

Committee of Permanent Representatives Orientation for New Members on Governance Structures

UN Environment Programme Governance Structure

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

The leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda; established after Rio+20 in 2012. Universal membership; Chaired by UNEA President

UNEA-1: 23-27 June 2014 - UNEA-2: 23-27 May 2016 - UNEA-3: 4-6 December 2017
UNEA-4: 11-15 March 2019 - UNEA-5: 22-23 February 2021 and 28 February – 2 March 2022
First special session: UNEP@50 the 3-4 March 2022

UNEA Bureau

- 10 members from 5 regions; leads the preparation of UNEA
- Chaired by UNEA President, from the African Group
- Meets 4-6 times per year, sometimes jointly with the CPR Bureau

Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

- Subsidiary inter-sessional body of the Environment Assembly
- Responsible for review and follow-up of the UNEP Programme of Work and UNEA decisions and resolutions, and for preparing for the OECPR and UNEA
- Composed of about 120-130 member States representatives accredited to UNEP (around 80-90 represented in Nairobi)
- Meets formally 4 times per year – usually full day meetings
- Meets informally in subcommittees 1-2 times per month to address specific issues

CPR Bureau

- 5 Members from 5 regions; leads the preparation of CPR and OECPR meetings
- Current Chair from the Group of Western European and Other States
- Meets monthly or as needed, sometimes jointly with UNEA Bureau

Open-Ended CPR Meetings

- Meets for 5 days. As a general practice and unless otherwise decided by UNEA, meetings of the Open-Ended CPR are held back-to-back with UNEA
- Chaired by the CPR Chair
- Acts as a “PREPCOM” for UNEA
- Pre-negotiates UNEA resolutions

Annual Subcommittee Meetings

- Meets annually for 5 days, usually in October; chaired by the CPR Chair
- Review and oversight of the current PoW
- Guidance on future PoW
- Representatives from Capitals invited

UNEP Governing Council VS the UN Environment Assembly

[Key GA resolutions 2997 (XXVII); 66/288; 67/213; 67/251]



	GOVERNING COUNCIL	UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY
Membership	58 elected members	193 UN member States
Bureau	5 members	10 members
Meets	Annually (ordinary and special sessions)	Biennially in odd years, preceded by OECPR serving as a UNEA prepcom ¹
Organization	5 days, including the Global Ministerial Environment Forum	5 days, including a two-day high-level segment at the end of session
	Both preceded by the global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)	
Outcome	Decisions and other outcome documents as decided by Members	Resolutions, decisions and other outcome documents as decided by member States

¹ the 6th session will be held in 2024, without prejudice to resolution 2/22, in which the Assembly decided to hold its regular sessions and the OECPR in odd numbered years commencing with its third session, in 2017

United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

Key mandates and functions

Governing Council decision 27/2 of 2013



- Sets the **global environmental agenda**
- Provides **overarching policy guidance** and defines **policy responses** to emerging environmental challenges
- Undertakes **policy review, dialogue and exchange** of experiences
- Sets the **strategic guidance** on the future direction of UNEP
- Organizes **multi-stakeholder dialogue** sessions
- Fosters **partnerships** for achieving environmental goals through resources mobilization

United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

Session and Bureau



- **Session**

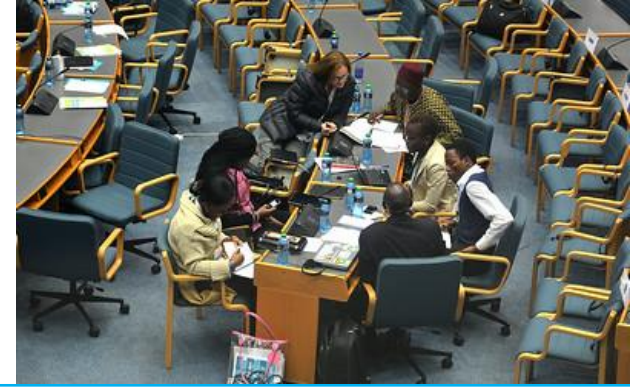
- Every two years for a period of five-days
- Every odd numbered years (UNEA resolution 2/22)
- Held during the last week of February (UNEA resolution 3/2)

- **Bureau**

- 10 members - a President; 8 Vice-Presidents; and a Rapporteur
- Elected at the final meeting of a session and members hold office until their successors are elected
- Eligible for re-election
- Replacement of a Bureau member is governed by rule 19
- Oversee the preparations of UNEA and support in the general conduct of business of UNEA

United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

Bureau meetings and Agenda



- **Bureau meetings**

- Held as and when needed and chaired by the President
- Decisions are taken by consensus
- The Chair of CPR participates as an ex-officio Bureau member
- Joint meetings of the Bureaus of UNEA and CPR are co-chaired by the UNEA President and the CPR Chair

- **Agenda**

- Adopted at the start of the session
- UNEA approves the provisional agenda ahead of a session

United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

Theme and Structure of UNEA



- **Theme**

- Provides a framework for political debate
- Agreed by the Bureau of UNEA based on consultations

- **Structure of UNEA**

- Opening segment
- National statements
- Leadership dialogues
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue
- High-level segment
- Closing segment
- Committee of the whole

United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

Draft resolutions/decisions



- **Draft resolutions/decisions**

- Member States are encouraged to submit draft resolutions
 - at least 10 weeks prior the open-ended CPR (decision 5/4)
- CPR Review process ([link](#))
 - Announce the intention to table at least 12 weeks in advance
 - Provide a concept note explaining the rationale
 - Avoid negotiations during weekends
 - Ensure participation of Member States
 - Selection of co-facilitators
- Papersmart portal ([link](#))

United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

Reporting and Special sessions



- **Reporting**

- UN General Assembly – (document symbol A/GA session number/25)
- High-level political forum on sustainable development

- **Special sessions**

- UNEA can hold special sessions

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Overview



- Established **in May 1985** by GC decision 13/2 to create a formal process of consultation among Governments and with the Executive Director on UNEP matters, taking into account the increasing number of Governments represented in Nairobi;
- Consist of **representatives of all States Members of the UN, members of the specialized agencies and the European Union**, whether based in Nairobi or outside;
- Meets under the leadership of a **5-member Bureau comprising of a Chair, 3 Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur**, elected for a period of two years
- Meets at regular meetings **four times per year**, with full interpretation;
- After consultation with the CPR Bureau or at the request of at least five members, **extraordinary CPR meetings** may be convened;
- CPR also meets in the format of informal **sub-committees**, held in English

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Governing Council decision 19/32, 1997



- Reviews, **monitors and assesses the implementation** of decisions of the UNEP's governing body on administrative, budgetary and programme matters;
- Reviews **the draft UNEP Programme of Work** and Budget during its preparation by the secretariat;
- Reviews **reports** requested of the Secretariat by Member States on the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of functions and work of the Secretariat and makes recommendations;
- Prepares **draft decisions** for consideration by the UNEP governing body based on inputs from the secretariat and on the results of the above functions.

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Strengthened mandate, Governing Council decision 27/2, 2013



“Decides that an open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will be the inter-sessional subsidiary body of the governing body of UNEA and perform the following functions:

- a) Contribute to the **preparation of the agenda** of its governing body;
- b) Provide **advice** to its governing body on policy matters;
- c) Prepare **decisions for adoption** by its governing body and oversee their implementation;
- d) Convene thematic and/or programmatic **debates**;
- e) Promote effective ways and means to **facilitate participation of the non-resident members** of the Committee, particularly from developing countries; and
- f) Perform any other functions delegated to it by its governing body.”

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Membership



Representatives of all States Members of the UN, members of the specialized agencies and the European Union, accredited to the UN Environment, based in Nairobi or outside” (GC decision 19/32 Para 8).

- Accredited Member States: **124 Member States**
- Accredited Non-Member States: Holy See + State of Palestine
- The European Union

Observers: League of Arab States + Sovereign Military Order of Malta

85 accredited missions in Nairobi

39 accredited missions outside Nairobi

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Governing Council decision 27/2, Feb 2013



“Decides to convene an open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, while ensuring support to developing countries’ representatives, to enable the participation of capital-based delegates as well as stakeholders for a period of five days in an even-year to **contribute to preparation of the agenda of its governing body, and to provide advice to its governing body on policy matters.**”

- (i) OECPR-1: 24- 28 March, 2014
- (ii) OECPR-2: 15-19 February, 2016.
- (iii) OECPR-3: 29 Nov -1 Dec, 2017
- (iv) OECPR-4: 4-8 March, 2019.
- (v) OECPR-5: 15-17 February, 2021, and 21-25 February 2022.

The CPR decided in the **Final outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives** to "Organize, as a general practice and unless otherwise decided by UNEA, meetings of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives **back-to-back with the UN Environment Assembly**, while ensuring effective, participatory and inclusive intersessional preparation, and avoiding negotiations during weekends.”

Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Governing Council decision 27/2, 2013



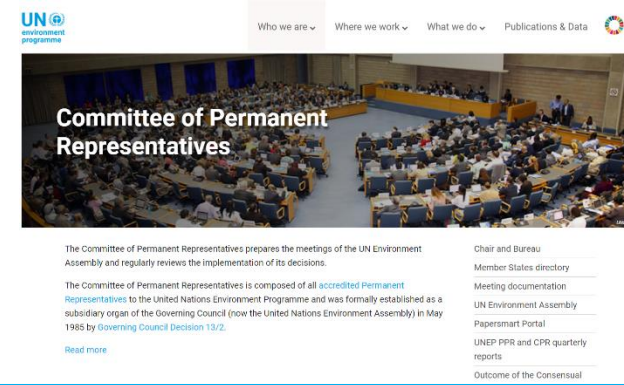
- Meets **annually** (usually in October) for a period of 5 days;
- Reviews, with the support of the Secretariat, **the Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work and budget**, in a manner coherent with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations, to be endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and for the governing body's approval;
- Oversees their **implementation and accountability** by the Secretariat;
- Conducts its meetings in English only

Important links



The United Nations Environment Assembly is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, with a universal membership of all 192 Member States. The Assembly meets biennially in Nairobi, Kenya, to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop international environmental law. Through its ministerial declaration and resolutions, the Assembly provides leadership, catalyzes intergovernmental action on the environment, and contributes to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN Environment Assembly is also the governing body of the UN Environment Programme. It has had four sessions so far: in 2014 and was preceded by the Governing Council of the UN Environment Programme, which was composed of 58 member States.

The 5th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) took place in a two-step approach. The first session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.1) was held online on 22-23 February 2021, and the resumed in-person session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.2) took place online and in Nairobi on 23 February - 2 March 2022.



The Committee of Permanent Representatives prepares the meetings of the UN Environment Assembly and regularly reviews the implementation of its decisions.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives is composed of all [accredited Permanent Representatives](#) to the United Nations Environment Programme and was formally established as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council (now the United Nations Environment Assembly) in May 1985 by [Governing Council Decision 13/2](#).

[Read more](#)

[Chair and Bureau](#)
[Member States directory](#)
[Meeting documentation](#)
[UN Environment Assembly Papersmart Portal](#)
[UNEP PPR and CPR quarterly reports](#)
[Outcome of the Consensual](#)

- [UNEA website](#)
- [CPR Website](#)
- [UNEP Governing Bodies Roadmap of Meetings](#)
- [Meetings and documents portal](#)
- [Outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the CPR](#)
- [Member States directory](#)
- [UNEA rules of procedure](#)
- [Papersmart portal](#)

Thank you



Radhika Ochalik
Director, Governance Affairs Office
ochalik@un.org

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30552 – 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

www.unep.org