



Distr.: General
29 July 2024

English only



United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**
Nairobi, 12 September 2024
Conference Room 2
10:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting

Final Chair's summary of the 11th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee held from 8 to 12 July 2024

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting.

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 and welcomed the members and observers, including Major Groups and Stakeholders.
2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Inger Andersen, delivered a [statement](#).
3. Regional and Political Groups followed by individual Member States delivered opening statements.
4. The nine Major Groups and other Stakeholders delivered a joint opening [statement](#).
5. All written statements submitted to the Secretariat, as well as Secretariat presentations, meeting documents and reference documents have been made available on the [meeting website](#).

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda.

6. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 3: Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023 of the United Nations Environment Programme.

7. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, introduced the [2022-2023 UNEP Programme Performance Report](#).

Agenda item 3 (a): Review of UNEP thematic programmes in the UNEP Programme of Work.

8. The Secretariat first provided a programme performance overview, followed by a detailed briefing on the [UNEP Programme Performance Report for 2022-2023](#), highlighting UNEP's achievements in implementing the 2022-2023 Programme of Work (PoW) followed by a discussion with Member States and Stakeholders. All presentations are available on the following [link](#).

Programme Performance Overview

9. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Requested elaboration on reasons for and lessons learned from three non-oversight related indicators on Executive Direction and Management not attaining their targets.
- b. Requested clarification on why qualitative indicators were not reported on in the PPR annex.
- c. Queried on envisaged measures to address low survey response rates resulting in two indicators not being reported on, namely, the percentage of Governments in each region that rate UNEP support to countries as coherent and good quality (Executive Direction and Management) and the percentage of surveyed UNEP partners in Governments and in the UN system that rate UNEA as useful in providing policy guidance on important global environmental issues (Policy Making Organs).
- d. Called for elaboration on how UNEP is contributing to efforts on Greening the Blue.
- e. Requested clarification on why the UN-SWAP achievement was 94%, yet less than half of the project evaluations reviewed in 2023 met requirements relating to gender equality.
- f. Called for consistency in the presentations of lessons learned across all sub-programmes with a focus on how UNEP can improve its delivery, as well as the sharing of lessons learned from integrated approaches to address the crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- g. Requested the Secretariat to provide information on how the enterprise risk framework has been updated since its implementation in 2021.
- h. Called for future PPRs to reflect linkages between environment and poverty reduction.
- i. Requested that delegates be fully consulted and engaged in developing the new MTS and PoW, including on the development of better and sharper indicators.
- j. Called for reflections on how UNEP can add value by harnessing complementarity and synergies across its capacity building initiatives.

10. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Noted the following on the three non-oversight-related indicators not meeting their targets:
 - i. The % of UNCTs developing UNSDCF outcomes that include environmental goals can be improved through UNEP co-chairing the UNSDCF outcome group on the environment, including through the placement of a staff member in the Resident Coordinator offices.
 - ii. On the number of impact-oriented inter-agency partnerships or joint initiatives that address integrated approaches related to climate change, nature, and pollution, UNEP fell three short of the target of 46; it should be noted that the EMG has a new strategic approach that focuses on fewer issues, resulting in a lowering of the baseline for the 2024-2025 PoW.
 - iii. While no entity reported on mainstreaming and implementing the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda (including under the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment - SWFS), a dashboard showcasing both collective and individual entities' contributions to this end is under development with contributions expected from 40 UN entities.
- b. Clarified that qualitative indicators reporting was embedded in the PPR's narrative sections.
- c. Noted that efforts will be made to make surveys better and sharper to improve response rates.
- d. Noted that pivotal role of the sustainable UN Facility 2022-2025 in advancing the "Greening the Blue" initiative within the UN system, integrating sustainability principles into UN operations by focusing on energy use, waste management, and resource efficiency.
- e. Explained that UN-SWAP has different indicators that covers a broader range than the evaluation. Additionally, the 2022-2023 evaluations covered projects designed 6-7 years ago when gender integration in project design was not as strong as it is presently.
- f. Acknowledged the need to strengthen the lessons learned section for future PPRs.
- g. Informed that in 2023 UNEP's Enterprise Risk Management framework had been extended beyond entity-level risks in 2021, to also include risks from various MEAs, Regional Offices and Divisions through a bottom-up risk assessment exercise. Expanding to newer and more comprehensive risk categories resulted in a drop in the achievement of the indicator.
- h. Informed that UNEP is currently finalizing a leave no one behind strategic guidance which also includes poverty reduction, which will be embedded in the next MTS.
- i. Acknowledged the need to develop an improved and integrated results framework and confirmed that delegates will be consulted in developing the new MTS which will employ an adaptive management model that is continuously reviewed through careful monitoring and regular evaluations.

Strategic Objective 1: Climate Stability

11. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Noted that through partnerships, public and private sector institutions had mobilized US\$208 million in project funding for strategies and policies on adaptation, and US\$128 billion in strategic alliances for decarbonization, and inquired whether UNEP had a strategy to expand upon these partnerships.
- b. Requested UNEP to elaborate on how it works with GEF, GCF, Adaptation Fund and Climate Investment Funds and provide more information on its work on adaptation finance.
- c. Requested UNEP to elaborate on lessons learned, particularly the Enhanced Transparency Framework, NDCs, and UNEP's collaboration with UNFCCC and UNDP's Climate Promise.
- d. Highlighted UNEP's works on sustainable urban growth and requested the Secretariat to provide more details of its collaboration with UN-HABITAT.
- e. Requested UNEP to provide clarification on how it will support developing countries on the establishment of climate data management units.

12. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Elaborated on how UNEP is supporting countries in mobilizing resources to access the Adaptation Fund, GEF and GCF.
- b. Clarified that UNEP supports Member States to meet their reporting obligations to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and to access financing for mitigation and adaptation to implement UNFCCC decisions. UNEP also serves as secretariat to the Climate Technology Centre and Network, a constituted body of the UNFCCC.
- c. Noted that UNEP is co-organizing multiple regional workshops in 2024 to provide capacity building and knowledge sharing for countries for the preparation of their Nationally Determined Contributions.
- d. Highlighted UNEP's collaboration with UN-HABITAT through initiatives such as Greener Cities Partnership, Local 2030 Coalition and the upcoming World Urban Forum.
- e. Agreed that climate data management is a critical issue and the Capacity Building Initiatives on Transparency contribute to strengthening climate data units in countries.

Strategic Objective 2: Living in Harmony with Nature

13. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Requested more details in general terms on the impact of UNEP's work and sought clarification on what lessons learned from the current PoW and MTS will be taken into consideration in the development of the next MTS to enhance the impact of UNEP's work.
- b. Requested the Secretariat to provide information on planned future ocean's work especially considering the expected entering into force of the BBNJ agreement.
- c. Requested the Secretariat to clarify how it is collaborating with other agencies in implementing the UN common approach to biodiversity.
- d. Highlighted the opportunity the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) provides for UNEP to take a leadership role in supporting countries in its delivery and sought clarification on UNEP's key priorities in the coming period.
- e. Requested the Secretariat to clarify what challenges were being faced on financing biodiversity and how UNEP can contribute to closing the biodiversity finance gap.
- f. Recognized UNEP's contribution to the development of a Guide to implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at national level and requested further elaboration on UNEP's work on biodiversity linkages with health.

14. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Elaborated further on the lessons learned from its current work and on the ways forward for taking them into consideration in the development of the new MTS.
- b. Clarified how UNEP is leveraging its technical expertise, regional presence, and strategic partnerships in assisting countries in implementing whole of government and society approaches to enable GBF delivery.
- c. Clarified the various methods UNEP is using to raise funds for biodiversity.
- d. Highlighted UNEP's work across the UN System to mainstream biodiversity across sectors and systems.

Strategic Objective 3: Towards a Pollution-Free Planet

15. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Expressed commitments to the INC process on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, addressing the full life cycle of plastic.
- b. Asked the Secretariat to update on the status of the Global Framework on Chemicals and on the Ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution, including on the role of UNEP.
- c. Underlined the need for enhanced international cooperation for pollution prevention and reduction including through close coordination with MEA Secretariats and other UN agencies.
- d. Concurred with UNEP on the importance of targeting the up-stream part of value chains to address climate, nature and pollution challenges.
- e. Considered that integrating measures to address pollution as part of national development plans is crucial and inquired on UNEP's efforts to do so in UNSDCFs.
- f. Requested additional information on UNEP's work in Iraq and initiatives concerning e-waste management, waste management with local governments, sustainable public procurement, and high-impact sectors.
- g. Sought to understand reasons why one of the 2023 targets on Chemicals and Pollution Action was only partially met.

16. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Confirmed good collaboration with the UN agencies to offer coordinated support towards global processes for a pollution-free planet, and to promote evidence-based solutions, including on the implementation of Resolution V/8 adopted at ICCM 5.
- b. Explained that UNEP disseminates technical materials and offers regional preparatory sessions in support of the INC process.
- c. Assured that addressing existing pollution sources, such as legacy waste, is as important to UNEP as upstream measures based on cost-of-inaction analysis.
- d. Elaborated how UNEP directs existing funding from GEF and the Special Programme to enhance in-country capacities for chemicals management and pollution control. UNEP has also put in place mechanisms, such as the UNEP UNCT Engagement Network and the UNEP Development Coordinators in the regional offices to catalyze UN-wide action on climate, nature and pollution.
- e. Clarified that one indicator only partially met its target, mainly due to higher target-setting, re-alignment of work areas to other subprogrammes (hence their reporting done elsewhere), and slow growth of work with sub-national governments.

Foundational Sub-programme: Science Policy

17. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Requested the expansion of science policy impact to the Latin America and the Caribbean region.
- b. Noted efforts on drinking water accessibility and early warning systems for climate disasters and requested similar projects as well as an elaboration on UNEP's progress.
- c. Requested reasons for WESR's move, potential duplications, and how the division is addressing them, including lessons learned from the Division's restructuring.
- d. Requested linkages between the subprogramme's work and UNEA resolution 5/8 on a science policy panel, including better alignment and coordination with IPCC, IPBES, and the new Science Policy Panel.
- e. Requested details on the state of GEO 7 to avoid duplication.
- f. Requested plans for capacity-building programs to establish early warning systems in Africa, under the UN's "Early Warnings for All" initiative.
- g. Noted the omission of the International Resource Panel in the PPR and requested its future inclusion.

18. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. UNEP is focusing its efforts on the Early Warning for the Environment (EWE) initiative, in addition to the broader Early Warning for All approach. The EWE initiative specifically targets ecosystem services, chemicals, and pollution monitoring. This work is distinct from the efforts of other bodies like IPBES and IPCC, as the EWE initiative aims to develop environmental indicators to support the review of global environmental conditions in line with the SDGs and the GBF.
- b. UNEP through its regional offices, such as in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, is involved in various science, data, and policy initiatives to support Member States.

- c. UNEP's Foresight work is closely integrated with its broader assessments portfolio, using future-oriented insights to enhance the robustness and relevance of UNEP's assessments, policy guidance, and collaborative efforts across the UN.
- d. The Global Resource Outlook report produced by the International Resource Panel was not discussed, as it fell outside the PPR's 2022-2023 reporting period.

Foundational Sub-programme: Environmental Governance

19. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Requested an explanation on the metrics used to measure the success and uptake of different platforms and tools such as DaRT, the InforMEA Initiative, and LEAP and the measures undertaken to enhance the visibility and usage of these tools.
- b. Requested information on how the Secretariat supports countries to assess the implementation of MEAs, as well as to accede to relevant MEAs.
- c. Requested an update on the level of uptake of key reports, including the environmental rule of law reports at the national level.
- d. Encouraged UNEP to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to sustain the Bern Process for its continuation and visibility.
- e. Recognized DaRT as an important tool for enhancing cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and stressed that UNEP should seek to ensure sustainable funding for DaRT.

20. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Noted that while a thorough analysis of the implementation of global environmental governance has not been systematically conducted, knowledge products such as the Environmental Rule of Law report, the Climate Litigation report, and the ongoing development on an Environment Policy Tracker can help track progress in effectively addressing the three planetary environmental crises.
- b. Noted that a variety of metrics such as annual surveys, feedback requests and digital analytical tools are utilized to assess the use and impact of UNEP's products and tools, and acknowledged the need for increased communication on UNEP tools for wider usage at the national level.
- c. Highlighted that UNEP has supported 50 countries under the Montevideo Programme to strengthen legal frameworks and institutional arrangements and capacities.
- d. Highlighted that 140 country working spaces have been created in DaRT and over 600 national experts trained. The tool has been recognized through 14 decisions of MEAs governing bodies.
- e. Highlighted that UNEP has developed various online courses and delivered workshops and trainings to assist Member States in negotiating, ratifying, accepting or approving MEAs.
- f. Acknowledged the significance of the Bern Process in promoting synergies among different MEAs and reiterated UNEP's commitment to continue to serve as its Secretariat.
- g. Noted that UNEP will continue to support countries in promoting the coherent implementation of MEAs through capacity building training, development of supportive tools and materials, including for the use of UNCTS.

Enabling Sub-programme: Finance and Economic Transformations

21. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Requested the Secretariat to elaborate on how it is supporting the 10-Year Framework Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and the One Planet Network, as well as lessons learned and key takeaways from the UNEP Finance Initiative.
- b. Asked the Secretariat to update on progress in implementing UNEA resolution 6/1 on circularity of a resilient, low-carbon sugarcane agro-industry.
- c. Sought clarification on establishing teams and workstreams on high-impact sectors in order to secure long-term commitments for sustainability, and to strengthen collaboration with strategic partners in the regions.
- d. Sought clarification on how FET is linked to the thematic subprogrammes on climate action, nature action and pollution action.

22. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Provided information on upcoming activities including the 10-YFP Board Meeting on the margins of the High-level Political Forum and the upcoming One Planet Network Forum in September in Brazil. The Network is further strengthened by partnering closely with the International Resources Panel, bringing science to the policy interface on SDG 12.

- b. Confirmed that UNEP has prepared a workplan to implement UNEA resolution 6/1, including activities to establish an expert group to reduce impacts and create more value across the life cycle of sugarcane, to reduce agricultural waste and methane gas while increasing opportunities for green jobs for youth and also bio-economy more broadly. An initial pilot on green jobs for youth will initiate shortly in Cuba, Senegal and Madagascar.
- c. Highlighted the importance of shifting financial flows to secure long-term commitment for sustainability. Normative work supported by UNEP FI such as standardization of taxonomies used for green bonds and the task force for nature and climate disclosure to ensure transparency on environmental impacts of market investments are key drivers for sustainable finance.
- d. Clarified UNEP's plan to organize its workstream around high-impact sectors such as plastics, mining, textiles, building and construction, to maximize its ability to reduce climate, nature, and pollution footprints and progress on sustainable consumption and production in the sectors.

Enabling Sub-programme: Digital Transformations

23. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Raised concerns about MEAs data reporting burden on small teams in developing countries and requested UNEP's assistance in providing access to various data platforms and data source.
- b. Highlighted the omission of the digital divide as one of the challenges of the sub-programme and sought details on capacity-building initiatives for developing countries.
- c. Encouraged UNEP to continue its agile approach to digital transformation projects. Inquired about DEAL, the release schedule for the Digital4Sustainability learning path, and the Digital Accelerator Lab (DAL).
- d. Emphasized the importance of the Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS) in managing environmental data, and requested to include it in the next MTS.
- e. Requested information on EnvironmentGPT and UNEP's efforts on mitigating the environmental impact of AI.
- f. Suggested focusing on both benefits and challenges of AI.

24. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Acknowledged data accessibility importance for MEA reporting, especially for developing countries. Explained GEDS's focus on capacity building and data access. UNEP collaborates with MEAs and welcomes detailed discussions during GEDS consultations.
- b. Emphasized UNEP's role in knowledge sharing to make DAL and WESR tools affordable and accessible. This approach aims to bridge the digital divide.
- c. Confirmed the partnership with DEAL for consultation insights.
- d. Addressed Digital4Sustainability MOOC feedback collection and willingness to tailor courses to suit Member State needs.
- e. Announced the Digital for Pollution course launch by the end of August, and its promotion through newsletters, unep.org, DAL, and UN System Staff College.
- f. Expressed openness to share EnvironmentGPT for testing and feedback but not for widespread use. EnvironmentGPT, trained on UNEP-approved data, aims to provide accurate and UNEP-approved, scientific answers to questions related to environmental topics.
- g. Confirmed that UNEP is planning events and publications on AI's environmental impact and invited Member States and institutions to participate in these dialogues.

Concluding remarks

25. The Secretariat provided the following concluding remarks:

- a. Highlighted the importance of recognizing the interconnectedness of UNEP's initiatives and the holistic approach underpinning them, including deeply intertwined efforts on climate stability, living in harmony with nature, and towards a pollution-free planet.
- b. Highlighted the successful integration of the former subprogramme on resilience to disasters and conflict into UNEP's key workstreams, marking a significant step forward for UNEP in supporting countries highly vulnerable to and affected by conflict and disasters.
- c. Highlighted clear messages emerging from the 2022-2023 PPR including:
 - **Climate action:** The science is clear and compelling, evidenced by numerous reports and the global stocktake. While UNEP has robust plans and strategies in place, implementation and large-scale investment required for climate, nature and pollution action are not yet at scale.

- **Nature action:** Comprehensive multi-sectoral approaches to halting and reversing biodiversity loss have been successfully supported and UN EMG collaboration to accelerate collective UN action on the nature agenda at all levels has been deepened.
 - **Pollution action:** Promotion of circularity to address environmental crises, including pollution, has gained momentum. UNEP successfully led the establishment of inter-governmental processes to address pollutants of planetary concern.
 - **Science policy:** Global assessments have provided a foundation to catalyse coordinated action by establishing a common evidence base. The subprogramme has made significant progress on capacity building and knowledge sharing on the science-policy interface.
 - **Environmental governance:** Countries have been successfully supported in developing and implementing environmental rule of law, including through institutional strengthening, development of legal frameworks and policies and the implementation of MEAs.
 - **Finance and economic transformations:** While initiatives and partnerships have successfully generated tools and good practices in sustainable consumption and production, efforts need to be more targeted to catalyse stronger commitments and partnerships.
 - **Digital Transformations** To enhance the capacity to understand, respond to and mitigate environmental challenges, UNEP has fostered a digital ecosystem of data and platforms to enable monitoring, solutions development, analysis and actionable recommendations.
- d. Emphasized the instrumental role of the seven sub-programmes in advancing the strategic objectives and MTS, and UNEP's commitment to build on interconnected initiatives across subprogrammes to amplify its impact.

Agenda item 3 (b): Management and administration of UNEP.

26. The Secretariat provided a presentation about the [management and administration of UNEP](#).

27. Delegations that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

Human resources

- a. Appreciated that UNEP was among the top ten entities within the UN Secretariat with the highest level of female representation in the professional and above levels, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue making efforts to enhance gender and geographical balance, particularly from the Latin American and the Caribbean region, taking into account the importance of prioritizing candidates' suitability for the position.
- b. Requested that a further breakdown by gender and country be provided within each geographical representation.
- c. Requested more information on efforts pursued by UNEP for disability inclusion.
- d. Requested more information on how Member States could support the Secretariat in promoting a safer, more inclusive and empowering working environment for all, including through i) victim and survivor-centric approach to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment ii) disability inclusion and further requested that the Secretariat provide more detailed reports on conduct and discipline measures in that regard.

Financial and budgetary matters

- e. While welcoming the resource mobilization efforts pursued by the Secretariat, including through the private sector engagement, noted UNEP's heavy reliance on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) funds and requested more information on engagement with other vertical funds including the Adaptation Fund.
- f. Took note of the ongoing regular budget liquidity crisis and highlighted the importance of the Environment Fund in underpinning UNEP's delivery across the subprogrammes.
- g. Requested the Secretariat to share more details on how the core and earmarked funds were allocated across the subprogrammes, while stating that the budget, income and expenditure need to be more aligned.

Evaluations and audits

- h. Encouraged UNEP to close all outstanding recommendations from evaluations, audits and investigations.
- i. Requested the Secretariat to keep the CPR informed on the status of implementation of recommendations from evaluations, audits and investigations and related management responses through regular subcommittee meetings.

Risk management

- j. Recalled the importance for UNEP to actively mitigate risks, including cyber security risks, and requested the Secretariat to operationalize lessons-learned from risk management and provide the CPR with more detailed risk reporting.
28. The Secretariat, in response, thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Appealed to all Member States to support talent outreach to identify suitable candidates.
 - b. Provided more details on the Young Talent Pipeline and noted that the United Nations Volunteers recruited through the pipeline will be given opportunities to be retained in the organization, provided that their skills and competencies match the requirements of upcoming vacant positions.
 - c. Clarified that UNEP had zero tolerance to all forms of discrimination and actively advocates victim and survivor-centric approach, encouraging all victims to report and speak out about cases of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, without fear of retaliation.
 - d. Noted that persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply for jobs within the UN secretariat in the context of the implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.
 - e. Noted that while the regular budget funding represents only 5% of UNEP's total budget, the UN regular budget liquidity crisis has negative implications on staff recruitments with cascading impact on UNEP's ability to deliver on the Medium-term Strategy and the Programme of Work.
 - f. Confirmed that the Secretariat will continue to engage closely with the UN Headquarters in New York to mitigate the impact of the UN regular budget liquidity crisis.
 - g. Encouraged Member States to increase core funding and reduce earmarked contributions to allow the organization to distribute resources more equitably and effectively execute core programs, noting that earmarked contributions restrict the organization's flexibility in resource allocation.
 - h. Noted that some evaluations and audits recommendations were difficult to implement because of their scope, which sometimes requires interagency work, dedicated resources and/or modifying UN rules and regulations, which is governed by the UN General Assembly.
 - i. Agreed to regularly update the CPR about the ongoing and recently closed evaluations, audits and investigations.

Agenda item 3 (c): Consideration of relevant UNEP evaluation reports.

- 31. The Secretariat presented an [overview](#) of evaluations completed since the last subcommittee meeting, particularly referring to the [Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report 2022- 2023](#).
- 32. The Secretariat made a statement, outlining the [management response](#).
- 33. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:
 - a. Commended the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis report and stressed that it is a valuable document for the next MTS (2026-2029) and PoW.
 - b. Appreciated that the positive trend on project performance continues.
 - c. Regarding financial management, noted the lack of institutional guidance on defining, estimating, reporting and verifying cofinance cash and in-kind contributions which continues to be the case especially for GEF projects.
 - d. Welcomed the improvement in the Secretariat's responses to evaluation recommendations.
 - e. Expressed concerns that sustainability of project outcomes, monitoring and reporting, and responsiveness to human rights and gender are the weakest areas in project performance, and requested information on the actions the Secretariat will take to improve project performance in these areas, including in the new MTS and PoW.
 - f. Emphasized that while monitoring and reporting are under the control of UNEP and that sustainability depends on external factors, it would be important to regularly review the effectiveness of the measures and actions put in place.
 - g. Requested the Secretariat to provide an explanation of the discrepancy between the gender assessment in the PPR and the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.
 - h. Commended the Evaluation Office for the OIOS positive assessment it received and for being recognized as the most productive office in the UN Secretariat.
 - i. Regretted that the Secretariat's management response to the evaluation was not shared before the meeting and requested that for future meetings, the Secretariat shares the management response to evaluations in advance.
 - j. Requested that the Secretariat clarifies how it intends to strengthen country ownership and exit strategies to ensure the sustainability of project outcomes.
 - k. Highlighted that lessons learned from evaluations should inform policy development.
 - l. Requested the Secretariat to improve record keeping of documents to ensure business continuity with regard to project implementation and follow-up.
 - m. Requested the Secretariat to confirm when the gender strategy will be released.

34. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Confirmed that for future meetings, management responses to evaluations will be made available before the discussion of the agenda item.
- b. Clarified that the sustainability of project outcomes is often beyond the control of the project. UNEP will ensure that learnings from project evaluations regarding the dimension of sustainability will be embedded in future project design, including in guidelines and templates. The Secretariat also noted that the recently launched UNEP Project Management Course aims to build the capacity of Project Managers and project teams also in the area of sustainability of project results.
- c. Noted that projects should ensure adequate efforts and investments beyond output-level results to ensure better sustainability of results at the outcome level and likelihood of impact.
- d. To strengthen country ownership at the project level, the Secretariat will ensure to improve the integration of its interventions in the Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and engage more systematically with national actors and relevant stakeholders.
- e. Acknowledged the discrepancy regarding the gender dimension of UNEP projects shown in the Evaluation Synthesis Report 2022-2023 and in the PPR and clarified that while the PPR is based on the latest UN SWAP assessment, the Evaluation Synthesis Report 2022-2023 included an assessment of the performance of UNEP projects designed several years ago when the gender marker and other requirements were not in place. The Secretariat also noted that the UNEP Project Management course integrates the gender dimension.
- f. Noted that in 2021, UNEP undertook a review on 'leaving no one behind' which also considered human rights, the results of which will be embedded in the next MTS (2026-2029), clarified that human rights are duly included in the UNEP Programme Manual and in the Project Management course, and informed that the Secretariat will work to improve communication and leverage of General Assembly resolution 76/300 on access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- g. Noted the concerns regarding the performance of UNEP's projects under the evaluation criterion 'Monitoring and Reporting', and clarified that the Secretariat will take action to improve projects' performance under this criterion, taking into account that it already applies Quarterly Business Reviews (QBR) and monthly reporting requirements.
- h. Noted that the Secretariat will take adequate actions to strengthen the performance of GEF projects under Financial Management and clarified that the GEF Coordination Office recently moved to the Policy and Programme Division.
- i. Clarified that the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) solution will avoid gaps in project documentation, which occurred in some cases due to staff turnover.
- j. Noted that the Evaluation Office considers terminal evaluations, including discussion on management responses, as learning opportunities for the design of future projects and that the Secretariat recently launched a Communities of Practice platform where project managers can share lessons learned.
- k. Clarified that the Evaluation Office looks at the evaluation criterion on strategic relevance (e.g., alignment to UNEP's MTS and donors' strategic priorities; relevance to regional, sub-regional and national environmental priorities) through lenses that include elements considered at project design.

Agenda item 3 (d): Coordination within the UN system on the environment through the Environment Management Group

36. The Secretariat of the Environment Management Group (EMG) provided an [overview](#) of the two UN system wide Common Approaches on Biodiversity and Pollution, the progress made in their implementation and future plans in integration of environmental considerations in the work of other UN entities, including through the United Nations Environment Management Group.
37. The presentation was followed by a [panel discussion](#), moderated by Mr. Robert Bunbury, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada, during which presentations were made by ; Mr. Gonzalo Guaiquil, Deputy Permanent Representative of Chile; Ms Gudi Alkemade, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands; Mr. Filiep Decorte, Chief of the Programme Development Branch of the Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat ; Ms. Judith Mulwa, Environment and Climate Advisor to the Resident Coordinator in Kenya; Ms. Sharon Mutende, Policy Coordination Group Focal Point, Children and Youth Major Group; Mr. Lev Neretin, Lead for the Environment at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; and Mr. Benjamin Schachter, Coordinator, Climate Change and the Environment Team at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The panel discussion was followed by an exchange of views with Member States and Stakeholders.
38. Delegates that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments:
 - a. Sought clarification on the main obstacles faced by the EMG in the implementation of the Common Approaches and to provide examples of how those obstacles were overcome.

- b. Invited the EMG Secretariat to provide examples of lessons learned in the development of the Common Approaches.
- c. Requested the EMG Secretariat to clarify the role of Nature-based Solutions in the Common Approach to Biodiversity.
- d. Requested the EMG Secretariat to elaborate on the progress made in the area of human rights and biodiversity.
- e. Sought details on how the targets and goals of the global biodiversity framework are understood, implemented, and evaluated in the Common Approaches especially in accordance with human rights-based considerations.
- f. Underlined the need to identify incentives to engage UN entities in the implementation of the Common Approaches on the ground.
- g. Enquired how Member States could engage in and support the EMG's work on the implementation of the Common Approaches.
- h. Requested clarification on why Climate Action was not a part of the Common Approaches.
- i. Underlined the support needed for the implementation of these Common Approaches.
- j. Underlined the importance of clear development of results and reporting on progress of the Common Approaches.

39. The EMG Secretariat provided the following comments and clarifications:

- a. Highlighted the importance of UNEA and the CPR guidance in framing the work of the EMG in forging for collective action on the environment in the UN system.
- b. Underlined the ongoing interagency dialogue and collaboration in the EMG on Human Rights and Environment in the context of implementing the right to a healthy environment and application of human rights-based approach within the UN Common Approaches to Biodiversity, Pollution, and the UN Sustainability Strategy.
- c. Highlighted that interagency coordination on climate change is being pursued in other interagency platforms such as the Chief Executives Board (CEB) and the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and by the EMG in preparations for and during relevant Conferences of the Parties of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), such as EMG high level event during Climate COP28.
- d. Emphasized UNEP's close collaboration with other UN system entities to implement the common approaches.
- e. Noted the good level of participation of UN system entities and MEAs in the EMG and their increasing interest in collaborating with each other.
- f. Noted the challenge posed by a lack of resources in UN entities for interagency collaboration on the environment, the challenge to convince entities of the added value of such collaboration and that there are environmental dimensions embedded in their mandates.
- g. Further noted that opportunities for access to pooled funds could be explored to further strengthen engagement and encourage UN system entities to collaborate within the EMG.
- h. Acknowledged that concrete accountability measures should be put in place as a means to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the UN system entities.
- i. Clarified that the Common Approach to Biodiversity has been fully aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework and focuses on integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the UN's policy and programme planning and delivery.

Agenda item 3 (e): Contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP Medium-term Strategy and Programme of Work.

- 40. The Secretariat provided an [overview](#) of the role of regional forums of ministers of the environment and UNEP regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges.
- 41. The presentation was followed by a [panel discussion](#), moderated by Ms. Rose Mwebaza, Director of the UNEP Africa Office, during which presentations were made by; H. E. Mr. Seyoum Mekonnen, State Minister, Ministry of Planning and Development, representing the Presidency of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the Africa Region; H. E. Mr. Anil Jasinghe, Chair of the Fifth Forum of Ministers and

Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, Chief Executive Officer Climate Change Office President's Secretariat, Sri Lanka, representing the Asia and the Pacific region; and H. E. Ms. Raquel Soto, Vice-Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment of Peru, representing the Presidency of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The panel discussion was followed by an exchange of views with Member States and Stakeholders.

42. Delegations that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

- a. Noted that the regional forums of Ministers of the Environment and Environment authorities (the forums):
 - i. Serve as instrumental platforms, fostering dialogue, cooperation, and actionable commitments towards the achievement of environmental goals at all levels and the implementation of UNEP's programme of work taking into account diverse geographical and political landscapes.
 - ii. Demonstrate the power of collaboration and joint action recognizing that environmental challenges know no boundaries and demand unified responses.
 - iii. Have enriched the formulation of initiatives, UNEP's medium-term strategy, and programmes of work, and suggested that the forums should be involved in the preparation of UNEP's next medium-term strategy and programme of work.
 - iv. Provide a vital space for major groups and stakeholders to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and forge partnerships, contributing to environmental sustainability at all levels.
 - v. Provide policy direction on regional environmental priorities and provide a platform for major groups and different stakeholders and other partners to contribute to the formulation and implementation of the outcomes from the regional fora.
 - vi. May help increase awareness about UNEP's programme of work and budget, and promote additional contributions to the Environment Fund.
 - vii. Should enhance awareness of UNEA outcomes, provide a platform for regional engagement and consensus-building, contributing to effective negotiations at UNEA.
 - viii. Moving forward, will continue to be indispensable, as catalysts for transformative action, advancing progress towards sustainable development goals and various global frameworks, and scaling up of initiatives, mobilizing resources, and strengthening national and regional capacities.
- b. Highlighted that plastic pollution remains a significant challenge in many regions including the Asia-Pacific and further appreciated UNEP's support towards an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, with potential positive impacts at regional level.
- c. Recognized the role of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, with one Member State announcing a contribution of \$2.4 million dedicated to the Pacific Island States through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.
- d. Appreciated UNEP's work to implement UNEA resolution 6/3 and requested an update on the expected cost of implementation.
- e. Requested more information on:
 - i. Costs and benefits for UNEP through its support of the regional forums.
 - ii. How the forums can increase funding efforts for UNEP, including through voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund.
 - iii. The impact of the forums on the implementation of UNEP's medium-term strategy, resource mobilization efforts and visibility.
- f. Requested the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the decisions from the regional forums through the allocation of adequate resources and the mobilization of financial resources.
- g. Encouraged better coordination between UNEP headquarters and its regional offices and called for strengthening of UNEP's regional offices through sufficient human and financial resources.
- h. Organize a joint session between the presidents of the various forums and the CPR to promote a discussion on cross-cutting regional issues.
- i. Include the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in future discussions on the forums at the annual subcommittee meetings of the CPR.

43. The Secretariat provided the following comments and clarifications:

- a. Clarified that the costs for organizing the forums are shared between UNEP and the host countries and provided cost estimates of holding each of the forum.
- b. Confirmed that UNEP's regional offices work closely with:
 - i. UNEP headquarters to inform regional forums about contributions to the Environment Fund and CPR accreditation under the framework "UNEP – your Partner of Choice"; and
 - ii. UN Country Teams to support country priorities in line with UNEP's programme of work.

- c. Noted that several regional forums coordinate regularly with relevant CPR Members and that the forums play a crucial role in providing technical support to Member States.
- d. Confirmed that the forums play a key role in providing policy direction on regional environmental priorities and provide a platform for major groups and different stakeholders to contribute to technical segments and ensure impactful contributions to the outcomes of the regional fora.

Agenda item 4: Financial outlook, opportunities and challenges for the United Nations Environment Programme.

44. The Secretariat presented an [overview](#) of UNEP’s financial status and outlook on challenges and opportunities, including an update on developments regarding the widening of the funding base, better recognition of the funding partners, and how to strengthen resource mobilization of the Environment Fund and the new Thematic Funds.

45. Delegations that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

- a. Noted the importance of the Environment Fund in enabling UNEP to execute its mandate, implement its Medium-Term Strategy and Programmes of Work and budget as approved by UNEA, and encouraged all Member States to contribute their full share to the Environment Fund.
- b. Welcomed the increase in income and number of Member States contributing to the Environment Fund as well as the increased number of full share contributors.
- c. Commended the Secretariat for the increased visibility and appreciation of Member States contributing their full share to the Environment Fund and for the recognition of contributors to the thematic funds.
- d. Highlighted that the Secretariat should continue its work to promote a wider funding base by additional outreach efforts to Member States, including through global and regional fora.
- e. Recommended that the Secretariat should conduct another survey to better understand the reasons that more than half of Member States do not contribute to the Environment Fund in any given year.
- f. Requested the Secretariat to strengthen its business case as a “partner of choice”, including through an improved narrative on results achieved through the contributions to the Environment Fund.
- g. Called for increased transparency and accountability of resource use and an improved oversight function of the organization, to demonstrate value-added of financial contributions.
- h. Requested the Secretariat to continue to explore the mobilization of additional and innovative financial sources.
- i. Acknowledged importance of the thematic funds in increasing operational effectiveness of the organization and encouraged UNEP to incentivize donors to contribute, including through targeted awareness-raising efforts.
- j. Welcomed the intention to release a report on the use of the thematic funds in September 2024, to demonstrate the impact made of these funds and ensure full transparency, also as an incentive to encourage Member States to consider contributing to the thematic funds.
- k. Recommended that UNEP compare with other UN agencies resource mobilization strategies also taking into account the current UN cash crisis.

46. The Secretariat provided the following comments and clarifications:

- a. Re-emphasized that global environmental challenges necessitate stable and adequate resources through contributions to the Environment Fund, to enable UNEP to respond effectively and implement its Programme of work and Budget as approved by Member States.
- b. Committed to further strengthen the narrative on UNEP as “partner of choice” and to demonstrate the results achieved from core funding.
- c. Noted that a survey was conducted amongst the Member States on UNEP’s funding in 2020 as a useful tool to elaborate UNEP’s resource mobilization strategy and actions to date, and committed to conduct a new survey.
- d. Welcomed the feedback on thematic funds and agreed to look into strengthening the impact narrative, with a focus on marketing and reporting on the use of the thematic funds.
- e. Noted that consultations with other UN agencies have been held including with regard to the establishment and use of thematic funds.
- f. Committed to undertake efforts to unlock additional resource mobilization opportunities noting that the success of funding efforts is a joint endeavour between the Secretariat and Member States.

- g. Noted that UNEP’s engagement with the private sector is not primarily targeting resource mobilization, but to mobilize joint initiatives to “green” specific industry sectors, which may render membership fees.

Agenda item 5: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

UNEA-6 assessment and lessons learned

47. The Committee considered a [co-facilitators non-paper](#) containing draft recommendations on lessons learned from UNEA-6, following the informal exchange on UNEA-6 lessons learned mandated by the CPR at its subcommittee meeting on 6 June 2024.
48. The co-facilitators of the informal exchange, Mr. Joaquin Salzberg of Argentina and Mrs. Gudi Alkemade of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, provided an update on the outcome of the discussions during the informal exchange.
49. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Mr. Joaquin Salzberg of Argentina and Mrs. Gudi Alkemade of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for their work as co-facilitators and recommended that the draft recommendations on lessons learned from UNEA-6 contained in the non-paper as set out in Annex II to the present summary be considered by the CPR at its 167th meeting for possible adoption.

Agenda item 5 (a): Roadmap for the development of a medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027

50. The Secretariat presented a [roadmap](#) for the preparation of the draft Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work and Budget.
51. Delegations provided the following comments:
- a. Welcomed that the Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029 builds on the strategic pillars of climate change, nature loss and; chemicals and pollution and be informed by of lessons learned, evaluations and audit recommendations.
 - b. Requested the Secretariat to:
 - i. Ensure an inclusive consultation, with more opportunities for input throughout the process.
 - ii. Ensure alignment with UN system and MEAs .
 - iii. Give equal priority for foundational/enabling and thematic subprogrammes.
 - iv. Ensure incorporation of UNEA priorities and outcomes where these have programmatic implications/commitments.
 - v. Emphasize the need to respond to human rights, gender equality and vulnerable groups (SIDS, poverty, inequality, disability).
 - vi. Ensure that the broad framing of the MTS adequately responds to and reflects all relevant multilateral environmental conventions and frameworks which informs and shapes UNEP’s programme.
 - vii. Ensure a strengthened narrative that includes, among other areas: sustainable infrastructure; green finance; desertification, sustainable consumption and production; and mining and minerals.
 - viii. Emphasized the work of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and the work of the one planet network.

52. The Secretariat, in response, and provided the following clarifications:

- a. Confirmed the importance of addressing the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and integrating relevant UNEA outcomes, into the MTS. They also emphasized the inclusion of poverty reduction, disability, inequality, and human rights focus within UNEP’s mandate.
- b. Confirmed that there would be both formal and informal consultations, both in-person and online to allow for an interactive and inclusive process, including with regional fora as appropriate.
- c. Gender will feature strongly in the next MTS and go beyond target beneficiaries to identify how marginalised groups are affected by environmental degradation.
- d. The Secretariat also confirmed their work on water resource management in response to the Secretary General’s call for a broad strategy for water.

- e. Clarified that UNEP's normative and operational work are on a continuum and are part of UNEP's complimentary toolkit.
- f. Clarified that UNEP is an implementing agency in supporting Member States to implement their commitments to the MEAs.
- g. Acknowledged the importance of the work of the one planet network.
- h. Clarified that strengthened language will be used to adequately reflect UNEP's significant focus on and engagement in desertification and land degradation, since desertification and land degradation form a critical element in addressing the terrestrial elements of the nature pillar.

Agenda item 5 (b): Consultation on the theme for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

53. The Secretariat presented the three proposals as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/ASC/11/7](#).
54. His Excellency Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) and Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman, briefed on the discussion held during the [joint meeting of the UNEA and CPR Bureaux](#) on 26 June and indicated that consultations on the theme will be held from September through November as needed for a final decision on the theme to be taken by the UNEA Bureau in December.
55. Delegations provided the following comments:
- a. Noted that the three proposed themes bear high relevance to the current and upcoming landscape of intergovernmental meetings and processes, including but not limited to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the Summit of the Future. The proposed themes also have great potential to accelerate the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - b. Underlined the importance of ensuring that the theme of UNEA-7 builds on past UNEA outcomes whilst being inclusive, consensual, focused, easily understandable and communicable to the public. The focus of the theme should result in a limited number of draft resolutions.
 - c. Considered that the theme should reflect UNEP's mandate and comparative advantage and drive transformative, science-based actions to enable Member States to strengthen international environmental cooperation, with benefits for economies and societies at large, leaving no one behind.
 - d. Requested the Secretariat to take into consideration the comments provided.
 - e. Highlighted that the final theme as agreed by Member States could show preference for one of the three options, taking into account the views expressed by Member States, as well result in a combination of elements from all three options.
 - f. Stressed the need for an open, inclusive and transparent consultation with Member States as well as with Major Group and Stakeholder for a consensual outcome.
56. The Secretariat, in response, thanked delegations for their comments as well as the UNEA-7 Presidency for their continued leadership in the process.
57. The President of UNEA welcomed the suggestions and informed of his intention to convene the next consultation in late September/early October.

Agenda item 6. Consideration of a draft Chair's summary of the meeting.

58. The Committee was reminded of the [guidance on the organisation of work of the CPR](#) pertaining to para 41 j) of the [Chair's summary](#) of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, in which the Secretariat is requested to capture relevant draft decisions or recommendations deriving from the subcommittee meetings in the summary of those meetings, and in the report of the subcommittee to be considered under the relevant agenda item of the quarterly CPR meetings.
59. The Committee agreed that, in accordance with the guidance referred to in paragraph 60, the draft recommendations proposed by delegations as contained in Annex I will be considered at a subcommittee meeting of the CPR in September 2024 for consideration and adoption by the CPR at its 167th quarterly meeting.
60. The Committee endorsed the draft Chair's summary.

Agenda item 7: Other matters.

61. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 8: Closing of the meeting.

62. Closing statements were delivered by some members of the Committee and a Major Group and Stakeholder on behalf of the 9 Major Groups.

63. The Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, delivered closing remarks.

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