

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 20 May 2025
9:00 – 10:40 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (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. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Briefing on crimes that have serious impacts on the environment

3. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UNEP Secretariat provided a joint [briefing](#) on crimes that have serious impacts on the environment.
4. Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Highlighted the need for stronger legal frameworks, enhanced international cooperation, institutional capacity building and innovation driven approaches, particularly in relation to data analytics, illegal mining, logging and fishing.
 - b. Invited UNEP and UNODC to take into account the impact, successes and challenges of their ongoing collaboration when implementing capacity building and international co-operation initiatives.
 - c. Requested further clarification on:
 - i. The impact of current programmes and initiatives on crimes that have serious impacts on the environment being implemented in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.
 - ii. Established measures to protect personal data collected through the use of technologies implemented to detect crimes that have serious impacts on the environment.
 - iii. Examples of increase in the detection of or reduction of crimes that have serious impacts on the environment.
 - iv. Efforts undertaken to develop normative tools addressing crimes that have serious impacts on the environment, based on UNEP's experience.
 - v. Whether the collaboration between UNEP and UNODC has advanced the

¹ European Union, Philippines, Japan, Norway, Peru, Spain, France, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, United Kingdom, Costa Rica, and Children and Youth Major Group (CYMG).

- actionable [recommendations](#) of the [UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#) (the Panel), particularly those relating to pressures on biodiversity arising from minerals demand.
- vi. How activities are jointly undertaken by UNEP and UNODC:
- a. Align with UNEP's mandate and the [Montevideo Environmental Law Programme](#),
 - b. Enable collaboration with other sub-programmes and entities, including the [International Criminal Police Organization](#) (INTERPOL), in accordance with the respective mandates of such entities.
- d. Expressed support for the work of the [open-ended intergovernmental expert group on crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and related offences covered by the Convention](#), as established by the Conference of the Parties, and noted that its first meeting is scheduled to take place in Vienna, Austria from 30 June to 2 July 2025.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Highlighted the joint efforts of UNODC and UNEP in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, including; (i) increased awareness on crimes that have serious impacts on the environment; (ii) progress made under projects such as [Unwaste](#) and [Safety across Asia For the global Environment \(SAFE\)](#); and (iii) implemented capacity building initiatives such as the [Green Customs Initiative](#).
 - b. Highlighted the ongoing cooperation of UNEP and UNODC with Member States in the Asia-Pacific region through the [UN Waste Project](#), implemented over a three-year period, which facilitated regional harmonization on transboundary waste trafficking and contributed to the ratification of the [Basel](#), [Rotterdam](#), and [Stockholm Conventions](#), with four countries also ratifying the [Ban Amendment](#) to the Basel Convention.
 - c. Noted that while projects such as SAFE and Unwaste have achieved normative success, developing longer-term approaches remains challenging as additional financial support is required.
 - d. Reiterated UNEP and UNODC's commitment to support the work the High-level Expert Advisory Group of the Panel, emphasizing the need for a strong criminal justice component and the complementarity of traceability mechanisms with investigative and enforcement capabilities.
 - e. Emphasized UNEP's mandate of conducting high-level research, supporting country-based legislative reforms, and strengthening enforcement mechanisms through its [Montevideo Environmental Law Programme](#), which falls within the ambit of the Environmental Governance sub-programme, and noted the close collaboration of the Programme with other UNEP Divisions, where relevant.
 - f. Clarified that in the absence of a global instrument on crimes that have serious impacts on the environment, UNEP supports countries to develop national frameworks based on international best practices and country-led priorities through the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme.
 - g. Acknowledged the importance of the coordination between UNEP and UNODC and confirmed that duplication of mandates has been avoided through effective division of labor and clear identification of areas for collaboration.
 - h. Clarified that data protection and privacy in the context of crimes that have serious

impacts on the environment are regulated through national and regional legal frameworks, and that neither UNEP nor UNODC hosts or manages personal data or databases pertaining to such crimes.

Agenda item 6: Other matters.

6. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting.

7. The meeting closed at 10:40 (GMT+3).