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Committee of Permanent Representatives

174th meeting

Nairobi, 26 June 2026

10:05 – 13:05 and 15:05 – 17:30 (GMT+3)

Conference Room 2 and online

Chair's summary of the 174th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Note: This Chair's summary complements the detailed meeting report prepared by the Secretariat in advance for the adoption at the next meeting of the Committee. All pre-meeting and post-meeting documents, including statements provided in writing by the members of the Committee as well as observers, are available [here](#).

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

1. H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyeu, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the 174th meeting of the CPR on Friday, 26 June 2026 at 10:05 (GMT+3). The newly arrived representatives were welcomed and the departing representatives bid farewell.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 174th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda of the 174th meeting of the CPR, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/174/1](#).

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 173rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. The Committee adopted the draft minutes of the 173rd meeting of the CPR, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/174/L.1](#).

Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Director to the 174th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The Committee was invited to consider the [Executive Director's Quarterly Report to the 174th meeting of the CPR](#), providing an update on key developments relevant to UNEP for the period from January to March 2026 and a [statement](#) by the Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen.

5. Delegations¹ welcomed the report and provided the following comments:

- a. Reiterated the importance of maintaining UNEP's science-based mandate and strengthening the science policy interface, including through enhanced cooperation among relevant scientific bodies.
- b. Expressed support for ongoing multilateral environmental processes, including the negotiations towards the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment](#) (INC), the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution](#) (ISP-CWP) and implementation of biodiversity-related processes.
- c. Expressed support for ongoing UN system reform efforts, including the [UN80 Initiative](#), and Work Package 27, viewing them as an opportunity to strengthen the environmental dimension across the UN system. Delegations emphasized the need for transparency, inclusivity and meaningful consultation with Members of the Committee in the reform process and welcomed the planned briefings on the UN80 initiative during the 13th annual subcommittee meeting.
- d. Welcomed UNEP's work on environmental data systems, digital tools and platforms, including the [World Environment Situation Room](#) (WESR), while requesting further information on their application in decision-making and monitoring.
- e. Encouraged enhanced use of data, innovation, artificial intelligence and digital technologies to support early warning systems, environmental monitoring and implementation.
- f. Welcomed improvements in results-based management and evaluation systems, while noting the need for more analytical reporting focusing on outcomes, impacts and strategic coherence.
- g. Requested clearer distinctions between outputs, outcomes and impacts in future reports, including how programme outputs contribute to outcomes and impacts and a better demonstration of programme effectiveness and value for money.
- h. Requested clarification on implementation of specific recommendations, including reporting on affiliate personnel and programme indicators.
- i. Emphasized the need for predictable, adequate and sustainable financing to support UNEP's mandate, including increased core and flexible funding to the [Environment Fund](#).
- j. Expressed concern regarding the high proportion of earmarked funding and its implications for programme flexibility and prioritization.
- k. Welcomed UNEP's targeted efforts to address desertification, land degradation and drought, including support to the [Great Green Wall Restoration Programme](#) and related initiatives, and encouraged enhanced reporting and data on these programmes in future quarterly reports.
- l. Encouraged diversification of funding sources, improved resource mobilization strategies and enhanced transparency in the use of funds, including through planetary funds.
- m. Highlighted the importance of aligning funding with programme priorities and ensuring equitable access to financing for developing countries.
- n. Emphasized the importance of strengthening support to developing countries, including through capacity-building, technology transfer and access to finance.

¹ Kenya (on behalf of the G77 and China); Costa Rica (on behalf of GRULAC); the European Union; Sierra Leone (on behalf of the African States); Netherlands (Kingdom of the); Chile; Armenia; Norway; Ukraine; Türkiye; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Somalia; Colombia; Azerbaijan; the United Arab Emirates; Kenya; Egypt; Uganda; Saudi Arabia; Australia; Belgium; India; Peru; Argentina; Zimbabwe; Malawi; Germany; Czechia; the Philippines; Switzerland; Algeria; Belarus; the Russian Federation; Brazil; Portugal; Japan; Mexico; France; China; Guatemala; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); Canada; non-governmental organization major group; women major group; children and youth major group ; and indigenous peoples major group.

- o. Called for strengthened support for Africa and other vulnerable regions, particularly in addressing climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought, including through increased investment and expanded programme support.
 - p. Emphasized the importance of country-driven approaches and strengthened national capacities to support the implementation of environmental commitments.
 - q. Encouraged increased support for least developed countries, [Small Island Developing States](#) and climate-vulnerable regions.
 - r. Highlighted the urgency of addressing interconnected environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and pollution.
 - s. Requested further information on methane mitigation capacity-building activities, including the expansion of support under the [International Methane Emissions Observatory](#) (IMEO) to additional regions, as well as the integration of digital tools such as the [World Environment Situation Room](#) (WESR) and the [Environmental Data Capacity](#) (EDC) Toolkit to enhance measurement, reporting and monitoring.
 - t. Emphasized the importance of adaptation, resilience-building and ecosystem restoration, including nature-based solutions.
 - u. Expressed concern regarding uneven geographical representation in UNEP's workforce, particularly underrepresentation of certain regions.
 - v. Called for improved recruitment practices and proactive measures to ensure equitable geographical distribution while maintaining merit-based selection.
 - w. Called for strengthened UNEP engagement in environmental assessments, early warning and recovery efforts in conflict-affected areas.
 - x. Requested further information on the progress and implementation roadmap for resolutions adopted at UNEA-7.
6. In response, the Executive Director thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Reaffirmed UNEP's commitment to supporting Member States, including continued assistance to regional groups and developing countries in multilateral processes.
 - b. Clarified that funding allocation for certain programmes, including Digital Transformation, remains gradual and is primarily supported through the [Environment Fund](#), with implementation being scaled up incrementally as resources become available.
 - c. Explained that resource mobilization remains demand-driven based on the [Medium-Term Strategy \(MTS\) for the period 2026–2029](#), with efforts focused on leveraging diverse funding sources.
 - d. Confirmed continued efforts to strengthen results-based management, evaluation integration and reporting on outcomes and impacts over time as programmes mature, including through the One Impact Framework.
 - e. Clarified that programme reporting is updated on a biannual basis, noting that progress against programme of work indicators may not be fully reflected within a three-month reporting period.
 - f. Explained that the provision of disaggregated data on affiliate personnel presents methodological challenges due to the distributed and project-based nature of recruitment and indicated that further consideration would be given to how such information could be provided without misinterpretation.
 - g. Highlighted ongoing work on environmental data systems, digital platforms and the [World Environment Situation Room](#) (WESR), with further development, including artificial intelligence capabilities and public-facing tools, planned.

- h. Provided information on the closure of specific trust funds related to administrative arrangements, and outlined ongoing programme activities, including support for methane mitigation through the [International Methane Emissions Observatory](#) (IMEO) and the [Methane Alert and Response System](#) (MARS), as well as support for national biodiversity strategies and environmental monitoring initiatives, noting that these activities are primarily technical and programmatic in nature and are implemented through existing resources without reference to specific dedicated financial allocations.
 - i. Emphasized UNEP's role in mobilizing resources from major global funds while ensuring that support remains country-driven and aligned with Member States' requests.
 - j. Reaffirmed the importance of addressing desertification, land degradation and drought, noting ongoing efforts to strengthen programme coherence, including project "tagging" for improved reporting.
 - k. Explained ongoing efforts to improve geographical representation, including targeted outreach and recruitment strategies while maintaining merit-based selection.
 - l. Noted UNEP's work in monitoring environmental impacts of conflict and providing technical support in affected regions, within its mandate and operational constraints.
 - m. Committed to continued engagement with Member States on reporting, resource mobilization, UN system reform and ongoing programme implementation, including through upcoming meetings.
 - n. Provided an update on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP), noting that an informal technical meeting will be held in October 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, to advance discussions on the draft rules of procedure.
 - o. Highlighted that evaluation findings and lessons learned continue to inform programme planning, implementation and organizational learning, noting that evaluations completed in 2024 and 2025 have already contributed to the development of the Medium-Term Strategy 2026–2029, the Programme of Work 2026–2027, and the design of new programme concepts and projects.
7. The representative of the United States, in exercising the right of reply, rejected the assertions made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reiterated that the Committee should remain focused on its technical and scientific mandate and recalled the United States' position on UN reform and the need to prioritize the core functions of the Organization.
 8. The representative of Ukraine, in exercising the right of reply, rejected the assertions made by the representative of the Russian Federation regarding the conflict in Ukraine and highlighted the humanitarian and environmental impacts of the conflict.
 9. The representative of the Russian Federation, in exercising the right of reply, rejected the assertions made regarding the conflict, reiterated its position on its military operation, called for the Committee to avoid political exchanges and referred to its concerns regarding attacks on civilian infrastructure.
 10. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in exercising the right of reply, rejected the statement made by the representative of the United States and stated that recent military actions against his country had caused significant humanitarian and environmental impacts.
 11. The representative of the United States reiterated the need for a negotiated and durable peace between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, encouraged an end to political exchanges in multilateral forums on the matter and reaffirmed support for diplomatic efforts, including a comprehensive ceasefire as a step towards a peaceful resolution.

Agenda item 5: Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits.

12. There were no relevant evaluation reports and audits to be considered at this meeting.

Agenda item 6: Report of the subcommittee.

13. One representative,² sought clarification on the increasing use of Secretariat briefings in addition to the subcommittee meetings, including whether this reflected a trend and what implications it might have for the frequency and role of CPR subcommittee meetings.
14. The Secretariat clarified that that the roadmap distinguishes between subcommittee meetings and Secretariat briefings, including webinars and workshops, and that Member States may, through their Bureau members, propose adjustments where they consider a topic would benefit from discussion in a subcommittee format.
15. The Chair emphasized that the Bureau prepares the meeting agenda based on issues brought forward through established consultation processes and remains open to proposals from Member States to improve the effectiveness of CPR meetings.
16. The Committee endorsed the draft report of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/174/5](#).

Agenda item 7: Any other business.

17. Representatives of several³ delegations bid farewell to the Committee, having concluded their assignments.
18. Two representatives⁴ reiterated the importance of using agreed terminology in UNEP documents and reports and sought clarification on the status of the draft *Freshwater Priority Actions 2026–2029* document, expressing concern that certain elements of the draft may extend beyond agreed language.
19. The Executive Director clarified that the Freshwater Priority Actions 2026-2029 document is a technical document prepared by the Secretariat in response to a UNEA mandate. She noted that terminology such as "water security" is widely used across the United Nations system in technical and scientific contexts and is not intended to carry political implications. She further explained that the document had been shared to facilitate discussion during the planned webinar and invited Member States to engage.
20. The Chair expressed appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Australia, Her Excellency Jenny Da Rin, in her capacity as Rapporteur of the CPR, for her valuable contributions to the work of the Committee and wished her success in her future endeavour.

Agenda item 8: Closing of the meeting.

21. The meeting closed at 17:30 (GMT+3).

² Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

³ The European Union; Germany; Egypt; Belgium; and Australia.

⁴ Türkiye and the Russian Federation.