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**Subcommittee of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Third meeting of 2026**
Nairobi, 12 March 2026
9:00 – 12:50 (GMT+3)
Conference Room 4 (in person) and
Microsoft Teams (online)

Chair's summary of the third 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: Consideration of evaluation reports and audits (evaluation of the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme).

3. UNEP's Evaluation Office [presented](#) the recently concluded [evaluation of the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme](#), followed by a [presentation](#) by the UNEP Secretariat on the [management response](#).
4. Delegations¹ welcomed the presentations and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Noted the usefulness and transparency of the evaluation, highlighting its identification of key areas for improvement and progress made in implementing recommendations, including through the development of a single impact framework, a more consolidated portfolio and continuity of indicators across Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) cycles.
 - b. Acknowledged the strategic relevance and strong normative role of the Subprogramme on Chemicals and Pollution Action (SP-CPA) in advancing global cooperation on chemicals, waste and pollution, including through partnerships with [Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#) (MEAs), such as the [Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm \(BRS\) Conventions](#) and the [Minamata Convention](#), as well as contributions to the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#) (GFC) and ongoing negotiations towards treaty on plastic pollution.
 - c. Highlighted the subprogramme's contribution to raising the visibility of pollution as a global environmental challenge, while stressing the importance of sustaining high-level advocacy and further

¹ European Union, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Brazil, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Angola, Australia, Mexico, Peru, China, Bhutan, Children and Youth major group.

strengthening strategic communication to maintain political visibility and policy traction.

- d. Emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships and coordination with international organizations, scientific bodies, financial institutions and other stakeholders, including enhancing coherence across MEAs and aligning relevant initiatives such as air quality efforts and those of the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#) (CCAC).
 - e. Recognized the importance of platforms such as the [Global Plastics Hub](#) in supporting information-sharing and collaboration and encouraged their enhanced visibility, accessibility and systematic use across stakeholders.
 - f. Noted the significant reliance on [Global Environment Facility](#) (GEF) funding and encouraged UNEP to diversify funding sources, while ensuring coherence and alignment between GEF-supported projects with the [MTS for the period 2026–2029](#) and the [Programme of Work \(PoW\) and budget for the biennium 2026-2027](#).
 - g. Supported the shift towards larger, more coherent programmes with clear long-term impact and predictable funding, to enable more integrated and country-driven support on chemicals, waste and pollution.
 - h. Expressed concern over the limited integration of pollution into broader development frameworks, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), and underscored the need for a stronger narrative to position pollution within sustainable development agendas.
 - i. Underscored the need for enhanced support to the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and Regional Offices to mainstream chemicals and pollution into national planning and inter-agency processes, taking into account capacity constraints and resource availability.
 - j. Highlighted the importance of addressing fragmentation, including in circular economy initiatives, and strengthening internal coordination across UNEP divisions and programmes, as well as with external partners, to ensure more coherent and system-wide delivery.
 - k. Noted the recommendation to develop a ‘pollution gap report’ and encouraged consideration of its potential complementarity with the work of the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution](#) (ISP-CWP), while avoiding duplication.
 - l. Emphasized the importance of strengthening indicators and monitoring systems to better capture outcomes and long-term environmental and health impacts, including measurable reductions in pollution and chemical exposure, and encouraged the inclusion of disaggregated and age-sensitive indicators, particularly reflecting impacts on children and youth.
 - m. Requested further clarification on:
 - i. Concrete steps to implement the recommendations contained in the evaluation report.
 - ii. Measures to improve and operationalize the single impact framework and indicators, including tracking emissions and long-term impacts beyond activity-level monitoring.
 - iii. How evaluation findings are being integrated into the work that is being done at the [UN80 Initiative](#).
 - iv. The role of the Regional Offices and UNCTs in programme delivery, including capacity considerations and support modalities.
 - v. Steps to address the limited integration of pollution into UN country analysis and cooperation frameworks and for engagement with inter-agency efforts.
 - vi. Modalities for undertaking regional capacity analysis in response to evaluation recommendations.
 - vii. How UNEP will integrate the outputs of the [ISP-CWP](#) into its programme of work.
 - n. Called for the establishment of clear procedures and accountability mechanisms for responding to Member States’ requests for technical assistance, including defined responsibilities, transparent tracking systems and indicative response timelines.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

Evaluation Office response

- a. Explained that strengthening monitoring systems and generating reliable data under the One Impact Framework will take time.
- b. Clarified that measurable environmental impacts take time due to the lag between policy, behaviour, and environmental outcomes, and emphasized that evaluating UNEP’s normative work requires both

quantitative and qualitative approaches to capture long-term impacts, with the [Evaluation Office](#) supporting capacity building for outcome-level monitoring.

UNEP management response

- c. Highlighted efforts within the SP-CPA to consolidate the portfolio, address fragmentation, and strengthen coherence through integrated programmatic approaches such as ‘[One Plastics](#)’ and ‘[One Textiles](#)’, [life-cycle](#) and [zero-waste approaches](#), and sector-specific value chain work across plastics, textiles, minerals and metals, transport, and electronics, and focusing on frameworks and science-policy processes, including [GFC](#) and the [ISP-CWP](#).
- d. Outlined institutional measures from the UNEP functional review to consolidate smaller teams, integrate staff across science, policy, law, industry engagement, finance, and communications, and enhance linkages between assessments, policy, and implementation, while maintaining governance “firewalls” and integrating GEF- and non-GEF-funded projects.
- e. Explained efforts to operationalize the One Impact Framework under the [MTS 2026–2029](#), including indicator reference sheets, data collection methodologies, sector-specific analyses, and performance reviews measuring both impact- and outcome-level indicators to track policy change and shifts in industry behaviour, including more regular and structured performance reporting to Member States.
- f. Explained that an evaluation and stocktaking exercise of the [CCAC](#) is underway to inform a functional review and enhance coherence between [UNEP’s air quality programme](#) and related partnerships.
- g. Highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen knowledge management and data accessibility, including through the [Global Plastics Hub](#) and the [World Environment Situation Room](#), to consolidate data and knowledge across programmes and partners in a coherent and accessible manner.
- h. Outlined strengthened coordination mechanisms with Regional Offices and UNCTs to ensure programme delivery responds to Member States’ priorities and capacity assessments, taking into account the availability of resources and the ongoing [UN80 Initiative](#).
- i. Indicated that internal procedures are being strengthened to respond to Member States’ technical assistance requests, including clearer processes for communication, capacity assessment, and coordinated, transparent responses.
- j. Recalled implementation of the [UN Common Approach Towards a Pollution-Free Planet](#) and ongoing efforts to integrate pollution considerations into UNSDCF and other development processes, while promoting the agenda in relevant sustainable development fora.
- k. Highlighted efforts to enhance collaboration across UNEP divisions and with communications teams to increase visibility and outreach of the subprogramme.
- l. Confirmed that [GEF](#) remains the largest funding source and described measures to better align GEF-supported projects with UNEP’s programme of work, while noting opportunities to mobilize additional resources through GEF-9, the [Global Framework on Chemicals Fund](#), the [Special Programme](#), partnerships with organizations such as the [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#) (UNIDO) and the [World Wide Fund for Nature](#) (WWF), while emphasizing the need for safeguards to mitigate risks such as ‘greenwashing’.

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

6. The Secretariat presented the [background document](#) on the preparations for and outcomes of the [seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#) (UNEA-7), the [feedback from the post-session survey](#) of participants, and the [preliminary findings of the Assembly’s communications performance](#) across media and digital channels.
7. One of the co-facilitators of UNEA-7 [presented a summary of the discussion](#) held during the CPR Bureau meeting on 19 February 2026 and proposed two questions for delegations’ consideration, namely, how can delegations better prepare in advance for UNEA and how can resolutions be more impactful.
8. A representative of the Children and Youth major group presented the [results of the Youth Environment Assembly survey](#).
9. A representative of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee presented the outcomes of the surveys on Major Groups-led events and engagements during UNEA-7, including the [Global Major Groups Stakeholders Forum](#) and the Indigenous Peoples Special Dialogue.

10. Delegations² welcomed the presentations and provided the following comments in summary:

General assessment

- a. Commended the Presidency of UNEA-7, the co-facilitators and the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing and delivering a well-organized Assembly.
- b. Noted that lessons learned from previous sessions, [particularly UNEA-6](#), contributed to improvements in the organization and conduct of UNEA-7 and encouraged that such lessons continue to be consolidated and built upon in preparation for UNEA-8.
- c. Welcomed the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, the MTS for 2026–2029, PoW and budget for 2026–2027, as well as several resolutions and decisions, demonstrating continued commitment to environmental multilateralism.
- d. Noted that the [outcomes of UNEA-7](#) could have been more ambitious and expressed concern that some important environmental issues could not be addressed during the session.
- e. Underlined the importance of strengthening the implementation of UNEA outcomes and ensuring adequate resources to support the implementation of adopted resolutions and decisions.
- f. Emphasized the importance of Member States exercising restraint when submitting draft resolutions bearing in mind the capacity constraints faced of smaller delegations.
- g. Emphasized the importance of respecting the established deadline for the submission of draft resolutions.
- h. Proposed that draft resolutions should be kept concise, for example, limited to two pages.
- i. Highlighted the importance of ensuring that draft resolutions remain within UNEA's mandate and that proponents are prepared to provide the rationale and added value of proposed drafts, including their relevance for addressing emerging environmental challenges.
- j. Encouraged proponents to consult the Secretariat in advance of submitting draft resolutions and to collaborate with other proponents, as appropriate, to merge proposals.
- k. One delegation proposed that co-facilitators for draft resolutions and decisions should not be limited to Nairobi-based delegates but could also include focal points from capitals.
- l. Highlighted the value of practices and tools that supported the preparations for and negotiations at the Assembly, including:
 - the [guidance to Member States on the submission of draft resolutions and decisions](#);
 - the concept notes provided by the proponents;
 - the Secretariat technical notes;
 - the non-papers prepared by the co-facilitators;
 - the designation of Secretariat focal points throughout the process;
 - the negotiation skills training for delegates and other capacity building workshops for the co-facilitators;
 - the use of the [e-Proposals platform](#);
 - the UNEA app, noting that improvements in readability could be helpful; and
 - the UNEA [website](#).
- m. Emphasized the role of the CPR Bureau in representing their respective regions and highlighted the importance of clarity regarding the respective role of the CPR Bureau and that of the CPR, noting that the CPR remains the intersessional body mandated to support and oversee preparations for the Assembly.
- n. Stressed the importance of adequate funding to support the participation of developing countries, while one delegation proposed that travel support to delegations could take into account factors such as delegation size and gender balance.

Intersessional period

- o. Welcomed the intersessional consultations, which helped facilitate discussions ahead of the Assembly, including the merging of drafts where appropriate.
- p. Encouraged continued early engagement on draft resolutions and decisions during the intersessional period to facilitate more efficient negotiations during the Open-ended CPR (OECPR) and UNEA.
- q. Proposed maintaining the current structure for intersessional work, while one delegation noted that paragraph-by-paragraph consideration of drafts with textual proposals during the intersessional period

² Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Japan, Peru, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, European Union, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Türkiye, Uganda, Australia, France, Russian Federation, Indigenous Peoples major group, Women major group, Scientific and Technological Community major group.

did not fully meet the intended objective and suggested that the intersessional period remain lean and focused.

- r. Welcomed the informal consultations on the draft Ministerial Declaration convened by the co-facilitators appointed by the President of UNEA and suggested that such consultations could begin earlier in the preparatory process.
- s. Highlighted the importance of exploring ways to better engage capital-based focal points during the intersessional period.

OECPR and UNEA

- t. Underlined the importance of negotiations remaining grounded in science and expressed concern about instances where previously agreed language or scientific findings were questioned.
- u. Stressed the importance of Member States to engage constructively and in the spirit of cooperation during negotiations.
- v. Highlighted the importance of limiting the number of draft resolutions, parallel meetings and negotiation times, in order to allow smaller delegations with limited capacity to participate effectively.
- w. Highlighted the importance of avoiding the introduction of new language proposals at the final stages of negotiations.
- x. Suggested possible improvements to the negotiations process, including:
 - maintaining attribution of textual proposals in the drafts transmitted to the OECPR;
 - assigning facilitators to individual draft resolutions rather than clusters where feasible; and
 - allocating equal negotiation time to draft resolutions and decisions.
- y. Suggested devoting time during the OECPR on the first reading of the preambular paragraphs (PPs) and welcomed the suggestion in the Guidance on the submission of drafts to limit the number of PPs ideally to four paragraphs.
- z. Emphasized the importance of empowering co-facilitators to streamline draft text, including the preambular paragraphs.
- aa. Reaffirmed that consensus should remain the guiding principle for decision-making in UNEA while noting that the rules of procedure of UNEA provide for other modalities should consensus not be achievable.
- bb. Suggested exploring different approaches for addressing cross-cutting issues.

Participation of major groups and other stakeholders

- cc. Welcomed the opportunities for major groups and other stakeholders to engage in the Assembly and highlighted the importance of inclusive participation.
- dd. Emphasized the importance of focused and concise stakeholder interventions and contributions.
- ee. One delegation proposed a follow-up meeting on the [Youth Environment Assembly](#).
- ff. Welcomed the first '[Women's Environment Assembly](#)' held during UNEA and recommended continued support for its convening.

11. The Chair thanked delegations for the rich discussion and invited them to consult among themselves ahead of the [Subcommittee meeting scheduled for Thursday, 19 March 2026](#), during which the Committee will be invited to continue its discussion on this matter and provide additional comments, as appropriate.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

12. The Secretariat reminded delegates and stakeholders to respond to an online survey on the performance of UNEP in its implementation of the Programme of Work for 2024-2025 by 20 March 2026, through the following links: [Member States POW Survey 2024-2025](#) and [Partners and Stakeholders PoW survey 2024-2025](#).

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting.

13. The meeting closed at 12:50 (GMT+3).