Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau meeting
11 September 2026
08:00-09:00 (GMT+3)
Conference Room 9 and online

Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. His Excellency Sultan Hajiyev, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting and welcomed the Bureau members, the Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen, and the Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Elizabeth Mrema. He also welcomed Ms. Gillian Guthrie, Chief Technical Director at the Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica, participating as an ex-officio Bureau member.

2. The Executive Director of UNEP delivered her opening remarks. She thanked Bureau members and the Secretariat for their efforts during the week and acknowledged the work undertaken throughout the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR.

3. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda items 2 and 3: Stock-taking of progress made at the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and consideration of the draft Chair's summary.

4. The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the progress of the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR. The Secretariat recalled that the consideration of agenda item 5 entitled “Contributions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP medium-term strategy and programme of work” had not yet been concluded and informed the Bureau that, its consideration would be resumed in the morning meeting of Friday, 11 September 2026, to hear from the remaining speakers and the Secretariat's responses. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that the draft Chair's summary had been circulated progressively throughout the week and that the remaining sections of the summary were being finalized in consultation with the UNON report writers.
5. The Secretariat proposed a delayed start of the morning meeting of the last day of the 13th annual subcommittee meeting to allow sufficient time to finalize and circulate the draft Chair's summary and indicated that the afternoon meeting might also require adjustment depending on the comments received from Member States, observers, including major groups and stakeholders.
6. The members of the Bureau agreed to adjust the starting time of the morning meeting to 11:00 a.m. and requested the Secretariat to inform the members of the Committee accordingly.
7. The Executive Director referred to the draft recommendations submitted by the European Union and its Member States, Costa Rica and Peru under the agenda items 3, entitled “Management and administration of UNEP” and agenda item 4, entitled “Programme Performance Report of UNEP for 2024-2025”. She welcomed the engagement of Member States while highlighting a number of substantive and resource-related considerations relevant to the proposed recommendations. She emphasized that implementation of additional requests "within existing resources" would need to take into account the financial and human resource constraints currently facing UNEP and noted that further discussions with the proponents and the Secretariat would be beneficial.

8. The Executive Director provided additional information regarding the recommendations related to reporting on staffing levels, substantive programme reporting requirements, implementation of Board of Auditors recommendations and affiliate personnel data. She noted that some requests would require additional analysis, new reporting arrangements or resources beyond those currently available and reiterated that further discussions with the proponents would help clarify the feasibility of the proposals.
9. The Bureau members who took the floor provided the following comments:
    a. Noted that the substantive consideration of the recommendations was for Member States to consider and took note of the concerns and information provided by the Executive Director regarding the draft recommendations;
    b. Emphasized the importance of maintaining dialogue with the proponents of the draft recommendations and clarifying possible next steps; and
    c. Requested clarification regarding the timeline and process for the consideration of the draft recommendations.
10. In response, the Executive Director noted that a dedicated CPR subcommittee meeting was already scheduled for 24 September 2026 and indicated that the Secretariat would welcome further informal consultations with the proponents prior to that meeting. She reiterated that the Secretariat would not be in a position to schedule a subcommittee meeting ahead of the quarterly CPR meeting, on short notice given existing commitments of the Secretariat, including the annual UNEP Senior Management Team retreat.
11. The Secretariat recalled that the Roadmap for UNEP Governing Bodies foresees consideration of recommendations emerging from the 13th annual subcommittee meeting at the CPR subcommittee meeting scheduled for 24 September 2026, after which any finalized recommendations would be submitted for consideration by the 176th meeting of the CPR scheduled for 23 November 2026. The Secretariat further reminded the Bureau members that the calendar of meetings included in the CPR roadmap was developed in such a way to avoid clashes with other meetings of the United Nations, such as the High-level week of the General Assembly in September.
12. The members of the Bureau:
    a. Took note of the draft recommendations proposed by the European Union and its Member States, Costa Rica and Peru under the agenda items on the management and administration of UNEP and the Programme Performance Report for 2024-2025;
    b. Took note of the constraints on resources and implementation considerations raised by the Secretariat;
    c. Agreed that the draft recommendations should be considered at the CPR subcommittee meeting scheduled for 24 September 2026; and
    d. Noted that any recommendations emerging from that discussion would subsequently be submitted for consideration by the Committee at its 176th meeting scheduled for 23 November 2026.
13. The Bureau took note of the status of the draft Chair's summary and requested the Secretariat to continue its finalization and circulation for consideration by the members of the Committee during the morning meeting.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

14. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

15. The meeting closed at 8:38 (GMT+3).

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Annex: List of Participants

Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau Members:

H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyev, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya, and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Mr. Anouar Ben Youssef, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to UNEP, represented by Mr. Sofiene Dridi, Deputy Ambassador of Tunisia.

H. E. Ms. Marie Charlotte G. Tang, Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of the Philippines to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Ms. Gisele Fernandez Ludlow, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to UNEP.

H. E. Andrew Barnes, Acting Permanent Representative of Australia to UNEP.

Representative of the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly participating in an ex officio capacity:

Ms. Gillian Guthrie, Chief Technical Director of the Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica.

The UN Environment Program Secretariat was represented by:
Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
Ms. Elisabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director
Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
Ms. Caridad Canales, Deputy Secretary of the Governing Bodies
Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor.