Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 18 September 2025
9:00 – 11:50 (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. Sultan Hajiyev, 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 meeting.

2. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Introduction of UNEA-7 draft decisions and Q&A session.

3. In line with the proposed roadmap of the intersessional period, the Secretariat introduced, in the following order, three draft decisions to be considered at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7):
   i. Draft decision entitled "Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions";
   ii. Draft decision entitled "Provisional Agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly"; and
   iii. Draft decision entitled "Medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027".

4. The draft decisions and relevant background materials were made available through the e-Proposals module.

5. The introduction of each daft decision was followed by an exchange of questions and answers between the delegations[1] and the Secretariat.

Agenda item 3: Update on the status of the preparation of the Seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7).

6. The Secretariat provided an update on the status of the production of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7).

7. Delegations[2] welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
   a. Emphasized the importance of ensuring strong uptake of GEO-7 in national policy and welcomed the extensive communication and outreach strategy including the presentation of the report during UNEA-7 to maximize impact.
   b. Requested further information on:
      i. Whether the GEO-7 report will also be presented in UNEA-7 plenary in addition to the planned press launch and side-event.

[1] European Union, Mozambique, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Brazil, Costa Rica, Canada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Argentina.
[2] European Union, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Canada, Portugal, Norway, Brazil.

ii. How written comments on the Second Order Draft (SOD) of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) submitted by 12 October will inform the next iteration of the draft.
iii. How figures in the SOD of the SPM will be negotiated.
iv. Whether a UNEA resolution will be required for the endorsement of the GEO-7 report.
v. The modalities of the Ad-Hoc Open-ended SPM review and approval meeting scheduled from 27 to 31 October, including; i) whether negotiations will proceed line-by-line; ii) whether parallel, multiple or evening sessions are planned; and iii) whether delegates joining remotely will be able to intervene.

c. Noted the tight timeline of the 5-day review and approval meeting and encouraged contingency planning to ensure timely completion of the review.
d. Expressed concern about the heavy workload placed on small delegations by consecutive negotiations and extended daily sessions which risk 'consent by exhaustion' and underlined the importance of scheduling that safeguards health and well-being of negotiators across all UNEP processes.
e. Encouraged waiving registration requirements for accredited Nairobi-based delegates attending Nairobi-based meetings.

8. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
   a. Confirmed that the SPM review and approval meeting will consist of three sessions per day (morning, afternoon and evening), with no parallel sessions, a line-by-line review process, and online participants will be permitted to make interventions.
   b. Explained that figures in the SOD of the SPM will form part of the review meeting and, while edits are less straightforward than for text, necessary modifications to improve communication will be considered.
   c. Clarified that written comments on the SOD of the SPM received between 15 August and 12 October will support authors in preparing alternate text but will not result in a new draft prior to the review meeting and that such comments must be raised during the meeting to be fully considered.
   d. Confirmed that a UNEA resolution is not required for endorsement of GEO-7 report, and options such as 'welcoming' and 'taking note' are available to reflect the Assembly's support.
   e. Clarified that there is no planned UNEA-7 plenary presentation of the report.
   f. Acknowledged the tight timeline of the review meeting and explained that it is due to the need to conclude by Friday, 31 October owing to room availability.
   g. Acknowledged concerns regarding workload of the SPM meeting and indicated openness to explore further options for the Bureau's consideration and guidance in accordance with the rules of procedure for the meeting.

Agenda item 4: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

9. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7).

10. Delegations[3] welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
   a. Requested clarification on whether the roadmap on the website reflects the latest version of the intersessional calendar.
   b. Emphasized that UNEA-7 outcomes should remain closely aligned with the programme of work and budget.
   c. Underlined the importance of tabling streamlined and focused draft resolutions to avoid overstretching resources and negotiation capacity.

[3] Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the).

11. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
    a. Confirmed that the roadmap would be updated to reflect the forthcoming informal informal consultations on the draft ministerial declaration.
    b. Informed that the Secretariat will regularly brief the Committee on UNEA-7 preparations, including by the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

12. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

13. The meeting closed at 11:50 (GMT+3).