
161st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
9 March 2023
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00
Conference Room 2 and Interactio Platform
Hybrid meeting

Chair's Summary

Note: This Chair's summary complements the detailed meeting report prepared by the UN Office in Nairobi which will be considered 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 (CPR), Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting on 9 March 2023 at 10:00 (GMT+3). The meeting welcomed newly arrived representatives and bid farewell to departing representatives.
2. A minute of silence was observed in commemoration of the fourth anniversary of the accident with the Ethiopian Airlines flight ET302, which took the lives of several UN staff members, many of them in route to Nairobi to attend the Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 161st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. The Committee adopted the [provisional agenda](#) for the 161st meeting of the CPR, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/161/1](#).

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 160th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The [draft minutes](#) of the 160th meeting of the CPR were adopted.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Executive Director.

5. The Committee was invited to consider a [report](#) and a [statement by the Executive Director of UNEP](#) by the Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, providing an update on key developments relevant to the United Nations Environment Programme for the period October-December 2022.
6. Delegations that took the floor¹ shared the following comments and observations:
 - a. Congratulated the Executive Director for her re-election and welcomed the new Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Elizabeth Mrema.
 - b. Welcomed the report, noting that it was a well-structured document presented in a reader-friendly way, demonstrating UNEP's core values as well as its highly constructive engagement.

¹ United States of America, State of Palestine, European Union, Eritrea, Costa Rica, Pakistan, Switzerland, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Japan, Brazil, Ghana, Morocco, Chile, Colombia, Kenya, South Africa, Egypt, Canada, Argentina, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Malaysia and Algeria.

- c. Congratulated Uruguay and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) Secretariat for the successful organization of INC-1 and reconfirmed their full commitment to the global negotiations on plastic pollution at INC-2, which will take place at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris, France from 29 May to 2 June 2023.
 - d. Welcomed the new draft agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), issued on 5 March 2023.
 - e. Welcomed the final text of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, on 18 December 2022.
 - f. Highlighted the negative impact of the war in Ukraine on the environment and commended the efforts by UNEP to assess the environmental consequences.
 - g. Acknowledged the importance of sustainable mining of critical minerals, which represents a commitment to fighting climate change while protecting the environment and the human rights of miners and communities.
 - h. Commended UNEP's work towards the successful outcomes of the 27th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt, from 6 to 18 November 2022, including in support of the establishment of the new Loss and Damage Fund for vulnerable countries affected by climate change.
 - i. Expressed appreciation for the work of UNEP in assisting Latin America and the Caribbean region to develop the Regional Action Plan on Air Quality 2022-2025, which strengthens regional cooperation for clean air.
 - j. Invited the Secretariat to provide an update on UNEP's engagement with UN country teams mentioned as part of the lessons learnt in the Executive Director's report.
 - k. Requested UNEP to clarify the role and terms of reference of the Technical Advisory Group of the Open-ended Working Group on the Science Policy Panel.
 - l. Requested UNEP to clarify the criteria used to select the countries to receive support for the Nature for Health Initiative under UNEA resolution 5/6 on Biodiversity and Health, as well as the next steps for the initiative.
 - m. Requested additional information on UNEP's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and on the status of the special working group on plastics. Requested the Secretariat to analyze the environmental consequences caused by the explosions on the Nord Stream pipelines causing methane leakages in the Baltic Sea in September 2022.
7. The Executive Director thanked delegates for their comments and provided the following comments:
- a. Highlighted the importance of the Ecosystem Restoration Flagships and offered further briefings on the activities under the Ecosystems Restoration Decade.
 - b. Highlighted UNEP's support for National Adaptation Strategies and National Biodiversity Plans of Action.
 - c. Clarified that the countries selected to receive support for the Nature for Health Initiative were based on a call for expressions of interest which received over 50 applications.
 - d. Noted that the responsibility regarding the Loss and Damage decision taken at COP 27 rests with the UNFCCC Secretariat and that UNEP may assist this process within the purview of its mandate.
 - e. Highlighted the progress made to reach gender parity and are working hard to enhance the organization's geographical diversity, including through dedicated workshops and outreach initiatives in underrepresented countries.
 - f. Offered to provide regular Secretariat briefings for UNEP spotlight publications.
 - g. Confirmed that according to a UNEP analysis on methane leaked following the incident on the Nord Stream natural gas pipelines, emissions are estimated at about 1% of annual global methane emissions.

Agenda item 5: Preparations of the sixth session of UNEA

8. A representative from the Presidency of the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held by the Kingdom of Morocco, presented a [draft roadmap for an inclusive, participatory and transparent consultation process on the draft ministerial declaration of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#), followed by an exchange of views with delegations.
9. Delegations that took the floor² shared the following comments and observations:
 - a. Welcomed the draft roadmap which will facilitate an inclusive, participatory, constructive and transparent consultation process.
 - b. Expressed support for the establishment of a procedure that is clear and Member States-driven, to ensure a consensual and ambitious political outcome based on environmental multilateralism.
 - c. Underlined the importance of promoting effective implementation of all UNEA outcomes.
 - d. Underscored that the declaration should address the needs of the most vulnerable, including women, youth, indigenous populations, and disabled and excluded minorities, who continue to be disproportionately impacted by the triple-planetary crisis.
 - e. Considered that the timing of the 10th annual subcommittee of the CPR should provide the conditions for adequate preparations for the UNEA-6.
 - f. Invited the Presidency to include references to key concepts introduced in the draft declaration.
 - g. Announced that the Major Groups and Stakeholders from Africa have established a task force to support the UNEA-6 Presidency, calling upon the Regional Office for Africa to facilitate a meaningful engagement for Major Groups and Stakeholders throughout the process, including at the forthcoming Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of UNEA-6 and the CPR.
 - h. Some delegations highlighted the need to consider possible line-by-line negotiations of specific parts that might prove to be more contentious.
10. The Presidency thanked delegations for their guidance, noted the request to organize consultations with regional and political groups and to allow for possible line-by-line negotiations on contentious issues, and confirmed that the Presidency would aim to provide clear references for specific concepts included in the draft declaration,
11. The Chair reminded delegations that the role of the CPR Bureau is to represent the regional groups at joint UNEA and CPR bureau meetings and provide guidance to the President, as appropriate.

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.

12. The Secretariat presented a revised proposal on the [implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 41 \(j\) of the Chair's Summary of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting](#), based on the feedback received during the resumed 160th meeting of the CPR for consideration and possible decision.
13. Delegations that took the floor³ welcomed the revised proposal and provided additional comments to make the meeting roadmap more strategic (including with regard to the timing of the 10th annual subcommittee of the CPR, which may be organized back to back with INC-3), the draft standing

² Costa Rica, State of Palestine, Eritrea, Indonesia, China, United States of America, Argentina, Canada, Children and Youth Major Group, Indigenous People and their Communities Major Group

³ Costa Rica, European Union, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Eritrea, Switzerland, Kenya, Mexico, Brazil, United States of America, Argentina and Spain.

agenda (to better reflect the oversight function of the CPR including consultations on the Programme Performance Reports), to further clarify the CPR decision-making process.

14. The Secretariat took note of the proposals and provided additional clarifications with regard to the proposed adjustments of the roadmap, standing agenda and CPR decision-making process, and confirmed that a dedicated subcommittee meeting on the 2022 Programme Performance Report was planned for June or July 2023. With regard to the timing of the annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, the Secretariat noted the comments made and explained that specific guidelines and timelines on the submission of draft resolutions will be issued by the UNEA Bureau in September 2023 to ensure that the timing of the annual subcommittee will allow for kick-starting concrete consideration of draft resolutions. Regarding the Committee's oversight function, the Secretariat reminded delegations that the Executive Director's Report, which is released quarterly, as well as the PPR (released annually), provides solid background opportunities for the CPR to perform this function.
15. The Chair requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised proposal for consideration by the CPR Bureau for final consideration at the 162nd meeting of the CPR.

Agenda item 7: Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

16. The Chair provided an update on the process to finalise the [contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#), recalling that the final draft was agreed under silence procedure on 2 March 2023 and that the President of UNEA had subsequently sent a letter to the President of the Economic and Social Council with UNEA's final contribution to the HLPF.

Agenda item 8: Agenda item 8: Report of the Subcommittee.

17. The CPR adopted the [Chair's Report of Subcommittee](#) on its main activities and outcomes from meetings after its 160th meeting, which took place on 8 December 2022 and on 12 January 2023.

Agenda Item 9: Other matters.

18. Delegations who took the floor⁴ underscored, inter alia, the need to finalize the election of officers for the Open-Ended Working Group on a Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, further stressing the long-standing role of regional groups in UNEP processes and nominations and called for constructive collaboration.
19. The Deputy Executive Director thanked delegates for their warm welcome in her new capacity.
20. The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand announced that her tour of duty had come to an end, thanking the Secretariat and other colleagues in the CPR, further noting that her successor would accord all the support required.

Agenda Item 10: Closing of the meeting.

21. The meeting closed at 17:30 (GMT+3).

⁴ United Kingdom, Russian Federation.