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**Subcommittee of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Fifth meeting of 2026**
Nairobi, 30 April 2026
09:10 – 12:20 (GMT+3)
Conference Room 4 (in person) and
Microsoft Teams (online)

Chair's summary of the fifth subcommittee meeting of 2026

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. H. E. Mrs. Romy Tincopa, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent representatives (CPR), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened and chaired the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Briefing on the outcomes of the first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP P1.1).

3. The Secretariat provided an [update](#) on the outcomes of the first part of the first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP Plenary 1.1), held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2 to 6 February 2026.
4. Delegations¹ welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Welcomed the establishment of the Panel as a significant achievement for multilateral environmental governance and reaffirmed their commitment to its success and to strengthening the science-policy interface on chemicals, waste and pollution.
 - b. Expressed regret over the limited progress made during Plenary 1.1.
 - c. Emphasized that the finalization of the rules of procedure is a priority, with several delegations underlining the importance of resolving outstanding issues in a timely and pragmatic manner.
 - d. Recalled that the principle of consensus was an essential element in the establishment of the Panel and should be preserved.
 - e. Stressed that further clarity is needed on the Panel's working methods and the legal basis guiding the Plenary in the absence of fully adopted rules of procedure.

¹ Brazil, European Union, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, France, United Kingdom, Norway, Russian Federation, Japan, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Women major group.

- f. Expressed concern that unresolved procedural issues, including those related to observers, the location of the secretariat, the trust fund, and the work programme, may affect the timely operationalization of the Panel.
 - g. Raised concerns regarding the financial implications of the delay, including the availability of resources to support the resumed session and the inclusive participation of developing countries.
 - h. Highlighted the importance of the Panel in complementing the work of the IPCC and IPBES in addressing the three planetary environmental crises in a coherent and integrated manner.
 - i. Requested the Secretariat to provide further clarification on the roadmap towards the resumed session, including timelines, modalities, and opportunities for engagement of delegations from all regions and stakeholders.
 - j. Requested clarification on how consultations would be conducted, including the role of the Bureau of the ISP-CWP and engagement with the Eastern European States Group, which is currently not represented in the Bureau.
 - k. Recommended that informal consultations and technical discussions be undertaken prior to Plenary 1.2 to facilitate progress on outstanding provisions in the draft rules of procedure ahead of the resumed session.
 - l. Looked forward to a focused, solution-oriented and productive resumed session, with a view to making efficient use of time and advancing the full operationalization of the Panel.
 - m. Expressed support for holding the resumed session in 2026, or at the latest early 2027, to maintain momentum.
 - n. Encouraged swift operationalization of the Panel and noted the procedural challenges encountered at Plenary 1.1.
 - o. Emphasized the importance of capacity building, technology transfer, and equitable participation of developing countries in the prioritization of themes and approval of Panel deliverables.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Noted that the challenges faced at the first session of the Plenary included a lack of agreement on the application of existing rules of procedure, which contributed to the limited outcomes,
 - b. Highlighted that the Secretariat continues to operate under constrained financial resources and that additional funding will be required to support the convening of the resumed session.
 - c. Clarified that the roadmap towards the resumed session is developed under the guidance of the Chair of the Bureau of the ISP-CWP, who is holding informal consultations with members, and that it will be presented to the Bureau for consideration at its next meeting on 7 May 2026.
 - d. Recalled that the Bureau plays a key role in advancing preparations, since it was tasked by the Plenary to agree on the date and venue of the resumed session in consultation with the members.
 - e. Highlighted that efforts are ongoing to ensure inclusive engagement, including outreach by the Chair to members from the Eastern European States Group as the region is currently not represented in the Bureau.
 - f. Clarified that informal consultations and other flexible modalities (e.g. webinars) may be used to further support engagement and progress on outstanding issues ahead of the resumed session.
 - g. Welcomed the views expressed and stressed that no decision has yet been taken regarding the specific date of the resumed session, but that the Bureau was expected to discuss this at its next meeting.
 - h. Agreed to continue engaging with members and stakeholders to advance preparations and support a successful and outcome-oriented resumed first session of the Plenary.

Agenda item 3: Briefing on the outcomes of the twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP20).

6. The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) provided an [overview](#) of the key outcomes of the twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP20), held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 24 November to 5 December 2025, marking the 50th anniversary of the Convention, followed by a [briefing](#) by the UNEP Secretariat on UNEP's support for the implementation of the outcomes and how they align with UNEP's Programme of Work (PoW).

7. Delegations² welcomed the presentations and provided the following comments in summary:
- a. Welcomed the outcomes of the CITES CoP20 and UNEP's work in advancing the implementation of CITES.
 - b. Highlighted that CITES CoP20 demonstrated tangible progress in various areas, such as:
 - i. Regional cooperation on Jaguars to support species recovery, ecosystem conservation and law enforcement, where UNEP offered support;
 - ii. Engagement with Indigenous Peoples on CITES implementation, including the adoption of non-binding guidance to help Parties undertake consultation;
 - iii. Regulatory advances, including decisions on endemic species and strengthened legal acquisition findings to combat illegal trade;
 - iv. Strengthened measures for Brazilwood, including combating illegal trade, clarifying conditions for non-commercial use, information-sharing on stockpiles, and reinforcing traceability and conservation objectives;
 - v. Strong alignment with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly for megadiverse countries; and
 - vi. Strengthened measures to enhance conservation while balancing trade and sustainable use objectives.
 - c. Highlighted that CoP20 outcomes reaffirmed the importance of science-based multilateralism and integrated approaches linking conservation, livelihoods and health.
 - d. Noted that attention should now focus on the effective implementation of the numerous decisions adopted at CoP20.
 - e. Highlighted that alignment of CoP20 outcomes with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy supported stronger environmental governance, enforcement and sustainable use of biodiversity.
 - f. Recognized UNEP's role in identifying synergies across multilateral environmental agreements, including through regional cooperation platforms, and in supporting countries in translating decisions into action.
 - g. Highlighted that the biodiversity-rich countries continue to face significant, technical, institutional and capacity gaps, and the need for targeted support for developing countries.
 - h. Recognized that the global biodiversity finance gap remains and stressed the needs of innovative financial mechanisms including blended finance, debt-for-nature swaps, biodiversity credits, and nature-based investment.
 - i. Called for stronger safeguards for endangered species and marine and coastal ecosystems.
 - j. Encouraged greater investment in digital permitting systems and strengthened engagement of communities, Indigenous Peoples and youth.
 - k. Sought clarification on: (i) how UNEP can support debt-for-nature swaps; and (ii) how UNEP and the CITES Secretariat support developing countries in addressing technical and institutional capacity gaps and accessing financial mechanisms.
8. In response, the Secretariats thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

CITES Secretariat

- a. Highlighted that the success of CITES CoP20 reflected the sustained efforts of Parties and demonstrated the value of inclusive multilateral dialogue among governments, the private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and their Communities in identifying workable solutions.
- b. Emphasized that implementation remained the core focus of the Convention.
- c. Clarified that the CITES Secretariat provides capacity-building support through existing programmes, including the [Compliance Assistance Programme](#); the [CITES Tree Species Project](#); the [National Legislation Project](#); regional dialogue meetings; and ad hoc assistance provided at the request of Parties subject to resource availability.
- d. Noted that cooperation with UNEP regional offices and regional organizations was ongoing, including in the Asia and the Pacific and other regions, to support coordinated implementation and capacity development.
- e. Noted that the CITES PoW adopted at CoP20 required approximately USD 14 million for full

² European Union, Mexico, Colombia, Australia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Brazil, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Saudi Arabia, NGO major group, Children and Youth major group.

implementation, while additional resources remained necessary for the Parties to address the overall scale of CITES implementation needs.

- f. Noted opportunities for closer collaboration with UNEP in the exploration of innovative financing mechanisms and engagement with partners to mobilize resources in support of the effective implementation of the Convention.
- g. Noted that CoP20 strengthened youth engagement through revisions to the relevant resolution and increased youth participation, including growing involvement in national CITES authorities.

UNEP Secretariat

- h. Highlighted that UNEP explores innovative finance instruments including debt-for-nature swaps in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean to open fiscal space, mobilize additional finance, and promote regional approaches.
- i. Highlighted that UNEP supports scaling debt-for-nature swaps through analysis, facilitating exploratory transactions, and advancing global guidance including [the State of Finance for Nature 2026](#).
- j. Highlighted UNEP's role as a member of the Jaguars working group and drafting of the terms of reference for the steering committee of the regional platform.
- k. Highlighted that UNEP is developing a bioeconomy portfolio to support countries in strengthening value chains and channelling benefits directly to the Indigenous Peoples and their Communities.
- l. Welcomed the opportunities to work with Member States to mobilize resources through National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) allocations.
- m. Highlighted UNEP's legal, governance, and capacity building support on implementation, including the work under the [Montevideo Environmental Law Programme](#) with a focus on supporting countries in the Global South.

Agenda item 4: Briefing on the outcomes of the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES 12).

- 9. The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) provided an [update](#) on the main outcomes of the twelfth session of IPBES (IPBES 12) held in Manchester, United Kingdom, from 3 to 9 February 2026.
- 10. Delegations³ welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Welcomed and highlighted the successful outcomes of IPBES 12, recognizing the platform's continued relevance as a science-policy interface and the assessment as a landmark, timely, and scientifically robust achievement, while noting efforts to promote its uptake.
 - b. Noted that the assessment provides a strong evidence-base grounded in the best available science, offering actionable solutions, and expressed confidence in its potential to serve as a key global reference on business-biodiversity relationships.
 - c. Emphasized the urgent need for coordinated action among businesses, governments, financial institutions, and other stakeholders, noting that biodiversity loss represents a systemic risk to economies, human well-being, and global resilience.
 - d. Recommended prioritizing the translation of scientific knowledge into practical policies and implementation, with requests for enhanced guidance, tools, and support at national and global levels.
 - e. Highlighted stronger engagement of the private sector, supported by effective policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks, including incentives and disincentives, to align economic activities with biodiversity goals.
 - f. Requested strengthened outreach, dissemination, and science-policy translation, including further clarity on how uptake of the assessment will be supported and aligned across international processes.
 - g. Emphasised enhanced collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and stakeholder engagement, including through workshops, regional initiatives, and partnerships to support effective uptake.
 - h. Highlighted the imbalance between financial flows harming biodiversity and those supporting conservation, calling for urgent mobilization of finance, scaling of innovative mechanisms, and stronger engagement with financial institutions.

³ European Union, Colombia, Norway, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Switzerland.

- i. Stressed the importance of ensuring adequate and predictable funding and addressing financial and administrative challenges to maintain the platform's effectiveness and credibility.
- j. Highlighted the need for capacity building, technical support, and inclusive approaches, particularly for developing contexts, Indigenous Peoples and their communities, and small producers.
- k. Highlighted inclusive participation of civil society, youth, and stakeholders, alongside improved access to environmental data and participatory decision-making processes.
- l. Noted the interlinkages between biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, calling for integrated, systemic responses and long-term investment strategies.
- m. Recommended maintaining the platform's role as a policy-relevant, non-prescriptive scientific body, ensuring transparency, balanced consideration of national contexts, and simplified procedures, including for private sector engagement.
- n. Commended and encouraged the contributions of the Secretariat, Technical Support Units, and experts, and called for continued collaboration and innovation to deliver accessible, policy-relevant outputs
- o. One representative⁴ requested that references made during the briefing to a report from the government of the United Kingdom referring to sovereign territories of other Member States not be included in the context of presenting the outcomes of IPBES 12. Another representative⁵ responded, clarifying the intent of the report as supporting cooperation and evidence-based risk management.

11. In response, the IPBES Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

- a. Welcomed the recognition of the outcomes of IPBES 12 and reaffirmed the Platform's role as a science-policy interface committed to maintaining high scientific standards, transparency and inclusivity.
- b. Acknowledged the assessment as a robust, evidence-based reference and emphasized the importance of ensuring that its findings, including solutions and recommendations, are clearly communicated and accessible to decision-makers across sectors.
- c. Recognized the systemic nature of biodiversity loss, underscored the importance of coordinated, cross-sectoral action and noted that it would continue to facilitate engagement among governments, businesses, financial institutions, and other stakeholders.
- d. Emphasized continued work with partners to enhance guidance materials, tools, and capacity-building initiatives to support the translation of scientific knowledge into policy and practice at national and global levels.
- e. Agreed on the importance of private sector engagement and supporting efforts to strengthen policy coherence through enabling environments, appropriate incentives and regulatory frameworks aligned with biodiversity objectives.
- f. Acknowledged the need for strengthened outreach and science-policy translation and indicated that efforts would continue to clarify pathways for uptake and alignment with relevant international processes and frameworks.
- g. Underscored the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing through workshops, regional activities, and partnerships to support dissemination and implementation of assessment findings
- h. Recognized the need to support dialogue on mobilizing resources, innovative financing approaches, and enhanced engagement with the financial sector.
- i. Noted the importance of predictable and adequate funding and committed to work with members and partners to address financial and administrative challenges affecting the Platform's work programme.
- j. Reaffirmed its commitment to capacity-building and inclusive approaches, including targeted support for developing countries, Indigenous Peoples and their communities, and small producers.
- k. Acknowledged the importance of inclusive participation and committed to strengthening stakeholder engagement, including civil society and youth, while promoting access to relevant data and knowledge.
- l. Recognized the interlinkages between biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, and the need to support integrated and systemic approaches in its assessments and related work.
- m. Reaffirmed the Platform's mandate as a policy-relevant, non-prescriptive body and emphasized the importance of transparency, inclusivity, and consideration of diverse national contexts, while exploring opportunities to streamline procedures where appropriate.

⁴ Brazil.

⁵ United Kingdom.

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

12. The co-chair⁶ of the Group of Friends for enhanced civil society participation in UNEP-led events provided an update on the meeting held on 15 April 2026, including reflections on UNEA-7 outcomes and a briefing on preparations towards UNFCCC COP 31. The co-chair invited delegations and stakeholders to the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 10 June 2026.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

13. The meeting closed at 12:20 (GMT+3).

⁶ Netherlands (Kingdom of the).