

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 17 June 2025
09:00 – 12:00 and 13:00- 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda Item 4: Briefing on the United Nations Environment Management Group.

This note has been prepared by the Secretariat to support discussions under agenda item 4, namely, briefing on the United Nations Environment Management Group.

It includes relevant introductory information and an overview of progress on:

- Implementing and operationalizing the Common Approaches to Biodiversity and Pollution
- Fostering synergies among Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Supporting rights-based environmental action
- Strengthening the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Introduction

The EMG, as the UN's principal inter-agency coordination mechanism dedicated to the environment, plays an important role in addressing the need for system wide coordination and coherence on environmental matters. The Group supports coherence and cooperation across the UN system by facilitating inter-agency dialogue, developing joint strategies, and setting the system-wide environmental agenda. By mapping the UN environmental landscape and identifying opportunities for synergy, the EMG enhances transparency, efficiency, and mutual reinforcement among agencies, and contributes to avoiding duplication, and filling gaps in support to Member States.

The work of the EMG aligns with UNEP's Programme of Work (PoW) under the Environmental Governance subprogramme. It contributes to the delivery of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy across several thematic areas. The EMG aligns with SDG 17, particularly target 17.14, by fostering policy coherence for sustainable development.

Progress 2024 – 2025

The EMG has reinforced its commitment to environmental integration, with the Common Approaches to Biodiversity and Pollution flagged as core pillars of system-wide collaboration, while advancing high-level dialogues on critical environmental issues and promoting synergies in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

Operationalizing the UN Common Approaches

The UN Common Approaches to [Biodiversity](#)¹ and [Pollution](#)² provide results-oriented normative frameworks that streamline the organization and quicken the pace of collective actions and joint initiatives. They aim to effectively integrate biodiversity, nature-based solutions, and pollution action across various levels - global, regional, and national - while aligning with the strengths and mandates of each involved entity. They aim to aid in medium- to long-term planning, benchmarking, and reporting, ensuring comprehensive system-wide coordination to support implementation of global frameworks, such as the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (KMGBF), the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#) and the Implementation Plan, "[Towards a Pollution-Free Planet](#)" in collaboration with the United Nations development system, thereby enhancing their impact across geographical landscapes.

In the past year, the EMG has been working with regional bodies, UN Country Teams (UNCTs), and Resident Coordinators to help put the Common Approaches into practice. Through a series of **webinars and briefings** including for Saudi Arabia (December), India (February), across the **Southern African Development Community** (March), and Armenia (April), the EMG raised awareness and spoke to the utility of the Common Approaches among stakeholders from UN entities, MEAs, and national authorities. These sessions prompted requests for

¹ The "Common Approach to Integrating Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Development into the United Nations Policy and Programme Planning and Delivery" (Common Approach to Biodiversity) was endorsed by the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2021.

² The "United Nations System Common Approach to Transitioning Towards a Pollution Free Planet" (Common Approach to Pollution) was endorsed by the Senior Officials of the EMG in 2023.

deeper engagement and tailored support to embed the approaches in country programs and joint UN work.

In **Armenia and Saudi Arabia**, the Common Approach to Biodiversity is serving as a supportive reference in the development of the UN System Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). In **India**, a mapping exercise is underway to chart current UN efforts on biodiversity and pollution, ensuring better coordination and impact tracking. At the regional level, efforts are underway in **Latin America and the Caribbean**, with a webinar held in May to promote the Common Approach to Biodiversity, share best practices, and gather input for further regional action.

In March 2024, the EMG and the Issue-Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change in Europe and Central Asia, organised [a webinar to support UN Country Teams in integrating biodiversity into national planning](#) and launched a set of [Key Advocacy Messages](#) and practical [Guidance](#) for integrating biodiversity into national development planning. These tools empower UNCTs to align their support to governments with the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Fostering synergies among Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The EMG Senior Officials in 2023 committed to strengthening coordinated action to address the drivers of environmental change linked to the three Rio Conventions and related environmental agreements.

To deliver on this, the EMG organized three **high-level dialogues** at the [CBD COP16](#) (October 2024), the [UNFCCC COP29](#), (November 2024) and [UNCCD COP16](#) (December 2024), as well as a high-level [roundtable at the 2025 BRS COPs \(May 2025\)](#), making the case for integrated action on chemicals, waste, biodiversity, and climate.

Three '**Rio Trio**' **Dialogues** on Advancing Global Cooperation for Biodiversity, Climate Action and Land Degradation Neutrality (October, November), organized in collaboration with UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), highlighted and expanded on the themes of the high-level roundtables.

Supporting rights-based environmental action

The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Human Rights and the Environment has agreed on actions to drive a system-wide effort to embed human rights at the heart of environmental action across the UN. Through integrated programming tools, strategic influence in multilateral environmental processes, and targeted training, the group will equip UNCTs and governments to deliver rights-based environmental solutions on the ground. Joint efforts will support the implementation of the human right to a healthy environment, strengthen human rights integration across the Rio Conventions and other MEAs, and build capacity on issues such as Indigenous Peoples' rights, environmental defenders, gender, and children's environmental health. Building on the successful launch of guidance on integrating human rights in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the IMG plans to analyse the integration of human rights in national climate action plans (NDCs). With a dynamic presence at key global events, and a focus on knowledge sharing and future planning, the group is laying the groundwork for transformative environmental action that is just, inclusive, and aligned with the SDGs.

Nexus Dialogues: Strengthening the environmental dimensions of the SDGs

The EMG Nexus Dialogues bring together experts from diverse institutions and disciplines to explore emerging, persistent, and systemic cross-cutting issues. These forums allow participants to discuss the thematic and institutional interlinkages between environmental issues, frameworks, and agendas, in the context of the wider SDGs.

The [Nexus Dialogue series on harmful subsidies](#) was completed in November, resulting in guidance for collective action on repurposing subsidies for long-term environmental sustainability. The dialogue series contributed to a comprehensive understanding of harmful environmental impacts of subsidies and explored effective strategies for repurposing subsidies. The final session synthesized insights from the series and showcased examples of subsidy redirection and reform across the globe.

A new [Nexus Dialogue series on sustainable bioeconomy](#), launched in May 2025, brings together key stakeholders, particularly from within the UN community, to explore how coordinated global action on sustainable bioeconomy can contribute to tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, and other immediate environmental issues, alongside food security, economic development and social inclusion. The first dialogue, held on 9 May, explored a more cohesive approach to sustainable bioeconomy across UN agencies, identifying gaps and synergies among initiatives. The second dialogue on 5 June, will focus on how bioeconomy practices can support climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and land restoration, while also addressing barriers to participation and ensuring equitable access to resources, knowledge, and markets.

Going Forward

Through its IMGs and Nexus Dialogues, the EMG will continue to drive high-level cooperation and develop practical guidance to support the UN system in delivering collective, coherent, effective, and rights-based environmental action.

The EMG is exploring how to expand guidance of the Common Approach to Biodiversity to other regions, in collaboration with UNEP regional offices in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America. More tools, webinars, and tailored support are in the pipeline to help UN entities and national partners operationalize the Common Approaches with impact.

In alignment with its monitoring and reporting framework, the midterm review of the Common Approach to Biodiversity will be finalized in 2025, showcasing examples of the UN system's efforts to support the implementation of the KMGBF. Consideration is being given to developing a similar monitoring and reporting framework for the Common Approach to Pollution. Subject to the availability of resources, the dashboard linked to the UN System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS), visualizing information on UN system efforts to address environmental challenges, will be finalised.

In the second half of 2025, time will be invested in raising awareness and building capacity for rights-based environmental action within the UN system. Coordinated inputs may be developed, for example, for the Climate COP30 and UNEA-7.

Guiding Question for the CPR

- In ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the UN system, how do you view the role of coordination and coherence on environmental matters across the UN system? What are your expectations and guidance in this regard?