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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Annual Subcommittee Meeting
Committee of Permanent Representatives
United Nations Environment Programme
Ninth Meeting
Nairobi, 24 – 28 October 2022
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 2

Final Chair's Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, opened the meeting and welcomed its members and observers, including major groups and stakeholders.
2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Inger Andersen, delivered a [statement](#).
3. The meeting heard opening statements by regional and political groups and individual Member States, as well as major groups and stakeholders, available on the [meeting portal](#).
4. Responses by the Secretariat were addressed under the respective agenda items.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda

5. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 3: United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the reform of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. The Secretariat provided a presentation about [UNEP in the context of the UN Reform and the 2030 Agenda](#) and about [UNEP in the context of UN Management Reform](#).
7. Delegations who took the floor thanked UNEP for its important work and stressed the urgency of action, in particular with a view to the current global and environmental challenges.
8. Suggestions and follow-up actions outlined by delegates included:
 - a. Regularly brief the CPR on how UNEP is engaged in related UN system-wide strategies.
 - b. Strengthen the engagement with UN system entities to improve the mainstreaming of biodiversity and pollution in addition to climate in Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and Cooperation Frameworks (CFs).
 - c. Widen the Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Framework Assessments to include more countries and reflect regional results.

- d. Propose actions to address the fact that all SDGs – in particular those related to the environment – are not receiving the same funding priority.
 - e. Recognize that the planet is threatened by the socioeconomic crises of poverty, inequality and hunger and by multiple environmental crises and the need to ensure that no country or region is left behind from the global environmental agenda.
 - f. Provide information on digital platforms and data/digitalization initiatives managed by UNEP, including budgetary aspects.
9. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:
- a. Outlined that the Environment Management Group (EMG) is focusing on biodiversity, pollution and the Secretary-General’s “Our Common Agenda”; promoting partnerships to enhance the implementation of environmental Sustainable Development Goals; and enhancing UN leadership in sustainability management.
 - b. Highlighted that UNEP is working on Greening Economic Transformation as a key entry point to influence environmental mainstreaming in Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Frameworks.
 - c. Explained that UNEP’s New Delivery Model aims to support UNCTs and UNRC Offices through the active contribution of UNEP Technical Divisions and Regional Offices in influencing CCA and CFs and in strengthening the response to the three planetary crises.
 - d. Noted that UNEP has established a network of UNCT country focal points covering over 100 countries, who work with relevant UNEP Divisions for analysis and follow-up, which has helped to better respond to the needs of UNCTs.
 - e. Explained - on Issue-Based Coalitions and results - that: the Asia-Pacific Office co-chairs with ESCAP the Climate Change Mitigation and Air Pollution IBC and supports two other with the environment and cross-cutting issues and has contributed to the development of all CFs; the West Asia Office and ESCWA are co-chairing the IBC on Environment, Climate and Food Security, under which they delivered a capacity development workshop for Climate negotiators ahead of COP27 as well as the one on Urbanization; the Africa Office is a co-convenor of the Fostering Climate Action and Resilience IBC and is co-chairing the environment results group in five countries, working on joint work plans in 10 countries and CRs in 22 countries; the Europe Office co-chairs the IBC on Environment and Climate Change with UNECE; and the Latin America and Caribbean Office co-chairs the IBC on Climate Change/Resilience and is providing support to CCAs and CFs in eight countries.
 - f. Pointed out that UNEP was responding to UN Country needs with technical expertise, such as the piloting of surge funding to the substantive Divisions in coordination with UNEP regional offices
 - g. Further explained, regarding the three planetary crises, that UNEP approaches to support countries through an environmental lens which cuts across all the SDGs to ensure an integrated approach to UN country programming.

Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Programme of work and budget 2022-2023 of the United Nations Environment Programme

10. The Secretariat delivered a presentation on the [implementation of the programme of work and budget](#).

Regional Office for Africa

11. Suggestions and follow-up actions outlined by delegates included:
- a. Increase coordination, cooperation and partnerships with the African Union Commission and its institutions to continue promoting the environmental agenda in the region.
 - b. Provide information on the status of operationalization of National Focal Points for all 54 African Member States.
 - c. Support the UN System at the regional and country level to integrate the environmental dimension of SDGs into Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Frameworks.
 - d. Further knowledge sharing, capacity building and technology access.
 - e. Ensure better coherence and coordination with UNRCs and UNCTs to effectively deliver upon UNEP’s objectives, and to respond to the specific needs and priorities of countries in addressing the three planetary crises. Enhance the Regional Office’s country footprint through continuous engagement with national governments and also while working with or through other organizations.
 - f. Furnish information on how the Regional Office provides guidance to national governments at the country level, particularly in light of the shortcomings in coordination with UNCTs.
 - g. Continue the Poverty–Environment Action Initiative (PEA) which is scheduled to come to an end in December 2022.

- h. Ensure that South-South Cooperation goes beyond information sharing to also include the sharing of advanced knowledge, expertise and best practices.
 - i. Assist countries in the global South to develop and implement environmental protection actions that contribute to addressing major socio-economic challenges such as unemployment, energy deficiency and food insecurity.
 - j. Ensure that UNEP's Regional Offices learn from each other, including through the sharing of success stories.
 - k. Provide information on the Regional Office engagement with the Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) in Africa and increase support to MGS in Africa to further their participation in the implementation of UNEP projects, prioritizing the special needs and circumstances of African countries and communities at the grassroots level.
12. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:
- a. Noted that on Living in Harmony with Nature, ROA is focusing on applying different scenarios to policy decisions to assess which ones enhance environmental sustainability.
 - b. Additionally noted that ROA has a liaison office in Addis Ababa to increase synergies with the African Union Commission and its institutions.
 - c. Confirmed UNEP's strategic inputs to countries' development plans through ROA's participation in CCA preparation – a key component in the development of Cooperation Frameworks.
 - d. Ensured the provision of technical support to countries through the Regional Collaborative Platform and Opportunities/Issues based Coalition that address specific thematic areas.
 - e. Explained that, under the new MTS and delivery model, the role of the Regional Office is driving thought leadership and enhancing engagement with UNCTs as well as gathering intelligence on emerging issues; this information is provided to Divisions to help align programming to national and regional priorities.

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

13. Suggestions and follow-up actions outlined by delegates included:
- a. Provide information on how gender equality is included in UNEP's operations more broadly.
 - b. Provide more detailed information in writing on how UNEP Divisions and Regional Offices collaborate in the region, what are the strategic priorities and how the implementation of the Programme of Work has succeeded.
 - c. Increase stakeholder participation and visibility of UNEP's work and potentially collaborate with universities and research institutes.
14. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:
- a. Noted the need for stronger and continued multi-stakeholder engagement in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process on plastics for the raw material monitoring mechanism, means of implementation, financial mechanism and engagement with business.
 - b. Recognized the importance of regional-level transboundary coordination to address air and marine pollution and the need to promote greater visibility of UNEP at the country level.
 - c. Explained that UNEP is currently developing its new gender policy, informed by the gender evaluation completed in July 2022. The policy will contribute to focus on increasing staff capacity, ensure better budget allocation for gender activities within programmes and projects, and to strengthen the gender architecture within UNEP. Under the joint UNEP and UN Women project "EmPower", with support from the Swedish government, more than 400 women derived economic benefits and climate resilient livelihoods from access to renewable energy.
 - d. Highlighted UNEP's active role with other UN system agencies in the Pacific's UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework which reflects the three planetary crises and UNEP's engagement with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
 - e. Committed to provide an update on the modalities of collaboration between UNEP Divisions and Regional Offices in the region.
 - f. Noted that UNEP was working with universities and research institutions in the region such as the Institut Teknologi Bandung "ITB", Asian Institute of Technology, Tsinghua University, Tongji University) but that there was potential to increase such engagement.

Regional Office for Europe

15. Suggestions and follow-up actions outlined by delegates included:
 - a. Align the timing of annual programme performance reviews with UNEP's reporting cycle.
 - b. Provide information on what the Interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention is planning to do to revive its work, in view of a perceived decline in its performance.
 - c. Provide more detailed analysis on how successfully initiatives were implemented, how outcomes contributed to improving the situation in these countries, and which initiatives are working particularly well in the European countries.
 - d. Provide additional information on the experience of working with UNEP's Divisions, the impact on strategic and regional effectiveness, the promotion of the digitalization agenda and cooperation with WHO and UNECE on air pollution in the region.

16. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:
 - a. Explained that projects always depend on the overall agreed project framework for the implementation of the Programme of Work.
 - b. Clarified that working with two UN Regional Groups does not adversely impact upon UNEP's work across the region vis-a-vis either policy dialogue or activity implementation. The fact that the Regional Office deals with two UN Regional Groups means that it needs to address transboundary and connectivity issues, which may be challenging in some ways, but this does not affect its operational effectiveness.
 - c. Mentioned that, at the request of the UNCT in Serbia, the Regional Office contributed to the Task Team on Air Pollution and delivered an interagency webinar on air pollution from domestic heating, which was integrated into national policies in Serbia.
 - d. Noted, on the Tehran Convention, that the Interim Secretariat is looking at options to be presented to the Contracting Parties further to the inconclusive COP held in October in Baku.
 - e. Also noted that a focal point for Europe has been nominated to focus on legislative processes to facilitate the implementation of digitalization processes and its integration into policy making.
 - f. Further noted that the CPR subcommittee meeting planned for 13 December, when a briefing will be provided on UNEP's engagement in Disaster and Conflict, will be an opportunity to consider relevant reports within the context of the briefing.

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

17. Suggestions and follow-up actions outlined by delegates included:
 - a. Scale-up investments and action urgently for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean and provide additional reporting on resources mobilized, projects under implementation and the main areas of UNEP's work in this region.
 - b. Provide more consistent and dedicated support to accelerate the implementation of the Bridgetown Declaration of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, which constitutes an important platform to agree on regional environmental priorities.
 - c. Elaborate on what is needed to support UNEP's work in the Caribbean, including to scale-up its assistance to this sub-region.
 - d. Emphasize that the Escazú Agreement serves as an important instrument for civil society across the region to have effective access to environmental justice, participation and information.

18. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:
 - a. Explained that ROLAC is working on mobilizing more resources for the Caribbean and on advancing the implementation of the Forum's Decision for Caribbean SIDS as well as other strategic initiatives for the sub-region.
 - b. Noted that funding remains an important challenge to fully implement the Programme of Work and the priorities identified by the Member States in the region however UNEP is working on innovative financing instruments and broadening partnerships.
 - c. Explained that ROLAC's work with civil society and major groups in the region needs to be further strengthened and build upon mechanisms such as consultations conducted in the Forum of Ministers and the support provided to several countries to implement the Escazú Agreement.
 - d. Highlighted that ROLAC is working closely with all UNEP Divisions in the implementation of the new delivery model and sees this as an opportunity to enhance regional capacities and increase strategic impact.

Regional Office for North America

19. Suggestions and follow-up actions outlined by delegates included:
 - a. Continue RONA's successful efforts in increasing the visibility of UNEP in the region.
 - b. Engage in upcoming circular economy projects with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

Regional Office for West Asia

20. Suggestions and follow-up actions outlined by delegates included:
 - a. Strengthen partnerships at different levels and continue to support countries to facilitate their access to funding, technical support, capacity-building and knowledge sharing.
 - b. Strengthen collaboration between thematic Divisions and Regional Offices when it comes to projects and risks related to the Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work.
 - c. Provide information on UNEP's role in the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) and the engagement of Major Groups in this initiative.
 - d. Provide information on the participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) in the Stockholm +50 regional meetings.
 - e. Support the organization of the Youth Forum in the MENA region and strengthen engagement with environmental defenders in the region.
21. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:
 - a. Highlighted that the Regional Offices are working closely with HQ Divisions to ensure effective implementation of the Programme of Work taking into consideration the region's priorities.
 - b. Noted that UNEP plays a technical role in the design of the MGI, and it is within the authority of the Member State that launched this initiative to engage MGS.
 - c. Clarified that all stakeholders in the region and beyond were invited by different means to be part of the Stockholm + 50 regional consultations.
 - d. Acknowledged the importance of engaging with youth and that the Regional Office will be reaching out on this matter to representatives of Youth and Children.

Agenda item 5: Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the context of the programme of work

22. The Secretariat delivered a presentation on the [UNEA Monitoring and Reporting Portal](#) to consider the implementation on the outcomes of UNEA in the context of the programme of work.
23. Suggestions and follow-up actions requested by delegates included:
 - a. Provide additional training sessions and orientations for delegations, including new delegates, on the Monitoring and Reporting Portal vis-a-vis access, use and reporting and improve access to the Portal in order to address technical challenges encountered by a number of delegations.
 - b. Provide analytics on how the portal is being used, feedback received, and trends observed on implementation.
 - c. Conduct more direct engagement with thematical leads on resolutions vis-a-vis implementation.
 - d. Provide dedicated discussions and details on the implementation of resolutions, including implementation plans and funding requirements vis-a-vis the programme of work and budget.
 - e. Share disaggregated budgetary information in relation to the status of implementation of resolutions.
 - f. Provide information on linkages between resolutions, sub-programmes and their indicators and outputs to ensure an integrated approach to implementation.
 - g. Implement resolutions in an integrated and synergistic manner aligning the implementation to the extent possible with the PoW to ensure effective use of financial resources and staff and to bring multiple benefits.
 - h. Avoid setting a hierarchy between resolutions and give equal attention to their implementation.
 - i. Ensure participation of youth in the follow-up work related to implementation of resolutions.
24. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:
 - a. Committed to continued improvements to the portal including conducting dedicated training sessions for delegations, including new delegates, having a help desk email to ensure timely support to users in different time zones and rectifying access errors to the Portal.
 - b. Further clarified that there are plans underway to enhance the accessibility of the Portal for Member

- States and stakeholders.
- c. Noted the request to increase briefings and reports to the Member States on the implementation of specific resolutions, including identifying key issues for discussion and recommendation, analysis of challenges, opportunities and lessons learned.
 - d. Noted the importance of resolutions as expressions of priorities for Member States and took note of the guidance provided on the implementation of specific UNEA-resolutions.
25. The meeting recommended:
- a. To better understand how new resolutions fit with the Programme of Work and the MTS, the preparations for negotiations should provide; (i) an update on the state of play on existing resolutions; (ii) preliminary implementation plans indicating linkages with the PoW accompanied by a resource mobilization plan, including information on financial and human resources expected and available; and (iii) expected partners vis-a-vis substantive implementation.
 - b. To consider various options to ensure minimum funding from unearmarked financial resources dedicated to the implementation of adopted UNEA resolutions, such as a possible future agreement by Member States on an unallocated increase of the Environment Fund dedicated for this purpose.
 - c. To make full use of the Secretariat technical notes for draft resolutions with regard to estimated budget implications.

Agenda item 6: Organizational effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme

a) Organizational approach to the delivery of the medium-term strategy 2022-2025 and programme of work

26. The Secretariat delivered a presentation on [UNEP's Delivery Model](#).
27. Expressing general support for the implementation of the Delivery Model to further effective coordination and cooperation between the Divisions and Regional Offices, suggestions and follow-up actions requested by delegates included:
 - a. Inform how the Delivery Model will be rolled out in practice and clarification on how it will change project implementation and work with implementing partners.
 - b. Elaborate on lessons learned, implementation challenges, and whether a pilot phase was undertaken.
 - c. Clarify how cross-cutting issues such as gender, poverty, disasters and conflicts will be included in the Delivery Model.
28. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:
 - a. Emphasized that the Delivery Model is putting into Policy what has already been a general practice.
 - b. Clarified how the Delivery Model works in practice, including describing the role of Regional Offices in identifying country and regional needs for UNEP support and subsequently bringing in the needed support from the technical divisions.
 - c. Affirmed that the Delivery Model will not change how UNEP implements projects and consequently will not impact upon how UNEP works with implementing partners.
 - d. Noted that one challenge of rolling out the Delivery Model is the funding of Regional Offices to strengthen their support to and engagement with UNCTs.
 - e. Clarified that Regional Offices received funding from the Environment Fund to support Resident Coordinators and UNCT engagement as part of their new role.
 - f. Confirmed that while there was no pilot of the Delivery Model, the Model was launched in September 2022 after more than one year of internal consultations.
 - g. Clarified that the Delivery Model will not impact upon cross-cutting issues unless Regional Offices identify the need to tackle them in their regions following consultations with countries.

b) Operational efficiency and effectiveness

29. The Secretariat delivered a presentation about [UNEP's operational efficiency and effectiveness](#).
30. Suggestions and follow-up actions requested by delegates included:

- a. Continue to provide further information and clarification on policies in place to address Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment including mechanisms in place to address these with Implementing Partners.
- b. Continue to provide more information on audits and how relevant issues such as SEA, Fraud and Corruption were reported to Member States and provide access to these reports.
- c. Maintain the progress achieved with the increased rate of audit implementation and provide further information regularly on outstanding audits and cases of misconduct.
- d. Continue to provide further information on the steps and actions taken to improve geographical and regional diversity in the Secretariat.
- e. Continue to provide updates on ongoing progress and results achieved particularly in the areas identified as high risk.
- f. Include updates on audits and evaluation as a standing agenda item for the annual subcommittee of the CPR and to proactively share reports relevant to UNEP with the CPR.
- g. Continue to notify donor countries as per the provision of Paragraph 61 of the Policy on Anti-Fraud and Corruption.

31. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:

- a. Explained there are two policies: the sexual harassment policy and the policy on sexual exploitation and abuse prevention. The first has been changed across the UN system as a matter of urgency to become victim-centered, focus on retraining investigators, and increase the number of female investigators. Mandatory staff training has improved, activities can be traced between agencies, and policies apply inside and outside of the compounds. On sexual exploitation and abuse, there is a rapporteur from the USG who has provided briefing to the whole compound and general awareness has been raised ensuring implementation across the board.
- b. Noted that all job openings for senior UNEP positions have been announced to Member States and are being considered under the lenses of equitable geographical distribution.

c) Presentation from the Evaluation Office of the United Nations Environment Programme

32. The Evaluation Office delivered a presentation on the [Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report 2020-2021](#), followed by a [response from the Secretariat](#). The Evaluation Office also delivered a presentation on the [Evaluation of the Gender Policy and Strategy](#), followed by a [response from the Secretariat](#).

Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report 2020-2021

33. Suggestions and follow-up actions requested by delegates included:

- a. Reflect upon improvements UNEP has made in future evaluation reports, including performance on indicators.
- b. Provide information of the leadership's strategy for looking beyond outputs and strengthening outcomes.
- c. Assess whether UMOJA will have a positive impact upon project management at UNEP and what other measures may be necessary to attain further improvements.
- d. Shift resource mobilization from earmarked to more flexible types of funding, given that factors impeding improvements in efficiency ratings appear related to earmarked funding instruments.
- e. Improve project monitoring through plans that are well-developed and implemented, utilizing budgetary allocations for monitoring.
- f. Provide information on what measures will be taken to address inadequacies in performance vis-a-vis project sustainability, likelihood of impact and human rights.
- g. Improve the integration of poverty reduction within projects.
- h. Develop an overarching narrative of the three planetary crises at the project level, as a contribution to the overarching goal of sustainable development.
- i. Address environmental and socioeconomic aspects in parallel to further impact vis-a-vis project sustainability and durability.
- j. Continue to engage local community groups in providing solutions and opportunities for engagement in environmental governance.

34. The Secretariat made the following clarifications:

- a. Noted its confidence on the potential of the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) solution to manage substantive and programmatic activities, in addition to the administrative processes

it already supports. By integrating Umoja modules such as Strategic Management, Budget Formulation, and Project System, the IPMR solution offers a holistic, end-to-end solution to manage the lifecycle of UN programmes and projects. This enables clear linkages between resources and results frameworks, to strategically communicate programmatic results.

- b. Highlighted that over the past 18 months, UNEP and UN-Habitat have been working closely with the IPMR team in New York to ensure that UNEP's requirements are met.
- c. Noted that the IPMR solution will further improve project management and efficiency with its ability to associate expenditure with the delivery of outputs and outcomes.
- d. Explained that in developing a narrative on poverty and its relationships to the process of sustainable development, a consultant will support UNEP's efforts in implementing the recommendations stemming from the Independent Review of UNEP's Contributions to Poverty Reduction.
- e. Highlighted the positive results from the Quarterly Business Review, which led to a visible increase in project management implementation as well as responses to evaluation recommendations.
- f. Welcomed the recently approved Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production (2023-2030) and the new implementation approach developed by the 10YFP Secretariat, which feeds from the main lessons of the evaluation and contributes to implementing UNEP MTS and UNEA Resolution 5/11.
- g. Informed that the Secretariat is enhancing its efficiency standards and administrative processes and is committed to continue working on more flexible funding avenues.
- h. Informed that to enhance the sustainability of projects and likelihood of impact, several new processes are under development under a broader delivery model package.
- i. Clarified that the evaluation process typically takes 9-12 months to complete. The projects considered in this review were completed just before the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore, the effects may not have impacted the findings.
- j. Acknowledged the voices of indigenous peoples and civil society to be heard in project management and implementation.

Evaluation of UNEP's Gender Policy and Strategy 2015-2021

35. Suggestions and follow-up actions requested by delegates included:

- a. Highlighted the importance of gender mainstreaming and acknowledged the effectiveness of the gender policy being implemented.
- b. Recommended that the Secretariat utilize lessons learned from the successful implementation of the gender policy and strategy in strengthening geographical diversity.
- c. Queried on when the Secretariat will provide further progress report on the results of the evaluation and its recommendations.
- d. Key suggestions and follow-up questions included:
 - i. Ensure a rights-based approach and leave no one behind in the financial allocation and monitoring process for gender.
 - ii. Vet gender monitoring tools by UN agencies as well as NGOs and CBOs which would aid in bridging the gap between these stakeholders.
 - iii. Have tools for gender-mainstreaming and prevention of sexual harassment and abuse.
 - iv. Engage Gender and Safeguards Unit at all levels of project development as an organizational priority.
 - v. Provide networking opportunities to enhance information sharing among the gender focal points.
 - vi. Focus on more gender disaggregated data and fair inclusion opportunities in the evaluation report.
 - vii. Note the perceptions from the survey on gender parity impeding male staff progression, further clarification sought on the extent of the perception of male disenfranchisement and what UNEP is doing to counter this opinion.
 - viii. Encourage increased collaboration of UNEP with partner agencies for broader gender mainstreaming impact.
 - ix. Provide information on how UNEP will use the lessons learned from this evaluation and interagency approaches.
 - x. Ensure involvement of Member States and Civil Society Organizations in the review of the updated Gender Policy and Strategy prior to its finalization.

36. The Secretariat provided the following comments:
- a. Explained its intention to appoint a High-level Task Force and convene an independent, external Gender Expert Advisory Group. The work of the Task Force is expected to take effect from early 2023 and conclude in the second quarter of 2023. The Task Force will provide oversight on (i) the current development of the second policy and strategy for Gender Equality and the Environment; and (ii) the development of the internal staff capacity building strategy and implementation plan;
 - b. Explained that the Policy and Strategy for Gender Equality (2014-2017) was fully aligned with the UNSWAP1.0 and has been used as a monitoring and accountability framework for implementation.
 - c. Highlighted UNEP's commitment to ensuring the full integration of gender equality perspectives across the full programme life cycle which has been reiterated in the MTS 2022-2025.
 - d. Explained that the Programme Performance Reviews and Quarterly Reports provide regular communication to the Member States and staff on the gender parity achievements.
 - e. Committed to strengthen its gender architecture and enhanced engagement of the Gender and Safeguards Unit and Gender Focal Points towards improving its ability to meet its commitments stated in the MTS 2022-2025 and to exceed the UNSWAP 2.0 performance indicators.
 - f. Noted that increasing visibility of gender-related knowledge generated from UNEP's actions is essential.
 - g. Explained that from 2016 UNEP has one staff member dedicated to reviewing all publications and provides advise on where gender equality perspectives are missing.
 - h. Highlighted the aspect of geographical representation will be looked into via a gender lens in the new gender policy
 - i. Ensured there is effective communication on gender in terms of how it will be addressed in the new gender policy.
 - j. Highlighted that a needs-of-stakeholders survey was done in 2021 with results from 70 civil society groups received which will support the provision of relevant gender mainstreaming tools. The secretariat will investigate how these tools can be provided.

Agenda item 7: Financial outlook and funding challenges for the United Nations Environment Programme

37. This is the first time that funding challenges formed part of the ASC agenda. The [concept note](#) prepared by the Secretariat provides the background for this session. Following a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat on UNEP's funding situation, outlook and funding challenges, the Secretariat organized an interactive panel discussion. The Secretariat will provide a separate detailed report on the panel discussion, their recommendations and the dialogue that followed.
38. Delegations provided the following comments:
- a. Expressed concern for the status of core funding; the imbalance of core and earmarked funding. Less than half of Member States contribute to the Environment Fund and less than one quarter contributes their full share in accordance with the VISC. UNEP relies on a narrow funding base, whereby the top 15 contributors represents over 90% of the contributions to the Environment Fund.
 - b. Confirmed that the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (VISC) remains a useful tool and requested the Secretariat to continue explaining its rationale especially to Member States that do not yet contribute their full share in accordance with the VISC.
 - c. Welcomed and requested more information about the newly established three Thematic Funds which are designed to provide additional flexible funding to support UNEP's mandate, with several delegates expressing support to the Funds while other delegates expressed concern that they could cause a diversion of funding from the Environment Fund.
 - d. Urged Member States that do not yet contribute to the Environment Fund to do so in order to fund the mandate of UNEP and recognizing the universal responsibility of funding UNEP.
 - e. Noted that commitments by Member States and UNEP under the Funding Compact need to be taken into consideration. Stressed the importance to liaise with Permanent Representations in Nairobi, also seeking their support in identifying the right people to approach in capitals to discuss funding – including reaching out to Ministries beyond Ministry of Environment.
 - f. Supported the idea of establishing a 'Friends of UNEP' network to drive the funding agenda to contribute to addressing the three planetary crises.
 - g. Recalled the invitation to the UN General Assembly to consider, as appropriate, the level of regular-budget funding required to help UNEP to fulfil its mandate, taking into account the Programme's approved work programme and General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), as stated in the Political declaration of the special session of UNEA to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the

establishment of UNEP.

39. Suggestions and follow-up actions requested by delegates included:
- a. Better coordinate various UNEP requests for core funding and earmarked funding to address the perceived competition between such requests.
 - b. Explore further broadening the donor base by further exploring partnerships with the International Financial Institutions, the private sector, the philanthropic sector and foundations, to leverage additional financial resources.
 - c. Enhance the use of pooled funds and joint programmes with other UN agencies to leverage the comparative advantages and funding of the UN system in support of the implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work.
 - d. Promote bilateral dialogue on funding to analyze barriers and root causes of non-contributions.
 - e. Offer briefings on funding to regional groups in Nairobi and regional Ministerial meetings, supported by UNEP Regional Offices.
 - f. Continue the funding dialogue with the CPR and consider how to address the funding challenges at UNEA-6.
 - g. Increase the visibility and appreciation of contributors of core funding, including those that provide their full share in accordance with the VISC, those who provide multiyear funding, and top contributors.
 - h. Better recognize in-kind contributions, such as funding of Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) and hosting of Centers of Excellence, and conferences and events.
 - i. Increase and strengthen the communication on UNEP's results, especially results achieved with core funding, and UNEP's added value, as an incentive for all Member States to contribute to the Environment Fund and as a means to raise the visibility of UNEP also at national level where budget decisions are made, and also with taxpayers.

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

a) Overall status of implementation of the outcome

40. The Secretariat delivered a [presentation about the status of the implementation of the Outcome of the consensual process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#). A [background note](#) prepared by the Secretariat provides further information.
41. Suggestions and follow-up actions requested by delegates included:
- a. Welcomed the general progress made in the implementation of the outcome.
 - b. Regarding implementation of paragraph 1 of the Outcome, welcomed the consultative process initiated by the UNEA President and Bureau to identify a theme for UNEA-6.
 - c. Regarding implementation of paragraph 2 of the Outcome, reiterated the importance of an effective, participatory and inclusive intersessional preparatory process for UNEA-6.
 - d. Regarding implementation of paragraph 3, reiterated the importance of an early, inclusive and transparent inter-sessional preparatory process, including with regard to timely tabling of draft resolutions complemented by Secretariat technical notes outlining legal and budgetary implications, and of the [Assessment and lessons learned from UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50](#), as endorsed by the CPR at its 158th meeting on 26 May 2022, in the preparation of UNEA-6.
 - e. Regarding implementation of paragraph 5 of the Outcome, encouraged the UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat to carefully consider how to create an optimal balance between political negotiations, the UNEA high-level segment, and official and non-official UNEA events for UNEA-6, in particular with regard to the number of formal and informal negotiation groups working in parallel at the OECPR and UNEA.
 - f. Regarding implementation of paragraph 6 of the Outcome, recommended the UNEA Bureau to propose an amendment to the draft provisional agenda to UNEA-6 to include a new agenda item entitled "Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements".
 - g. Regarding implementation of paragraph 7 of the Outcome, invited relevant Regional Ministerial Fora, supported by UNEP Regional Offices, to consider the agenda and timing of their meetings to maximize their contributions to UNEA-6.
 - h. Regarding implementation of paragraph 8 of the Outcome, underlined the need for key UNEP scientific assessments to inform the preparations of UNEA-6.

- i. Regarding implementation of paragraph 9 of the Outcome, encouraged the Secretariat to continue to facilitate and strengthen the participation of and meaningful involvement of representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders at UNEA-6 and its preparatory process.
- j. Regarding implementation of paragraph 10 of the Outcome, recommended the CPR Bureau supported by the Secretariat to: i) prepare a strategically planned roadmap for CPR quarterly and subcommittee meetings, indicating provisional relevant agenda items, well in advance of the meetings; ii) develop a standing agenda for quarterly CPR meetings that will include a report of the CPR subcommittees with recommendations for consideration by the CPR, quarterly reports to the CPR, relevant audits and evaluation reports, and preparations for UNEA-6; iii) prepare annotated agendas well in advance to the meetings that provides information on background documents, focus of the discussion and possible recommendations; iv) prepare background documents well in advance that will include possible recommendations; and v) clearly outline agreed recommendations and decisions in the report of the CPR, with the understanding that there is a specific agenda item during which those recommendations are agreed upon.
- k. Regarding implementation of paragraph 11 of the Outcome, welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to organize hybrid and online meetings to facilitate remote participation of delegations, and requested continuation of this practice, while highlighting the role of Nairobi as the UNEP headquarters.
- l. Regarding implementation of paragraph 12 of the Outcome, underlined the importance of increasing the membership of the CPR and requested the Secretariat to inform, facilitate and encourage Member States who are not yet accredited to do so.
- m. Regarding implementation of paragraph 13 of the Outcome, underlined the importance of implementing this paragraph in full in preparation for UNEA-6, including by scheduling the 10th meeting of the annual subcommittee to facilitate the announcement of draft resolutions and decisions for UNEA-6, if possible, on the basis of advance versions of the Executive Director's reports to UNEA-6.
- n. Regarding implementation of paragraph 15 of the Outcome, welcomed the Secretariat's intention to develop a handbook for UNEA delegates with the aim to finalize and publish the handbook by the end of 2022 or early 2023, and requested the Secretariat to develop an online directory of Secretariat focal points to complement the existing directory of CPR delegates.
- o. Regarding implementation of paragraph 16 of the Outcome, recognized the usefulness of the guidance provided on the respective roles and responsibilities of the UNEA and CPR Bureaus as contained in the final section of the Outcome.

b) Consideration of the performance reporting of the United Nations Environment Programme (paragraph 14 (c))

42. The Secretariat delivered a [presentation](#) with seven recommendations to rationalize and streamline mandated reporting requirements in light of paragraph 14 (c) of the outcome of the process for review by the CPR. The recommendations are included in section the [background note](#) for this agenda item.
43. In the dialogue that followed the presentation, Member States welcomed the recommendations.

Agenda item 9: Consultation on the theme for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

44. The Secretariat presented the three options as contained in the [background document](#).
45. The President of UNEA outlined a tentatively timeline for consultation:
 - a. For the month of November, consultations led by the President's team to be held with the regional and political groups, Major Groups and Stakeholders, and Chairs of regional and political groups.
 - b. During the month of December, a UNEA Bureau meeting to be held on 7 December to review a revised options paper, including comments received during consultations; and a discussion held during the subcommittee meeting of the CPR on 13 December.
 - c. In January 2023, possible additional consultations to be held with Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders, as needed; and a final decision to be taken by the UNEA Bureau during the joint UNEA and CPR bureaus retreat scheduled for 30-31 January 2023 in Morocco.
46. Suggestions and comments were made by delegates as follows:

- a. Acknowledged that the options paper forms a good basis for further consultation and recognized useful elements in all of the suggested themes.
 - b. Stressed the need for an open, inclusive and transparent consultation with Member States as well as with all Major Group and Stakeholder, including youth, leading to a consensual theme.
 - c. Welcomed the proposed timeline for consultations but suggested flexibility to allow for sufficient time for consultations.
 - d. Proposed that the theme should reflect UNEP's mandate and be informed by science; should be broad but also focused to highlight and strengthen the role of UNEA as the world's highest decision-making body on the environment; and guide the resolutions of UNEA-6.
 - e. Pointed out the importance of using agreed concepts and language for the theme.
 - f. General support was provided for options 1 and 3; and some clear reservations were expressed for option 2.
 - g. Proposed various alterations to the proposed themes, including that option 1 reads: (i) "Environmental multilateralism fit for future peace and prosperity: towards healthy economies, healthy societies and a healthy planet"; or (ii) Environmental multilateralism fit for the future: towards strong economies, inclusive societies and a resilient planet.
 - h. Also proposed an alternate formulation that option 3 reads "Addressing the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution by aligning commitments".
 - i. Noted that there was a sense of urgency across all 3 proposed themes and suggested that in any chosen theme there should be use of the words on urgency and on the need to galvanize action.
 - j. Major Groups and Stakeholders proposed a new option on "Circularity towards healthy communities, societies and the planet".
47. The President of UNEA took note of the suggestions and revisions suggested and recognized the convergence to options 1 and 3 and noted that some elements from option 2 and from new ideas proposed by Major Groups could also be considered for integration to the theme. The President suggested that the Secretariat revise the options paper taking into account all the comments provided during this session as well as those that will be forthcoming during the transparent and inclusive consultations to be undertaken.

Agenda item 10. Consideration of a draft Chair's summary of the meeting

48. The meeting endorsed the Chair's summary, noting reservation expressed by a delegation regarding paragraph 33 (h).

Agenda item 11: Other matters

49. Suggestions and comments were made by Major Groups and Stakeholders as follows:
- a. Encouraged Member States to allocate funding to facilitate the participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the meetings of the CPR, the intergovernmental negotiating committee on plastic pollution, the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science policy panel and processes leading to UNEA-6.
 - b. Encouraged Member States to recognize gender just and inclusive mechanisms in addressing global environmental and climate change issues.
 - c. Requested an implementation plan for UNEA resolutions.
 - d. Proposed to the Bureau of the CPR to consider inviting the members of the Major Groups facilitating committee to periodically join the Bureau meetings of the CPR.

Agenda item 12: Closing of the meeting

50. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Inger Andersen, delivered closing remarks.
51. The meeting closed at 4:45 p.m.