
**160th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 8 December 2022
Conference Room 2
14:00 – 17:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting

**160th resumed meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

12 January 2023
Conference Room 1
14:00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)

Hybrid meeting

Chair's Summary

Note: This Chair's summary complements the detailed meeting report prepared by the UN Office in Nairobi in advance for adoption at the next meeting of the Committee. All pre-meeting and post-meeting documents, including statements provided in writing by Member States, are available [here](#).

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

1. H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland, opened the meeting on 8 December 2022 at 14:00 (GMT+3). Due to technical issues, the meeting was suspended at 14:45 (GMT+3) and resumed on 12 January 2023 at 14:00 (GMT+3).
2. The meeting welcomed newly arrived representatives and bid farewell to departing representatives.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 160th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the 160th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/160/1](#).

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 159th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The [draft minutes](#) of the 159th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives were adopted.

Agenda Item 4: Adoption of the Chair's Summary of the 9th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

5. The Committee adopted the [Chair's Summary](#) of the 9th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held from 24 to 28 October 2022.

Agenda Item 5: Report of the Executive Director.

6. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Director to introduce the [Quarterly Report to the 160th meeting of the CPR](#), available [here](#).
7. Delegations that took the floor made the following comments and observations:
 - a. Welcomed the statement and the informative report of the Executive Director and commended her efforts to keep environmental issues high on the global political agenda.
 - b. Welcomed UNEP's work in conflict areas and expressed appreciation on the ongoing assistance to Ukraine to assess the wide extent of environmental destruction caused by the ongoing armed conflict.
 - c. Recalled the technical nature of UNEP's work and emphasized that CPR meetings are not the appropriate forum to discuss geopolitical issues and conflicts.
 - d. Welcomed the formalization of the Bern process for biodiversity and noted the need for a Junior Professional Officer to be based in Nairobi to support the process.
 - e. Welcomed the collaboration between the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) and the World Meteorological Organization and called for updates on the status of the SOFF and the proposed financial targets.
 - f. Welcomed the UNEP's support to the INC process on plastic pollution, underlining its high relevance for the environmental agenda.
 - g. Appreciated the work undertaken by UNEP to promote gender and geographical balance, called for its sustained prioritization, and queried what would constitute an adequate geographical balance among regions vis-à-vis staff at P4 level and above.
 - h. Requested UNEP Regional Directors to be available for dialogue with Governments upon request and recommended that the vacant position of UNEP Regional Director for Europe should be filled in a timely manner.
 - i. Noted that UNEP cannot reach its potential when a majority of Member States do not provide core funding, and called upon Member States who had not yet contributed to do so.
 - j. Called for increased support by UNEP to combat open dumping and waste trafficking.
 - k. Invited UNEP to provide further information on the Youth and Education Alliance (YEA!) Summit.
 - l. One Member States recommended the UNEP Executive Director to attend the Quarterly Meetings of the CPR in person, while other Member States noted the merits for the Executive Director to participate in relevant international meetings taking place outside Nairobi.
 - m. Invited the UNEP to share more information on the outcomes and the training materials from a webinar on Sustainable Finance as referred to the in the Quarterly Report.
 - n. Called for UNEP Quarterly Reports to reflect further on opportunities, challenges and lessons from reported activities, reporting thematically under the three strategic pillars as well as on cross-cutting issues, and providing relevant updates on the implementation of UNEA resolutions.
 - o. Stressed the importance of UN General Assembly resolution 76/300 on the human right to a healthy environment called for a common understanding on how to integrate human rights with sustainable development, and encouraged UNEP to contribute to this work.
 - p. One delegation expressed concern over the construction of a barbed wire fence by Poland across a nature reserve and called for further dialogue on the issue with the engagement of international experts, including possible referral of the matter to the Bern Convention or to the Council of Europe.
 - q. Reminded UNEP of the importance of providing financial assistance to promote the participation of delegates from developing countries in UNEP-organized multilateral meetings.
8. The Secretariat provided the following comments and responses:
 - a. Took note of the recommendations on how to improve the Quarterly Report, recalling that the report is intended to provide an overview of relevant UNEP activities over a 3-month period and is complemented by detailed annual Programme Performance Review reports, and reminded

- delegations that the Quarterly Report is already structured thematically in line with the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy and the Programme of Work.
- b. Noted also that the UNEA Monitoring, and Reporting Portal and the UNEP Open Data portal provides significant information on resolutions which is openly accessible online. Action had been taken to improve easy access to the portal, and dedicated training sessions on how to apply the portal will be held on 26 January (online) and on 7 February (in-person).
 - c. Clarified that UNEP has followed up with the UN Resident Coordinator in Belarus as well as the Minister of Environment in Belarus on the issue of the construction of a barbed wire fence as referred to above, and that an expert-level meeting is planned in this regard.
 - d. Confirmed that UNEP works closely with WMO and other partners on the SOFF, with commitments made at COP27 totaling USD 20 million.
 - e. Welcomed the organization of the Youth and Education Alliance Summit which brought together over 100 leaders from higher education and youth movements to discuss how they can act for nature and the climate; and noted in this context that UNEP is working with over 1000 universities that have joined the race to zero to comply and align themselves with the Paris Accord, and that a joint dialogue is underway with UNESCO on how to align climate education with school curriculums. UNEP is also contributing to the green jobs for youth pact launched by the UN Secretary General.
 - f. Noted UNEP complies with and monitors the General Assembly guidelines regarding regional balance for staff for regular budgeted posts, and that UNEP will continue to pursue its efforts for posts under the Environment Fund.
 - g. Confirmed that UNEP Regional Directors are available to provide briefings to interested Member States on UNEP's work in the regions, including through virtual means.
 - h. Noted that the concept of nature-based solutions featured in the adopted outcome of the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Agenda item 6: Implementation of paragraph 41 (j) of the Chair's Summary of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

9. The Secretariat presented a [proposal](#) on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 41 (j) of the Chair's Summary of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting for consideration and possible decision by the Committee.
10. Delegations that took the floor provided the following comments:
 - a. Welcomed the preparation of a more comprehensive and strategic planned roadmap of meetings for the CPR.
 - b. Agreed that there was merit in developing a standing agenda for the quarterly CPR meetings, while providing several suggestions how the standing agenda proposed by the Secretariat could be adjusted.
 - c. Recommended in particular that the oversight function of the Committee, as well as updates on UNEP evaluation reports and audits, should be considered under dedicated agenda items.
 - d. Stressed the importance of timely publication of the meeting documents.
 - e. Supported in general the proposed time-lines for making available agendas and background documents for the regular and subcommittee meetings of the Committee. One delegation suggested that the deadline for the CPR Subcommittee meeting documents should be expressed in business days instead of week days.
 - f. Emphasized that the decision-making process of the CPR must be Member States-driven, and welcomed the proposals to better record decisions, conclusions and recommendations in the meeting summaries and meeting reports.

11. The Secretariat made several clarifications on the recommendations in the background documents, took note of the guidance provided, and asked for further guidance from the Chair on how to proceed.
12. The Chair thanked delegations for the guidance received and decided to revert to this issue at an upcoming quarterly CPR meeting, based on a revised document from the Secretariat and on further guidance from the CPR Bureau.

Agenda Item 7: Report of the sub-committee.

13. The meeting adopted a draft [report from the Chair](#) on the main activities and outcomes of the CPR subcommittee meetings held after its 159th meeting on 29 September 2022.

Agenda Item 8: Other matters.

14. The Chief of the Division of Conference Services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Ms. Shivona Tavares-Walsh, provided a [briefing](#) on the technical challenges experienced during the 160th CPR meeting on 8 December, and the remedial measures taken to avoid similar issues in the future.
15. Delegations who took the floor thanked UNON for the briefing and pointed out that we are now living in a “new normal” with regard to UN meeting organization and that this will require the provision of online and hybrid meeting services, also underlining that this is particularly relevant at the UN Headquarters in Nairobi where less than half of the Member States are physically present through missions, and that financial and environmental benefits should also be considered.
16. The UNEP Executive Director clarified that UNEP will make every effort to provide the opportunity for hybrid meetings in all relevant UNEP-organized meetings, including for the CPR.
17. The representative from UNON took note of the comments made, referred to the ongoing efforts to refurbish and expand the UN compound in Gigiri, and recommended Member States to liaise with their colleagues in capitals and at the UN Headquarters in New York to agree on a resolution by the General Assembly to provide a formal mandate to the organization of hybrid UN meetings, which would enable the proper financing of such arrangements through technical equipment, platform development, and human resources.
18. The Chair of the CPR reminded Member States that the deadline for providing inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was Friday, 13 January 2023, and encouraged Member States to send their contributions for consideration by the Secretariat with the aim to provide a first draft to the Committee by 25 January. The matter would be further considered at the 16 February CPR subcommittee meeting.

Agenda Item 9: Closing of the meeting.

19. The meeting closed at 16:30 (GMT+3).