

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Nairobi, 21 September 2023  
10:00 - 13:00, 15:00 - 18:00 (GMT+3)  
Hybrid meeting  
Conference room 1 and Microsoft Teams

### **Chair's Summary**

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

1. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The meeting adopted the draft [agenda](#).

#### **Agenda item 2: Briefing on the outcomes of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions.**

3. The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat) provided a [briefing on the outcomes of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions](#).
4. Delegations that took the floor<sup>1</sup> welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. Highlighted the successes of the [Conferences of the Parties in May 2023](#) (2023 COPs), commending the BRS Secretariat for its cooperation with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (INC), contributions to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and engagement in preparations for UNEA-6.
  - b. Requested clarification and/or additional information on its work through regional centers, relationship with the upcoming [5th session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management \(ICCM 5\)](#), scope of intersessional cooperation with UNEP, contributions to the [UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022–2025](#), as well as a detailed report on the outcomes of the 2023 COPs.
5. In response, the BRS Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. The BRS Secretariat has been engaged in the intersessional process for defining a new framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 to be adopted at the [ICCM-5](#), as well as in the ongoing INC negotiations, in particular to highlight the linkages with the Basel Convention's work, such as the adopted technical guidelines on plastic waste.
  - b. Highlighting that chemicals and waste are reflected in a number of SDGs, the

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<sup>1</sup> European Union, Morocco, Finland, Brazil, Malawi, Nigeria, Portugal, Costa Rica, Kenya, France, Norway.

Secretariat reports regularly on indicators relevant to the conventions as part of the annual reporting scheme, and in line with mandate received from the COPs toward the achievement of the SDGs.

- c. The regional centers, which are autonomous institutions established under the Basel and Stockholm conventions to deliver technical assistance to Parties to the conventions also implement mandates from other chemicals and wastes instruments, thus promoting a synergistic implementation of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste.
- d. Areas of cooperation with UNEP in the intersessional work includes the promotion of sound chemical and waste management and technical assistance through Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects.

### **Agenda item 3: Briefing on outcomes of the World Health Assembly.**

6. The Secretariat provided a [briefing on outcomes of the World Health Assembly](#).
  - a. Delegations that took the floor<sup>2</sup> welcomed the presentation and requested the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UNEP Secretariat to provide more information on the planned WHO report on the human health implications of chemicals, waste and pollution from a One Health approach, as well as the scientific body within WHO governance to support such reports.
7. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. The report on the human health implications of chemicals, waste and pollution is part of the [resolution WHA 76.17](#) and the Executive Board of WHO will discuss the report in January 2024, confirming that a summary, including technical and scientific details, will be made available for delegations.
  - b. The UNEP Europe Office provided a brief overview of the outcome of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (June 2023) focusing on the health impact of the triple planetary crisis and included several references to UNEA-5 resolutions.
  - c. The report is underpinned by a transparent methodology, particularly in terms of protecting against conflict of interests and enabling methodology updating, following its quadripartite cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, UNEP, and the World Organization for Animal Health.
  - d. WHO's technical cooperation with UNEP in the [One health: operational framework](#), in the INC negotiations on plastic pollution, and in the adoption of the [resolution WHA 76.17](#), focuses on the health impact of the three planetary environmental crisis.

### **Agenda item 4: Briefing on the Global Cooling Pledge: Accelerating the transition to sustainable cooling for climate mitigation and adaptation.**

8. The Secretariat provided a [briefing on the Global Cooling Pledge: Accelerating the transition to sustainable cooling for climate mitigation and adaptation](#).

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<sup>2</sup> Switzerland, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the).

9. Delegations that took the floor<sup>3</sup> welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

- a. Commended the work of the Global Cooling Pledge, the UNEP-led [Cool Coalition](#) and [COP28 UAE Presidency](#), highlighting the climate mitigation and adaptation benefits of sustainable cooling to cut emissions, protect people from rising heat, reduce food loss, keep digital economies viable, workforces productive, and keep medicines accessible, while supporting the energy transition and saving governments trillions in avoided power infrastructure.
- b. Emphasized the need for the Global Cooling Pledge to incorporate commitments and a focus on passive cooling strategies and nature-based solutions, cold chains, energy efficiency, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) phase-down, alongside on the ratification of the Kigali Amendment.
- c. Recommended a streamlining of commitments and proposed removal of the ‘Menu of Options’ in the current version of the Pledge.
- d. Requested clarification on the UNEP-led Cool Coalition’s collaboration with other UNEP initiatives and alignment with the broader UNEP Programme of Work.
- e. Requested clarification on outcomes achieved in multilateral consultations held for the Global Cooling Pledge to date, for example at the G20 Energy Transition Working Group.

10. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

- a. The work on cooling fits squarely into UNEP’s Programme of Work, supporting directly adaptation and mitigation outcomes but also those connected to nature and pollution outcomes.
- b. The UNEP-led Cool Coalition convenes and coordinates with actors and initiatives that address different dimensions of the cooling challenge to deliver a joined up and comprehensive approach to the transition, including with UNEP initiatives such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Global Alliance for Buildings, Ozon Action, Ozone Secretariat, and United for Efficiency, among others.
- c. UNEP works to streamline commitments and focus on passive cooling strategies and nature-based solutions, cold chain, energy efficiency and HFC phase-down and including a stronger focus on the adaptation benefits of cooling.
- d. The negotiated Global Cooling Pledge text will include a commitment on ratification of the Kigali Amendment.
- e. The G20 Energy Outcome Document calls for accelerated implementation of energy efficiency policies as well as measures such as the adoption of super-efficient appliances, thus optimizing the demand for cooling.
- f. UNEP will be producing a spotlight publication on cooling in the run up to COP28, which will provide support and guidance to countries for options to improve access to sustainable cooling.

**Agenda item 5: Briefing on the Buildings Breakthrough: Towards near zero emission and resilient buildings by 2030.**

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<sup>3</sup> Morocco, France, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the), Denmark, Kenya.

11. The Secretariat provided a [briefing on the Buildings Breakthrough: Towards near zero emission and resilient buildings by 2030](#).
12. Delegations that took the floor<sup>4</sup> welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. Highlighted the importance of the [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction](#) (GlobalABC) to reduce carbon emissions in the building and construction sector to align with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and of spearheading the [Buildings Breakthrough](#) to ensure the safety and well-being of populations.
  - b. Requested clarification on the linkages between the work under the [Global Forum on Buildings and Climate](#), the [Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme](#), the [10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns \(10YFP\)](#), and the [Cool Coalition](#), as well as on the association of UN-Habitat and other UN agencies in these initiatives.
13. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. The GlobalABC places special emphasis on collaboration with other UN agencies, including UN-Habitat, notably in the context of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative, the Global Forum on Buildings and Climate.
  - b. Since January 2023, the activities of 10YFP Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme are integrated into the GlobalABC and are now continuing under the GlobalABC Building Materials Working Group.
  - c. The GlobalABC and the Cool Coalition are aiming to establish a joint working group dedicated to passive cooling solutions and planning for a joint event focusing on the Buildings Breakthrough and the Global Cooling Pledge at COP28.
  - d. Investing in sustainable buildings and construction contributes to meeting the Paris Agreement goals and represents a smart investment due to returns from the large potential in heating and cooling savings and job creation.

#### **Agenda item 6: Update on the preparation of the seventh Global Environment Outlook.**

14. The Secretariat provided an [briefing on the preparation of the seventh Global Environment Outlook](#).
15. Delegations that took the floor<sup>5</sup> welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. Reminded Member that [UNEA Resolution 5/3](#) encourages Member States to provide adequate, predictable and stable financial resources for the GEO process.
  - b. Requested the Secretariat to provide an update on identifying capacity building and provision of support services to Member States.
  - c. Requested the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group and Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group to develop guidance to ensure that GEO-7 provides a thorough review of the world environment and supports evidence-based

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<sup>4</sup> France, United States, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the), China, Kenya and Finland

<sup>5</sup> Malawi, European Union, Norway, United Republic of Tanzania, Costa Rica, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the), Portugal, Brazil, China, Russia, Argentina, France.

decision making, including with regard to ensuring a regional balance of authors.

- d. Recommended that GEO-7 provides an integrated and holistic approach to cover multiple aspects, including the three planetary environmental crises, the three dimensions of sustainability, and artificial intelligence.

16. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

- a. GEO-7 will integrate a holistic solution pathway to cover the perspectives of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, as well as land degradation, noting that collaborating centers are key in delivering on capacity building, knowledge generation and policymaking support.
- b. Significant effort is made to ensure regional balance in the designation of authors to GEO-7 by engaging more peer reviewers and editors in the GEO process, further noting that the locations of the fifteen collaborating centers contributing to the GEO process are geographically balanced.
- c. Significant efforts have been undertaken to solicit indigenous and local knowledge, including by cooperating with UNESCO and the [Task Force of Indigenous and local knowledge \(ILK\)](#), with which an expert meeting is planned for at the end of October to develop a work plan on identifying indigenous information for the development of relevant GEO chapters.
- d. The GEO is applying a specific categorizing standard to carry out analysis at sub-regional levels, taking into account the standardized UN regionalization under the UN cartographic service based on the [M.49 area code standard](#).
- e. Specific guidance on the rational use of artificial intelligence in the GEO process is under development.

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

17. One delegation commented that the practice of the Secretariat circulating note verbales in response to requests from certain Permanent Missions may politicize the work of the Committee and of UNEP.

18. One delegation, with the support of another delegation, requested a dedicated briefing on the purpose, scope, timeframe, budget, staffing, governance, and implications of the establishment of a new climate change division within UNEP.

19. Following a short exchange of views on the implementation of paragraph 41j) of the Summary of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, the Chair and Secretariat was encouraged to put this item on the agenda of the subcommittee on 5 October, in preparation for final consideration at the resumed 162<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CPR scheduled for 31 October.

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

20. The meeting closed at 18:00 (GMT+3).