

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 29 October 2024
13:00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

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 Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Overview of the audit process in UNEP

3. The Committee was invited to continue its discussion on the overview of the audit process in UNEP, with a particular focus on the proposed [CPR reporting on audit and evaluations](#), which was initially presented during the [subcommittee meeting](#) held on 15 October 2024.
4. No further comments were raised under this agenda item.

Agenda item 3: Draft recommendations from the eleventh annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR.

5. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the [revised cost implications of draft recommendations](#) proposed by delegations at the eleventh annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR held from 8 to 12 July 2024, for final consideration by the CPR at its [168th quarterly meeting](#), scheduled for 17 December 2024.
6. The Secretariat also presented a [note on the mandate of the CPR](#).
7. The presentations by the Secretariat were followed by an exchange of views among delegations. The Secretariat advised that delegations are best placed to determine compliance with the CPR mandate.
8. The Committee recommended that the following draft recommendations be considered by the CPR at its [168th quarterly meeting](#):
 - **Recommendation #5:** *Reiterates* [UNEA decision 6/7](#) that the new Medium Term Strategy (MTS) is prepared through open, transparent and inclusive consultation with Member States and fully taking into account the views of Member States.
 - **Recommendation #8:** *Recommends* the Secretariat to better integrate and link

information on policy work, results, available financial resources and expenditures in future Program Performance Reports.

- **Recommendation #11:** *Requests* the Secretariat to follow up on the decision of the CPR to include evaluations and audits, as a standing item on the agenda of the quarterly meetings of the CPR and to present in preparation for the CPR quarterly meetings, the relevant audit and evaluations reports, including related management responses, to a CPR subcommittee meeting for review and possible recommendations.
- **Recommendation #12:** *Requests* the Secretariat to prioritize the implementation of all outstanding recommendations contained in audits, investigations and evaluation reports.
- **Recommendation #13:** *Requests* the Secretariat to develop concrete steps to improve on the Executive Direction and Management performance related indicators and present them during a future subcommittee meeting of the CPR.
- **Recommendation #14:** *Reiterates* the decision of the CPR at its 164th meeting ([164/1, paragraph 4](#)) on prevention on sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.
- **Recommendation #20:** *Highlights* the importance of regular briefings on the work of the EMG in the future CPR subcommittee meetings.
- **Recommendation #22:** *Requests* the Secretariat to fully reflect the implementation of the outcomes of UNEA in the draft MTS.
- **Recommendation #25:** *Requests* the Secretariat to indicate clearly and early in the process how lessons learned from the implementation of current MTS and Programme of Work (PoW) will be taken into account on the development of the MTS 2026-2029 and further iterations of PoW.
- **Recommendation #26:** *Recommends* that the Secretariat highlights in the roadmap the regional consultations on the MTS and PoW.
- **Recommendation #29:** *Recommends* that the Secretariat schedules more meetings at the level of the subcommittee, including informal meetings that should serve the purpose of forging a consensus on a robust and efficient roadmap.

9. The Committee further agreed that the following draft recommendation be withdrawn, noting that it has already been implemented by the Secretariat:

- **Recommendation #21:** *Requests* the Secretariat to revise the roadmap to better reflect involvement of Member States in the development of the draft MTS, including through subcommittee meetings and other type of meetings.

10. Delegations started an exchange of views on draft recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4.

11. The Committee further agreed to defer its consideration of the following draft recommendations to a subsequent subcommittee meeting, and delegations were encouraged by the Chair to hold consultations among themselves in advance of the next meeting:

- **Recommendation #1:** *Requests* the Secretariat to identify challenges and explore opportunities to enhance sustainable finance for climate adaptation, for biodiversity action and the implementation of the KM-GBF and for pollution action.
- **Recommendation #2:** *Requests* that the Secretariat strive to avoid duplication with other science policy processes such as IPCC and IPBES, IRP, the future panel whose establishment was called for in UNEA 5/8 and the subsidiary body of relevant MEAs,

when developing the GEO-7.

- **Recommendation #3:** *Welcomes* the proposed changes to strengthen delivery of the medium-term strategy (MTS) through its programmes on Pollution and Health, Towards Zero Waste and Circularity in Sectors and requests the Secretariat to increase efforts on circularity, sustainable patterns of consumption and production and health with full respect of the mandates of UNEP and WHO.
- **Recommendation #4:** *Recommends* that the new programme of work (POW) and MTS reaffirms and highlights the work of UNEP's Foundational Subprogrammes (Science-Policy and Environmental Governance), ensuring that concrete results and defined actions are implemented and also recommends that the Secretariat allocates sufficient budget and reinvigorates the efforts to mobilize resources for the foundational subprogrammes.
- **Recommendation #6:** *Requests* the Secretariat to consistently include in all future iterations of the Programme Performance Report an overview of challenges, opportunities and lessons learned for all sub-programmes, management and financial matters. Lessons learnt should be strategic and analytic and relate to both context and partners, as well as to programmatic and institutional lessons as relevant for UNEP to improve its operations and performance.
- **Recommendation #7:** *Requests* the Secretariat to present at a future CPR Subcommittee meeting changes it will make in the implementation of the programme of work and budget for the period 2024-2025 following the lessons learned and the inputs provided at the 11th ASC meeting.
- **Recommendation #9:** *Recommends* that the Secretariat briefs the CPR Subcommittee on geographical distribution and on an updated Gender Strategy, as well as on the implementation of the evaluation recommendations regarding gender.
- **Recommendation #10:** *Requests* the Secretariat to accelerate action and increase ambition in restoring degraded lands, building drought resilience and promoting sustainable land management practices.
- **Recommendation #15:** *Strongly encourages* UNEP to strengthen the 'likelihood of impact', 'achievement of project outcomes' and 'sustainability' dimensions of projects.
- **Recommendation #16:** *Encourages* UNEP to strengthen institutional learning through strong feedback loops between evaluations and the development of new policies and project designs.
- **Recommendation #17:** *Invites* the EMG Secretariat to work with the EMG members to consider the topic of land degradation and desertification for a possible Common Approach. Further invites the EMG to consider the topic of climate change within existing Common Approaches or alternatively consider the development of a UN Common Approach to Climate.
- **Recommendation #18:** *Recommends* that the UN Common Approaches be integrated within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks at country level.
- **Recommendation #19:** *Requests* the Secretariat, in the context of the UNDS Reform, to ensure optimal use of the EMG and the comparative advantages of other UN entities for mainstreaming environmental approaches throughout the UN system.
- **Recommendation #23:** *Requests* the Secretariat to focus the draft MTS on the full range of environmental challenges, including desertification and land degradation.
- **Recommendation #24:** *Welcomes* the results of the lessons learned from new evaluations and audits and requests the Secretariat to include an explicit focus on poverty eradication, inequality and leaving no one behind in the draft MTS.

- **Recommendation #27:** *Recommends* that the Secretariat underlines the importance of the contributions of the regional Forums to the work of UNEP, specifically to the development of the MTS and its PoW, in line with resolution 6/3.
- **Recommendation #28:** *Recommends* that the Secretariat puts more emphasis on the private sector in its resource mobilization strategy.

Agenda item 3: Other matters.

12. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.

13. The meeting closed at 16:00 (GMT+3).