

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Nairobi, 26 March 2024  
14:00 – 17:00 (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. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 2: Briefing on the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**

3. The Secretariat provided [a briefing on the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) (“the UN Decade”).
4. Delegations<sup>1</sup> that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. Highlighted their national commitment to nature conservation and restoration and actions, highlighting efforts to restore degraded land and forest and to conserve 30 percent of land and ocean by 2030.
  - b. Noted that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) is an instrument and not a Multilateral Environment Agreement (MEA), as the background note may have suggested.
  - c. Enquired on i) modalities for updating the [2021-2023 Action Plan for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and](#) ii) how lessons learned on the implementation of the UN Decade would be identified and carried out.
  - d. Requested more details on i) monitoring of the implementation of the UN Decade and ii) funding modalities for the implementation of the World Restoration Flagships.
  - e. Appreciated the progress made by the UN Decade secretariat to expand its partners network and to better integrate freshwater ecosystems.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. Confirmed that the KMGBF is an instrument and not a MEA and announced that the background note would be corrected accordingly (the note can be accessed [here](#)).
  - b. Highlighted the work done by the UN Decade Task Force on Monitoring, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to develop a monitoring and data collection framework for the UN Decade referred to as the “Framework on Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring” (FERM).

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<sup>1</sup> Malawi, United States of America, Finland, Portugal.

- c. Noted that information on progress made in the implementation of the UN Decade will be included in a Secretary-General's report to the UN General Assembly in 2025.
- d. Referred to the following modalities of funding support from the UN Decade to the existing 17 World Restoration Flagships:
  - i. For Flagships located in developed countries, the support covers communications and outreach.
  - ii. For Flagships located in developing countries, the support covers facilitation to scaling up of the Flagships and support activities.
- e. Clarified that for a World Restoration Flagship to benefit from UN Decade's funding support, it must showcase demonstrated results on the ground with existing investments and that the purpose of the UN Decade is not to provide the main source of funding for such Flagships.
- f. Outlined the process for updating the [2021-2023 Action Plan for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), including through soliciting contributions from partners of the UN Decade, conducting consultations, and releasing a final version of the Action Plan prior to the publication of the Secretary-General's report in 2025.
- g. Noted that lessons learned from the UN Decade are already being applied to implement restoration projects in UNEP's Programme of Work and to improve UNEP's knowledge management.

### **Agenda item 3: Briefing on the outcomes of the COP14 on migratory species.**

6. The Secretariat provided [a briefing on the outcomes of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals \(CMS COP14\)](#) which was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 12 to 17 February 2024.
7. Delegations<sup>2</sup> that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. Enquired on how the outcomes of the CMS COP 14 would translate into concrete future actions by UNEP; and recalled that such information should be provided by the Secretariat in a systematic manner following presentations on the outcomes of any COP/MEA meeting.
  - b. Requested clarification on how UNEP Divisions, particularly the Law Division, would collaborate with CMS.
  - c. Requested further information on UNEP's contributions to the scientific aspects of CMS meetings and the role of scientific findings in the negotiation process.
8. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. Emphasized the ongoing collaboration efforts between CMS and UNEP Divisions, including the Law Division and Ecosystems Division, including on pollution and plastic pollution impact studies on river species, and dissemination of the State of the World's Migratory Species Report.
  - b. Clarified the links between CMS outcomes and UNEP's programme of work, as well as additional initiatives aiming at promoting collaboration between CMS and UNEP, including with regard to UNEP's support to countries in updating their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, alignment of GEF portfolio activities with decisions from biodiversity conventions, hosting of the Great Apes Survival Partnership Secretariat, participation in the Bern process to promote cooperation across

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<sup>2</sup> Netherlands, Portugal.

different MEAs in implementing the GBF and the Montevideo Program on Environmental Law.

- c. Acknowledged the importance of aligning the outcomes of COP/MEAs meetings with UNEP's future actions more generally.

9. **Draft recommendation from the subcommittee for further consideration and possible adoption at the next CPR quarterly meeting:** The Secretariat is requested to complement each presentation on the outcomes of a COP/MEA meeting with information on how such outcomes relate to the implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work.

#### **Agenda item 4: The Contribution of UNEA to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.**

10. Following an introduction by the Chair, the Secretariat provided a briefing on the [revised draft contribution](#) of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) to the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which was circulated to Member States on Saturday, 23 March 2024.
11. Delegations<sup>3</sup> that took the floor welcomed the briefing and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. Provided additional comments on the revised draft on areas that could be further clarified and strengthened to ensure full alignment with what was agreed by consensus at UNEA-6.
  - b. Requested clarification on the rationale for mentioning certain initiatives, approaches or strategies in the revised draft, with a view to ensure a balanced contribution.
12. Emphasized the need for a broader discussion within the CPR at a later stage on how to streamline and improve the preparation of future contributions to the HLPF, e.g. to ensure that they respond directly to the cluster of SDGs under in-depth review and to build on the outcomes of previous UNEA sessions while avoiding repetitive or selective references to such outcomes.
  - a. Provided specific text proposals to some paragraphs and sub-paragraphs, including proposed deletions and language edits, and committed to submitting more detailed comments and edits in writing.
  - b. Recommended<sup>4</sup> in paragraph 11(i) to strike the words “in line with the objective and principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris agreement” for brevity, clarity, and consensus, recalling explanations of positions regarding adoption of the Ministerial Declaration during UNEA-6 which highlighted that references to “the principles” of the UNFCCC might be intended by some as an attempt to backtrack on what has been achieved in the Paris Agreement.
13. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments, asked to receive the comments in writing, and committed to further revising the draft contribution accordingly.
14. The Chair reminded delegations that a final version of the draft contribution will be developed by the Secretariat and circulated under a silence procedure on Tuesday, 2 April. Following the conclusion of the silence procedure on Wednesday, 3 April, COB Nairobi

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<sup>3</sup> Türkiye, United States of America, European Union, Russian Federation, Argentina, Japan, Brazil, Cameroon, Iran, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Portugal, Ethiopia, Egypt, India.

<sup>4</sup> United States of America

time, the final contribution will be transmitted to the President of the Economic and Social Council through a letter from the President of UNEA.

15. **Draft recommendation from the subcommittee for further consideration and possible adoption at the next CPR quarterly meeting:** The Chair and Bureau of the CPR, with the support of the Secretariat, is invited to develop further guidance on how to prepare future contributions from UNEA to the HLPF.

**Agenda item 5: Other matters.**

16. No other matters were raised.

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

17. The meeting closed at 16:30 (GMT+3).