
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 23 January 2024
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 2 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Draft Chair's Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. H.E. Ms. Nicol Adamcová Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to UNEP and H.E. Mr. Wael Nasreldin Attiya, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to UNEP, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted without modifications.

Agenda item 2: Questions and answers on UNEA draft resolutions and decisions.

3. Draft resolutions, presentations, and technical notes were made available on the [UNEP resolution portal](#).
4. Delegations made preliminary comments to draft resolutions and decisions, and were encouraged by proponents to approach them bilaterally and informally with comments, suggestions, and concerns to facilitate the consideration of relevant points and expedite the redrafting of texts.

Draft resolution on [global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides](#), on behalf of Ethiopia and co-sponsored by Uruguay

5. Delegations that took the floor¹ highlighted the importance of retaining agreed-upon terminology and concepts in the draft resolution and requested clarification on the reference to highly hazardous pesticides.
6. The proponent delegation confirmed consideration of adding a list of highly hazardous pesticides based on the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and proposed annexing the list to address the concerns.

Draft resolution on [sound management of chemicals and waste](#), on behalf of Switzerland

7. Delegations that took the floor² highlighted the importance of emphasizing documented impacts of chemicals and waste, and to further consider the new global framework on chemicals.
8. The proponent delegation took note of the comments and feedback.

Draft resolution on [combating sand and dust storms](#), on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran

9. Delegations that took the floor³ highlighted the importance of emphasizing documented impacts of sand and dust storms, and of applying a comprehensive approach to also cover marine environments, expertise, investment, and local cooperation, including indigenous knowledge.

¹ United States of America, Argentina.

² United States of America.

³ Türkiye, South Africa.

10. The proponent delegation took note of the comments and feedback.

Draft resolution on solar radiation modification, on behalf of Guinea, Monaco, Senegal and Switzerland

11. Delegations that took the floor⁴ highlighted the importance documented impacts of solar radiation modification, requesting clarification on the proposed expert group, and underlined the need for a broader knowledge base.
12. The proponent delegation emphasized the resolution's aim to bridge knowledge gaps on the risks and benefits of this new technology, while ensuring continued priority given to emission reductions, and welcomed further discussions on the proposal to establish an expert group.

Draft resolution on effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

13. Delegations that took the floor⁵ highlighted the importance of ensuring appropriate references to Water Conventions, and requested clarification on the resolution's scope, the ecosystem restoration model, technology transfer, the global hydrological cycle, and sovereign rights, with some also suggestion that the draft may be merged with the draft resolution from Sri Lanka on *sustainable management of cascade systems*.
14. The proponent delegation acknowledged the relevance of transboundary water issues and highlighted the importance of transboundary cooperation, and agreed with the proposal to consider merger with the draft resolution on cascade systems.

Draft resolution on strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities drought resilience, on behalf of Saudi Arabia

15. Delegations that took the floor⁶ highlighted the importance of alignment with agreed-upon terminology from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, means of implementation and the cost-benefit approach.

Draft resolution on criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for the implementation of nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development, on behalf of Cameroon and co-sponsored by Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Zimbabwe

16. Delegations that took the floor⁷ highlighted the importance of considering already existing standards and guidelines regarding nature-based solutions.
17. The proponent delegation expressed interest to further discuss and adapt the text with interested parties with the aim of reaching common ground.

Draft resolution on sustainable management of cascade systems, on behalf of Sri Lanka

18. The proponent delegation underscored the global importance of sharing traditional knowledge for climate adaptation, highlighted the high damages in tropical countries due to cascade systems, and expressed commitment to further discuss the text with interested parties with the aim of establishing a common ground.

Draft resolution on strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution, on behalf of Costa Rica and the European Union

⁴ Russian Federation, European Union, Argentina, Kenya, Egypt, Colombia.

⁵ Türkiye, Ethiopia, Argentina, Colombia, Sri Lanka.

⁶ Colombia, Brazil.

⁷ European Union, Türkiye.

19. Delegations that took the floor⁸ highlighted the importance of accommodating countries that are not party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), proposed alignment with the UNCLOS's language on deep-sea mining, recommended to avoid duplication of efforts undertaken by other bodies, and recognized the independent mandates of Regional Seas Conventions.
20. The proponent delegation acknowledged the need to balance interlinkages between regional seas conventions and enhancing ocean governance without undermining existing mandates.

Draft resolution on *fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP, and MEAs, on behalf of Morocco and Malawi*

21. Delegations that took the floor⁹ suggested potential synergies between this resolution and the draft resolution presented by Malawi on *enhancing the role and viability of regional environment ministerial forums and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges*, and recommended streamlining of certain operational paragraphs, including when referring to existing resolutions or decisions.
22. The proponent delegation acknowledged the suggestions, noting ongoing efforts to fine-tune the draft resolution in collaboration with interested delegations, highlighted the relevance of the terms "cooperation," "collaboration," and "coordination," and expressed openness to adjusting the draft, including with regard to potential merger with the draft resolution from Malawi.

Draft resolution on *enhancing the role and viability of regional environment ministerial forums and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges, on behalf of Malawi*

23. No comments were raised under this draft resolution.

Draft resolution on *promoting synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development, on behalf of Japan, co-sponsored by Fiji and Canada*

24. Delegations that took the floor¹⁰ welcomed references to synergies with other conventions and proposed to explore options for merging this resolution with the resolutions on *fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP, and MEAs, and enhancing the role and viability of regional environment ministerial forums and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges*, while maintaining its specific objectives.
25. The proponent delegation took note of the comments made and expressed openness to a possible merger.

Draft resolution on *effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice, on behalf of Sri Lanka*

26. Delegations that took the floor¹¹ requested clarification on the relationship with UNFCCC, expressed concerns about defining climate justice, raised concerns about potential duplication with UNFCCC, sought clarification on terminology, and emphasized using more agreed language.
27. The proponent delegation took note of the comments and feedback.

Draft resolution on *stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States*

⁸ Türkiye, United States of America.

⁹ European Union.

¹⁰ European Union, South Africa, Colombia, NGO major group.

¹¹ Colombia, European Union, United States of America, Brazil, Egypt, Argentina.

28. Delegations that took the floor¹² highlighted the importance of retaining agreed-upon terminology and concepts in the draft resolution, especially regarding references to trade, used vehicles, and fuels, and suggested the use of the expression circular economy instead of creating new terminology such as sustainable bioeconomy.
29. The proponent delegation took note of the comments and feedback, highlighting the intention to not create new terminology and to focus on higher-impact sectors like used vehicles and textiles.

Draft resolution on environmental aspects of minerals and metals, on behalf of Switzerland and Senegal and co-sponsored by Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Chad

30. Delegations that took the floor¹³ encouraged the use of non-prescriptive language and supported collaboration with the International Seabed Authority.
31. The proponent delegation committed to review the text with cosponsors and interested parties, including through bilateral discussions, highlighted the resolution's origin from UNEA resolution 5/12, and emphasized the non-prescriptive nature of the proposal.

Draft resolution on environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts, on behalf of Ukraine

32. Delegations that took the floor¹⁴ recommended more clarity regarding schedule and implementation details, specificity in reference to international law, requested clarification about examples provided, the role of the Executive Director, the proposed working group, the relation between armed conflicts and climate change, and emphasized the need for additional language to address prevention, mitigation, and remediation of harm to the environment.
33. The proponent delegation emphasized the resolution's purpose to protect the environment during armed conflicts, discussed potential improvements, highlighted the link between conflicts and climate change, acknowledged the open discussion on the resolution's scope, and expressed willingness to address further concerns and questions bilaterally.

Draft resolution on promoting regional cooperation to improve air quality globally, on behalf of the United States and Canada

34. Delegations that took the floor¹⁵ highlighted the importance of efficient collaboration with regional organizations for air quality improvement, and requested clarification on the proposed committee, seeking a timeline for sharing additional information.
35. The proponent delegation highlighted that new language will be added to ensure the text is in conformity with standards by the World Health Organization (WHO), and it will provide a summarizing document regarding the proposal to operationalize the proposed committee.

Draft resolution on sustainable lifestyles, on behalf of India

36. Delegations that took the floor¹⁶ recognized the potential overlap between this draft resolution and the draft resolution by the European Union and its Member States on *stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically*, requesting a consideration of merging the resolutions.
37. The proponent delegation clarified that circular economy is a component of sustainable lifestyle, which encompasses broader aspects, but expressed openness to collaboration with European Union.

¹² United States of America, Colombia, Cameroon, South Africa.

¹³ United States of America, European Union, Iran (The Islamic Republic of), Argentina, Tanzania, Kenya, Brazil, NGO major group.

¹⁴ Israel, Colombia, European Union, Brazil, NGO major group.

¹⁵ Japan, European Union, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the).

¹⁶ United States of America.

Draft resolution on [circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agroindustry](#), on behalf of Cuba

38. Delegations that took the floor¹⁷ highlighted the potential overlap between this draft resolution and the draft resolution by the European Union and its Member States on *stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically*, requesting a consideration of merging the resolutions.

Draft resolution on [amendments to the instrument for the establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility](#), on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

39. Delegations that took the floor¹⁸ inquired about the reasons for changing from a decision to a resolution, requesting details on envisaged ways to enhance UNEP's capacity to operationalize projects by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), considering lessons learned and alignment with its mandate Medium-term Strategy, and Program of Work.
40. The Secretariat clarified that the current proposal of a draft resolution rather than a decision ensures its alignment with past practices since the 2014 and highlighted the enduring partnership and collaboration between UNEP and the GEF, emphasizing the positive project performance record, focusing on addressing environmental challenges comprehensively and balancing resources across programs in the GEF funding cycle.

Draft decision on [the provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#), on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

41. Delegations that took the floor¹⁹ noted diverse perspectives regarding the timing of UNEA-7 in 2025, requested additional options for adopting a new Program of Work and Budget, sought clarification about the legal and practical implications of modifying the decision on UNEA timing, and acknowledged the precedent regarding the short period between UNEA-2 and UNEA-3.
42. The Secretariat emphasized the need to determine UNEA-7 dates early in 2025 for guidance on the Medium-term Strategy and Program of Work and Budget, noted a practical preference for avoiding extending the program of work period, and committed to provide additional information on practical and legal implications of date choices.

Draft decision on [management of trust funds and earmarked contributions](#), on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

43. No comments were raised under this draft decision.

Agenda item 3: Other matters.

44. The Secretariat provided an overview of the next steps in the consultations on the draft resolutions and decisions.
45. Based on the proposal from a delegation, the Chair decided to cancel the subcommittee meeting planned for 30 January.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.

46. The meeting closed at 17:00 (GMT+3).

¹⁷ European Union.

¹⁸ United States of America, European Union.

¹⁹ Colombia, European Union, United States of America, Netherlands (The Kingdom of the).