

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 11 January 2024
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 2 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

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 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: Introduction and presentation of UNEA draft resolutions and decisions.

3. Draft resolutions, presentations, and technical notes were made available on the [UNEP resolution portal](#).

Draft resolution on global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides, on behalf of Ethiopia and co-sponsored by Uruguay

4. Ethiopia introduced the draft resolution on [highly hazardous pesticides](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
5. Delegations that took the floor¹ raised issues relating to integration and consistency across regions, and the estimated budget implications in the Secretariat technical note.
6. The Secretariat referred to its existing work on pesticides and antimicrobial resistance and the need for additional budgetary resources to implement the resolution as drafted.

Draft resolution on combating sand and dust storms, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran introduced the draft resolution on [combating sand and dust storms](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
8. Delegations that took the floor² requested further clarification on how the draft aligns with UNEP's current approach to sand and dust storms, and what changes are envisioned.
9. The proponent delegation responded by emphasizing the importance of furthering regional and global coordination to address sand and dust storms, pointing to the widespread negative impact in various regions.

Draft resolution on effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, on behalf of the

¹ Netherlands, Indonesia.

² United States of America, Iran.

European Union and its Member States

10. The European Union introduced the draft resolution on [effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
11. Delegations took the floor³ and underlined, in particular, the need to use agreed terminology relating to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
12. The proponent delegation expressed readiness for detailed discussions and welcomed bilateral and informal consultations.

Draft resolution on strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities drought resilience, on behalf of Saudi Arabia

13. Saudi Arabia introduced the draft resolution on [strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities drought resilience](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
14. Delegations that took the floor⁴ highlighted the draft's potential overlap with the work of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and suggested consideration of possible merger with similar draft resolutions such as on sand and dust storms.
15. The proponent delegation thanked Member States for comments and feedback.

Draft resolution on criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for the implementation of nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development, on behalf of Cameroon and co-sponsored by Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Zimbabwe

16. Cameroon introduced the draft resolution on [criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for the implementation of nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
17. Delegations that took the floor⁵ requested clarification on the proposed ad hoc working group with regard to, e.g. timing of expected results, value-added compared to the recent NBS consultations, the possible duplication of work, and the focus on norms and guidelines.
18. The proponent delegation expressed flexibility on timing and duration, highlighting the multilateral approach to the whole process, including related budgetary aspects and underlined the need to define a framework of implementation rules, criteria, norms, and guidelines for NBS.

Draft resolution on sustainable management of Cascade Systems, on behalf of Sri Lanka

19. Sri Lanka introduced the draft resolution on [sustainable management of Cascade Systems](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
20. Delegations that took the floor⁶ requested clarification on e.g. global benefits, funding support, and international collaboration.
21. The proponent delegation emphasized benefits relating to climate adaptation, biodiversity

³ United States of America, Malawi, China, Kenya, Brazil.

⁴ United States of America, European Union, Netherlands, Spain, Argentina.

⁵ European Union, Tanzania, United States of America, Iran.

⁶ European Union.

conservation, and cultural considerations, acknowledging the alignment with UNEP's Programme of Work, also noting current resource constraints within UNEP, and underlining the need for networking and collaboration in this area.

Draft resolution on promoting regional cooperation to improve air quality globally, on behalf of the United States and Canada

22. The United States introduced the draft resolution on [promoting regional cooperation to improve air quality globally](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
23. Delegations that took the floor⁷ requested clarification on the composition and nature of the global cooperation network, highlighted the relevance of work under the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, and recommended clarifications regarding the reference to the World Health Organization guidelines.
24. The proponent delegation expressed readiness for more detailed discussions and welcomed bilateral and informal consultations.

Draft resolution on fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP, and MEAs, on behalf of Morocco and Malawi

25. Morocco introduced the draft resolution on [fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP, and MEAs](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
26. Delegations that took the floor⁸ requested e.g. clarification on how the draft aligns with the existing cooperation on multilateral environmental agreements.
27. The proponent delegation expressed openness to further consultations to strengthen the draft, emphasized the importance of analyzing the coherence between UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and Program of Work, UNEA resolutions and MEAs to promote their effective implementation at the national level, and highlighted the importance of a consultative process between existing MEAs funding mechanisms and other relevant mechanisms to promote synergies and facilitate an integrated implementation at the national level.

Draft resolution on enhancing the role and viability of regional environment ministerial forums and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges, on behalf of Malawi

28. Malawi introduced the draft resolution on [enhancing the role and viability of regional environment ministerial forums and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
29. Delegations that took the floor⁹ welcomed the intention to strengthen environmental action at the regional level, noting the constraints regarding the mobilization of resources, and asked for further clarification on the need for an assessment of the regional ministerial environmental forums.
30. The proponent delegation emphasized the need for a dedicated assessment to evaluate the work and effectiveness of existing regional forums and expressed readiness to engage further to improve and clarify the draft resolution.

⁷ Indonesia, Morocco, Netherlands, Japan.

⁸ Indonesia, Kenya, Argentina, Brazil.

⁹ Norway, Children and Youth, Indonesia, Canada.

Draft resolution on promoting synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development, on behalf of Japan, co-sponsored by Fiji and Canada

31. Japan introduced the draft resolution on [promoting synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
32. Delegations that took the floor¹⁰ highlighted similarities between this draft resolution and the preceding draft resolution introduced by Morocco on fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs, requested clarification about the definition of synergistic approaches, and proposed consideration of organizing a meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held back-to-back to UNEA-7 to promote the mainstreaming of the environment in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.
33. The proponent delegation expressed readiness to further discussions, including with regard to a definition of synergistic approaches, emphasized ongoing efforts to compile best practices and develop guidance in this area, and highlighted the need to strengthen synergies at sectoral levels.

Draft resolution on effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice, on behalf of Sri Lanka

34. Sri Lanka introduced the draft resolution on [effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
35. Delegations that took the floor¹¹ raised questions regarding the proposed Climate Justice Forum.
36. The proponent delegation explained that a Climate Justice Forum would help promote implementation, and clarified the need for collective action to build resilience while addressing gaps in managing climate risks and ensuring that international commitments are met.

Agenda item 3: Other matters.

37. Morocco, on behalf of the UNEA-6 Presidency, invited delegates with remaining concerns regarding the latest draft ministerial declaration to engage in bilateral consultations with the permanent representative of Morocco, with a view to addressing any pending matter and building consensus regarding the ministerial declaration.
38. The Secretariat reminded delegations that co-sponsorship should be announced in writing to the Secretariat by the proponent or the co-sponsor, and announced that a guidance note about the list of speakers for national statements will be sent out shortly, with the e-Speakers portal set to open on 15 February at 17:00 (GMT+3).

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.

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

¹⁰ Russian Federation, Argentina, Iran, Indonesia, Morocco, Kenya.

¹¹ Malawi, European Union.