
163rd Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
31 October 2023
15:00 – 18:00 (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 163rd meeting of the CPR on 31 October 2023 at 12:00 (GMT+3). The newly arrived representatives were welcomed, and the departing representatives were bid farewell.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 163rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

2. The Committee adopted the of the 163rd meeting of the CPR, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/163/1](#).

Agenda item 3: Report of the Executive Director.

3. The Committee was invited to consider the Executive Director's [Quarterly Report to the 163rd Meeting of the CPR - April to June 2023](#) and a statement by the Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen providing an update on key developments relevant to UNEP for the period April-June 2023.
4. Delegations that took the floor¹ welcomed the statement and the report of the Executive Director and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Appreciated Cote d'Ivoire for hosting World Environment Day together with the Netherlands.
 - b. Thanked the Secretariat for organizing and supporting the intergovernmental consultation on [Nature-based Solutions \(NbS\)](#) under the leadership of the co-chairs from Costa Rica and Nigeria, in accordance with [UNEA resolution 5/5, and looked forward to receiving the Co-Chair's summary](#).
 - c. Welcomed the adoption of the treaty on Conservation and Sustainable Use of [Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction \(BBNJ\)](#) and Chile's offer to host the Secretariat of the Agreement.
 - d. Acknowledged the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to implement the UN reform and to support mainstreaming the environment within the work of UN Country Teams and looked forward to engaging in a discussion on this topic at the 10th annual subcommittee meeting.

¹ Argentina, European Union, Morocco, Finland, Portugal, Kenya, Canada, Chile, Brazil, Belgium, France, Switzerland, United States of America, Costa Rica, Egypt, Children and Youth Major Group.

- e. Commended the Secretariat's continuous support for countries affected by natural disasters and conflicts.
 - f. Praised the Secretariat for addressing key environmental challenges that hinder the sustainable development of African Landlocked Developing Countries.
 - g. Commended the outcomes of recently concluded regional environment ministerial meetings.
 - h. Expressed satisfaction with the intergovernmental consultation on minerals and metals.
 - i. Recommended that the [Global Environment Outlook 7 \(GEO-7\)](#) includes examples of traditional knowledge applied by indigenous peoples and local communities.
 - j. Welcomed the work on sustainable consumption and production within the UN system to progress work on the implementation of SDG12.
 - k. Informed of the focus of the upcoming 2025 UN Ocean Conference and the importance of the regional seas conventions.
 - l. Called for an ambitious and balanced outcome of the INC process.
 - m. Suggested duplicating the projects on the integration of Multilateral Environmental Agreements into UN Cooperation Frameworks to establish connections between the objectives of MEAs and the Sustainable Development Goals, from Africa to other regions.
 - n. Requested clarification on challenges to increase recruitment of staff members from underrepresented regions, with continued promotion of gender parity.
 - o. Requested clarification on why contributions to UNEP's environment fund were lower than in previous years by the end of June.
 - p. Requested additional insights regarding the synergies between the Programme of Work and budget and the UNEA cycle.
 - q. Requested more information through a briefing in a subcommittee meeting on UNEP's strategy to engage with youth in the development of its programme.
 - r. Requested a briefing in a subcommittee meeting on UNEP's Global Environmental Data Strategy.
 - s. Requested further information on the proposed Climate Division and the financial and governance impacts of this new division as well as the costs involved, and efficiencies generated.
5. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their guidance and provided the following clarifications in summary:
- a. Acknowledged the importance of the BBNJ Agreement as well as on mining and mineral and metals and looked forward to Member States guidance on mining and critical minerals at UNEA-6.
 - b. Also acknowledged the importance of social dimension in UNEP's work.
 - c. Clarified that UNEP fully adheres to Article 101 of the UN Charter with respect to recruitment.
 - d. Noted that UNEP shall continue its essential work in conflict-affected states upon request.
 - e. Acknowledged the comments from delegations regarding UNEP's engagement with UN Country Teams.
 - f. Explained that expanding funding sources is paramount and UNEP will keep monitoring the reduction in funding and noted that the ED's report to UNEA-6 highlights the funding dimension.
 - g. Looked forward to a briefing on youth engagement.
 - h. Outlined that an options paper on UNEA cycle and Programme of Work and Budget will be circulated soon for discussion at the annual subcommittee meeting.
 - i. Mentioned that A briefing will be provided on the creation of the Climate Division at the upcoming meeting of the annual subcommittee.

Agenda item 4: Update on the preparations for UNEA-6.

- 6. The Secretariat provided an [update on the preparations for UNEA-6](#).

7. Delegations that took the floor² welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Underlined the need for support and recognition of the planned Youth Environment Assembly.
 - b. Welcomed plans to invite both UNEP-administered MEAs, the Rio Conventions and non-UNEP-administered MEAs to UNEA-6.
 - c. Underlined they need to fund two delegates per developing country to UNEA-6, aiming to ensure equitable and inclusive engagement.
 - d. Welcomed the guidelines on the submission of draft proposals and urged delegations to respect the deadline and submit a small number of proposals on pressing issues.
 - e. Called for measures to achieve carbon neutrality for UNEA-6.
 - f. Requested that concept notes for the high-level dialogues are prepared in a timely manner.
 - g. Requested clarification on how the Ministerial Declaration will be negotiated.
 - h. Recommended continuing the practice of organizing Q&A sessions with proponents of draft resolutions in the intersessional period between the annual subcommittee of the CPR and the OECPR.
 - i. Requested additional information on the need for extrabudgetary contributions for UNEA-6.
8. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
 - a. Explained the breakdown of UNEA budget and the need for extrabudgetary financial support from Member States in a position to do so to cover travel and DSA for delegates from developing countries.
 - b. Announced that the concept notes on the leadership dialogues and MEA dialogues will be provided by the end of December or early January.
 - c. Clarified that the UNEA Presidency holds the pen for the Ministerial Declaration taking into account comments from Member States, and that based on past practice, there will not be a line-by-line negotiation.
 - d. Noted the comments on carbon neutrality and clarified that the Secretariat is exploring viable measures for ensuring a green and sustainable UNEA-6.

Agenda item 5: Report of the Sub-committee.

9. 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 162nd meeting on 16 June 2023.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters.

10. The Secretariat provided a short briefing on the United Nations Journal for Nairobi.

Agenda Item 7: Closing of the meeting.

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

²Argentina, Malawi, Cameroon, European Union, Norway, Kenya, United State of America, Children and Youth.