

CPR-based consensual review process of UNEA and its subsidiary bodies: process and outcome

I. Mandate

1. This document provides a factual overview of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)-based consensual review process of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and its subsidiary bodies, undertaken pursuant to UNEA [decision 4/2](#) and concluded with UNEA [decision 5/4](#).
2. The CPR-based review process was mandated by UNEA in decision 4/2 (15 March 2019) to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and functioning of UNEA and its subsidiary bodies.
3. The scope of the review covered:
 - (a) The preparation, working arrangements and scheduling of sessions of the Environment Assembly and of the objectives, preparation, working arrangements and the scheduling of meetings of its subsidiary body, namely the meeting of the Open-ended CPR and the regular and annual meetings of the subcommittee of the CPR.
 - (b) The respective roles and responsibilities of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including those related to interactions with their respective constituencies;
 - (c) Criteria, modalities and timing for presenting and negotiating draft resolutions and decisions;
 - (d) Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme of work and budget and of the resolutions of the Environment Assembly;
4. Decision 4/2 further requested:
 - A Secretariat mapping exercise and input paper;
 - An open, inclusive and transparent consultation process;
 - Appointment of two Co-Facilitators from CPR membership;
 - A stock-taking meeting to review progress under the framework of the seventh annual subcommittee meeting; and
 - Submission of an action plan for the implementation of subparagraphs (a)–(h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

II. Process

5. The CPR-based review was structured as a Member States-driven, consensus-based process supported by the Secretariat. The process was open, inclusive and transparent, allowing continuous written and oral input from Member States and stakeholders throughout its duration.

III. Mapping exercise and input phase (2019)

6. In line with paragraph 11 of UNEA decision 4/2, the Secretariat prepared a preliminary [mapping document](#) for consideration at the 146th CPR meeting (20 June 2019).

7. Member States and stakeholders were invited to provide written inputs. A Secretariat [input paper](#) was subsequently developed for consideration by the CPR subcommittee, incorporating submissions and initial analysis.

IV. Consultation process (2019–2020)

8. Between October 2019 and September 2020, the CPR held **nine dedicated consultations** under the leadership of the Co-Facilitators. These consultations addressed all elements of paragraph 10 of decision 4/2: (a) UNEA and subsidiary body arrangements; (b) Bureau roles and responsibilities; (c) Draft resolutions and decisions; (d) Monitoring and reporting; and (e) Cooperation with MEAs.

9. The Co-Facilitators issued successive versions of “Converging Elements of Consensus” documents, which progressively reflected areas of convergence and guided negotiations among Member States.

V. Consolidation and agreement phase (2020–2021)

10. In accordance with UNEA decision 4/2, a stock-taking meeting was held under the framework of the CPR seventh annual subcommittee which took place from 12 to 16 October 2020. The stock-taking meeting:

- Reviewed progress achieved in the consultation process (Co-Facilitators’ [converging elements of consensus](#));
- Considered Co-Facilitators’ synthesis and a [Chair’s compromise proposal](#); and
- Identified one outstanding issue (paragraph 3 of the Chair’s proposal) requiring further consultation prior to UNEA-5.

VI. Final outcome and UNEA endorsement (2021-2022)

11. At its eighth annual subcommittee meeting, held from 25 to 29 October 2021, the CPR agreed on a final outcome document of the consensual review process.

12. UNEA subsequently endorsed the outcome in decision 5/4, thereby concluding the CPR-based review process.

13. The outcome establishes agreed provisions relating to:

CPR mandate and oversight role

- Reaffirmed the mandate and oversight role of the CPR, including strengthened arrangements for intersessional work and UNEA preparations.

Preparation of resolutions and decisions

- Improved arrangements and working methods for the preparation, submission and negotiation of UNEA resolutions and decisions, enhancing transparency, predictability and efficiency.

Monitoring and reporting

- Strengthened monitoring and reporting on the implementation of UNEA resolutions and the programme of work and budget, including the development of dedicated reporting tools.

Bureau roles and institutional coordination

- Clarification of the respective roles of the UNEA and CPR Bureaux.

Stakeholder engagement

- More structured engagement of major groups and stakeholders in UNEA processes, including in preparatory and consultative phases.

Cooperation with MEAs

- Strengthened cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs through more structured interaction modalities.

20. The CPR-based review provides an important reference point for subsequent governance assessments, including relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), particularly recommendation 1 on UNEP management and administrative effectiveness.

Annex I Documents prepared

1.	Preliminary mapping document , with guiding questions and two annexes for consideration at 146 th quarterly meeting of the CPR: Annex I: Liming and duration of the meetings of UNEP governing bodies Annex II: Legislative mandates for UNEA and CPR
2.	Input paper based on submissions from Member States and stakeholders for consideration at the sixth annual subcommittee meeting
3.	Consolidated proposal for a consensual process for review by the CPR of UNEA and its subsidiary bodies dated 11 October 2019
4.	Emerging consensual elements (version I) dated 30 December 2019
5.	Emerging consensual elements by the Co-Facilitators (version II) dated 12 February 2020
6.	Converging elements of consensus by the Co-Facilitators (version III) dated 5 May 2020
7.	Converging elements of consensus by the Co-Facilitators (version IV) dated 19 June 2020
8.	Converging elements of consensus by the Co-Facilitators (version V) dated 8 July 2020
9.	Converging elements of consensus by the Co-Facilitators (version VI) dated 10 August 2020
10.	Converging elements of consensus by the Co-Facilitators (final document) dated 29 September 2020
11.	Chair's compromise proposal entitled " Outcome of the stock-taking meeting for the Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as mandated by UNEA Decision 4/2 "
12.	Final document endorsed by UNEA in decision 5/4
13.	Note from the Secretariat on (i) Consideration of the preparation, working arrangements and scheduling of sessions of the UN Environment Assembly (Decision 4/2, subparagraph 10 a part I); and (ii) Consideration of the objectives, preparation, working arrangements and scheduling of meetings of the Assembly's subsidiary body (Decision 4/2, subparagraph 10 a part II)
14.	Note by the Secretariat on options for subparagraph 10 (b) on the role of the UNEA and CPR Bureaux
15.	Draft terms of reference of the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives dated 27 March 2020
16.	Revised Annex I on the draft terms of reference of the UNEA and CPR Bureaux dated 18 June 2020
17.	Draft guidance to Member States on submission of draft resolutions to the UN Environment Assembly
18.	Revised Annex II on the guidance on submission of draft resolutions to UNEA dated 19 June 2020
19.	Note by the Secretariat entitled " Enhancing cooperation between UNEP/UNEA and the MEAs/COPs "
20.	Note by the Secretariat outlining the main rationale behind the proposals identified in the Co-Facilitators' document