Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 13 March 2025
9:00 – 12:00 and 13:00 – 16:30 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 3 (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. Arnaud Suquet, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of France to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting and chaired the morning session. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, chaired the afternoon 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 thematic programmes of UNEP: "Adaptation and Resilience" and "Decarbonization".

4. Delegations[1] that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

   ***Adaptation and Resilience***

   a. Emphasized the importance of adaptation and resilience in achieving climate ambitions across middle-income and high-income countries, highlighting the need for capacity building, mobilizing finance, and South-South cooperation.
   b. Requested UNEP to provide further information on:
      i. UNEP's internal coordination mechanisms for early warning interventions.
      ii. Funding sources for adaptation and resilience activities led by the Climate Change Division, including the proportion of vertical funds compared to other funding sources.
      iii. The inclusion of new indicators to track progress on adaptation and resilience in the new Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029.
      iv. Collaboration with partners on the water-food nexus, including cross-border and transboundary initiatives, and potential technical support offered by UNEP in that regard.
      v. UNEP's efforts in sustainability in adaptation pathways for countries.

[1] Cuba, Brazil, Japan, Argentina, Egypt, Uganda, Colombia, Spain, Barbados, Saudi Arabia, Costa Rica, Algeria, Norway, European Union, Children and Youth Major Group, NGO Major Group.

vi. The role of the programme in supporting current efforts around the Global Goal On Adaptation (GGA).

c. Highlighted the importance of inclusiveness and intergenerational justice.

***Decarbonization***

a. Highlighted UNEP's role in coordinating support to Member States on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the need to strengthen just transition and stakeholder engagement as well as integration of adaptation and resilience elements in decarbonization efforts.
b. Emphasized the importance of fair, science-based and non-discriminatory decarbonization strategies and reiterated their commitments for collaboration with UNEP in that regard.
c. Requested UNEP to provide further information on:
   i. On-going collaboration efforts between UNEP and UN-Habitat in the development of UN-Habitat's strategic plan for the period 2026-2029, particularly in areas within UNEP's mandate.
   ii. The role of the Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) in supporting the Global Methane Pledge.
   iii. Other Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for climate solutions.

5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

***Adoption and Resilience***

a. Provided an overview of opportunities for UNEP to support Member States in strengthening adaptation and resilience efforts.
b. Noted ongoing discussions on the GGA and on the introduction of new indicators in the new MTS for the period 2026-2029 which would go beyond Ecosystem-based Adaptation with a view to better monitor and measure progress on adaptation and resilience.
c. Highlighted current UNEP's internal coordination mechanisms in place on policy and technical aspects for early warning efforts and further agreedto provide more details on funding sources of the activities led by the Climate Change Division.
d. Provided examples of regional and cross-border collaborations on early warning systems, ecosystem restoration, and adaptation policies.
e. Provided an overview of available support, best practices, and lessons learned in promoting sustainable adaptation and resilience efforts, as well as existing networks and platforms used for their dissemination, particularly through different transboundary initiatives.
f. Acknowledged the importance of stakeholder engagement and their key roles in shaping tailored adaptation strategies and their implementations.

***Decarbonization***

a. Updated on UNEP's efforts to support countries in developing NDCs and further elaborated on the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), highlighting its integrated

approach to NDCs that considers both mitigation and adaptation priorities.

b. Provided an overview of UNEP's work on promoting innovative solutions on AI and digitalization.
c. Noted the request tobrief the CPR at a subsequent meeting of the subcommittee on CTCN's capacity building and technology transfer support.
d. Acknowledged that UNEP's support to countries and sectors are demand-driven, noting that UNEP is the preferred implementing agency of many vertical funds.
e. Provided details on UNEP's support to just transition through cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO).
f. Shared UNEPs ongoing decarbonization efforts in various sectors including buildings, cooling, transportation, clean technology, e-mobility, food waste reduction, as well as capacity building and technology transfer in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.
g. Noted UNEP's close coordination with UN-Habitat through the bilateral Greener Cities Partnership, which is being updated to reflect priorities of UNEP's new MTS and UN-Habitat next strategic plan for the period 2026-2029.

**One member of the subcommittee submitted the following recommendation for consideration at the 170th meeting of the CPR scheduled for 23 June 2025, as follows:**

a. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide a presentation on the work of CTCN on capacity building and technology as well as technology transfer.

**Agenda item 3: Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits.**

6. The Secretariat provided a presentation on key findings and recommendations from recent Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) reports relevant to United Nations system organizations. The full reports can be accessed via the following links: JIU/REP/2023/8[2], JIU/REP/2023/6[3], JIU/REP/2023/4[4], JIU/REP/2023/3[5], JIU/REP/2024/3(Part 1)[6], and JIU/REP/2024/2[7].

7. Delegations[8] that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

a. Expressed support for the recommendations on non-staff personnel and emphasized the added value of reducing staff turnover.
b. Supported the recommendation to obtain more comprehensive data on Flexible Work Arrangements (FWA), highlighting the need to address the mental health of personnel,

[2] Review of the use of non-staff personnel and related contractual modalities in the United Nations system organizations - Review Highlights and Appendix
[3] Flexible working arrangements in United Nations system organizations - Review Highlights- Recommendation 4
[4] Review of mental health and well-being policies and practices in United Nations system organizations - Review Highlights -Recommendation 3
[5] Review of accountability frameworks in the United Nations system organizations - Review Highlights - Recommendations 1 and 2
[6] Budgeting in organizations of the United Nations system Part I - Comparative analysis - Review Highlights (Parts I and II)- Recommendations 2 and 3
[7] Review of consideration of and action taken on the reports and recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit by United Nations system organization - Review Highlights
[8] European Union, Saudi Arabia, Finland, Norway, Brazil, Portugal and India.

noting its impact on organizational effectiveness.

c. Requested further information on:
   i. Specific measures and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) currently in place to track the implementation of personnel policies across the UN, including for non-staff personnel.
   ii. Plans to strengthen and deliver training on FWA and create a healthy work environment, including how FWA accommodates religious obligations and ensures productivity under remote working modalities.
   iii. Areas to be strengthened in relation to risk management and ethics, and how related structures could be further harmonized across the UN system.
d. Highlighted the need for improved reporting on the implementation of JIU recommendations, noting that several internal and external recommendations remain pending.
e. Raised concerns regarding the absence of UNEP's accountability framework, called for strengthened internal controls, efficient use of resources, and ethical behavior, and emphasized on the importance of providing detailed budgetary information that ensures accountability and relevance for decision-making.
f. Requested clarity on why UNEP did not accept some JIU recommendations, and where such information could be accessed.
g. Reflected on the respective roles of the UN General Assembly (GA) and the CPR in the discussion and implementation of JIU recommendations including with respect to accountability frameworks and encouraged UNEP to consider and act on recommendations proactively, even if formal processes are ongoing at the GA level.

8. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

   a. Reaffirmed its commitment to improving the management and tracking of non-staff personnel, noting ongoing efforts to develop a central repository and dashboard to ensure coherence and comprehensive reporting in that regard.
   b. Emphasized that interim measures are in place to aggregate data internally for informed decision-making, particularly considering the current financial context.
   c. Clarified that UNEP is developing training modules to support managers in overseeing a hybrid workforce, including balancing in-person and remote work for team cohesion and productivity.
   d. Noted that UNEP allows one day of flexible work arrangement per week and acknowledged the need to align work arrangements with both organizational needs and staff well-being.
   e. Confirmed that updates to the FWA policy aim to i) balance flexibility with in-office presence to maintain team cohesion; ii) align work arrangements with both organizational needs and staff well-being; and iii) continue ongoing internal discussions on cultural and well-being aspects of workplace dynamics.
   f. Noted UNEP's collaboration with the Ombudsman and the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to prevent workplace conflicts and foster a positive work environment.
   g. Clarified the roles of oversight bodies as follows: JIU focuses on system-wide efficiency and collaboration, the Board of Auditors (BOA) reviews financial statements, and OIOS serves as UN Secretariat's internal oversight body.

h. Confirmed that KPIs related to staff and non-staff personnel are being integrated into UNEP's management tools.
i. Emphasized three pillars for strengthening risk management and ethics: i) institutional structures, ii) robust internal business processes, and iii) fostering a culture of respect and accountability.
j. Stressed that ongoing financial challenges present an opportunity to review and strengthen internal risk management and ethics.
k. Reiterated UNEP's active participation in UN inter-agency mechanisms, including High-Level Committees, to enhance system-wide collaboration, avoid duplication of efforts, and harmonize risk management and ethical standards.
l. Acknowledged that accountability frameworks must go beyond technical or financial aspects to include cultural and ethical dimensions, reaffirming their link to delegation of authority principles and referencing reforms to strengthen alignment with UN values.
m. Affirmed that UNEP remains committed to improving the level of detail presented in budgetary information and is currently working on closing its financial books, with updates expected in upcoming reporting cycles.
n. Clarified that while some recommendations fall under the scope of the GA, UNEP remains actively engaged in system-wide discussions through High-Level Committees and is committed to implementing improvements that align with these principles.

**Agenda item 4: Recommendations from the subcommittee for consideration at the upcoming CPR quarterly meeting.**

9. The Committee considered a draft decision containing draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at its subcommittee meetings for consideration by the Committee at its 169th meeting, as set out in document UNEP/CPR/169/L.2 .

10. Delegations[9] engaged in an exchange of views on the draft decision.

11. The Committee agreed to continue the consideration of the draft recommendations at the subcommittee meeting scheduled for 18 March 2025.

**Agenda item 6: Other matters.**

12. No other matters were raised.

**Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting.**

13. The meeting closed at 16:30 (GMT+3).

[9] Egypt, Netherlands, United States, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Portugal, Uganda, Algeria, Mozambique, State of Palestine, United Kingdom, Chile, Canada, Brazil, European Union, Türkiye, Russian Federation, Ethiopia and France