The United Nations Environment Assembly Committee of Permanent Representatives

Rules of Procedure

Orientation session for the accredited representatives of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme

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Mandate of the CPR

- GC **Decision 13/2** (1985) charged the CPR with deliberating on and forwarding recommendations to the GC on specific matters detailed in OP 3 of GC Decision 11/2 (1983), such as:
  - Administrative, budgetary, and program-related affairs;
  - Monitoring the progression of the programme and resolutions of the GC;
  - Addressing propositions put forth by permanent representatives or the Executive Director;
  - Carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Committee and the Chair.
- GC **Decision 19/32** (1997) broadened the CPR mandate by tasking it with:
  - The capacity to review and advise on the GC's decisions relating to administrative, budgetary, and programmatic concerns;
  - Preparing draft decisions for consideration by the Governing Council based on inputs from the secretariat and on the results of the functions specified above.
- GC **Decision 27/2** (2013) further delineated the CPR's functions, notably to:
  - Assist in preparing the agenda for UNEA;
  - Providing policy guidance to UNEA;
  - Preparing decisions for adoption by UNEA;
  - Orchestrating thematic debates;
  - Enhancing participation of non-resident members, particularly from developing nations;
  - Executing additional tasks as delegated by UNEA.



Legal framework

- Pursuant to Rule 63(3) of the **Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly** (embodying amendments and additions adopted by UNEA and previously the GC), the RoP shall apply to the CPR, *mutatis mutandis*.

- *"The rules of procedure of subsidiary organs shall be those of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, subject to such modifications as the United Nations Environment Assembly may decide upon in the light of proposals by the subsidiary organs concerned"*



Decision-making

- The CPR has **very limited decision-making powers**.

- The term “decisions” must be interpreted broadly, to encompass all the **actions through which the CPR fulfills its mandate**, including:
  - The election of officers;
  - The review, assessment, monitoring, endorsement, adoption, approval (etc.) of documents and reports.

- The CPR can recommend policy matters to UNEA, but it **cannot issue binding directives to the Executive Director or the Secretariat**, whose actions remain contingent upon UNEA's final decisions.



Decision-making by consensus

- In the UN practice, most proposals are adopted by **consensus**.

- Consensus is generally understood as the **adoption of a decision without formal objections and vote**; this being possible only when no delegation formally objects to consensus being recorded, though some delegations may have reservations to the substantive matter at issue or to a part of it. The fact that consensus is recorded does not necessarily mean that there is “unanimity”, namely, complete agreement as to substance and a consequent absence of reservations.

- In the UN practice, **explanation of votes** before and after the vote are permitted even when a proposal is adopted by consensus.

The CPR Bureau

- **Elected by the CPR** pursuant to **GC Decision 19/32**

- To **assist the President** in the general conduct of business of the United Nations Environment Assembly (Rule 18(1) of the UNEA Rules of Procedure, mutatis mutandis).

- Functions of the Chair:
  - Pursuant to rule 18 as applicable to the Committee, the Chair shall with the assistance of the Bureau be responsible for the general conduct of business of the Committee.
  - The Chair shall preside at Bureau meetings and at meetings of the Committee; or delegate other Bureau members to chair the Committee meetings.
  - The Chair may consult with member States and major groups and other stakeholders for the purposes of preparing and facilitating agreement on key outcomes of the Committee.

Participation of Specialized Agencies, The International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations Bodies and Other Intergovernmental Organizations

Rule 69 of the UNEA Rules of Procedure:

- Representatives of specialized agencies, of the IAEA and UN bodies, as well as of the intergovernmental organizations, may **participate, without the right to vote**, in the deliberations of the CPR upon the invitation of the Chairperson on questions within the scope of their activities.
- Can **circulate written statements** related to the items of the agenda through the secretariat.



GC decision 19/32 (1997):

- OP8: the European Union may participate in the deliberations of the CPR as a full member

Observers of International Non-Governmental Organizations

Rule 70 of the UNEA Rules of Procedure:

- International NGOs having an interest in the field of the environment referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), may designate representatives to **sit as observers** at public meetings of the CPR. UNEA shall adopt and revise, when necessary, a list of such organizations.
- May **make oral statements** on matters within the scope of their activities, upon the invitation of the Chairperson, and subject to the approval of the CPR.
- Can **circulate written statements** related to the items on the agenda through the secretariat.





Questions?

Thank you

UN environment programme

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