
167th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
12 September 2024
10:00 – 13:00, 15:00 – 18:00 (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 at 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 (UNEP), opened the 167th meeting of the CPR on 12 September 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 167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda of the 167th meeting of the CPR, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/167/1](#).

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 166th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including its resumed meeting.

3. The Committee adopted the draft minutes of the 166th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/167/2](#).

Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Director to the 167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The Committee was invited to consider the Executive Director's [Quarterly Report to the 167th Meeting of the CPR - April to June 2024](#), providing an update on key developments relevant to UNEP for the period April to June 2024.
5. Delegations that took the floor¹ welcomed the statement and the report of the Executive Director and provided the following comments in summary:

¹ Egypt on behalf of G77 and China, Brazil on behalf of Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, State of Palestine on behalf of Arab States Group, Norway, European Union, Ukraine, Morocco, Colombia, Thailand on behalf of Asia-Pacific States Group, Kenya, Algeria, Belgium, Finland, Chile, United States of America, France, Japan, Costa Rica, Senegal, Mexico, Iraq, Democratic Republic of Congo, Argentina, Russian Federation, Switzerland, The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Somalia, State of Palestine, India, Spain, Peru, Botswana, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the), Philippines, Islamic Republic of Iran, Zambia, Children and Youth Major Group.

- a. Expressed appreciation on the progress made on significant global and regional developments mentioned in the report, including UNEP's participation and important inputs in various meetings, especially those for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), and the organizational meeting of the preparatory commission for the entry into force of the Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).
- b. Welcomed the worldwide celebration of the [World Environment Day 2024](#), especially since it focused on the pressing issues of desertification, land restoration and drought resilience, all part of the alarming consequences of the global warming and climate change.
- c. Sought more information on the reported decrease in the uptake of nationally determined contributions, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Multilateral Environment Agreements by UN entities, as well as how the work to tackle the three environmental planetary crises are integrated in the work and repositioning of the UN development system.
- d. Requested more information on collaboration and synergies with UN-Habitat on climate resilient housing and the role of cities in transitioning to an equitable, sustainable and liveable world.
- e. Suggested that higher priority should be given to UNEP's work on desertification, land degradation and drought.
- f. Requested that a briefing is held on the outcomes of the recently concluded [African Ministerial Conference on Environment's special session on desertification](#) at a subsequent meeting of the subcommittee.
- g. Requested an update on the status of the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment on the environmental impact in Gaza, specifically whether it has been completed and if this would now enable UNEP to prepare an interim assessment, as indicated in the Quarterly Report.
- h. Further queried on how to improve the assessment regarding the environmental impacts in Gaza, in particular regarding the tools available to limit the deterioration of water and land, and relevant efforts undertaken by other UN agencies.
- i. Recommended that inputs provided by Member States during the secretariat briefing on [the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#) held in Nairobi on 19 August 2024 should inform the report to be submitted by the Panel to the UN Secretary-General.
- j. Appreciated efforts made in preparation for [the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment \(INC-4\)](#), as set out in [UNEA resolution 5/14](#), and underlined the need for an ambitious outcome.
- k. Noted that an integrated analysis of processes and developments "under Environmental Governance" provides opportunities for UNEP to continue advancing [Principle 10](#) of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the implementation of the [Bali Guidelines](#), and asked whether South-South cooperation has been considered in this context.
- l. Requested more information on financial support to developing countries for addressing biodiversity loss, pollution and waste.
- m. Expressed support for UNEP's efforts to achieve gender parity and equitable regional representation among UNEP staff and asked for more clarification on progress made.
- n. Requested more information on how UNEP accounts for in-kind contributions in monetary terms.
- o. Asked about UNEP's vision regarding financial contributions from philanthropic organisations and existing distribution of such funds among the thematic programmes.
- p. Recalled [General Assembly Resolution 2997](#) of 1972 on the institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation, which delineates the objectives

- and functions of Environment Funds, taking into account developing countries needs and priorities.
- q. Encouraged all countries to contribute its “full share” to the Environment Fund or to the softly earmarked thematic funds.
 - r. Expressed concerns over the on-going UN regular budget liquidity crisis and its consequential limitations on hiring of new personnel.
 - s. Emphasized that UNEP should ensure that recruitments must remain based on competence and skills, not on nationality.
6. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their guidance and provided the following clarifications in summary:
- a. Informed those philanthropic contributions in 2023 amounted to \$5.2 million, supporting 21 projects in areas such as ecosystems, e-mobility, and biodiversity, with thematic funds receiving \$30 million.
 - b. Noted that new funds have been received under the Convention on Biological Diversity hosted by the Global Environment Fund.
 - c. Explained that in-kind contribution primarily consists of the provision of office space or services, and that while these contributions are not recognised as revenue towards UNEP’s core budget, all in-kind contributions received by the Secretariat are recognized and disclosed in the UNEP’s financial statements.
 - d. Stated that UNEP, taking into account the [UN Charter, Article 101. Paragraph 3](#), places due regard to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.
 - e. Confirmed that UNEP is currently working within the UN system, together with the European Union and the World Bank, to develop a recovery strategy of the Gaza Strip, including recycling of conflict-related debris and estimates of damage, where possible.
 - f. Noted that the Secretariat is also contributing to the UN system-wide work on “Enhancing Preparedness for the West Bank and Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) and the Conflict Recovery Framework”.
 - g. Confirmed that UNEP is collaborating with UN-Habitat on roadmaps for climate resilient housing and now moving into pilots focusing on affordable housing.
 - h. Noted that regarding geographical diversity, 82% of recruits in 2024 were selected from less represented countries.
 - i. Highlighted that UNEP developed a significant outreach program on recruitment aiming at encouraging talents from underrepresented countries and regions to apply for UNEP positions, including towards afro-descendants and indigenous communities, resulting in 22 events in multiple languages so far.

Agenda item 5: Development of a medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027.

7. The Committee was invited to consider a [draft roadmap for the development of the UNEP medium-term strategy 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027](#).
8. Delegations² that took the floor welcomed the briefing and provided the following comments

² Egypt on behalf of G77 and China, Brazil on behalf of Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Norway, Thailand on behalf of Asia-Pacific States Group, State of Palestine on behalf of Arab States Group,

in summary:

- a. Highlighted [UNEA Decision 6/7](#) and the need for a flexible roadmap with additional meetings as required e.g. subcommittee meetings, and regional consultations to ensure an inclusive and consultative process to fully consider the positions of Member States, and emphasized the inclusion of all stakeholders, including the private sector.
 - b. Welcomed the integration of cross-cutting issues mentioned in section 3.4, particularly desertification, land degradation, and requested the inclusion of droughts as well as adequate consideration for these important issues throughout the document.
 - c. Noted the findings of the recently published Foresight Report and stressed the inclusion of a range of intergovernmental scientific reports including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Global Environment Outlook.
 - d. Requested the Secretariat to:
 - i. Provide a more detailed roadmap, including specific dates, times, topics and format for consultations.
 - ii. Incorporate lessons learned from reports, evaluations and audits in the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029
 - iii. Reflect the views of Member States in the 2026-2029 MTS and seek consensus.
 - iv. Circulate the documentation for the Member States Dialogues on the development of the UNEP 2026-2029 MTS and the UNEP Programme of Work and Budget (PoW) for the period of 2026-2027 as well as the draft MTS in advance for thorough review by Member States.
 - v. Mainstream the gender and poverty eradication in the 2026-2029 MTS and highlighted the need for robust indicators and to measure implementation.
 - vi. Better integrate rights perspective, with a focus on those furthest from behind and access to environmental justice.
 - vii. Reflect in the 2026-2029 MTS the collaboration with other UN agencies to mainstream the environmental agenda and strengthen partnerships with the private sector.
9. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Clarified that the new draft MTS will more adequately reflect UNEP's significant focus on and engagement in desertification and land degradation.
 - b. Highlighted that the upcoming Member States dialogues will be informal in nature, and encouraged Member States to register and participate
 - c. Clarified that a report of key themes and outcomes emerging from the dialogues will be shared with Member States prior to the 168th Meeting of the CPR.
 - d. Confirmed that all meeting documents will be shared well in advance and committed to a flexible, transparent and inclusive consultative process in the development of the MTS and PoW.

Agenda item 6: Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits.

10. The Committee was invited to consider a [briefing](#) on the [Evaluation of the UNEP Subprogramme on Climate Action, 2014-2023](#).

European Union, Russian Federation, Algeria, Japan, United States of America, Argentina, Morocco, Switzerland, Kenya, Costa Rica, French, Indonesia, Portugal, Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the).

11. Delegations³ that took the floor welcomed the briefing and provided the following comments in summary:

- a. Requested clarification on Recommendation 1 on ‘Partnerships - Improve collaboration with United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)’, and specifically on whether the evaluation covered the link between UNEP and the UN Resident Coordinator Offices.
- b. Inquired about the risk management capacity within the new Climate Change Division, asking if it falls under the division itself or another entity such as the evaluation office, further asked if there is a dedicated risk manager for climate change or climate action within the evaluation office or the responsible authority.
- c. Asked about how much of earmarked contributions goes to the newly established Climate Change Division, and how this is communicated.
- d. Encouraged UNEP to evaluate projects that enhance adaptation and resilience, to prioritize international cooperation and technology transfer to developing countries, and to review and strengthen operational indicators to ensure better alignment with the Paris Agreement.
- e. Highlighted the importance of addressing other environmental challenges like land degradation and biodiversity loss alongside climate change efforts.
- f. Suggested that UNEP:
 - i. Focus on operational outcome indicators and qualitative measures for project impact to enhance donor reporting and governance.
 - ii. Strengthen communication with donors and improve transparency on financial allocations, as well as enhance visibility of its projects across divisions.
 - iii. Take more inclusive strategies to incorporate youth input into UNEP’s climate action programs.

12. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

- a. Committed to incorporate the recommendations from the subprogramme evaluation into upcoming 2026-2029 MTS and 2026-2027 PoW, and in the work of the new Climate Change Division.
- b. Noted that UNEP collaborates closely with UNDP on ecosystem-based adaptation, including on regional forums on nationally determined contributions and technology meetings.
- c. Referred to national submissions and IPCC modelling, which inform UNEP’s approach to climate risk and disaster exposure, further explained the use of “five lines of defense” for managing fiduciary risk as part of UNEP’s oversight and risk management processes.
- d. Clarified that the Climate Change Division was partly created to improve transparency and accountability in climate-related resource allocation, addressing issues from the previous, less defined structure.
- e. Highlighted the significant difference between the Climate Action Fund and larger vertical funds such as GCF, notably regarding different levels of funding.
- f. Acknowledged the need to strengthen indicators, particularly in tracking resources allocated to climate change programs, and committed to take this on board in addition to tightening UNEP’s service offer, namely science and transparency, sectoral solutions and catalysing finance for climate action.

Agenda item 7: Adoption of the Chair’s summary of the 11th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

³ Egypt on behalf of G77 and China, European Union, United States of America, Norway, United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the), Children and Youth.

13. Delegations⁴ that took the provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Expressed gratitude to the two co-facilitators⁵ of the draft recommendation on lessons learned from the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly .
 - b. Emphasized that these recommendations should not take precedence over the outcomes document from the consensual process for review by the CPR, as outlined in the [Final Outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#).
14. The Committee decided to adopt the Final Chair's summary of the 11th annual subcommittee meeting of the committee held from 8 to 12 July 2024 as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/167/7](#).
15. The Committee decided to adopt the draft recommendation on lessons learned from the sixth session of the United Nations environment assembly for consideration and possible adoption by the CPR at its 167th quarterly meeting as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/167/7/ADD.1](#).

Agenda item 8: Report of the subcommittee.

16. The Committee decided to endorse the draft report of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as contained in document UNEP/CPR/167/8/Rev.1
17. One delegation⁶ proposed adding preambular paragraphs to the document [UNEP/CPR/167/9](#) entitled "Draft decision on improving identification, formulation and recording of decisions and conclusions from the meetings of the CPR".
18. The Committee decided to adopt the decision on improving identification, formulation and recording of decisions and conclusions from the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted by the CPR at its 167th quarterly meeting, as orally revised, at the meeting and as set out in document [UNEP/CPR/167/9/Rev.1](#).

Agenda Item 9: Any other business.

19. Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP presented to the Committee [a NetZero project](#) taking place at the Belgium Embassy.

Agenda Item 10: Closing of the meeting.

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

⁴ Brazil on behalf of Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Egypt on behalf of G77 and China, Canada.

⁵ Netherlands (the Kingdom of the) and Argentina.

⁶ Portugal.