Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 18 March 2025
09:00 – 12:00 and 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. Ms. Nicol Adamcová, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting and chaired the morning session. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, chaired the afternoon session.

2. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Briefing on the assessment reports approved by the 11th session of the plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

3. The Secretariat and the co-chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) provided a briefing on the key findings of the following two assessments reports: "Assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (Nexus Assessment)" and "Assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (Transformative Change Assessment)".

4. Delegations[1] that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

   a. Acknowledged the work undertaken by 165 experts from 57 countries as well as the interagency collaboration and interdisciplinary approach which took place for the development of the Nexus Assessment.
   b. Welcomed the inclusion of Indigenous and local knowledge in the Nexus Assessment.
   c. Appreciated the recognition of Nature-based Solutions as a response option with positive impacts on all nexus elements in the Transformative Change Assessment.
   d. Highlighted the assessments' role in tackling the three planetary environmental crises, supporting the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and advancing Sustainable Development Goals through system-wide, actionable strategies.
   e. Called upon Member States to integrate the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and IPBES' reports to support science-based decision-making.
   f. Requested the IPBES Secretariat to:
      i. Regularly update IPBES national focal points on assessments, reviews and meetings organized by the IPBES Secretariat.
      ii. Avoid scheduling parallel sessions during IPBES plenary sessions.
      iii. Provide more information on the use of grey literature when developing the assessments and its potential impact on the assessments' scientific objectivity.
      iv. Share the timeline for the release of the complete chapters of the assessments.

[1] Mexico, Russian Federation, Norway, United Kingdom, Colombia, Ukraine, Kenya, European Union.

g. Expressed their support to the ongoing IPBES assessments, including the Business and biodiversity assessment, the Monitoring assessment and the Second global assessment.
h. Urged UNEP to provide capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries to advance the KMGBF targets.

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

a. Clarified that IPBES member countries can update their national focal points via the IPBES website and further encouraged stakeholders to create accounts to receive notifications on expert nominations, draft reviews, and dialogues, noting that an online calendar of events was also available on the website.
b. Announced that the full chapters of the Transformative Change Assessment will be available by end of March 2025, while the full chapters of the Nexus Assessment will be available by April 2025.
c. Explained that IPBES prioritizes peer-reviewed literature when developing the assessments, noting, however, that properly sourced and verified reports from governments, industry, and non-governmental organizations may also be used by the authors to ensure transparency as guided by Decision IPBES-3/3.

Agenda item 3: Briefing on the work of the International Resource Panel.

6. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the work of the International Resource Panel (IRP).

7. Delegations[2] that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

a. Emphasized the need to integrate IRP's insights and recommendations into UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029.
b. Requested further information on:
    i. IRP's positioning within the UN system, its future evolution within UNEP, and the relevance of databases like the Global Material Flow Database.
    ii. Alignment between IRP's 2026–2029 Work Programme, and UNEP's 2026–2029 MTS and 2026–2027 programme of work and budget (PoW), to ensure reinforcement in addressing key resource-related challenges.
    iii. The incorporation of the findings from the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals and scientific work undertaken by UNEP into the work of IRP.
    iv. IRP's strategies to shift and reduce consumption patterns.
c. Stressed the importance of considering regional and sectoral specificities in IRP's work.

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

a. Highlighted that IRP integrated into its work the recommendations from the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, with a focus on traceability, circular economy, and harmonized standards across frameworks.
b. Noted the on-going collaboration between IRP and UNEP's Office of Chief Scientist to align IRP's work with key science and policy processes, including the KMGBF, Paris Agreement and the Global Framework on Chemicals.
c. Clarified that UNEP's 2026–2029 MTS and 2026–2027 PoW integrate minerals-related work across multiple areas, with a core focus under the "Pollution and Health" and "Finance and Economic Transformations" subprogrammes.

[2] Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland, Colombia, Argentina, Kenya, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), European Union.

d. Encouraged Member States to join the IRP Steering Committee to ensure its work aligns with national priorities and addresses existing gaps.
e. Outlined IRP's recommendations for shifting consumption patterns, including through sustainable resource governance, financial alignment, trade optimization, consumption efficiency, and circular business models to decouple economic growth from resource use.
f. Emphasized the need to balance environmental, economic, and social dimensions to address the needs of both resource-producing and resource-consuming countries.

Agenda item 4: Recommendations from the subcommittee for consideration at the upcoming CPR quarterly meeting.

9. Member States continued the consideration of the draft decision containing draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at subcommittee meetings for consideration by the Committee at its 169th quarterly meeting, set out in document UNEP/CPR/169/L.2.

10. Delegations[3] engaged in an exchange of views on the draft decision.

11. The Committee agreed that the following draft recommendations be withdrawn:
    - **Recommendation #3**: *Invites* Member States to join the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership.
    - **Recommendation #4**: *Also invites* Member States to renew their commitments to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and to participate actively in the implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.
    - **Recommendation #7**: *Invites* Member States to invest in innovative solutions and technologies that enhance land restoration efforts.
    - **Recommendation #8**: *Also invites* Member States to foster collaboration among governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to build a united front against desertification.

12. Member States agreed to defer the consideration of the remaining draft recommendations to a subsequent meeting, on the understanding that a non-paper containing streamlined language proposals from the proponents of the draft recommendations would be circulated by the Secretariat after the meeting. The non-paper was subsequently made available on the following link.

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

13. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

14. The meeting closed at 16:00 (GMT+3).

[3] Mozambique, on behalf of the African States Group, Egypt, Türkiye, Uganda, United States, Morocco, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Algeria, Russian Federation, Ghana, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Burundi, Portugal, Japan, Malawi, South Africa, Germany, European Union, State of Palestine.