

---

168<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
17 December 2024  
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)  
Conference Room 2 and Interactio Platform  
Hybrid meeting

### 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 Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme, opened the 168<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPR on 17 December 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 168<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.**

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda of the 168<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPR, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/168/1](#).

#### **Agenda item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 167<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.**

3. The Committee adopted the draft minutes of the 167<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/168/L.1](#).

#### **Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Director to the 168<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.**

4. The Committee was invited to consider the [Executive Director's Quarterly Report to the 168th Meeting of the CPR – July to September 2024](#), providing an update on key developments relevant to UNEP for the period July to September 2024 and a [statement](#) by the Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, providing an update on key developments relevant to UNEP for the period July to September 2024.
5. Delegations<sup>1</sup> that took the floor welcomed the statement and the report of the Executive Director and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. Requested more information on UNEP's preparations for the 2026 UN Water Conference,

---

<sup>1</sup> European Union, Algeria on behalf of the African States Group, Egypt on behalf of the G77 and China, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Colombia, Indonesia, Portugal, Canada, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Morocco, Ethiopia, Switzerland, Chile, State of Palestine, Malawi, Finland, Peru, Argentina, United States, Costa Rica, Japan, Ukraine, Mexico, India, Belgium, Algeria, Spain, France, Malaysia, Norway, Philippines, Brazil and Children and Youth Major Group.

- to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 2 to 4 December 2026.
- b. Noted with regrets that the [fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment \(INC-5\)](#) failed to deliver an agreement.
  - c. Commended UNEP's efforts to support the African countries in translating nationally determined contributions (NDCs) into actionable climate goals, including with respect to capacity building on the implementation of minimum energy performance standards, the development of national state environmental reports, and support to the UN Resident Coordinator system in Africa.
  - d. Requested an update on the implementation of the dam project in the village of Wada'a, Sudan.
  - e. Expressed appreciation on UNEP's preliminary [assessment](#) of debris and environmental impacts of the Gaza conflict, noting the importance of the forthcoming final report as mandated by [UNEA resolution 6/12](#).
  - f. Requested further information on how opportunities and lessons learned reflected in the [Quarterly Report](#) would feed into the medium-term strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029 and the programme of work and budget (PoW) for the period 2026-2027.
  - g. Updated on the establishment of the World Lake Day, through General Assembly resolution 79/142, to be held annually on 27 August and looked forward to the inauguration and commemoration of the same in Nairobi in 2025.
  - h. Queried on how the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16) [decision](#) on Indigenous People of African descent would be reflected in the MTS.
  - i. Commended UNEP's work on the [publications](#) reported in the last quarter (11 April – 1 October 2024) and called for more visibility of [all publications](#).
  - j. Expressed appreciation of UNEP's contribution to the Fifth International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies which took place on 7 September 2024 and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in addressing air pollution through platforms like the [Air Quality Management Exchange Platform \(AQMx\)](#).
  - k. Noted the outcomes of the Regional Fora of Ministers of Environment in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, which emphasized on the urgent need for strengthened funding mechanisms and integrated tools <sup>2</sup> to support countries in implementing the Rio Conventions and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
  - l. Noted that UNEP's efforts to improve geographical representation and strengthen resource mobilization were evident and further requested accelerated efforts to improve geographical representation in senior and professional positions.
  - m. Encouraged all Member States to contribute to the Environment Fund (EF), UNEP's core fund, in line with the indicative scale of contributions, where possible.
  - n. Suggested enhancing UNEP's funding alignment with global priorities to address regional and thematic challenges such as drought resilience and circular economy and further requested details on the planned allocations for the Planetary Funds to include critical issues like land degradation and people-centered projects.
  - o. Called for UNEP to further expand its outreach to encourage non-earmarked and soft-earmarked contributions.
  - p. Emphasized on the importance of supporting Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan in addressing the impacts of wars, conflicts, and natural disasters, highlighting the Disaster and Conflict Branch's essential role in these efforts and recommending its firm integration into the next MTS for the period of 2026-2029.
  - q. Appreciated the development of tailored services for UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and Resident Coordinator offices in Europe, and questioned if other regions such as Africa region, are aware to benefit from such actions or guidance to integrate environmental, climate, pollution and biodiversity considerations into UN sustainable development

---

<sup>2</sup> Monitoring frameworks, emissions inventories, air quality standards, and health impact assessments.

- cooperation frameworks.
- r. Requested that the Committee be regularly briefed on i) UNEP's resource mobilization strategy, particularly regarding its institutional outreach to philanthropic entities; ii) One Health; and iii) 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP).
  - s. Sought clarity on the next steps for operationalizing the UN Climate Security Mechanism.
  - t. Supported the call for critical minerals to be managed in a way that favours circularity and suggested that UNEP could lead a win-win partnership between importing and exporting nations of critical minerals, promoting sustainable mineral management and helping resource-rich countries create added value to stimulate their economies.
  - u. Urged UNEP to advocate for institutionalization of youth participation across all multilateral processes.
6. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their guidance and provided the following clarifications in summary:
- a. Informed that UNEP's programme on desertification, land degradation and drought was extensive, with plans to clarify linkages.
  - b. Stated that UNEP would continue to work with development partners and the State of Palestine to assess and address the environmental impacts of the conflict in Gaza.
  - c. Acknowledged that UNEP has been active in Sudan, conducting environmental impact assessments in Khartoum and Al Jazeera State, and has begun assessing the affected dam.
  - d. Clarified that the [Quarterly Report](#) covers activities from the past three months, with lessons learned assessed annually or per project cycle and project performance or PoW outcomes reviewed in the respective reports at the end of the biennium.
  - e. Reiterated UNEP's support to the Secretary General's work on critical minerals, especially in promoting sustainable management practices.
  - f. Congratulated Indonesia on landing General Assembly resolution 79/142 on World Lakes Day and noted the significant number of co-sponsors of the resolution and the broad international backing for this initiative.
  - g. Affirmed UNEP's ongoing engagement in Common Country Assessments to integrate environmental priorities into national planning processes, aligning with Member States' development strategies.
  - h. Acknowledged that UNEP has been deeply engaged in the marine and oceans space for several decades and its readiness to brief Member States comprehensively on its ongoing initiatives, including efforts to enhance marine ecosystem health, combat plastic pollution, and advance sustainable ocean management practices.
  - i. Informed that management framework on debris management is being developed, with planned further assessments in areas of the Gaza Strip as soon as the situation allows.
  - j. Reaffirmed UNEP's continued support to Small and Medium Enterprises facilitating their engagement in sustainable environmental practices.
  - k. Clarified the impactful work of the EMG in ensuring that the Secretariat has had a common approach to biodiversity and plastics.
  - l. Noted UNEP's contributions to advancing dialogue and actions through platforms like the UN Peace and Security fora.
  - m. Reassured that recruitments were undertaken in a fair and equitable manner.
  - n. Noted that UNEP can provide further information on the utilization of the Planetary Fund, including its objectives and scope.
  - o. Elaborated that the philanthropic engagement is still in its early stage within UNEP, and that the organization is currently analysing the landscape of potential partners and donors in that area.

- p. Referred to UNEP's [publication](#) on environmental impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and noted the ongoing lifecycle-based study to guide Member States on measuring and mitigating of AI's environmental impact, including those from data centres.

**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 Secretariat provided an update on the ongoing work for the development of a medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 (MTS) and a draft PoW and budget for the period 2026-2027, including an update on the roadmap, a [synthesis of themes](#) that emerged from the informal dialogues held in October 2024 with Member States, and a presentation of the [budget options paper](#) for the draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027.
8. Delegations<sup>3</sup> that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

*Draft MTS and PoW*

- a. Emphasized the need for maintaining continuity and fostering synergies across the strategic objectives, ensuring UNEA resolutions and UNEP's foundational programmes are linked to the new strategy for a more holistic and efficient approach.
- b. Requested clarification on how findings from the synthesis report will inform the zero drafts of the MTS and PoW.
- c. Stressed the importance of UNEP's collaboration with Resident Coordinators and with UN Country Teams, to ensure alignment of MTS with national needs and local implementation, with greater regional engagement.
- d. Requested the Secretariat to take due account of the following when developing the draft MTS and PoW:
  - i. Prioritize land degradation, desertification, drought, and water scarcity while providing regular updates to the CPR on the same.
  - ii. Shift focus from "water scarcity" to "water challenges," highlighting restoration efforts such as mangroves and peatlands and integrating initiatives like the World Lake Day.
  - iii. Maximise synergies among MEAs and streamlining efforts with other UN agencies to avoid overlap.
  - iv. Anchor the MTS in robust science-policy frameworks, emphasizing clear, measurable outcomes, early warning systems, and the integration of artificial intelligence and digital tools.
  - v. Address environmental dimensions of disasters and conflicts, contributing to the implementation of SDG16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).
  - vi. Align with NDCs, poverty alleviation, just transition, equity and inclusiveness.
  - vii. Use UN agreed language for vulnerable populations, including "peoples of African descent" as reflected in recent agreements.
  - viii. Emphasize the importance of climate adaptation, waste management and equitable access to green technology.
- e. Emphasized on the need to adopt realistic approaches to funding mechanisms for the implementation of the MTS and PoW.
- f. Noted the importance of increasing contributions to the EF while ensuring equitable distribution of resources across regions.

---

<sup>3</sup> Indonesia, Egypt on behalf of G77 and China, United States, European Union, Algeria on behalf of the African States Group, Argentina, Colombia, State of Palestine, Morocco, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Germany, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Peru, United Kingdom, France, Brazil, Ethiopia, Türkiye and Children and Youth Major Group.

### ***Draft budget***

- g. With respect to the draft budget, stated that further clarity would be required regarding the three [options presented](#) and their potential impact on the regional work, efficiency and equitable distribution of funds.
  - h. Sought further clarification regarding:
    - i. Options with budget increases.
    - ii. Recosting of Nairobi-based positions.
    - iii. The strategy for broadening the pool of contributors to the EF and increasing flexible funding, particularly through mechanisms like the Planetary Funds and engagement with non-traditional donors.
  - i. Recommended that UNEP enhance funding dialogues, strengthen bilateral outreach led by senior leadership, and incorporate regional-level discussions to align budget options with Member States' priorities.
9. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Clarified that the Member States Informal Dialogues [Synthesis Report](#) will serve as a reference for identifying thematic areas and strategic approaches to be reflected in the MTS.
  - b. Agreed with the proposal to broaden the language regarding water, adopting more inclusive and general terminology to address water holistically.
  - c. Highlighted UNEP's reliance on extra budget funding from Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), noting the absence of dedicated desertification funds, with efforts focused on ecosystem restoration and biodiversity initiatives addressing land management.
  - d. Committed to reflecting priorities raised, such as desertification, land degradation, drought, and just transitions, in the next MTS for the period of 2026-2029.
  - e. Reaffirmed UNEP's intent to incorporate lessons from the current MTS and global frameworks into the new strategy.
  - f. Highlighted that recent cost increases for Nairobi-based staff, resulting from salary-scale adjustments and post adjustment changes, have significantly impacted the EF budget, and emphasized UNEP's commitment to prioritizing funding for programmatic activities, ensuring that staffing positions are continually reviewed at the executive level to avoid allocating additional budget to cover these costs.
  - g. Agreed to provide further study on budget options and their respective implications at upcoming subcommittee meetings.
  - h. Emphasized that UNEP is actively working to broaden the pool of contributors to the EF, including with positive progress observed from recent bilateral engagements with Member States.

### **Agenda item 6: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

10. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Oman to UNEP, H. E. Ms. Nasra Salim Mohamed Al Hashmi, on behalf of H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali al-Amri, President of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), presented:
- i. The theme of UNEA-7 namely, "*Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet*", as defined by the UNEA-7 Bureau, pursuant to UNEA decision 6/7, at a joint UNEA and CPR Bureau meeting held on 11 December 2024.

- ii. A [draft roadmap](#) for an iterative, open, transparent, participatory and inclusive intergovernmental consultations on the draft ministerial declaration of UNEA-7.
11. Delegations<sup>4</sup> that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
- a. Welcomed the theme of UNEA-7 which would guide towards adopting impactful outcomes of UNEA-7 which are science-based and contribute to the delivery of the environmental pillar of the SDG. While some delegations expressed that the theme did not adequately reflect the views of developing countries concerning just transition.
  - b. Welcomed the draft roadmap on a transparent, participatory and inclusive intergovernmental consultations on the draft ministerial declaration for UNEA-7.
  - c. Suggested that the background document related to the discussions on the UNEA-7 theme be removed from the [meeting portal following the decision of the UNEA-7 Bureau on the theme](#).
  - d. Underscored that the recommendations on the [lessons learned from UNEA-6](#) as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/167/7/Add.1/Rev.1](#) should be duly taken into account by the Presidency when undertaking intergovernmental consultations on the draft ministerial declaration.
  - e. Underlined the importance of aligning the draft ministerial declaration with the global environmental agenda, including efforts to combat desertification as well as with scientific assessments such as the [Global Environmental Outlook \(GEO-7\)](#).
  - f. Emphasized the importance of having a concise, forward looking, ambitious and action-oriented ministerial declaration closely linked to the theme, focusing on the global environmental agenda, based on inputs from Member States and finalized in advance of the start of the high-level segment of UNEA.
  - g. Invited the Presidency to consider holding consultations with the regional groups in Nairobi in addition to the intergovernmental consultations already reflected in the draft roadmap, to gather more focused and region specific inputs.
  - h. Some delegations suggested the need to consider possible line-by-line negotiation of the draft ministerial declaration while other delegations emphasized that as per established practice the development of the ministerial declaration was led by the Presidency.
  - i. One delegation further suggested the appointment of co-facilitators to assist the Presidency in undertaking the intergovernmental consultations.
  - j. Some delegations proposed to discontinue the practice of adopting a ministerial declaration and to replace it with a President's summary, while other delegations underscored the need to adopt a ministerial declaration as part of UNEA-7 outcomes.
  - k. Suggested that the Secretariat could organise capacity-building sessions for the Major Groups and Stakeholders to facilitate a meaningful engagement for Major Groups and Stakeholders throughout the process. Underscored that the ministerial declaration and UNEA-7 outcomes should address the needs of the most vulnerable, including women and marginalized communities.
12. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Oman to UNEP, H. E. Ms. Nasra Salim Mohamed Al Hashmi, provided the following clarifications:
- i. Assured that comments from delegations would be conveyed to H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali al-Amri, President of UNEA-7 for due consideration;
  - ii. Noted that the President will circulate a final roadmap for the consultation on the draft

---

<sup>4</sup> United States of America, Algeria on behalf of African States Group, Egypt, European Union, Argentina, Colombia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Indonesia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Switzerland, United Kingdom, Portugal, Peru, Children and Youth Major Group and Women Major Group.

ministerial declaration, subject to adjustments as the process evolves.

13. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
  - a. As per established practice and for transparency, all pre-session and post-session documents are made available on the meeting portal.
  - b. Highlighted that the draft roadmap as presented incorporates [lessons learned from UNEA-6](#).
  - c. Took note of the suggestion on consultations with the regional groups in Nairobi and emphasized the importance of the participation of capital-based delegates of Member States not represented in Nairobi during the consultations on the draft ministerial declaration.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits**

14. Due to time constraints, the Committee decided to defer its consideration of this item to a future meeting of the subcommittee to be held prior to the 169th quarterly meeting of the Committee.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Report of the Sub-committee**

15. Several delegations<sup>5</sup> proposed that the following draft recommendation *“Recommends that UNEP expands its technical support and capacity building programmes for personnel from developing countries, particularly from Africa, in areas such as employing digital solutions for enhancing transparency efforts, with the aim of enhancing data collection and analysis processes and preparing relevant reports”* be reinstated in the draft decision entitled *“Draft decision containing draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at subcommittee meetings”* as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/168/5/Rev.1](#)
16. The proposal was followed by an exchange of views among delegations, after which the Committee recommended that the draft recommendation be considered at a future subcommittee meeting taking place prior to the 169<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPR.
17. The Committee endorsed the draft report of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/168/3/Rev.1](#).
18. The Committee adopted the following 2 draft decisions:
  - a. Draft recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its eleventh annual subcommittee meeting, as set out in document [UNEP/CPR/168/4](#).
  - b. Draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at subcommittee meetings, as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/168/5/Rev.1](#)

#### **Agenda Item 9: Any other matters**

2. No other matters were raised.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Closing of the meeting.**

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

---

<sup>5</sup> Algeria on behalf of the African States Group, Egypt, Russian Federation.