

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 16 January 2024
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 2 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Draft Chair's Summary

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

1. H.E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway 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 sound management of chemicals and waste, on behalf of Switzerland

4. Switzerland introduced the draft resolution on [sound management of chemicals and waste](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
5. Delegations that took the floor¹ requested the rationale for UNEA-7 requesting a report of the Executive Director, coordination details between the special program and the global framework on chemicals, and specifics on the operationalization and engagement with countries in the proposed special program.
6. The proponent delegation emphasized UNEA's role, outlined a stepwise approach for addressing issues of concern, confirmed a mid-February release for the report, acknowledged stakeholder contributions, and highlighted ongoing efforts to define national actions under different funds.

Draft resolution on solar radiation modification, on behalf of Guinea, Monaco, Senegal and Switzerland

7. Switzerland introduced the draft resolution on [solar radiation modification](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
8. Delegations that took the floor² expressed concerns about the impact of solar radiation modification on Africa and advocated for a scientific assessment by mandated bodies while emphasizing inclusivity, alignment with international efforts, and the need for social expertise in the expert group.
9. The proponent delegation acknowledged the relevance of the science-policy panel on chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention and expressing openness to reconsideration of the extensive list of risks.

¹ European Union, Canada, Brazil, Kenya, Morocco.

² Senegal, Children and Youth.

Draft resolution on strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution, on behalf of Costa Rica and the European Union

10. Costa Rica introduced the draft resolution on [strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
11. Delegations that took the floor³ inquired about the use of "ocean" in singular instead of "oceans" due to the language of SDG 14 and sought clarification on the request for UNEP to strengthen its strategic role in global governance related to oceans and seas through the [Regional Seas Programme](#).
12. The proponent delegation referred to the upcoming Ocean Conference in 2025 as a basis for using the term "ocean", emphasizing UNEP's global mandate and expertise in supporting Member States through the [Regional Seas Programme](#), expressing readiness to strengthen global governance and assist nations in implementing existing laws, including the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty.

Draft resolution on environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts, on behalf of Ukraine

13. Ukraine introduced the draft resolution on [environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
14. Delegations that took the floor⁴ urged alignment with past UNEA resolutions, suggested that the draft should contain language from previously adopted UNEA resolutions and that enjoyed consensus; pointed out that the principles adopted by the ICA were non-binding; seeking clarification on the scope of the proposed review by UNEP of environmental assistance and recovery related to armed conflicts and the scope of the report on how armed conflicts interact with the ability to address the triple crisis.
15. The proponent delegation expressed openness to adjusting the text and its financial figures, and mentioned ongoing bilateral discussions to study the "no one left behind" approach and potential expert-level discussions.

Draft resolution on environmental aspects of minerals and metals, on behalf of Switzerland and Senegal and co-sponsored by Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Chad

16. Switzerland introduced the draft resolution on [environmental aspects of minerals and metals](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
17. Delegation that took the floor⁵ urged the inclusion of material reduction targets and reducing mineral intensity of economy activity, emphasizing interagency collaboration through the UN Secretary General's Working Group, and stressing the need for good governance in extractive industries for equitable environmental, financial, and social benefits.

Draft resolution on stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

18. European Union introduced the draft resolution on [stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
19. Delegations that took the floor⁶ stressed the importance of understanding circular economic approaches, welcomed the concept of bio economy, expressed concern that the implementation of circular economy can increase the risk of exporting waste to developing countries, pointed out that the issue of used vehicles is a sensitive matter, asked clarification on the definition of circular economy and the role foreseen of the World Trade Organization in the implementation of

³ Brazil, Kenya.

⁴ European Union, Russian Federation, Canada.

⁵ Children and Youth.

⁶ Malawi, Brazil, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Argentina, Children and Youth, Business and Industry.

approaches of circular economy; while some supported the resolution, emphasizing public-private partnerships, standardized metrics, and global collaboration initiatives for circularity and sustainability in business practices.

20. The proponent delegation emphasized the resolution's focus on transitioning to a circular economy, quality control in trade sectors, preventing low-quality product entry into developing countries, and affirmed the compatibility of UNEA resolutions with international agreements, including trade agreements.

Draft resolution on sustainable lifestyles, on behalf of India

21. India introduced the draft resolution on [sustainable lifestyles](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
22. Delegations that took the floor⁷ sought clarification on the distinction between lifestyle and production/consumption patterns, raised questions about merging the resolution, emphasized knowledge and intergenerational equity; asked about the resolution's relation to the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), highlighted the link to past national actions, and asked questions on past behavioral nudges, cooperation, and establishing a repository of traditional knowledge.
23. The proponent delegation clarified distinctions between circular economy and sustainable lifestyle, responded to questions on behavioral nudges, explained Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)'s themes, and highlighted the global importance of the resolution.

Draft resolution on circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agroindustry, on behalf of Cuba

24. Cuba introduced the draft resolution on [circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agroindustry](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat of a [technical note](#).
25. Delegations took the floor⁸ expressed appreciation for the sugar cane initiative, acknowledging its role in sustainable consumption, production, and renewable energy.

Draft resolution on amendments to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured global environment facility, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

26. The Secretariat introduced the draft decision on [amendments to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured global environment facility](#).
27. Delegations that took the floor⁹ inquired about the legal necessity of listing all elements of the relevant Global Environment Facility decision in the first paragraph of the proposed draft decision and sought clarification on the specific capacities that need strengthening for UNEP's role as the implementing agency.
28. The Secretariat clarified that the draft decision is essentially procedural, mirroring a preceding 2014 model for adopting amendments, prioritizing precision, openness, and transparency and references will be circulated.

Draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

29. The Secretariat introduced the draft resolution on [the provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#).
30. Delegations that took the floor¹⁰ welcomed the proposed dates which would require further discussion, asked how the Secretariat was planning to involve Member States and stakeholders in the preparations for the next Programme of Work and Mid-term Strategy, expressed concern that

⁷ Cameroon, Children and Youth, European Union, Morocco.

⁸ Brazil.

⁹ Netherlands (the Kingdom of the).

¹⁰ European Union, Canada, Portugal.

UNEA taking place in close proximity to the climate COP may be detrimental to ministerial-level participation in UNEA and also on the time available to prepare for UNEA vis-à-vis the annual subcommittee meeting and the deadline for submission of draft resolutions.

31. The Secretariat clarified that the preparation for the next MTS and POW would start in 2024 and a roadmap of specific activities would be shared with Member States; also explained that the proposed dates take into account UNEA resolution 2/22 and the need for UNEP to be aligned with other processes such as the QCPR, adding that once the dates has been decided by Member States, a roadmap would be prepared accordingly.

Draft decision on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

32. The Secretariat introduced the draft decision on [management of trust funds and earmarked contributions](#).
33. Delegations that took the floor¹¹ sought clarification on the availability of the report on trust funds, requested a background note on new trust funds established and those managed by UNEP, questioned the basis for statements in specific paragraphs, sought information on overview of inactive trust funds, expiration dates, and authority for trust fund extensions, expressed the need for a legal opinion on the Executive Director's role, and emphasized the importance of comprehensive information and a clear understanding of changes since UNEA-5.1 in managing trust funds.
34. The Secretariat highlighted the forthcoming publication of an information note, explained the trust fund establishment process, emphasized the controller's role, clarified the basis for expiry dates, discussed the evolution of the proposal, offered a briefing on the Executive Director's authority, and agreed to a meeting to discuss changes from previous sessions and provide additional information to Member States.

Agenda item 3: Other matters.

35. The Subcommittee decided to cancel its meeting planned for 18 January to allow delegations sufficient time to prepare for the next meeting to be held on 23 January.
36. The Secretariat updated on the opening of the list of speakers for the high-level segment of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the status of the budget for UNEA-6.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.

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

¹¹ European Union, Portugal, Netherlands (the Kingdom of the).