members in attendance. It is a pleasure to welcome new colleagues.
2. Your patience and keenness to understand the workings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) in its role as a subsidiary inter-sessional body with oversight on the implementation of UNEA resolutions and decisions is most welcome. I am convinced that with this briefing of today, you are well equipped to perform your role dutifully and diligently to achieve the aspirations of the United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA.
3. As you know, the CPR Bureau membership of five, drawn from the five UN regional groups comprises a Chair, three vice-chairs and a Rapporteur, as defined in the Rules of Procedure of UNEA. The term of office of the CPR Bureau is 2-years – and the current bureau's term expires on 30 June 2023. For its remaining term, the Bureau will lead the work of the CPR to provide oversight for the implementation of resolutions and decisions of UNEA, including UNEA-5 resolutions. The Bureau will also ensure an early, inclusive and transparent inter-session preparatory process for UNEA-6 through timely submission, consideration and negotiation of draft resolutions and decisions.
4. We will further be guided in our work by the decisions taken by the CPR in the consensual process for review.
5. In a single calendar year, the CPR Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, convenes many meetings as reflected in the roadmap available on the CPR Portal. The Bureau also provides feedback to the UNEA Bureau through its President on critical issues for consideration and decision. Joint retreats of the CPR and the UNEA bureaus have proven most useful in aligning and mainstreaming the agenda of UNEA as we prepare for the subsequent UNEA session.
6. The CPR Bureau is also mandated to organize quarterly one-day meetings, a five-day Annual Sub-Committee meeting with participants from capitals (usually every October, this year from 24 to 28 October), and a five-day meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR), preceding any regular session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The next OECPR will be held in February 2024.
7. As you settle into a very busy schedule in Nairobi, where some of you will serve both UNEP and UN-Habitat secretariats, I would urge you to please utilise the CPR Portal and/or Resolutions and Decisions Monitoring Portal as presented by the Secretariat to help you navigate this busy landscape. Please acquire the habit of reading in advance documentation posted onto these portals for informed and substantive contributions.
8. In addition, familiarise yourself with technologies used and applied by the Secretariat. E-mail functionality of the secretariat UNEP_SGB@UN.ORG has continued to serve us very well for communication between all our missions and UNEP. For those outside Nairobi, we now have the technology to link up with you through remote/virtual connections, giving us a wonderful opportunity to benefit from your contributions.

9. As chair of the CPR, I look forward to working with you all during your time here. I hope that you will not hesitate in reaching out with any questions or concerns that you may have. Once again, a warm welcome to Nairobi.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH