

# Opening Remarks

H.E. Mr. Firas F. Khouri

Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representative to UNEP

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of  
Jordan to UNEP

## Statement

Dear Colleagues ...Excellencies ...Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. In my opening remarks, I wish to thank the Governance Affairs Office for organising an orientation session for new members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). The session is also attended by members who wish to refresh their understanding of the mandate, functions and roles of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Environment Assembly and the CPR. To all of you colleagues, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this very important annual activity of our calendar.
2. Previous orientation sessions had been confined to three hours which was seen as not adequate. To achieve deeper engagement with delegates for better understanding, additional time has been allotted for presentations on the different aspects of UNEP's work. Today we shall have both morning and afternoon sessions, with a lunch-break in-between, to allow further in-person interactions with divisional representatives.
3. As you may already know, the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) is the intersessional Subsidiary Organ of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). The CPR has an oversight responsibility on the implementation of UNEA's resolutions and decisions, guides the development of the PoW and budget of UNEP and monitors its implementation, and facilitates UNEA preparations. The CPR has a bureau whose membership consists of five persons, drawn from the five UN regional groups and comprises of a chairperson, three vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur. The term of office of the CPR Bureau is 2-years – and the current bureau's term expires on 30 June 2025. A new CPR Bureau will assume office just a few months before the UNEA-7 which is scheduled from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

4. Therefore, I wish to call for your patience and keenness to understand how the CPR plays its role as the subsidiary inter-sessional body. I am convinced that after the briefing of today, you shall be well equipped to perform your role dutifully and diligently to achieve the collective aspirations of the Member States that we all represent.
5. As soon as the UNEA Bureau, through its Presidency, defines the theme of UNEA-7 by the end of this year, it will be our role as the CPR to initiate and ensure an early, inclusive and transparent inter-session preparatory process for UNEA-7 through timely submission, consideration and negotiation of draft resolutions and decisions.
6. Therefore, for those who shall settle into a busy schedule in Nairobi, where some of you will serve in both UNEP and UN-Habitat CPRs, I would urge you to please utilise the UNEP CPR Portal, the Nairobi Journal, the Resolutions Portal and the Reporting and Monitoring portal, which are all updated regularly by the Secretariat to help you navigate this busy landscape. I am inviting you to acquire the habit of reading in advance every documentation posted onto these portals to make informed and substantive contributions.
7. In addition, please make yourself familiar with technologies used and applied by the Secretariat. Our activities are being migrated to the e-deleGATE, which is a versatile and user-friendly portal. Other communications through the secretariat's E-mail [UNEP\\_SGB@UN.ORG](mailto:UNEP_SGB@UN.ORG) continues to serve us well between all our missions and the UNEP Secretariat.
8. We have connected virtually and remotely during meetings such as this one with colleagues outside Nairobi, through improved technology which continues to give us seamless connectivity and benefit from our constructive contributions.
9. As I conclude, I wish to say that as the Chairperson of the CPR Bureau, I look forward to working with you all during your assignment to UNEP. I hope that you will not hesitate in reaching out with any questions or concerns that may arise. Once again, a warm welcome to Nairobi.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH