

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 23 January 2025
13:00 – 17:15 (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: Review of UNEP's thematic programmes.

3. The Secretariat provided a review of the following two UNEP thematic programmes: "[Towards Zero Waste](#)" and "[Pollution and Health](#)".
4. Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Requested the Secretariat to provide an overview of the allocated budget for the two thematic programmes, including their funding sources.

Towards Zero Waste

- b. Expressed appreciation for the [Global Waste Management Outlook 2024](#) and inquired about UNEP's plans for a future updated version.
- c. Highlighted projects on plastic and e-waste management in Pakistan and Mexico and expressed support for UNEP's waste management efforts through the [International Environmental Technology Centre \(IETC\)](#).
- d. Urged UNEP to work in partnership with other organizations and programmes in the work of the two thematic programmes, including with, the International Resource Panel, the UN-Habitat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- e. Requested UNEP to provide further information on:
 - i. Recommendations on managing mining waste, especially tailings.
 - ii. The handling of different waste streams within UNEP and their linkages with high impact sector projects under the Circularity in Sectors programme.
 - iii. Successful and necessary elements in Public Private Partnerships and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) based on the analysis of good practices, as well as the application of polluter pay principles to waste management.
 - iv. Knowledge sharing activity and strategy on waste management and circular economy for the Member States including on EPR and gender aspects.

¹ Chile, Japan, Mexico, Egypt, Algeria, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Australia, Czechia, Uganda, Germany, European Union, Children and Youth Major Group.

- v. E-waste management principles to be adopted by countries.
 - vi. Cooperation and synergy on UNEP's work on wastewater and solid waste management.
 - vii. UNEP's strategies and tools to engage and mobilize private sector and financial institutions to address various pollution issues.
 - viii. Key pillars and principles that underpin UNEP's work Towards Zero Waste.
- f. Requested UNEP to advance its circular economy work in relation to waste management and chemical and pollution.

Pollution and Health

- g. Highlighted the need for alignment between the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#) (GFC) and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on the matter, to avoid duplication of work.
 - h. Emphasized that youth-led advocacy and innovation are key drivers in capitalizing on solution-oriented actions for pollution management.
 - i. Requested UNEP to:
 - i. Explain strategies for increasing the uptake of scientific knowledge to effectively address pollution issues.
 - ii. Update on the status of the implementation of the approaches presented in the '[Common Approach Towards a Pollution-Free Planet](#)', including on the establishment of the Environment Management and Issue Management Groups on Pollution.
 - iii. Inform on the relation between the Global Pollution Report and other reports, including the [Global Chemicals Outlook](#) report.
 - iv. Clarify on the role of [Green Fiscal Policies](#) in reducing pollution and their impacts on health.
 - v. Further detail the objective of studies valuing the cost of inaction on pollution.
 - j. Requested more information on UNEP's engagement with high impact sector the relationship between industries and regulatory efforts of countries.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Agreed to provide detailed budgetary information on the two programmes.

Towards Zero Waste

- b. Explained UNEP's work in engaging the private sector and financial institutions for pollution action through, among others, Public Private Partnerships and collaboration with development banks.
- c. Highlighted the partnerships that UNEP has built and maintained with, including but not limited to: i) UN entities and international organizations, such as the UN-Habitat, World Health Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, International Telecommunication Union, UNDP, World Bank, Universal Postal Union, Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals; and ii) The Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which includes UNEP, multilateral development banks, and other partners.
- d. Highlighted UNEP's knowledge platforms, regional circular economy alliances, and the [Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency \(GACERE\)](#) as effective means for knowledge sharing.
- e. Informed of UNEP's ongoing efforts in synergizing waste and wastewater management with a focus at municipal levels.
- f. Noted that a presentation on "circularity in sectors" thematic programme was scheduled at an upcoming meeting of the subcommittee of the CPR to be held on 27 February 2025 and that further details on the progress, achievements and lessons learned in engaging high-impact sectors, including mining and plastics will be provided at that meeting.

Pollution and Health

- g. Clarified that the Issue Management Group on Pollution has been established with the purpose of implementing the Common Approach.
- h. Further clarified that the studies valuing the cost of inaction on pollution aim at determining the potential gains from investing in measures that prevent or limit pollution.
- i. Elaborated on UNEP's work on [green fiscal policies](#) and sustainable budgeting approaches, which supports countries in assessing the costs, benefits, and potential hidden impacts of different policies related different sectors and themes, including energy, climate change, agriculture, water, pollution, extractives and chemicals. chemicals.
- j. Noted that the Global Pollution Report will be issued as an on-line publication.

One member of the subcommittee submitted the following recommendation for consideration at the 169th meeting of the CPR scheduled for 20 March 2025, as follows:

- a. *Requests* the Secretariat, in future briefings on thematic programmes or reviews, to provide relevant information on the available budget for the programme, including on the sources of funding.

Agenda item 3: New Policy Brief: A Policymakers' Guide to Life Cycle Assessment.

6. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the policy brief launched on 19 November 2024 titled '[A Policymakers' Guide to Life Cycle Assessment - Policy Brief](#)'.
7. Delegations² that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Emphasized the significance of using universally recognized standards for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) studies to ensure their credibility and objectivity.
 - b. Noted the importance of LCA methodologies in understanding the impacts of a country's choices at every stage of a product's life cycle.
 - c. Requested further information on:
 - i. How the policy brief aligns with UNEP's broader framework and programming.
 - ii. Partnerships and funding involved in the development of the policy brief.
 - iii. The status of the [Life Cycle Initiative](#) and UNEP's role in its progress.
 - iv. How the guidelines in the policy brief, and other tools from the Life Cycle Initiative, such as the [Hotspot Analysis Tool for Sustainable Consumption and Production](#) (SCP-HAT) and the [plastic products meta-studies](#), will be disseminated and promoted to Member States and other potential users.
 - v. UNEP's capacity-building efforts for LCA national experts.
 - vi. The relationship between LCA and consumption-reducing policies.
 - vii. Policies that countries should prioritize concerning achievable targets for reducing environmental impacts in products and industries.
 - viii. Sectors where LCA has demonstrated greater effectiveness, noting its limitations in addressing socio-economic impacts.
 - d. Noting paragraph 16 of the [Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session](#)³, encouraged UNEP to further develop LCA, support data sharing

² Russian Federation, Argentina, Colombia, European Union, State of Palestine, Switzerland, Egypt, Canada.

³ We reiterate our recognition of the role of UNEP in strengthening the science-policy interface and undertaking strategic foresight and horizon scanning, in collaboration with existing science-policy platforms and panels, to improve the capacity of Member States and stakeholders, at all levels, to prioritize scientific research, stimulate and encourage decision-making and actions that can anticipate trends and risks, and prevent and respond to emerging

and facilitate consensus on methodologies.

8. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
 - a. Noted that the Life Cycle Initiative is part of UNEP's Finance and Economic Transformation thematic programme and also supports activities in high-impact sectors.
 - b. Agreed to continue disseminating the guide through translations, regional events, and webinars, as well as capacity-building efforts, subject to resource availability.
 - c. Highlighted that the policy brief originated from a recognized need within the Life Cycle Initiative Steering Committee and UNEP to address the growing use and potential misuse of LCA in policymaking.
 - d. Explained that LCA quantifies the impacts of consumption to guide consumption-reducing policies.
 - e. Informed that the [Hotspots Identification](#) module within the SCP-HAT provides analyses of areas of unsustainable consumption and production in country and sector levels, helping to identify where policy action is most needed.
 - f. Explained that through the [Social Life Cycle Assessment](#), policymakers can evaluate the potential positive or negative social impacts of a product throughout its entire life cycle.

Agenda item 4: Briefing on the outcomes of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

9. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the outcomes of the [16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD COP 16) and an overview of how such outcomes relate to the implementation of the programme of work of UNEP.
10. Delegations⁴ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Expressed appreciation for the broad consensus achieved at CBD COP 16, including on; conditional sequence information, Indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, marine biodiversity and [National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans \(NBSAPs\)](#).
 - b. Recognised the need for a robust monitoring framework and the review process for the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(KMGBF\)](#).
 - c. Advocated for closing the biodiversity financing gap through public and private sector investments, philanthropy, innovative mechanisms, subsidy reforms, and enhanced domestic resource mobilization.
 - d. Reiterated the commitment to work together towards successful conclusion of COP 16, at the second resumed session of COP 16 scheduled from 25 to 27 February 2025 in Rome, Italy.
11. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
 - a. Expressed UNEP's continued support in accelerating the implementation of the outcomes of CBD COP 16 and in ensuring that these be reflected in the medium-term strategy for the period of 2026-2029.
 - b. Reaffirmed UNEP's support in enhancing the availability of technical and financial support to parties in implementing NBSAPs.
 - c. Highlighted the existing collaboration between UNEP and the CBD Secretariat to establish a network of regional and sub-regional [Technical and Scientific Cooperation centres](#), to support parties in implementing the KMGBF.
 - d. Acknowledged the call for a robust monitoring framework, emphasizing the need for clear and rigorous scientific measures to track progress against key deadlines, including the 2026

cross-cutting environmental and health issues, with a particular focus on life cycle assessment of the environmental and sustainable development impacts of specific technologies, in order to make informed decisions.

⁴ European Union, Colombia, China, Canada.

midway point.

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

12. The Secretariat provided an overview of the new feature in the UN Nairobi Journal, the [Global Calendar of Conferences and Meetings](#).
13. A delegation informed about the [Internet Governance Forum 2025](#) scheduled to be held from 23 to 27 June in Lillestrøm, Norway, highlighting that it serves as an important platform for governance issues related to the internet and the digital space, bringing together participants from governments, private sector, civil society, academia, and technical experts.
14. The delegation further noted that the Forum might be of importance to UN agencies engaged in digital transformation, such as UNEP and UN-Habitat, including on the growth of artificial intelligence, sustainability, responsible development, ethical and safe use, and fair distribution of gains.
15. Several delegations⁵ proposed that the 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 considered at the subcommittee meeting prior to the 169th meeting of the CPR to be held on 20 March 2025.
16. The Secretariat in response clarified that the pending draft recommendation as well as draft recommendations derived from the subcommittees held after the 168th meeting of the CPR, will be considered at the subcommittee meeting scheduled for 13 March 2025 prior to the 169th meeting of the CPR.

Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting.

17. The meeting closed at 17:15 (GMT+3).

⁵ Algeria, on behalf of the African States Group, Egypt.