
162nd Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
16 June 2023
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00
Conference Room 2

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 (CPR), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland, opened the meeting on 16 June 2023 at 10:30 (GMT+3). The Chair reminded the Committee that the meeting, on an exceptional basis, was being held fully in-person. The newly arrived representatives were welcomed and the representatives departing were bid farewell.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 162nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

2. The Committee adopted the [provisional agenda](#) for the 162nd meeting of the CPR, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/162/1](#).

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

3. The [draft minutes](#) of the 162nd meeting of the CPR were adopted.

Agenda Item 4: Election of Officers to the CPR Bureau for the period 2023-25.

4. The Committee was informed that the Secretariat has received proxies from 8 Member States.¹
5. The Committee was also informed that:
 - a. For the post of the Chair, the group of Asia-Pacific States has nominated His Excellency Firas Khouri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
 - b. For the three Vice-Chairs:
 - i. For the one seat for the African States, the group has nominated His Excellency Wael Nasreldin Attiya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt;
 - ii. For the one seat for the Eastern European States, the two candidates are Mrs. Nicol Adamcová, current Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechia and incoming Permanent Representative of the Czechia to

¹ On behalf of Bulgaria, Thomas Hansen (Denmark); on behalf of Iceland, Gunnar Andreas Holm (Norway); on behalf of Lithuania, Julia Keipi (Finland); on behalf of Luxembourg, Martin Röw (Germany); on behalf of Malta, António Miguel (Portugal); on behalf of Monaco, Clément Payeur (France); on behalf of New Zealand, Lewis Hirst (Australia); and on behalf of Peru, Alejandro Montero (Chile)

- UNEP; and His Excellency Dmitry Maksimych, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation; and
- iii. For the one seat for the Western European and other States, the group has nominated His Excellency Gunnar Andreas Holm, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway.
 - c. For the post of the Rapporteur, the Group of Latin America and Caribbean States has nominated Mr. Jovan Bernard Reid, Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of Barbados.
6. In accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), which applies *mutatis mutandis* to the CPR, the Committee was invited to elect new members of its Bureau for a two-year term beginning on 1 July 2023 and ending on 30 June 2025.
 7. Delegations took the floor² to provide following comments:
 - a. The representative of the Russian Federation proposed the postponement of the election of the Vice-Chair from the group of Eastern European States to allow for additional time for consultation within the group on the candidature of Mrs. Nicol Adamcová. He also stated that delegations were informed of voting by proxy only a few days in advance of the meeting which didn't provide sufficient time for many delegations to nominate proxies.
 - b. The representative of Czechia in providing information on their candidature requested for a vote for the post of the Vice-Chair from the Eastern European States. Two representatives sought clarification on the presentation of credentials. One representative informed that based on the meetings of the group of Eastern European States, consensus is not to be expected within the group.
 - c. The representative of the Russian Federation requested for a vote on the candidate of the Vice-Chair from the Western European and other States.
 8. The Legal Advisor and the Secretary provided clarification on the presentation of credentials, accreditation to UNEA and the CPR and on the candidature of the representative of Czechia.
 9. In this connection, the Legal Advisor clarified that the presentation of credentials by Permanent Representatives to the Secretary-General is governed by a separate process, i.e. by resolution 257 A (III) of 3 December 1948. In accordance with that resolution, a permanent representative presents his/her credentials to the Secretary-General, as the chief administrative officer of the Organization. These credentials are issued either by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In Nairobi, protocol and liaison functions are assigned to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) in accordance with the Secretary-General's Bulletin on the organization of UNON (ST/SGB/2009/3). Accordingly, it is the Director-General of UNON that is currently charged by the Secretary-General with the delegated authority to receive the credentials of permanent representatives.
 10. However, the accreditation to UNEP's inter-governmental meetings and processes follows a different procedure in accordance with the rules of procedure of each process. In the case of the United Nations Environment Assembly each Member State shall present credentials as provided for in rules 16 and 17. For the Committee of Permanent Representatives, credentials are not required to participate in the meetings of the Committee. As is the usual practice for the meetings of the Committee, representatives of Member States accredited to the

² Russian Federation, Czechia, Egypt, Eritrea, China, Slovakia.

Committee, as well as representatives of the Holy See, the State of Palestine and the European Union, are required to register through the INDICO platform available online by uploading a formal letter or Note Verbale from their Embassy or Permanent Mission addressed to the Secretariat containing the composition of delegation. Accordingly, the process of accreditation to UNEP's inter-governmental bodies, such as UNEA and the CPR, is separate and different from the process of presentation of credentials as a Permanent Representative.

11. A delegate duly accredited to the Committee as a representative of a Member State, can participate in the meetings of the Committee and also stand for election to its Bureau as Chair, Vice Chair or Rapporteur. In the case of those delegates who have been designated by their Governments as Permanent Representatives, but who have not yet presented their credentials in accordance with resolution 257 A (III) of 3 December 1948, they can still participate as duly accredited members of the Committee through the registration procedure described above at paragraph 8. Thus, prior to the presentation of credentials as Permanent Representative, a delegate can participate as a duly accredited representative of her/his Government through registering on the INDICO platform by uploading a formal letter or Note Verbale from their Embassy or Permanent Mission.
12. The Legal Advisor recalled Governing Council decision 19/32 entitled "Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme" that decided inter alia, "that the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall consist of the representatives of all States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, and the European Community, **accredited to the United Nations Environment Programme, whether based in Nairobi or outside**" (Emphasis added). In accordance with this decision, representatives of States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, and the European Community, that are duly accredited but based outside of Nairobi can participate on an equal basis with those representatives based in Nairobi.
13. Finally, the Secretary explained the procedure for accreditation of a representative of a Member States to the Committee through the submission of a formal letter or a note verbale and clarified that Mrs. Nicol Adamcová, Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechia and incoming Permanent Representative of Czechia to UNEP, had been duly accredited to the Committee as representing Czechia and could therefore stand as a candidate for Vice Chair of the Committee.
14. The Committee elected, by acclamation, the following officers to the CPR Bureau for a two-year term beginning on 1 July 2023 and ending on 30 June 2025.
 - H. E. Firas Khouri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to UNEP, as Chair;
 - H. E. Wael Nasreldin Attiya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as Vice-Chair; and
 - Mr. Jovan Bernard Reid, Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of Barbados to UNEP, as Rapporteur.
15. The Committee proceeded to the election of the Vice-Chair from the group of Eastern European States by secret ballot, in accordance with rules 56 and 57 of the Rules of Procedure of UNEA.
16. By invitation, the representatives of Brazil, Malawi and the Philippines, acted as tellers.
17. The results of the vote were as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	94
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Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	94
Abstentions:	10
Number of members present and voting:	84
Required majority:	43
Number of votes obtained:	
Nicol Adamcová (Czechia)	50
Dmitry Maksimychev (Russian Federation)	34

18. Having obtained the required majority, Mrs. Nicol Adamcová, Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechia and incoming Permanent Representative of Czechia to UNEP, was elected as Vice-Chair for a two-year term beginning on 1 July 2023 and ending on 30 June 2025.

19. The Committee then proceeded to the election of the Vice-Chair from the group of the Western European and other States, by secret ballot, in accordance with rules 56 and 57 of the Rules of Procedure of UNEA.

20. The results of the vote were as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	93
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	93
Abstentions:	13
Number of members present and voting:	80
Required majority:	41
Number of votes obtained:	
Gunnar Andreas Holm (Norway)	80

21. Having obtained the required majority, H. E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to UNEP, was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee for a two-year term beginning on 1 July 2023 and ending on 30 June 2025

22. The Chair congratulated all the new members of the CPR Bureau on their election.

Agenda item 5: Report of the Executive Director.

23. The Committee was invited to consider the Executive Director's [Quarterly Report to the 162nd Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives January – March 2023](#).

24. Delegations that took the floor³ welcomed the statement and the report of the Executive Director and provided the following comments in summary:

- a. Acknowledged UNEP's engagement in the recent UN Water Conference, noting that this issue should be given adequate attention at UNEA-6.
- b. Acknowledged UNEP's engagement in the process for adoption of the recent agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with the European Union announcing a pledge of 40 million Euros to support developing countries to implement the agreement.
- c. Acknowledged UNEP's contribution to the second part of the 5th United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC-5).

³ Ukraine, European Union, South Sudan, Morocco, Belarus, Canada, Costa Rica, Malawi, Portugal, Kenya, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Russian Federation, Botswana, United Republic of Tanzania, Algeria, Egypt, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), China, Colombia, Chile, Malaysia, Cameroon, Children and Youth.

- d. Acknowledged the progress made with regard to the preparation of the seventh Global Environmental Outlook.
 - e. Welcomed proposals to expand the donor base for UNEP to fulfil its mandate, building on the outcome of the 9th annual subcommittee of the CPR.
 - f. Welcomed proposals to improve the working modalities of the Committee to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
 - g. Acknowledged the efforts made by the Secretariat to implement UNEP's Programme of Work and UNEA-5 resolutions, while underlining the need for adequate funding through contributions to the Environment Fund.
 - h. Highlighted the third International Conference on Water and Climate to be held in Morocco on 6 and 7 July 2023, which will be organized by Morocco in partnership with the International Network of Basin Organizations and the World Water Council.
 - i. Acknowledged the launch of the "young talent pipeline" as an essential tool to promote recruitment of young staff members to UNEP and requested additional information.
 - j. Welcomed the progress made under the International Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution.
 - k. Expressed appreciation to the Executive Director for her recent visit to Malawi.
 - l. Welcomed the establishment of a senior adviser in Kyiv, Ukraine, to assess the environmental damage caused by the armed conflict in Ukraine.
 - m. Expressed concern about the wall constructed on the border between Poland and Belarus and asked for a progress update with regard to related potential environmental consequences.
 - n. Expressed support for full operationalization of the World Environment Situation Room as soon as possible.
 - o. Noted UNEP's contribution to the Global Digital Compact and requested additional information.
 - p. Condemned the racist remarks made by a delegate at a meeting of the Eastern European States group in April and called upon delegations to take measures to discourage and condemn racial discrimination.
 - q. Requested additional information on UNEP's contribution to the One Health Strategy as presented to the First Quadripartite Executive Annual Meeting on One Health and on the organizational changes to UNEP's work on climate change.
25. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their guidance and provided the following clarifications in summary:
- a. Recalled that UNEP has contributed to meeting organized together with the UN Resident Coordinator in Belarus and the Ministry of Environment to identify possible next steps to assess the environmental consequences of the establishment of a wall along the border of Belarus and Poland and that UNEP has reached out to the World Heritage Convention to identify possible measures to minimize negative impacts on wildlife.
 - b. Confirmed that UNEP is seeking to operationalize the World Environment Situation Room as a matter of priority and welcomed the financial support from some Member States to this end.
 - c. Reminded about the invitation to Member States and Stakeholders to provide feedback on plans to upgrade UNEP's work on Strategic Foresight and Horizon Scanning.
 - d. Reaffirmed UNEP's commitment to geographical diversity, highlighting that 86% of UNEP's recruitments between January and March 2023 were from underrepresented countries, and noted the successful launch of the UNEP "young talent pipeline" as a year-long successful initiative to recruit young talent through targeted promotions and events.
 - e. Confirmed plans to establish a new climate change division in UNEP by January 2024 that effectively will coordinate all climate-related work in UNEP.
 - f. Highlighted that UNEP is cooperating closely with the other lead parties under the One Health Strategy to support countries to elaborate One Health workforces, pandemic prevention, investment, and financing.
 - g. Noted the significant negative environmental impacts due to the armed conflict in Ukraine.

- h. Recalled that the Global Digital Compact is co-facilitated by Rwanda and Sweden out of New York, and that consultations with Member States are ongoing.
- i. Condemned in the strongest terms the use of racist language and informed of the actions that were undertaken to address the incident. The Chair supported the Executive Director's remark and emphasized that combatting hate speech is a shared responsibility.
- j. Welcomed the calls for contributions to the Environment Fund and thanked the Netherlands for announcing a multi-year contribution of 8 million Euros per year annually for the coming 3 years to implement the UNEP Medium-term Strategy.

Agenda item 6: Financial outlook and funding challenges for UNEP – follow up from the 9th annual subcommittee of the CPR.

26. The consideration of this agenda item was postponed to a later date, due to time constraints.

Agenda item 7: Implementation of paragraph 41 (j) of the Chair's Summary of the 9th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

27. The consideration of this agenda item was postponed to a later date, due to time constraints.

Agenda item 8: Report of the Sub-committee.

28. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted the [Chair's Report of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#) on the main activities and outcomes of the subcommittee meetings after its 161st meeting on 9 March 2023.

Agenda Item 9: Other matters.

29. The Chair, on behalf of the President of UNEA-6, reminded delegations that the first informal consultations on the zero draft ministerial declaration would be held on Tuesday, 20 June 2023, from 10:00 to 13:00 in Conference Room 1 and online.

Agenda Item 10: Closing of the meeting.

30. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 18:00 (GMT+3), and informed delegations that a new date for the resumption and consideration of agenda items 6 and 7 will be communicated at a later stage.
