

164th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
25 January 2024
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 164th meeting of the CPR on 25 January 2024 at 10:00 (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 164th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda of the 164th meeting of the CPR, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/164/1](#).

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 162nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including its resumed meeting.

3. The Committee adopted the draft minutes of the 162nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including its resumed meeting, as set out in [UNEP/CPR.163/2](#) and [UNEP/CPR/164/2](#).

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 163rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The Committee adopted the draft minutes of the 163rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/164/4](#).

Agenda item 5: Adoption of the Chair's Summary of the 10th meeting of the Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

5. The Committee adopted the Chair's Summary of the 10th meeting of the Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as endorsed at the closing plenary of that meeting and as set out in [UNEP/CPR/ASC/10/6](#).

Agenda item 6: Report of the Executive Director to the 164th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

6. The Committee was invited to consider the Executive Director's [Quarterly Report to the 164th](#)

[Meeting of the CPR - July to September 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 July-September 2023.

7. Delegations that took the floor¹ welcomed the statement and the report of the Executive Director and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Thanked the proponents for timely submission of proposed draft resolutions for UNEA-6, expressing readiness to engage positively and contribute constructively, and urged some proponents of the drafts to consider merging their proposals, where possible.
 - b. Sought clarification on UNEP's actions regarding the impact of chemicals, waste, and pollution on human health, in line with the lessons learned from the report.
 - c. Acknowledged UNEP's commitment to gender parity and promoting diversity, expressing interest in the young talent pipeline initiative.
 - d. Expressed appreciation for UNEP's support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and encouraged UNEP to strengthen its involvement in regional ministerial fora more generally.
 - e. Highlighted UNEP's contributions to the [2023 high-level political forum](#) and UN events promoting clean air, also noting the submission of a draft resolution on regional cooperation for air quality improvement.
 - f. Acknowledged UNEP's preparations for the [World Environment Day 2024](#), noting its focus on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.
 - g. Underlined the need to reduce deforestation, including through enhanced international cooperation.
 - h. Took note of the update on UNEP's work in support of the [Summit of the Three Basins](#) in Congo and the Amazon initiative, also considering the rights of indigenous people and local communities.
 - i. Announced the organization of a [Buildings and Climate Global Forum](#) and invited UNEP to attend at the highest possible level.
 - j. Acknowledged UNEP's engagement in the Global Environmental Facility's (GEF) Assembly and suggested that UNEP could organize specific briefings on relevant UNEP-led GEF programmes to the Committee in future.
 - k. Expressed appreciation to UNEP's engagement in countries affected by natural disasters and conflicts, including with regard to the plans to prepare a report assessing environmental damages in the Gaza Strip.
 - l. Requested more information on UNEP's contribution to the 2024 UN [Summit of the Future](#).
 - m. Requested additional information on UNEP's side event on digital public infrastructure during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, and on UNEP's digital transformation efforts.
8. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their guidance and provided the following clarifications in summary:
 - a. Outlined UNEP's contribution to the [Summit of the Future](#), including with regard to an upcoming foresight report based on global consultations, online surveys, and regional meetings.
 - b. Explained UNEP's role in highlighting the environmental dimension of digital public infrastructure, also highlighting the ongoing collaboration with the [Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology](#) through the Global Environmental Data Strategy.

¹ European Union, State of Palestine on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group, Cameroon on behalf of the African Group, State of Palestine, Morocco (the Kingdom of), Belarus, Angola, Brazil, United States of America, Kenya, Germany, Tanzania, Colombia, Algeria, Netherlands (the Kingdom of), Australia, Egypt, Venezuela, Barbados, Iraq, France, China.

- c. Committed to make every effort to attending future meetings of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
- d. Highlighted, regarding UNEP's staffing, the success of the Young Talent Pipeline initiative and other efforts by UNEP to enhance regional diversity and to attract a broader talent pool interested in working at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.
- e. Provided additional information on programs like the [Interface Forest Initiative](#) and responding to related queries raised.
- f. Highlighted the [Greening the Blue report 2023](#), containing information about the UN collective carbon footprint.

Agenda item 7: Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits.

- 9. There were no new audits or evaluation reports to consider at this meeting.

Agenda item 8: Preparations for the upcoming session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

- 10. The meeting decided to defer consideration of this agenda item to the 165th meeting of the Committee, taking place on the same date.

Agenda item 9: Report of the Sub-committee.

- 11. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted the [Report of the Subcommittee](#) on the main activities and outcomes of the subcommittee meetings after its 163rd meeting on 31 October 2023, which included the following draft decision of the Committee:
 - i. *Endorses* the Chair's summary of the 10th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held in Nairobi from 20 to 24 November 2023, and *requests* the Secretariat to take into account the comments made by Member States, including when preparing for future CPR and subcommittee meetings as well as the annual subcommittee meetings;
 - ii. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide the responses in an information document to the questions and comments by Member States during the 10th annual subcommittee meeting that were not fully addressed by the Secretariat in the course of the session, following notification by Member States of such outstanding questions and comments;
 - iii. *Requests* the Secretariat to brief Member States on any intended significant changes to UNEP's organizational structure before the changes are made;
 - iv. *Taking note* of the presentation on UNEP's action to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace, *encourages* the Executive Director to further develop indicators and systems, building on UN system-wide tools and mechanisms, to effectively ensure and monitor that all personnel, implementing partners and beneficiaries are adequately protected against sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment and to ensure that victims and survivors are put at the center of UNEP's approach;
 - v. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the bureau, a strategic scheduling plan of subcommittee and OECPR meetings to allow for effective, inclusive, and participatory consultations and negotiations on draft UNEA resolutions and decisions, to avoid the scheduling of more than two parallel meetings during the OECPR and UNEA, and to make the plan available to Member States as early as possible and before the end of 2023;

- vi. *Encourages* the Presidency of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the CPR Chair to guide the appointed co-facilitators to organize, as appropriate, early consultations with Major Groups and Stakeholders, to collect views and positions on draft resolutions for possible consideration by Member States, and encourages proponents of resolutions to engage with the Major Groups and Stakeholders Facilitating Committee, with the support of the secretariat;
- vii. *Reminds* all Member States to proactively revisit their financial support to UNEP and encourages contributions at their full share according to their Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISIC) to ensure that UNEP can be strengthened and can successfully implement its Programme of Work;
- viii. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue exploring alternative sources of funding, and analyze and address the barriers of engaging with new funding sources.

12. The Secretariat took note of the comments.

Agenda Item 10: Any other business.

13. No other matters were raised.

Agenda Item 11: Closing of the meeting.

14. The meeting closed at 12:15 (GMT+3).