

United Nations

**UNEP**/CPR/ASC/11/2



Distr.: General

24 June 2024

English only



**United Nations Environment  
Assembly of the United Nations  
Environment Programme**

---

**Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent  
Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme  
Eleventh meeting**

Nairobi, 8 – 12 July 2024

10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)

Conference Rooms 2 (in person) and

Microsoft Teams (online)

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

**Coordination within the UN system on the environment through  
the Environment Management Group.**

**Secretariat concept note for a panel discussion with Member States and Stakeholder representatives**

This concept note has been prepared by the Secretariat to guide the panel discussion at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, under agenda item 3 (d) (Coordination within the UN system on the environment through the Environment Management Group).



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

**EMG**



Reference: EMG/CN-ASC11

Date: 24 June 2024

## **Concept Note: Panel Discussion on “Strengthening UN system coordination in support of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the environmental dimensions of the SDGs”**

11th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Wednesday, July 10 2024

### **Introduction**

The 11th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), under agenda item 3(d), will address the topic of "Coordination within the UN System on the Environment, including through the UN Environment Management Group (EMG)."

Following introductory remarks and a presentation on recent efforts by the UN EMG regarding the two UN Common Approaches on Biodiversity and Pollution, the meeting will feature a panel discussion on how the EMG can improve the effectiveness of its coordination on the environment and best prepare for and respond to future asks. While EMG continues its work to strengthen global interagency collaboration and policy coherence, it now seeks to add value to the UN reform and accelerate the achievement of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs through:

- Enhancing UN system wide coherence at the global level,
- Strengthening partnerships and the alignment of its work with that of the UNSDG and DCO to operationalize UN-wide strategies on the environment,
- Establishing a stronger dialogue with Member States and other stakeholders on ways to improve UN coordination and effectiveness in support of country actions on environmental challenges.

The objective of this session is to highlight the work of the EMG and its potential to deliver through mainstreaming the environment with development, peace, health, human rights, and humanitarian affairs. In addition, it seeks insights from stakeholders to make the EMG more “fit for purpose” and “future ready”, particularly in the context of the Summit of the Future, the triple COPs and UNEA-7.

### **Session Structure**

1. Short Introductory Video on the EMG (2 min)
2. Opening Remarks by the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP (5min)
3. Presentation of the Common Approaches by the EMG Secretariat and UNEP-EMG Focal Points (13 min)
4. Panel Discussion with participants from Member States, UN agencies, Youth and the UN Country Team in Nairobi (50 min)
5. Q&A Session (20min)

## Context

The year 2024 will host significant global gatherings, including the Summit of the Future and the triple COPs of the Rio Conventions. These events aim to strengthen multilateralism and global governance, particularly regarding the environment, for the benefit of present and future generations. Within the UN system, the EMG facilitates cooperation across various UN agencies to ensure a coordinated and cohesive approach to environmental management. This collaboration is essential for integrating environmental considerations into broader UN agendas, and for promoting synergies between climate action, biodiversity conservation, and pollution control. By leveraging the collective expertise and resources of the UN system, the EMG helps drive forward initiatives that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The recently prepared UN Common Approaches to Biodiversity and Pollution are strategic frameworks designed to ensure a cohesive, systematic, and collaborative effort across the United Nations system to support the implementation of the global biodiversity and pollution agenda. These approaches work through and with UN agencies to support integration of biodiversity and pollution actions into the policies, programs, and operations of various UN entities, leveraging the collective strength of the UN system.

During this session, the EMG Secretariat and UNEP focal points to the EMG will present an overview of two UN system-wide Common Approaches. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion among CPR members, UN entities, Youth, and the Resident Coordinator Office in Kenya. The panel will address the significance of UN system wide coordination, importance of integrated approaches to scaling environmental actions, opportunities and challenges of coordination, and gains and examples of collective action.

The Committee will be invited to take note of the presentations and the panel discussion and share its perspectives on how the UN system can best respond to country needs in the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and in supporting the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Purpose

Respond to the request of the CPR for regular updates on the work of the EMG in developing and following up on UN System-Wide Strategies on the Environment (UNEA Res 1/11).

Reaffirm the UN's commitment to supporting countries in responding to the three planetary environmental crises through coordinated efforts.

Raise awareness of the UN Common Approaches on Biodiversity and Pollution in relation to the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Implementation Plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet," and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Highlight the advantages of Common Approaches for UN coordination at global, regional, and country levels, and benefits of linkages between the EMG and the UN Development Coordination System.



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG



The CPR will be invited to pose questions and provide strategic guidance to the EMG, with a special focus on leveraging the collective strength of the UN system through the EMG.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The session is expected to yield valuable insights to enhance the CPR's understanding of the EMG's work. It will inform the implementation of the Common Approaches on Biodiversity and Pollution, helping shape the strategic priorities of the EMG, and identify opportunities to amplify their impact through enhanced collaboration with UN entities. This collaboration aims to ensure the mainstreaming of environmental considerations in support of the SDGs. Additionally, the session will motivate CPR representatives to become more actively involved in the implementation of the Common Approaches, fostering a more cohesive and integrated effort across the UN system. Importantly, this session will provide the EMG secretariat with insights and guidance from the CPR on environmental coordination within the UN system and the system-wide framework of strategies on the environment in pursuing progress on UNEA Resolution 1/11.

## Annex

### Possible Panel Discussions Questions

1. In the context of discussions towards the Summit of the Future and the Triple COPs, how can the strengthening of environmental coordination and collective action within the UN system better support the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the MEAs? In that regard, what do you see as benefits of UN system coherence and coordination ?  
(Member State)
2. What are some key agency examples of common approaches that have addressed environmental challenges? And what do you see as benefits and difficulties of coordinated actions and common approaches? (UN agency)
3. What do you see as the role of youth in promoting policy coherence and effectiveness and amplifying impact to effectuate right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment?  
(Youth representative )
4. Environment is weakly mainstreamed in Common Country Analyses and under-addressed in Cooperation Frameworks. Where do you see opportunities for more UN system wide coherence in integrating climate, biodiversity and pollution solutions for Sustainable Development better into UN delivery in support of countries? (RC of Kenya)