

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Nairobi, 27 April 2023  
10:00 – 13:00, 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)  
Hybrid meeting  
Conference Room 1 & Microsoft Teams

### **Chair's Summary**

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

1. H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Vice Chair, Ambassador of Mexico to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 2: Briefing on the outcomes of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.**

3. The Secretariat provided [a briefing](#) on the outcomes of the [United Nations 2023 Water Conference](#), followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.
4. Delegations that took the floor<sup>1</sup> thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and provided the following comments:
  - a. Highlighted that access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a fundamental human right, and thus increasing international cooperation and financing for water-related projects is crucial for achieving sustainable development.
  - b. Noted that the United Nations 2023 Water Conference has demonstrated the potential to expedite and mobilize concerted efforts towards achieving SDG 6.
  - c. Expressed appreciation for UNEP's contribution to Interactive Dialogue 3 of the conference, "Water for Climate, Resilience and the Environment".
  - d. Supported the initiative to establish an office of the proposed UN Special Envoy on Water at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.
  - e. Noted with appreciation that over 700 voluntary commitments had been submitted as part of the outcomes of the conference, towards the Water Action Agenda.
  - f. Requested UNEP to prepare background documentation to UNEA-6 in support of discussions on water, particularly within the context of adaptation.
  - g. Requested clarification from the Secretariat on the implementation of the UN Water Conference outcomes and how these outcomes contribute to the work of UNEP on water.
5. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their engagement and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. Noted that the UN Water Conference enables the UN to pay special attention to the specific needs of countries in terms of water, landscapes and the restoration of nature, and that it provides a forum for a technical dialogue to hear from Member States about their priorities and how the UN system can respond.
  - b. Recalled that water-related issues cuts across UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and

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<sup>1</sup> Costa Rica, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Kenya, Indonesia, Brazil, Portugal, European Union, Colombia.

- spans across multiple UNEP divisions and offices as part of UNEP's new delivery model, through the provision of science-based evidence, data collection and access, as well as expertise on the ground.
- c. Noted that climate change requires action to build adaptation and resilience for the protection, conservation, management, and restoration of landscapes.
  - d. Clarified that the use of Regional Seas related Multilateral Environmental Agreements and mechanisms such as the Global Biodiversity Framework are critical for understanding how UNEP contributes to SDG targets.
  - e. Confirmed that the UN Water Mechanism is an effective UN-wide coordinating mechanism for dialogue, information-sharing, planning, and coordination to build and strengthen water-related partnerships.
  - f. Confirmed that UNEP will support the implementation of the outcomes of the conference with technical advice, including in the areas of the science-policy interface, data collection and data access.
  - g. Confirmed that the Secretariat will facilitate technical discussions on water in advance of UNEA.

### **Agenda item 3: Briefing on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.**

6. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the outcomes of the [Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction](#), followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.
7. Delegations that took the floor<sup>2</sup> welcomed the presentation from the Secretariat and provided the following comments:
  - a. Noted that the agreement recognizes the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and the regulation of activities that may have a negative impact on marine biodiversity.
  - b. Highlighted that the conference is a significant addition to the existing International Ocean Governance Framework and a historic deal for the conservation and sustainable use of marine diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
  - c. Encouraged all countries to ratify this instrument and to develop legislative, administrative and policy measures in cooperation with other states and stakeholders for effective implementation.
  - d. Highlighted the need for adequate tools to conduct environmental impact assessments, transfer marine technology, and ensure the provision of equitable sharing arrangements for marine genetic resources and digital sequence information.
  - e. Emphasized the need to rapidly implement the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction instrument and to unlock necessary financing for implementation through the Global Environment Facility funds for International Waters.
  - f. Drew the attention to the "Nairobi Dialogue Series" which will host an online event entitled "The Nairobi Dialogue: Expectations of Member States of INC-2" on 3 May 2023.
  - g. Noted that the agreement could contribute to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of marine genetic resources.
  - h. Welcomed assistance to strengthen the capacity of developing states in order to prepare, conduct and evaluate environmental impact assessments.
  - i. Requested clarification from the Secretariat on the role of UNEP in providing support to Member States in the area of environmental impact assessments, in particular

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<sup>2</sup> Costa Rica, Belgium, Chile, Norway, Indonesia, Kenya, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Portugal.

- strategic environmental assessments.
- j. Requested more information on the work of UNEP on marine protected areas and how UNEP can help Member States to ratify and implement the agreement, including through existing institutional frameworks and mechanisms such as Regional Seas Conventions and the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, as well as by providing technical expertise on conducting environmental assessments,
8. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their engagement and provided the following comments:
- a. Confirmed that UNEP has the capacity to unlock GEF-8 resources for the implementation of the new agreement, upon request by Member States, with special consideration to the three strategic objectives (sustainable blue economy, areas beyond national jurisdiction and securing freshwater).
  - b. Confirmed that UNEP has long-term experience in the management of marine protected areas, through its regional offices and partners, to provide on-the-ground capacity for Member States.
  - c. Confirmed that the Regional Seas Conventions may be instrumental in the implementation of the new agreement by sharing best practices, capacity building tools, and fostering collaboration for management of transboundary marine biodiversity resources.
  - d. Took note of the request to assess how to provide technical support for Member States on environmental assessments and the application of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme.
  - e. Clarified that UNEP will continue to provide support on how to carry out environmental impact assessments based on data collection and accessibility and drawing on existing projects within the International Waters Portfolio.

**Agenda item 4: Briefing on the UNEP Solar Radiation Modification Report.**

9. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the UNEP report “[One Atmosphere: An Independent Expert Review on Solar Radiation Modification Research and Deployment](#)”, followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.
10. Delegations that took the floor<sup>3</sup> thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and provided the following comments:
- a. Highlighted the need for a global governance framework to oversee and govern research on Solar Radiation Modification.
  - b. Welcomed UNEP to lead on an inclusive and transparent monitoring of Solar Radiation Modification.
  - c. Referred to the precautionary approach and evidence-based decision-making on Solar Radiation Modification.
  - d. Expressed concerns that stakeholders from the Global South are not sufficiently engaged in Solar Radiation Modification discussions.
  - e. Inquired if UNEP can conduct a more comprehensive assessment into the potential risks and impacts of Solar Radiation Modification.
  - f. Recommended that UNEP find more ways of enhancing awareness on the potential impact of deploying these technologies.
  - g. Requested more information on UNEP’s stance on Carbon Dioxide Removal.

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<sup>3</sup> Switzerland, European Union, Monaco, New Zealand, Kenya, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Children and Youth.

11. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their engagement and provided the following comments:
  - a. Underlined UNEP's intention to increase public awareness regarding climate altering technologies, while avoiding over- promotion and politization.
  - b. Highlighted that Solar Radiation Modification differs from Carbon Dioxide Removal and recognized the need to also investigate the local and regional implications of Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies.
  - c. Highlighted that benefits and risks of applying climate-altering technologies may vary depending on geographical location.
  - d. Referred to discussions with other UN agencies to develop a more comprehensive assessment of Solar Radiation Modification technologies.

**Agenda item 5: Briefing on the outcomes of the resumed fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process for Considering the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.**

12. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the outcomes of the [resumed fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process for Considering the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management \(IP4.2\) meeting and preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management \(ICCM-5\)](#), followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.
13. Delegations that took the floor<sup>4</sup> welcomed the Secretariat's presentation and provided the following comments:
  - a. Noted the progress and outcomes made during the IP4.2 meeting in Nairobi.
  - b. Congratulated the intersessional Co-chairs, the ICCM-5 Presidency, UNEP, and the SAICM Secretariat for their contributions to prepare a new enabling global framework for chemicals and waste.
  - c. Thanked Germany for presiding over ICCM-5 and their efforts to ensure an ambitious outcome.
  - d. Highlighted the importance of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in addressing numerous SDGs, as well as areas not covered by Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
  - e. Expressed hope that the UNEP Executive Director will attend the ICCM-5 high-level segment.
  - f. Underlined the relevance of strengthening cross-sectoral and cross-stakeholder approaches under the new framework to respond effectively to the pollution crisis.
  - g. Noted the importance of the high-level declaration to be adopted at the ICCM-5 high-level segment to strengthening the political support for the new framework, mobilizing resources for its implementation, and paving the way for a decision by the UN General Assembly in support of implementation.
  - h. Called for linkages between the new instrument and the work of the Ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group to establish a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention (OEWG-SPP).
  - i. Underlined the importance of addressing financial arrangements under the new framework to ensure its implementation.
  - j. Recognized the importance of involving the health sector and the finance sector in the implementation of the new framework.

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<sup>4</sup> Norway, Kenya, Germany, Brazil.

- k. Noted the importance of the UNEP Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the Chemicals Cluster in enhancing chemicals management at the national level.
  - l. Requested more information from the Secretariat on the work of UNEP on the financial considerations of international chemicals and waste management.
14. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their engagement and provided the following comments:
- a. Recalled that discussions on the financial arrangements under the new framework, as well as commitments of all stakeholders are expected to take place at three occasions: at the second (virtual) Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability in June 2023; at the IOMC Multi-stakeholder Expert Workshop on Advancing Chemicals and Waste Management in Economic Industry Sectors in June 2023; and under the joint ICCA-Iran initiative on financial considerations.
  - b. Noted the important role of the health sector and of the World Health Organization in this process.
  - c. Noted the importance of addressing financial arrangements under the new framework, and that this is expected to be considered as part of the high-level declaration of ICCM-5.
  - d. Noted that the coordinating mechanisms of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals are to be discussed in light of financial considerations and greater engagement by the private sector.
  - e. Encouraged all stakeholders to further support the Beyond 2020 process in its final stages.

#### **Agenda item 6: Briefing on the preparation of the 2023 World Environment Day.**

15. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the preparation of the [2023 World Environment Day](#), followed by an exchange of views from Member States and Stakeholders.

Delegations that took the floor<sup>5</sup> and thanked the Secretariat for the briefing provided the following comments:

- a. Thanked Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the Netherlands for hosting the 2023 World Environment Day.
  - b. Welcomed the focus on plastic pollution and noted the links to the Plastic Pollution Campaign, to national action to abate plastic pollution the development of an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.
  - c. Requested that Member States involve children and youth in the planning of their events relating to the World Environment Day and noted the importance of education and awareness raising in this context.
16. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and pledged to share additional information about the 2023 World Environment Day in due course.

#### **Agenda item 7: Other matters.**

17. One delegation welcomed the focus of the Secretariat presentations on how the various agenda items link to the work of UNEP, and requested further information on flagship programmes of UNEP such as the Montevideo Programme on Environmental Law.

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<sup>5</sup> Kenya, European Union, Children and Youth, Spain.

18. The Secretariat took note of these requests and referred to the upcoming 162<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CPR where delegations will be invited to endorse a standing agenda and a strategic roadmap for future CPR meetings.

**Agenda item 8: Closing of the meeting.**

19. The meeting closed at 16:00 (GMT+3).