United Nations Environment Assembly
Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme
Ninth meeting
Nairobi, 24-28 October 2022
Hybrid meeting
10.00 am – 6.00 pm (GMT+3)
Conference Room 2

Agenda Item 8: Status of the implementation of the outcome of the consensual process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

8 (a) Overall status of implementation of the outcome.

Following an the Member States-driven consultation referred to as the “Consensual Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives” (hereafter the CPR-based review), as mandated in paragraph 9 -13 of UNEA Decision 4/2, including a stock-taking meeting held in conjunction with the 7th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the CPR in October 2020, final agreement on the CPR-based review was provisionally reached at the 8th meeting of the annual subcommittee held on 25-29 October 2021 (see paragraphs 24-26 of the Chair’s Summary of the meeting).

The outcome was formally endorsed without further changes at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in UNEA decision 5/4 entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”.

Paragraph 1 of that decision reads “Endorses the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, as agreed at the eighth meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 October 2021.”. The final version of the outcome of the CPR-based review is available here.

This note provides a progress update of the implementation of the outcome of the CPR-based review, for consideration at the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, with a view to take stock of implementation and seek further guidance from Member States on how to strengthen the implementation of the outcome by the Secretariat as well as by Member States. The note outlines the outcome paragraph by paragraph, followed by a brief progress update and relevant observations under each of the paragraphs of the review.

Member States are invited to review the document and provide further guidance to the Secretariat, to the UNEA and CPR Bureaus and to Member States themselves on how to further strengthen the implementation of the outcome.
Note from the Secretariat: Progress update on the implementation of the outcome of Consensual Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

---

**Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 1:**

Under the guidance of the UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat, ensure that the UNEA theme provides a framework for political debate at the high-level segment as well as for official UNEA events, including UNEA side events the Major Group and Stakeholder Forum, and the Sustainable Innovation Expo and the Science Policy Business Forum, and that it informs Member States in their preparation of draft UNEA resolutions, while fully respecting Member States’ right to table draft resolutions on any subject in accordance with the UNEA Rules of Procedures.

Progress update and observations:

i. The theme for the sixth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) is yet to be decided, under the guidance of the UNEA-6 President and Bureau, in close consultation with Member States.

ii. A first discussion on the theme for UNEA-6 will take place at the joint meeting of the Bureau of UNEA-6 and of the CPR Bureau scheduled for 17 October 2022, on the basis of an options paper from the Secretariat.

iii. A consultation with Member States and Stakeholders on options for the theme for UNEA-6 will take place under agenda item 9 of the 9th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the CPR (ASC-9).

iv. Further consultations with Member States and Stakeholders may take place after ASC-9, under the guidance of the UNEA-6 Presidency.

v. A final decision by the UNEA-6 Bureau is expected to be taken at a joint retreat of the Bureau of UNEA-6 and of the CPR Bureau at the end of January 2022.

vi. Following the decision of the theme, it will be a joint responsibility of the Secretariat, Member States and Stakeholders to ensure that the theme provides a framework for political debate at the high-level segment and official UNEA events, and that it will inform Member States in their preparation of draft UNEA resolutions.

---

**Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 2:**

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.

Progress update and observations:

i. In paragraph 5 of UNEA decision 5/4 entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”, UNEA decided that the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6) will take place from 19 to 23 February 2024, back to back with UNEA-6 (scheduled for 26 February to 1 March 2024). The decision requested the CPR to decide on the format and agenda of the meeting in consultation with the UNEA Bureau.

ii. It is the responsibility of the CPR Chair and Bureau, supported by the Secretariat and in close consultation with Member States, to ensure as far as possible, an effective, participatory and inclusive intersessional preparation, and to avoid negotiations during weekends during OECPR and UNEA.

iii. In doing so, the Chair and Bureau may be guided by the document “Assessment and lessons learned from UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50”, prepared by the Secretariat, which was endorsed by the CPR at its 158th meeting on 26 May 2022 following a thorough consultation process with Member States and Stakeholders. Section 5 of that document, entitled “Preparatory process under the auspices of the Committee of Permanent Representatives”, outlines several lessons learned and recommendations.
Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 4:
Recommend close cooperation between the UNEA and CPR Bureaus in advance of UNEA to ensure an efficient transition of the negotiations of draft resolutions and decisions from OECPR to UNEA.

Progress update and observations:

i. In implementing this paragraph of the CPR-based review, Member States, Stakeholders and the Secretariat may be further guided by the document “Assessment and lessons learned from UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50”, as endorsed by the CPR at its 158th meeting on 26 May 2022.

Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 5:
Under the guidance of the UNEA Bureau and with the support from the Secretariat, create an optimal balance between political negotiations, the UNEA high-level segment, and official and non-official UNEA events, to ensure political ownership and to enable, as far as possible, all Member States to participate in the negotiations on UNEA resolutions, by:

a) rationalizing the number of side events and other events.
b) avoiding overlaps in the scheduling and structure of UNEA sessions.
c) minimizing the number of formal and informal negotiation groups working in parallel at the OECPR and UNEA.

Progress update and observations:

i. The main responsibility to rationalize the number of side events and avoid overlaps in the scheduling and structure of UNEA-6 lies with the UNEA Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat.

ii. The objective to minimize the number of formal and informal negotiation groups working in parallel at the OECPR and UNEA is a joint responsibility of the UNEA and the CPR Bureaus, with the support of the Secretariat.

Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 6:

1 As mandated by UNEP Governing Council decision 27/2, paragraph 10.
2 As mandated by UNEP Governing Council decision 27/2, paragraph 11.
Under the guidance of the UNEA Bureau and with the support from the Secretariat and in close cooperation with the MEA Secretariats, strengthen the contributions and active participation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to UNEA to promote coherence between the UNEA resolutions and the MEAs governing bodies’ decisions, while fully respecting the autonomy of those MEAs and without introducing new and additional requirements for the contracting parties to the MEAs, by:

a) Organizing an “informational MEA segment” in conjunction or back-to-back with the UNEA high-level segment, that could include a structured dialogue.

b) Establishing an agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements” in the UNEA sessions.

c) Providing opportunities for engagement by MEAs in the intersessional period between UNEA sessions by, for example, making use of MEA Secretariats to provide inputs to relevant UNEA outcomes.

d) Promoting thematic dialogues between Chairs of scientific advisory bodies or other MEA bodies, for example to provide a strong science-policy input to UNEA.

e) Promoting the involvement of MEAs in the preparation of UNEP’s programme of work/medium-term strategy and of relevant resolutions, where appropriate, to enhance coherence and cooperation on the implementation of the environmental dimension of the UN 2030 Agenda.

Progress update and observations:

i. At the resumed session of UNEA-5, a leadership dialogue with Heads of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) was organized for the first time as part of the official UNEA programme on 1 March 2022 under the UNEA-5 theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals”. The Leadership Dialogue with the MEAs focused on strengthening the implementation of and compliance with MEAs in an integrated manner and drew a great deal of interests from Member States and stakeholders.

ii. Briefings on the preparations for and/or outcomes from important MEA meetings are regularly provided to the CPR, upon request and under the guidance of the Chair and Bureau of the CPR.

iii. For UNEA-6, the overall responsibility to implement paragraph 6 of the outcome of the CPR-based review lies with the UNEA Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, with the exception of paragraph 6 c), where the CPR Bureau is expected to be in the lead, again with the support of the Secretariat.

iv. The provisional agenda for UNEA-6 that was approved in UNEA decision 5/4 (paragraph 7) does not include an agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements” in the UNEA sessions. The UNEA-6 President and Bureau may therefore wish to propose an amendment to the provisional agenda to reflect the recommendation in paragraph 6 b) of the outcome of the CPR-based review. The agenda item is expected to provide an opportunity for Member States to discuss and promote collective efforts between UNEP and MEAs to support coherent action in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

v. The Secretariat will play a key role in the implementation of paragraphs 6 c), d) and e), by facilitating MEA Secretariats to provide inputs to relevant UNEA outcomes, prepare a proposal for a thematic dialogue between Chairs of scientific advisory bodies or other MEA bodies to provide a strong science-policy input to UNEA-6, and involve MEAs, where appropriate, in the preparation of UNEP’s programme of work for the period 2024-25.

Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 7:
Strengthen preparations for UNEA at regional level, including by encouraging Members of the UNEA Bureau to engage in regional ministerial environmental forums and regional forums on sustainable development, to identify relevant regional contributions and inputs to UNEA sessions.

Progress update and observations:

i. At UNEA-5, inputs from regional ministerial fora played a significant role in shaping the outcome of the political outcome of the Assembly.
ii. For UNEA-6, the UNEP Regional Offices will continue to play a key role in facilitating the organization of regional ministerial fora.

iii. The UNEA President and Bureau, as well as the political leadership of various regional fora, and individual Member States belonging to various regional groupings, can play a key role in shaping the inputs to UNEA-6, by considering the appropriate timing and agenda for the regional meetings in accordance with the theme and timetable of UNEA-6.

**Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 8:**

Under guidance of the UNEA Bureau and with the support from the Secretariat, and taking into account inputs from Major Groups and Stakeholders, strengthen the science-policy interface at UNEA by:

a) Facilitating science-based decision making, where relevant through dedicated briefings and consultations on the theme of UNEA and/or proposed resolutions, as appropriate.


c) Making best use of relevant flagship scientific environmental assessments.

**Progress update and observations:**

i. For UNEA-6, the overall responsibility to implement paragraph 8 of the outcome of the CPR-based review lies with the UNEA-6 Bureau, where relevant in consultation with the CPR Bureau, and with the support of the Secretariat.

**Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 9:**

In accordance with the UNEA Rules of Procedures and established practices including as outlined in the UNEP Stakeholder Engagement Handbook³, strengthen the participation of and meaningful involvement of representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders at UNEA and its preparatory process, including in the context of selecting the UNEA theme, for example by offering Secretariat trainings and briefings on UNEA for stakeholders, including through virtual meetings.

**Progress update and observations:**

i. For UNEA-6, the main responsibility to implement paragraph 9 of the outcome of the CPR-based review lies with the Secretariat, in particular the Civil Society Unit within the Governance Affairs Office.

ii. In preparation for UNEA-6, Major Groups and Stakeholders will be engaged in the process of the selection of the UNEA-6 theme, including by sharing information and by providing the opportunity to give written and oral input and by their participation in relevant meetings.

iii. In cooperation with partners from civil society, the Secretariat will continue to organize trainings and briefings and to enable Major Groups and Stakeholders to engage actively and meaningfully in the work of the CPR and UNEA, respecting their right to self-organize.

**Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 10:**

Under the guidance of the CPR Bureau and with the support from the Secretariat, improve the identification, formulation and recording of decisions and conclusions from CPR meetings by:

a) Strategic and timely scheduling of CPR meetings.

b) High-quality and timely submission of documentation from the Secretariat, such as annotated agendas, background documentation and meeting summaries.

**Progress update and observations:**

i. The main responsibility to implement paragraph 10 a) of the outcome of the CPR-based review lies with the CPR Bureau, supported by the Secretariat. A roadmap of CPR meetings for 2022 is available

---

A similar roadmap for 2023 is under development and will be issued by the end of 2022 after consultation and approval by the CPR Bureau.

ii. The main responsibility to implement paragraph 10 b) lies with the Secretariat, where every effort is made to ensure high-quality and timely submission of background documentation to improve the identification, formulation and recording of decisions and conclusions from CPR.

### Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 11:
Under the guidance of the CPR Bureau and with the support of the Secretariat further broaden ownership and inclusiveness of CPR meetings, by:

a) facilitate remote participation of Member States without representation in Nairobi.

b) improve online access to documents and crucial information on meeting portals and the UNEA website.

### Progress update and observations:

i. The resumed session of UNEA-5 took place in a hybrid format (further details are available here), as did all the preparatory consultations under the CPR and the resumed session of OECPR-5. This practice has continued, even as the UN compound in Gigiri has reopened and most Covid-related restrictions have been lifted. It is foreseen that hybrid meetings will continue to be organized, wherever possible.

ii. Further detailed recommendations can be found in “Assessment and lessons learned from UNEA-5, 2 and UNEP@50”, section V and IV.

iii. All documents and crucial information are consistently made available at the CPR meeting portals, such as the portal for the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR.

### Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 12:
Encourage Member States which have not yet done so to accredit themselves to UNEP.

### Progress update and observations:

i. Since the resumed session of UNEA-5, only a limited number of Member States have requested accreditation to the UNEP and the CPR.

ii. Currently, 124 Member States, 2 Non-Member States and the European Union are accredited to the CPR, as well as 2 observers. Of these, 85 Member States are accredited in Nairobi and 39 are accredited from outside Nairobi.

iii. The Secretariat will facilitate accreditation by explaining why and how Member States may apply for accreditation to UNEP, before the end of 2022.

iv. Non accredited Member States are invited to reach out to the Secretariat to inquire how to become accredited to UNEA and the CPR.

### Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 13:
Without prejudice to the UNEA Rules of Procedure, in particular rule 44⁴, and to relevant decisions by the Governing Council of UNEP and by UNEA, encourage an early, inclusive and transparent inter-sessional preparatory process with appropriate Secretariat support for the timely submission, consideration and negotiation of draft resolutions and decisions tabled for adoption at future sessions of the UN Environment Assembly by recommending Member States to:

a) Devote at least half a day of the meeting of the annual subcommittee in the year preceding a UNEA session,

---

⁴ UNEA Rules of Procedure, Rule 44: “Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and submitted to the Executive Director, who shall circulate copies to the members in all the official languages of the United Nations Environment Assembly. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all members not later than the day preceding the meeting. Subject to the consent of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals or amendments even though these proposals or amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.”
to identify areas suitable for the tabling of draft resolutions and decisions and indicate, where possible, early intentions to submit draft resolutions and decisions.

b) If delegations indicate their intention to submit draft resolutions on a same or similar topic, engage with each other to foster collaboration, co-sponsorship, consolidation of the proposals, avoiding duplication of work.

c) Include a standard agenda item in all CPR meetings in the period between the meeting of the annual subcommittee and the OECPR, whereby Member States and the Secretariat are invited to provide status updates to the Committee on the development and/or preparation of draft resolutions and decisions.

d) Include a standard agenda item in joint meetings of the UNEA and CPR Bureaus between the meeting of the annual subcommittee and the OECPR to facilitate, in close consultation with the CPR, the identification of facilitators to chair the informal consultations on the draft resolutions and decisions as soon as possible for their in-depth consideration and to make efficient use of the intersessional period.

e) Respect, as far as possible, the following guidance:

- Announce the intention to table a draft resolution or decision at the annual subcommittee or at least 12 weeks in advance of UNEA;
- Provide a concept note for the draft resolution that explains the rationale and context behind the initiative, which may include relevant information on the UNEA theme, the UNEP Programme of Work, the Sustainable Development Goals, and emerging global issues that may have an impact on the environment, and UNEP’s Programme of Work.
- Submit a draft resolution or a decision at least 10 weeks in advance of UNEA, for further consideration and in-depth discussion by the CPR and its working groups in preparation for the OECPR.

Taking into account different working processes of Member States, draft resolutions and decisions shall be given the same status and recognition regardless of the timing of their submission or communication of the intention to submit draft resolutions or decisions.

f) Outline, in the operative part of draft resolutions, the actions to be taken or promoted and the addressees of the action (e.g. member States, the UN system and specific stakeholders), as well as guidance to the UNEP Secretariat to facilitate reporting and follow up.

Progress update and observations:

i. Several of the recommendations above, including the 12-week time frame, were respected by Member States in the intersessional preparatory process for the resumed session of UNEA-5.

ii. The responsibility to implement the recommendations listed under paragraph 13 for future UNEA sessions is shared between the UNEA and CPR Bureaus, and Member States themselves, supported by the Secretariat.

Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 14:
The Secretariat is requested to revise its reporting framework to:

a) Include relevant information on the status of implementation of UNEA resolutions in Programme Performance Review reports and Quarterly Reports of the Executive Director, at annual, regular, and subcommittee meetings of the CPR.

b) Further develop and implement the online monitoring and reporting tool that was launched at the 7th meeting of the Annual Sub-Committee.

c) Explore options to rationalize and streamline mandated reporting requirements to future UNEA meetings by consolidating such reports into shorter and/or fewer reports that summarize general progress of implementation and refer more detailed information to the online tool.

Progress update and observations:

i. The Secretariat has made significant efforts to develop and populate the UNEA monitoring and reporting portal to include updated and relevant information on the status of implementation of UNEA
resolutions, complemented with targeted information provided to the CPR within regular Secretariat reports such as the UNEP Programme Performance Reports and the Quarterly Report to the CPR.

ii. With regard to Paragraph 14 subparagraph c), a dedicated discussion with CPR members will take place under agenda item 8 b), supported by document UNEP/CPR/ASC/9/6.

**Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 15:**
Request the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the UNEA Bureau and the CPR, a handbook for delegates, which would serve to familiarize them with the work of UNEP, including its governing bodies, intersessional work, the work of the Bureaus, and other pertinent matters.

**Progress update and observations:**

i. The Secretariat is in the process of developing a handbook for delegates to UNEA, an outline of which will be shared for information during the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR. The plan is for the handbook to be finalized and published by the end of 2022 at the latest.

**Outcome of the CPR-based review, paragraph 16:**
Clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the Bureaus of the UN Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and its Members, including with regard to joint meetings, by providing guidance, as outlined below, for endorsement by Member States, with the understanding that it does not replace or augment the UNEA rules of procedure but rather identifies applicable rules and practices that guide the work of all members of the Bureaus to allow them to carry out their work more effectively, facilitate the nomination process for the election of officers, and prevent potential overlaps between UNEP governing bodies. The guidance note should be seen as a “living document” and would be updated, as required, by the Bureaus, with the support of the Secretariat, and in consultation with the CPR.

i. The guidance provided on the respective roles and responsibilities of the UNEA and CPR Bureaus outline has proven to offer useful information both for the nomination process for the two bureaus, when Member States are considering whether to submit their candidacy for any of the Bureaus, and during the introduction of new Members to the Bureaus.

ii. The detailed guidance on the role and function of the UNEA and CPR Bureau can be found in the final section of the outcome of the CPR-based review.

**Conclusion**

The outcome of the CPR-based review, as endorsed at the resumed session of UNEA-5, has a significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the deliberations of UNEA and its subsidiary bodies, as stated in paragraph 9 of the UNEA Decision 4/2.

In several cases, action is already well underway to implement the conclusions and recommendations in the CPR-based review. In other cases, the recommendations are targeting work relating to the preparations of UNEA-6 that are still to be determined. Member States and the Secretariat have a joint responsibility to continue efforts to promote the implementation of the recommendations to ensure full implementation by UNEA-6 and beyond.

One key aspect is to make the content of the review better known and applied among interested delegations. This agenda item serves, in part, this purpose. It also serves the purpose to identify issues of priority and provide guidance to the Secretariat, to the UNEA and CPR Bureaus and to Member States themselves on how to further strengthen the implementation of the outcome.

***