

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 22 April 2025
13:00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (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. 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: Development of a medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027.

3. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the development of a medium-term strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget (PoW) for the period 2026-2027, focusing on the situation analysis.
4. Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Welcomed the newly appointed Director of the Policy and Programme Division and expressed readiness for future collaboration.
 - b. Underscored UNEP's leadership as the global environmental authority, its role at the science-policy interface, and the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders.
 - c. Called for a comprehensive, action-oriented, solution-focused, and impactful MTS aligned with global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 - d. Welcomed the inclusion of themes such as land degradation, desertification, droughts, circular economy, sustainable consumption and production, adaptation, finance and investment in nature-based solutions, renewable energy, and multilateral cooperation, emphasized the importance of adopting people-centred and culturally relevant approaches that integrate traditional knowledge.
 - e. Requested the Secretariat to:
 - i. Reflect regional challenges and tailor strategies to the contexts and needs of developing countries.
 - ii. Elaborate further on the issue of biodiversity loss, for example by including a diagnostic paragraph, outlining concrete conservation actions, and highlighting the implementation of nature-based solutions.
 - iii. Highlight the environmental data gaps and the digital capacity constraints faced by

¹ European Union, Russian Federation, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Egypt, Japan, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Türkiye, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of).

- developing countries.
- iv. Address the opportunities and risks associated with artificial intelligence and digital technologies.
 - v. Reinforce a people-centred approach to sustainability that prioritizes equity, environmental justice, and the principle of leaving no one behind.
 - vi. Separate the issue of land degradation, desertification, and drought from nature dependency.
 - vii. Ensure the use of internationally agreed terminology and coherence with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).
 - viii. Include topics such as minerals, forests, the bioeconomy, ocean and marine ecosystem health, food and agriculture systems, biodiversity degradation, food security, water scarcity, drought management and resilience, sand and dust storms, waste management and recycling, One Health, and nature-based solutions.
 - ix. Strengthen the alignment between strategies, budgets and programmatic delivery.
- f. Reinforce synergies across the MTS sections and ensure consistency with national priorities.
 - g. Expressed willingness to contribute constructively to the MTS process and requested regular updates on its roadmap.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Reiterated that one of the main objectives of the MTS is to be succinct and easy to communicate, and noted that solutions will be outlined in other sections of the 2026–2029 MTS, which is scheduled to be presented at the [CPR subcommittee meeting scheduled for 15 May 2025](#).
 - b. Confirmed that UNEP will utilize data and analysis from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other United Nations entities, where appropriate.
 - c. Agreed to adhere to internationally agreed-upon terminologies.
 - d. Invited Member States to follow updates on the MTS, PoW and the associated roadmap via the [dedicated UNEA-7 webpage on the MTS](#).
 - e. Acknowledged that all inputs would be incorporated into the first draft of the 2026–2029 MTS and 2026–2027 PoW, which will be presented at the [CPR subcommittee meeting scheduled for 15 May 2025](#) for further discussion.

Agenda item 3: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

6. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
7. Delegations² that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
- a. Emphasized the importance of travel support for all developing countries in an inclusive and balanced manner and encouraged the Secretariat to undertake resource mobilization to bridge the funding gap.
 - b. Supported adherence to the early deadline for the submission of draft resolutions and early outreach by Member States with UNEP on draft resolution topics; and highlighted

² European Union, Brazil, Colombia, United Kingdom, Cuba, Japan, Portugal, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Russian Federation.

- the importance of early identification of co-facilitators.
- c. Urged the Secretariat and Member States to make the most of the intersessional period to advance the work on the draft resolutions and called for early informal consultations on draft resolutions ahead of the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) to avoid excessive late-night sessions during the OECPR and UNEA.
 - d. While noting the austerity measures implemented by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) necessitated by the liquidity challenges - all meeting bodies with a session of 10 meetings or more are to reduce their number of meetings by at least 10% and adjust their programmes of work accordingly, and no parallel formal meetings of the same calendar meeting body, with or without interpretation services, can be accommodated under regular budget, regardless of entitlement - emphasized the importance of having national statements and providing Ministers the political space to express their national views.
 - e. Requested the Secretariat to present at the [12th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR](#) a detailed roadmap for the intersessional work.
 - f. Requested the Chair of the CPR to present at the [12th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR](#) any draft decisions on procedural and administrative matters, to allow for an early discussion on these draft decisions.
 - g. Requested further clarification on:
 - i. The difference in the budget for UNEA-7 in comparison to UNEA; and
 - ii. The biggest contributor to the increased budget for UNEA-7.
8. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Acknowledged Member States' concerns on travel support and confirmed ongoing fundraising efforts, committed to funding at least one delegate per developing country, and pending availability of adequate funds to support a second delegate per developing country.
 - b. Committed to providing updated timelines and guidelines for submission of draft resolutions once endorsed by the joint UNEA and CPR Bureaux in July.
 - c. Encouraged Member States to begin identifying co-facilitators early and informed that the secretariat has scheduled a training on negotiations skills to be held after the 12th Annual subcommittee.
 - d. Clarified that while the Bureau approved a structure allowing four minutes for national statements based on UNEA-6 lessons learned, however, due to austerity measures necessitated by the liquidity challenges, the number of meetings with interpretation have to be limited to nine. The Secretariat will discuss internally and consult the UNEA Bureau on how to proceed, including the option of maintaining the current structure by mobilizing resources to fund an additional team of interpreters to preserve space for national statements.
 - e. Noted the request to the Chair to present draft decisions on procedural and administrative matters at the 12th annual subcommittee meeting.
 - f. Noted the request for a detailed roadmap for the intersessional period to be presented at the 12th annual subcommittee meeting.
 - g. Explained that the actual cost of UNEA-6 was \$3,662,089, while the budget estimates for UNEA-7 were calculated based on funding two representatives per developing country for a full two-week period, adding that actual participation and duration may vary, potentially resulting in lower final expenditures.
 - h. Reported an overall budget increase of approximately \$924,000. Confirmed that travel

support for developing countries is the most significant expense in the UNEA budget, with an increase of \$649,000 in this category compared to UNEA-6, and explained that the increase in travel support costs is primarily due to higher airfare prices and increased Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rates compared to the previous year.

- i. Highlighted additional costs for building bilateral booths, a delegate lounge area, and MEAs spaces.
- j. Noted efforts to reduce communication and staff costs, including reusing branding material.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

- 9. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting.

- 10. The meeting closed at 15:00 (GMT+3).