

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Nairobi, 7 November 2023  
14:00 – 17:00 (GMT+3)  
Hybrid meeting  
Conference Room 2 (in person)  
and Microsoft Teams (online)

### **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 [agenda](#) was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 2: Briefing on the Nitrogen Working Group.**

3. The Secretariat provided a [briefing on the Nitrogen Working Group](#).
4. Delegations that took the floor<sup>1</sup> welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. The Co-chair of the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen, Mr. Mihai Constantinescu, thanked the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) and highlighted that UNEA-6 provides an opportunity to decide on the way ahead for matters regarding nitrogen and the environment, whilst reiterating the continued commitment of the Co-Chairs to this work.
  - b. Requested further elaboration on whether the Voluntary Action Plan is a template that the Member States can use and to guide on how far the Working Group can be used to further work on sustainable nitrogen management, including on the implementation of Target 7 under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. The Nitrogen Working Group presents an opportunity for Member States to be of service in meeting their commitments under the GBF and its respective targets, considering specific commitments in terms of policy opportunities and information sharing.
  - b. The UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen has been created to improve the management of nutrients. The UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen has identified ten action areas in the draft Voluntary Action Plan that can support Member States in identifying areas of importance. The ten action areas are still being reviewed by the national focal points.
  - c. Member States that have not nominated a focal point are invited to do so and engage in the review of the draft action plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Romania, European Union.

- d. Meeting information, including background documents, can be found on the webpage of the [UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen](#).

**Agenda item 3: Briefing on the Implementation of UNEA resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management.**

6. The Co-Chairs for the intergovernmental regional consultations on minerals and metals management, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany, H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, and the Deputy Head of the International Affairs Division of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Ms. Martine Rohn-Brossard, provided a [briefing on the Implementation of UNEA resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management](#).
7. Delegations that took the floor<sup>2</sup> welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
- a. Expressed appreciation for the organization of regional and global consultations organized as part of the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/12 and the Co-Chairs' Summary Report resulting from the Global Intergovernmental Meeting on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management, held in Geneva on 7 and 8 September 2023.
  - b. Made references to the right to a clean environment, as well as to mine rehabilitation and closure, in line with the principle of prior and informed consent as per the 2018 Escazú Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.
  - c. Emphasized the importance of safety and sustainability measures to reduce the effects of mining on the health of workers, including for surrounding indigenous and affected communities and ecosystems in relation to informal and small-coal mining sectors, as this type of mining tends to occur in areas of high biodiversity.
  - d. Highlighted the importance of exchange, knowledge and cooperation in rehabilitating closed or abandoned mining sites and managing tailings, with some delegations recommending establishing international criteria and environmental, social, and economic guidelines based on indicators.
  - e. Emphasized the importance of deep-sea mining, as well as the role of the international seabed authority, and the need for solid regulations that ensure compliance with the obligation to protect the marine environment and comply with the provisions of the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
  - f. Underlined the need to promote adequate participation of stakeholders and the allocation of resources to the communities living in critical ecosystems where the impact of unsustainable mining is rampant.
  - g. Noted the importance of collaboration with international organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Minamata Convention.
  - h. Acknowledged the non-prescriptive proposals mentioned in the Co-Chairs' Summary Report and supported the application of best practices for environmental sustainability of minerals and metals at the national level, including through capacity building, technical assistance, and transfer of know-how, as appropriate.
8. The Secretariat, in response, thanked delegations for their comments and suggestions, and committed to consider how they may be reflected in the Co-Chairs' Summary Report, as

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<sup>2</sup> Colombia, Costa Rica, Kenya, Children and Youth, Portugal, France.

appropriate.

**Agenda item 4: Preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR.**

9. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the [10<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR](#).
10. Delegations that took the floor<sup>3</sup> welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. Noted with appreciation the clarifications made in the annotated agenda, also taking into account the outcome of the discussions under paragraph 41(j) in the summary of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR.
  - b. Requested clarification on statements from regional and political groups.
  - c. Supported the inclusion of an agenda item focusing on the future perspectives on environmental multilateralism.
11. The Secretariat, in response, thanked delegations for their comments, and clarified that Regional and Political Groups will be invited to deliver five-minute statements, followed by three-minute statements from individual Member States and two-minute statements from Stakeholders.

**Agenda item 5: Other matters.**

12. The delegation of Portugal, on behalf of the Nairobi Group of Friends to combat marine litter and plastic pollution, invited Member States to the next Nairobi Dialogue series titled “Towards the INC3: Means of Implementation for Innovative Solutions Financing to Scale up Solutions and Innovation”, which is co-organized with the Innovation Alliance for a Global Plastics Treaty.

**Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.**

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

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<sup>3</sup> Malawi, Portugal, Spain, Argentina, Canada.