

The United Nations Environment Assembly Committee of Permanent Representatives

Rules of Procedure

Orientation session for the accredited representatives of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme

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Mandate of the CPR

- **GC Decision 13/2 (1985)** charged the CPR with deliberating on and forwarding recommendations to the GC on specific matters detailed in OP 3 of GC Decision 11/2 (1983), such as:
 - Administrative, budgetary, and program-related affairs;
 - Monitoring the progression of the programme and resolutions of the GC;
 - Addressing propositions put forth by permanent representatives or the Executive Director;
 - Carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Committee and the Chair.
- **GC Decision 19/32 (1997)** broadened the CPR mandate by tasking it with:
 - The capacity to review and advise on the GC's decisions relating to administrative, budgetary, and programmatic concerns;
 - Preparing draft decisions for consideration by the Governing Council based on inputs from the secretariat and on the results of the functions specified above.
- **GC Decision 27/2 (2013)** further delineated the CPR's functions, notably to:
 - Assist in preparing the agenda for UNEA;
 - Providing policy guidance to UNEA;
 - Preparing decisions for adoption by UNEA;
 - Orchestrating thematic debates;
 - Enhancing participation of non-resident members, particularly from developing nations;
 - Executing additional tasks as delegated by UNEA.



Legal framework

- Pursuant to Rule 63(3) of the **Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly** (embodying amendments and additions adopted by UNEA and previously the GC), such rules shall apply to the CPR, *mutatis mutandis*.
- In the absence of *lex specialis*, the **definitions and concepts applicable to the UNGA** shall likewise apply *mutatis mutandis*, given that CPR functions as a subsidiary organ of UNEA which, in turn, operates as a subsidiary organ of the CPR.
- Lastly, the **general practice of the United Nations** shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* in a systematic and subsidiary manner, as necessitated by the exigencies.



Decision-making

- The CPR can adopt substantive and procedural **decisions pertaining to its functions**, as determined by UNEA.
- The term “decisions” must be interpreted broadly, to encompass all the **actions through which the CPR fulfills its mandate**, including:
 - The election of officers;
 - The review, assessment, monitoring, endorsement, adoption, approval (etc.) of documents and reports.
- The CPR can recommend policy matters to UNEA, but it **cannot issue binding directives to the Executive Director or the Secretariat**, whose actions remain contingent upon UNEA's final decisions.



Decision-making by consensus

- In the UN practice, most proposals are adopted by **consensus**.
- Consensus is generally understood as the **adoption of a decision without formal objections and vote**; this being possible only when no delegation formally objects to consensus being recorded, though some delegations may have reservations to the substantive matter at issue or to a part of it. The fact that consensus is recorded does not necessarily mean that there is “unanimity”, namely, complete agreement as to substance and a consequent absence of reservations.
- In the UN practice, **explanation of votes** before and after the vote are permitted even when a proposal is adopted by consensus.



Decision-making by vote

- The **methods of voting** are outlined in Rule 50 UNEA-RoP: (1) Show of hands, (2) Roll call; and now (3) Electronic means.
- Whether a proposal has been adopted by a vote is determined based on whether it has met the required majority, i.e., a **majority of those present and voting**, which is determined exclusively based on the affirmative and negative votes cast (Rule 49 UNEA-RoP).
- Since there is **no obligation to vote**, representatives may be physically present for the purpose of quorum but not participate in the voting process.

The UNEA Bureau

- **Elected by UNEA** pursuant to Rule 18 of the UNEA Rules of Procedure.
- To **assist the President** in the general conduct of business of the United Nations Environment Assembly (Rule 18(1) of the UNEA Rules of Procedure).
- To **examine credentials** and submit its report to the United Nations Environment Assembly (Rule 17(2) of the UNEA Rules of Procedure).
- To **guide the CPR**:
 - To ensure that the UNEA theme provides a framework for political debate at the high-level segment as well as for official UNEA events (Final review of the consensual process of review by the CPR, paragraph 1);
 - To create an optimal balance between political negotiations, the UNEA high-level segment, and official and non-official UNEA events (Final review of the consensual process of review by the CPR, paragraph 5);
 - To strengthen the contributions and active participation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to UNEA to promote coherence between the UNEA resolutions and the MEAs governing bodies' decisions (Final review of the consensual process of review by the CPR, paragraph 6);
 - To strengthen the science-policy interface at UNEA (Final review of the consensual process of review by the CPR, paragraph 8).

Participation of Specialized Agencies, The International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations Bodies and Other Intergovernmental Organizations

Rule 69 of the UNEA Rules of Procedure:

- Representatives of specialized agencies, of the IAEA and UN bodies, as well as of the intergovernmental organizations, may **participate, without the right to vote**, in the deliberations of the CPR upon the invitation of the Chairperson on questions within the scope of their activities.
- Can **circulate written statements** related to the items of the agenda through the secretariat.

Specialized agencies of the UN



GC decision 19/32 (1997):

- OP8: the European Union may participate in the deliberations of the CPR as a full member

Observers of Intergovernmental Non-Governmental Organizations

Rule 70 of the UNEA Rules of Procedure:

- International NGOs having an interest in the field of the environment referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), may designate representatives to **sit as observers** at public meetings of the CPR. UNEA shall adopt and revise, when necessary, a list of such organizations.
- May **make oral statements** on matters within the scope of their activities, upon the invitation of the Chairperson, and subject to the approval of the CPR.
- Can **circulate written statements** related to the items on the agenda through the secretariat.





Questions?

Thank you



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