

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 12 June 2025
9:00 – 12:00 and 13:00 – 16:10 (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 CPR, Ambassador of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, chaired the afternoon session.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Review of UNEP's thematic programmes.

3. The Secretariat provided a review of the following two UNEP's thematic programmes: "[Digital Transformations](#)" and "[Science for Policy and Action](#)".
4. Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

Digital Transformations

- a. Noting that 51 projects across UNEP are implemented under this programme, requested for global and/or disaggregated data on beneficiaries of such projects by sector and by vulnerable groups.
- b. Encouraged UNEP to continue and expand its capacity-building efforts globally, especially to make digital platforms operational and accessible.
- c. Highlighted that partnerships with major data providers and networks are essential for data integration and transforming data into policy relevant products.
- d. Suggested that UNEP assess and mitigate the environmental impact of Artificial intelligence (AI) and noted that the [Coalition on Sustainable AI](#) presents a timely opportunity in that regard, and requested UNEP to share expected outcomes and the foreseen engagement of Member States in the Coalition.
- e. Highlighted that regional efforts implemented by UNEP are encouraging and commended UNEP's support in promoting green digital infrastructure and environmental safeguards through digital platforms.
- f. Requested more information on how UNEP can support the implementation of draft recommendation 1, as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/170/L.2](#), to be submitted for

¹ European Union, Mexico, Germany, Norway, United Kingdom, France, Kenya, Egypt, Colombia, Peru, Children and Youth Major Group.

- consideration by the CPR at its [170th meeting on Tuesday, 24 June 2025](#).
- g. Invited UNEP to enhance training for youth and environmental digital literacy, including through the use of tools like Environment GPT, and called for more engagement of rural and indigenous voices in that regard.
 - h. Requested further clarification on:
 - i. How digital tools such as the Environmental Policy Tracker and Country Dashboards are updated with the latest national and supranational environmental policies.
 - ii. Whether UNEP plans to convene a ["UNEP Digital Day"](#) in 2025 or 2026.
 - iii. Whether UNEP has a global strategy to prioritize minorities and vulnerable groups consistently across all projects implemented under the programme.
 - iv. How the programme contributes to the overall efficiency of UNEP and whether specific digital solutions help reduce delivery costs.

Science for Policy and Action

- a. Called UNEP to better reflect the complexity of environmental crises in the draft Medium-Term Strategy for the period of 2026–2029 (MTS), while implementing solution-oriented approaches, exemplified by the Seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7).
 - b. Suggested that the next [Frontiers Report](#) include an assessment of the environmental impact of digital infrastructure and the potential of green digital tools.
 - c. Requested that an update on the ongoing restructuring of the Early Warning and Assessment Division (EWAD) be presented to the Committee.
 - d. Suggested i) strengthening capacity-building efforts to equip policymakers, stakeholders, and practitioners with the tools to translate scientific findings into actionable strategies; ii) investing in platforms that enable co-creation of knowledge among scientists, policymakers, and grassroots actors; iii) integrating scientific findings into monitoring and evaluation systems to inform adaptive management under the next MTS; and iv) securing sustained financial support to ensure the effective implementation of these approaches.
 - e. Requested more information on:
 - i. New partners included in the implementation of the programme and how the programme will be included into the draft MTS.
 - ii. Synergies with the Environmental Governance thematic programme.
 - iii. How UNEP captures the uptake and impact of its reports such as the [Emissions Gap Report](#) and [Adaptation Gap Report](#), and if consolidated database or tracking platforms exist for this purpose.
 - iv. How the programme ensures a meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples in environmental assessments and early warning systems.
 - v. The themes of any new reports currently being prepared by EWAD.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

Digital Transformations

- a. Agreed to follow up on the provision of global and/or disaggregated data on beneficiaries of projects being implemented under the programme.

- b. Highlighted that a global “[Digital4Sustainability](#)” course has been launched and is now being tailored for local contexts.
- c. Noted that an assessment tool may be developed within the next Programme of Work (PoW) for the period of 2026-2027 to help Member States evaluate digital skills and data maturity needs, which will be supported by packaged capacity-building offers.
- d. Highlighted that a knowledge exchange facility is planned on the [World Environment Situation Room \(WESR\)](#) platform to enable peer learning among Member States.
- e. Noted that a mapping of stakeholders for the [Coalition on Sustainable AI](#) is underway, with a forthcoming newsletter and planned discussions on AI’s environmental impact.
- f. Informed that a dedicated “World Environmental Situation Room” event will be featured at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7).
- g. Highlighted the ongoing cooperation with major partners such as the European Space Agency and European Environmental Agency, especially on integrating Copernicus data and using it in solutions.
- h. Agreed to explore the implementation of regional or global environmental data facilities in response to the feedback received regarding centralized data repositories.
- i. Highlighted that federating platforms and shared architecture can enhance UNEP internal efficiency, improve project-level delivery by replicating successful digital solutions across countries.
- j. Informed that AI tools like Environment GPT are being reviewed to minimize their environmental footprint.
- k. Expressed appreciation for ongoing collaboration with regional partners and reaffirmed UNEP’s commitment to supporting digital ecosystems at the local levels.
- l. Committed to exploring tailored capacity-building strategies for developing countries and suggested a possible dedicated consultation with relevant regional groups to further align support.
- m. Highlighted that replication of digital solutions across countries is a key benefit of UNEP’s digital transformation efforts and can be supported through the development of a knowledge exchange facility.
- n. Noted that children and youth are recognized as critical stakeholders and that efforts are underway to increase their involvement in initiatives such as the upcoming hackathon and continued consultations under the [Global Environmental Data Strategy \(GEDS\)](#) process.

Science for Policy and Action

- a. Noted that the draft MTS builds on lessons learned from the evaluation of the Delivery Model, emphasizing transformative change, multi-stakeholder action, and thematic impacts tracking to address the interconnected nature of environmental challenges.
- b. Highlighted the foundational role of the science-policy interface and environmental governance in supporting informed decision-making through assessments, policy briefs, capacity-building, and digital solutions.
- c. Highlighted ongoing efforts to incorporate more issues from the Global South in reports on [Foresight and Emerging Issues](#), such as the UNEP Frontiers Report, encouraging Member States to propose relevant topics to ensure that the reports include a balanced global perspective.
- d. Clarified that UNEP is working on ensuring that flagship reports become more accessible, including through providing translation, targeted outreach, and summaries of key reports such as the [Emissions Gap Report](#).
- e. Stressed that GEO-7 and its process actively include Indigenous Peoples and Local

- Knowledge through dedicated dialogues and content, recognizing their contributions.
- f. Highlighted that the science-policy work engages a broad range of partners, including UN entities, scientific networks, regional organizations, civil society, and, to a lesser extent, business and industry.
 - g. Affirmed that the narrative in the GEO-7 report will address the global environmental crises in a comprehensive manner, covering the crisis of climate change, the crisis of biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification, and the crisis of pollution and waste.
 - h. Outlined that the Frontiers 2025 Report will be launched on 2 July 2025 and will feature topics including reactivation of microbes in a warming cryosphere, river restoration, aging populations, and legacy pollutants.
 - i. Agreed to continue aligning the science-policy interface and governance support with Sustainable Development Goals and national priorities, providing technical assistance and capacity building to Member States.
 - j. Agreed to keep Member States informed on EWAD restructuring efforts.
 - k. Reaffirmed efforts to integrate science into monitoring systems and enhance the policy relevance of its outputs.

Agenda item 3: Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits.

6. UNEP's Evaluation Office presented an overview of the [2024 Formative Evaluation of the Delivery Model](#) and the [associated Programmatic Approach](#), followed by a [management response](#) from the Secretariat.
7. Delegations² that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

2024 Formative Evaluation of the Delivery Model and the associated Programmatic Approach and management response

- a. Requested further clarification on:
 - i. How the draft MTS will take on board the recommendations contained in the Delivery Model evaluation.
 - ii. The Impact Framework under the forthcoming MTS and PoW, with particular emphasis on the alignment between the subprogrammes and the indicators.
 - iii. How UNEP intends to implement the recommendations contained in the evaluation of the Delivery Model, considering i) the current financial constraints and the on-going UN80 initiative and that ii) recommendations pertaining to the programmatic elements below the subprogramme level appear to be complex.
 - iv. The planned phasing out of the Programme Coordination Projects and the mechanisms or initiatives that will replace them.
 - v. The Standard Operating Procedures implemented by UNEP under the Delivery Model Policy.
 - vi. The rationale behind the pause in expanding UNEP's country presence.
 - vii. How the evaluation of the Delivery Model and the 2025 Functional Review of UNEP will be interconnected and mutually informed.
- b. Welcomed the plan to undertake an evaluation of UNEP's Planetary Funds during the fourth quarter of 2025 and highlighted the importance for UNEP of enhancing

² European Union, Mexico, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway.

transparency on fund utilization.

- c. Requested that agenda item 5 of the [12th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR](#), entitled “Management and administration of the United Nations Environment Programme” includes a presentation of key lessons learned resulting from the evaluation of the Delivery Model.

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

2024 Formative Evaluation of the Delivery Model and the associated Programmatic Approach

- a. Emphasized that the Evaluation Office, as an independent entity, will monitor the compliance of UNEP with the recommendations contained in the evaluation of the Delivery Model, including the implementation of the management response, over an 18-month period.
- b. Noted that the implementation of some recommendations might be affected by current financial constraints and informed that the Evaluation Office will include any conclusions in that regard when monitoring the implementation of the management response.
- c. Clarified that Terms of Reference for the evaluation of the Planetary Funds will be developed in the fourth quarter of 2025, while noting that the actual evaluation would depend on the availability of resources and that further reflection is needed to determine the most appropriate approach in that regard.

Management response to the 2024 Formative Evaluation of the Delivery Model and the associated Programmatic Approach

- d. Highlighted that the ongoing management-driven functional review and the implementation of the MTS will serve as a key vehicle to incorporate relevant recommendations from the formative evaluation, where UNEP will capitalize on existing platforms and working groups to advance implementation and strengthen delivery across the organization.
- e. Clarified that each of the seven outcomes in the Impact Framework has a specific indicator and is mapped against the five identified impacts, with each outcome linked to one subprogramme to ensure accountability, and that UNEP will internally focus on refining the methodology for measuring and capturing results to better communicate its approach and achievements.
- f. Highlighted that under the new MTS, UNEP will continue to report on the progress of its subprogrammes in alignment with the new Impact Framework, reaffirming that the new MTS represents an evolution of UNEP’s work without introducing major changes.
- g. Emphasized that UNEP is adhering to the Secretary-General’s directives on budget reductions, which will require a reallocation of priorities alongside a strategic intensification of efforts in key areas of focus.
- h. Explained that, in the context of enhancing monitoring and sharing of lessons learned, beyond the success metrics of the Delivery Model, there is a proposal to rename the upcoming “Monitoring and Reporting Policy” to the “Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Policy”, to better reflect its expanded purpose.

Agenda item 4: Development of a medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027.

9. The Secretariat provided an [update](#) on the development of a [medium-term strategy \(MTS\) for the period 2026-2029](#) and a [draft programme of work \(PoW\) and budget for the biennium 2026-2027](#).
10. Delegations³ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
- a. Welcomed the increased visibility of desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) and encouraged the clear integration and distinction of these issues in the strategy.
 - b. Expressed concern that merging biodiversity loss and DLDD under one strategic objective would diminish the role and funding for biodiversity, and further urged that biodiversity, including oceans, remain UNEP's priority and requested a separation of the two in the situation analysis and strategic objectives.
 - c. Requested a clearer articulation of UNEP's cooperation with [UN Resident Coordinators](#), [UN country teams](#), the [Environmental Management Group](#) (EMG), and relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and UN entities to mainstream environmental issues and avoid duplication.
 - d. Underlined the importance of highlighting the following **in the draft MTS**:
 - i. Topics of global and regional importance that are insufficiently covered in the current drafts, especially youth engagement, water and oceans, deforestation and forest degradation (including tropical forest fires), bioeconomy, flood management, and a people-centered, gender-responsive, human rights-based approach, including Leaving No One Behind.
 - ii. Regional needs, tailored support, and respect for national contexts.
 - iii. Discipline with respect to cost-effectiveness, fiscal prudence, and the avoidance of mandate expansion.
 - iv. Called for caution in linking environmental degradation with security and conflict.
 - v. Called for the consistent use of internationally agreed terminology, aligned with United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions.
 - vi. Recognition of UNEP's key products, such as the [Frontiers report](#) and [GEO-7 report](#) in the context of digital transformations.
 - e. Underlined the importance of highlighting the following **in the draft PoW and budget**:
 - i. A breakdown of the budget by funding sources and sub-programmes.
 - ii. Including measurable, time-bound, and feasible indicators, and credible measurement with harmonized timelines.
 - iii. Including clearer descriptions of UNEP's expected deliverables, particularly in relation to the science-policy nexus, disasters and conflicts, gender-related issues, and freshwater and marine ecosystems.
 - f. Requested further clarification on:
 - i. When an updated Results Framework with baselines and targets will be made available for discussion.
 - ii. The reference to UNEP's normative role and when it was formally confirmed.

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

³ European Union, Mexico, Norway, Indonesia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Russian Federation, Peru, Argentina, Japan, United Kingdom, Türkiye, Switzerland, Portugal, Finland, Uganda, Sweden, Canada, France, Kenya, China, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Children and Youth Major Group.

clarifications:

- a. Stressed UNEP's role as a normative leader, scientific authority, and operational partner and provided decision text from [Pact for the Future](#), and [Rio+20](#) and other UNGA resolutions.
- b. Reassured Member States that the increased prominence of DLDD in the draft MTS would not jeopardize UNEP's continued focus on biodiversity and ecosystems and agreed to better distinguish between these issues.
- c. Reiterated on how DLDD were cross cutting topics and more than 20% of the portfolio of both land and nature, and climate, were tagged as DLDD.
- d. Confirmed the use of UN-agreed terminology and alignment with UNGA resolutions in the draft MTS and the draft PoW and budget.
- e. Reaffirmed UNEP's intention to diversify its partnerships to include non-traditional partners, including the private sector and philanthropy, under the draft MTS while maintaining impartiality and integrity.
- f. Committed to submitting a revised PoW with baselines, targets, and budget information by early July, ahead of discussions at the [subcommittee meeting of the CPR to be held on 10 July 2025](#).

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

12. A delegate⁴ extended an invitation to all Deputy Permanent Representatives to UNEP to attend a retreat on "Empowering Nairobi: building bridges for an ambitious UNEA-7" scheduled to be held on 20 June 2025.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

13. The meeting closed at 16:10 (GMT+3).

⁴ Portugal