
Resumed 162nd Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
31 October 2023
10:00 – 13:00 (GMT+3)
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 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. 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 resumed 162nd meeting of CPR on 31 October 2023 at 10:10 (GMT+3). The Chair reminded that the 162nd meeting held on 16 June was temporarily adjourned at 18:00 (GMT+3) due to time constraints.

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

2. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the [“Financial outlook and funding challenges for UNEP – follow up from the 9th annual subcommittee of the CPR”](#).
3. Delegations that took the floor¹ welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Expressed support for the recommendations outlined in the report and the UNEP Resource Mobilization strategy.
 - b. Urged Member States to expand funding sources, prioritize Environment Fund contributions and multi-year contributions, and address the low number of contributors, as these are critical for UNEP's mandate and Medium-Term Strategy.
 - c. Noted that contributions to the Environment Fund as of June 2023 are at an all-time low since 2020, highlighting the need to broaden UNEP's donor base, reminding Member States that insufficient funding hinders progress related to the Medium-Term Strategy and UNEP's mandate.
 - d. Recommended that funding and budgetary issues be a standing agenda item during the annual subcommittee meetings.
 - e. Requested the Secretariat to enhance its communication regarding results achieved with core funds and provide information on work that remains unachievable due to funding shortfalls.
 - f. Requested the Secretariat to provide an update regarding the establishment of the “Friends of UNEP”, a network open to all Member States and dedicated to identifying funding opportunities and advocating for UNEP's mandate.
 - g. Requested the Secretariat to acknowledge in-kind contributions, including JPO placements and hosting of meetings, while considering the internal challenges faced by Member States.

¹ Norway, Australia, European Union, Belgium, Brazil, Switzerland, Kenya, France, Canada, Netherlands (Kingdom of), China, Russian Federation, United States of America, Egypt.

- h. Requested the Secretariat to clarify the meaning of “a seat at the table” as one of the options for increased appreciation.
 - i. Requested the Secretariat to strengthen outreach, targeted communication, and engagement with Member States at the national and regional fora.
 - j. Requested the Secretariat to prepare information on new non-traditional funding partners, such as International Financial Institutions, microfinance associations, the private sector and the philanthropic sector.
4. The Secretariat in response thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. The establishment of thematic funds has not had any impact on the Environment Fund as they are not in competition.
 - b. A “seat on the table” entails providing core funding partners with the opportunity to engage in steering committees and other bodies related to specific topics of interest, which would otherwise only be gained with earmarked support.
 - c. Broadening the funding base with traditional and non-traditional sources is a priority.
 - d. Engagement in regional activities has intensified.
 - e. Social media outreach efforts are already underway and extended an invitation to all Member States, Top-15 contributors, and full-share contributors to collaborate on improving outreach.
 - f. An update on the implementation of the issues raised during the annual subcommittee meeting will be provided.
 - g. Delegations will be provided with further information on the “Friends of UNEP” network.

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.

5. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the [implementation of paragraph 41\(j\) of the Chair’s Summary of the 9th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#).
6. Delegations that took the floor² welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
- a. Supported the revised guidance note on the implementation of paragraph 41(j) of the Chair Summary of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, toward improving CPR activities on the understanding that further discussion is needed in the future as the recommendations in the guidance note are implemented.
 - b. Encouraged the inclusion of one extra item in the next CPR meeting, which would focus on the status of implementation of the recommendations from Member States during the CPR and the recommendations from subcommittee meetings approved by the CPR.
 - c. Highlighted the importance of clarity on the purpose and scope of the CPR quarterly and subcommittee meetings.
7. The Secretariat in response thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. The working method of any intergovernmental body is an ongoing process, in which the Secretariat, with the guidance of Member States and the Bureau, collaborates for enhancement.
 - b. The revised guidance allows for review of the implementation of the adopted decisions and recommendations as part of the report of the subcommittee submitted to the quarterly meetings.
 - c. The report of the Executive Director will provide updates on significant developments and

² Argentina, Portugal, Egypt, Brazil, Morocco, Switzerland.

the implementation of the UNEP Programme of Work and Budget, along with update on the implementation of relevant UNEA resolutions, while subcommittee recommendations or decisions will be subsequently presented to the CPR for final endorsement.

8. The Committee decided to endorse the guidance on the preparation and conduct of its meetings as outlined in document [UNEP/CPR/162/7/Rev.1](#).

Agenda item 9: Other matters.

9. The representative of Portugal invited Member States to join the online series of dialogues “Towards the INC-3: Means of implementation for innovative solutions – Barriers and gaps for innovation and solutions at the policy level”, organized by the Nairobi Group of Friends to combat marine litter and plastic pollution.
10. The delegation of the State of Palestine drew attention to the systematic destruction, devastation, and gross violations of international law being perpetrated against the Gaza Strip, which have far-reaching implications for the lives of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian environment in all its dimensions, violating UNEA resolution 2/15 on the protection of environment in areas affected by armed conflict, and principle 23 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; and invited the Secretariat to take note of the developments that will need to be addressed within the scope of the mandate of UNEP in the near future.
11. The representative of Israel condemned the terrorist attacks by Hamas that took place in Israel on 7 October 2023.

Agenda item 10: Closing of the Meeting

12. The meeting closed at 12:00 (GMT+3).