
169th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
20 March 2025
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:30 (GMT+3)
Conference Room 2 and Interactio Platform
Hybrid meeting

Summary

Note: This Chair's summary complements the detailed meeting report prepared by the UN Office at Nairobi in advance for adoption at the next meeting of the Committee. All pre-meeting and post-meeting documents, including statements provided in writing by Member States, are available [here](#).

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

1. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme, opened the 169th meeting of the CPR on 20 March 2025 at 10:00 (GMT+3). The newly arrived representatives were welcomed, and the departing representatives were bid farewell.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 169th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda of the 169th meeting of the CPR, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/169/1](#).

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the draft minutes of the 168th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. The Committee adopted the draft minutes of the 168th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in [UNEP/CPR/169/L.1](#).

Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Director to the 169th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The Committee was invited to consider the [Executive Director's Quarterly Report to the 169th Meeting of the CPR – October to December 2024](#), providing an update on key developments relevant to UNEP for the period October to December 2024 and a [statement](#) by the Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, providing an update on key developments relevant to UNEP for the period October to December 2024.
5. Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the statement and the report of the Executive Director and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Appreciated Member States' efforts in advancing the [Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance](#) (AMR), held during the 79th session of the UN General Assembly on 26 September 2024.
 - b. Called on UNEP to integrate the [outcomes](#) of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP16) into the Medium-

¹ Egypt, on behalf of the G77 and China; Mozambique, on behalf of the African States Group; State of Palestine, on behalf of the Asia-Pacific States Group; State of Palestine, on behalf of the Arab States Group; European Union; Morocco; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Canada; Kenya; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Switzerland; Costa Rica; Indonesia; Argentina; Norway; Malawi; Australia; India; Colombia; Brazil; Peru; France; Cuba; Botswana; United States of America; Israel; Ukraine; Uganda; Philippines; Spain; Japan; Mexico; Saudi Arabia; Somalia; Netherlands (Kingdom of the); United Kingdom; Egypt; Zimbabwe; Russian Federation; State of Palestine; Children and Youth Major Group; NGO Major Group.

Term Strategy (MTS) for the period 2026–2029 and the Programme of Work (PoW) for the period 2026-2027, with a stronger emphasis on drought and land restoration.

- c. Commended UNEP on its regional engagements, specifically the meeting of Africa-based UN Regional Coordinators, to track progress on UN-supported programmes and projects in the regions.
 - d. Requested an update on the results achieved at the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) [roundtables](#) on the synergistic implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), held at the COPs of the three Rio Conventions in 2024, and further requested that the Committee be briefed on EMG's role in advancing a discussion on harmonising the implementation of the environmental policies across UN agencies, specifically, harmonised monitoring and evaluation systems.
 - e. Expressed appreciation on UNEP's efforts in addressing environmental impacts in Gaza, particularly in debris management to aid recovery and humanitarian relief.
 - f. Requested that the Committee be regularly briefed on i) financial allocations to thematic programmes, with a particular focus on desertification and land degradation; and ii) UNEP's efforts on drought resilience, water and food security, and sand and dust storms.
 - g. Welcomed initiatives promoting digital solutions for environmental data management and encouraged UNEP to enhance technical and financial support to developing countries.
 - h. Commended the leadership of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC), and acknowledged UNEP's support, particularly in arranging [the first part of the fifth session of the INC](#) (INC-5.1).
 - i. Recommended that [lessons learned from the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#) (UNEA-6) should guide the preparation for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7).
 - j. Noted concerns over the financial gap for UNEA-7 and emphasized the need for extrabudgetary contributions to ensure the full and inclusive participation of all Member States.
 - k. Noting the increase in contributions to the Environment Fund (EF) both in number of contributing Member States and overall amounts, further encouraged all Member States to contribute in line with the [Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions](#).
 - l. Acknowledged UNEP's resource mobilization efforts, including regarding flexible and softly earmarked funds, and encouraged UNEP to further explore public-private partnerships and South-South cooperation.
 - m. Requested UNEP to elaborate on concrete measures implemented to improve geographical representation across all levels, including details on outreach efforts and progress tracking beyond a yearly timeframe to assess long-term trends.
 - n. Recommended that UNEP update all inactive fiduciary funds and suggested that balances from closed funds support the participation of developing countries in UNEA-7.
 - o. Requested information on the specific emission reduction targets for each Member State as outlined in the [2024 Emissions Gap Report](#).
 - p. Enquired on UNEP's plans to enhance access to financing for developing countries for the transition towards circular economies.
 - q. Encouraged UNEP to expand youth-led initiatives through cross-cutting activities, ensuring youth voices contribute to environmental governance beyond climate adaptation.
6. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their guidance and provided the following clarifications in summary:
- a. Informed that UNEP is actively engaged in addressing land degradation and desertification with plans to enhance communication to increase visibility among Member States.
 - b. Explained that the EMG roundtable discussions focused on enhancing synergies to ensure inclusion within the MEAs.
 - c. Updated Member States on UNEP's ongoing efforts on environmental recovery in Gaza with further activities planned as soon as the situation allows.
 - d. Clarified that the Emissions Gap Report assesses the required reductions in greenhouse gas emissions for countries to meet targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
 - e. Noted that UNEP is engaging with the [Asia-Pacific Centre for Disaster Information Management](#) and collaborating with UN Resident Coordinators to address sand and dust storms.
 - f. Confirmed that UNEP is collaborating with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the

- UN Capital Development Fund to provide financial support for the transition to a circular economy.
- g. Noted UNEP's continued efforts to increase core and softly earmarked funding through the Environment Fund and Planetary Funds.
- h. Highlighted UNEP's progress in improving geographical representation, with a positive shift in staffing composition towards greater diversity across all regions.
- i. Updated on UNEP's strengthened outreach initiatives to improve geographical representation across all levels, including over 30 talent outreach events targeting underrepresented regions, with specific efforts to reach Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities.
- j. Emphasized UNEP's continuous efforts to promote a more equitable and geographically balanced organization while fully upholding [Article 101](#) of the UN Charter as the guiding principle for staff recruitment, prioritizing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity.
- k. Confirmed that balances from closed fiduciary funds were managed in accordance with specific funding agreements.

Agenda item 5: Development of a medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027.

7. The Secretariat provided an update on the ongoing work for the development of a medium-term strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work (PoW) and budget for the period 2026-2027, including an update on the [key messages](#) that emerged from the informal dialogues held in November and December 2024 and in January 2025 with Major Groups, Private Sectors and Multilateral Environmental Agreement Secretariats, and a presentation of [draft annotated outlines](#) of both the MTS and the PoW.
8. Delegations² that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

Draft MTS and PoW

- a. Welcomed the MTS's focus on the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and countries affected by disasters and conflicts.
- b. Expressed support for the continuation of UNEP's foundational and enabling subprogrammes, including "Environmental Governance", "Science-Policy", "Finance and Economic Transformations", and "Digital Transformations", as enablers to the MTS's ambition.
- c. Reiterated the importance of UNEP's collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and called for a stronger role for UNEP's Regional Offices, to ensure that the MTS is aligned with national priorities, ensuring its effective local implementation and greater regional engagement.
- d. Stressed the significance of engaging multiple stakeholders, including the MEAs secretariats, UN entities, the private sector, local communities, and UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders, particularly the Children and Youth Major Group, in shaping an inclusive MTS.
- e. Requested further clarification on the following:
 - i. Timeline for the development of full first drafts of the MTS and PoW.
 - ii. The process for establishing a new subprogramme.
 - iii. Integration of past UNEA resolutions into the MTS.
 - iv. Expected release date of the revised UNEP gender policy and strategy.
- f. Several delegations requested UNEP to take due account of the following when developing the MTS and PoW:
 - i. Incorporate issues of land degradation, desertification, drought, water stress, floods, and sandstorms while providing regular updates to the CPR on the same.
 - ii. Reconsider a thematic programme on "Land and Nature Action" where the issues of land degradation, drought and desertification would be integrated with biodiversity loss.

² Egypt, on behalf of the G77 and China; Mozambique, on behalf of the African States Group; European Union; Morocco; Malawi; Indonesia; Switzerland; Colombia; Costa Rica; Saudi Arabia; Finland; Russian Federation; Philippines; Argentina; Brazil; Portugal; Germany; Australia; Uganda; France; Norway; Ethiopia; Netherlands (Kingdom of the); Canada; Denmark; Kenya; Angola; Georgia; State of Palestine; Children and Youth Major Group.

- iii. Ensure an inclusive, regionally balanced MTS that reflects diverse environmental challenges and priorities, including the needs of developing countries.
- iv. Adopt a forward-looking approach to reinforce UNEP's mandate and normative role, to drive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- v. Anchor the MTS in robust science-policy frameworks and highlight stronger results-based management, showcasing best practices.
- vi. Enhance key areas such as Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), climate adaptation, socio-economic impacts, sustainable agriculture, food security, sandstorms, ocean, water stress, minerals and metals, waste management, infrastructure, sustainable artificial intelligence and equitable access to green technology, while ensuring a balanced approach with a realistic scope.
- g. One delegation emphasized the importance of promoting a just transition toward low-carbon, resilient, and environmentally sustainable economies and societies according to the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).
- h. Stressed the importance of strengthening and more prominently reflecting SCP and Circular Economy within the MTS, and acknowledged the [10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production](#) (10YFP) as UNEP's primary vehicle and essential framework for advancing SCP, through its value in scaling up multi-stakeholder initiatives, accelerating circular economy approaches, driving systemic policy shifts and delivering impact across sectors and regions.
- i. Called for strengthening of the [UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on Environment](#) (UN-SPBF) within the "Science-Policy" subprogramme.
- j. Encouraged UNEP to enhance capacity building, technical support and knowledge sharing.

Draft budget

- k. Acknowledged UNEP's pragmatic approach in the draft budget, recognizing prevailing financial constraints.
 - l. Called for an adequate resource allocation to the foundational subprogrammes to ensure their effectiveness.
 - m. Emphasized the need to prioritize activities in the PoW within the limited budget envelope and recommended to avoid overextension of the scope of the PoW by introducing emerging concepts without consensus.
 - n. Emphasized the importance of diversifying funding mechanisms by engaging non-traditional donors, including financial institutions, the private sector, and philanthropic foundations, to enhance financial adequacy and predictability for the implementation of the PoW and MTS.
9. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Reaffirmed the importance of addressing the issues of land degradation, desertification, and droughts.
 - b. Called for Member States to support a concise and focused MTS and PoW.
 - c. Clarified that the Indicator Framework will adhere to UN Regular Budget principles, integrating both qualitative and quantitative indicators.
 - d. Highlighted current budgetary constraints in establishing additional subprogrammes.
 - e. Confirmed that the presentation on the situational analysis was scheduled to take place during the subcommittee meeting of the Committee to be held on 22 April 2025, while the first drafts of the MTS and PoW will be presented to the Committee at its subcommittee meeting scheduled for 15 May 2025.
 - f. Informed that the new gender policy and strategy is under internal review and will be presented in an upcoming meeting of the subcommittee.
 - g. Acknowledged all comments and suggestions received during the meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits.

10. Due to time constraints, the Committee decided to defer the consideration of this item to the 170th

quarterly meeting of the Committee scheduled for 23 June 2025, noting that the Secretariat briefed on this item at the subcommittee meeting held on 13 March 2025.

Agenda item 7: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

11. Due to time constraints, the Committee decided to defer the consideration of this item to a future meeting of the subcommittee which is scheduled for 22 April 2025.

Agenda Item 8: Report of the Sub-committee.

12. The Committee endorsed the draft report of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as contained in document [UNEP/CPR/169/6/Rev.1](#)
13. The Committee decided to defer the consideration of the draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at subcommittee meetings as contained in the [non-paper](#) dated 18 March 2025, to a subsequent subcommittee meeting to take place prior to the 170th quarterly meeting of the Committee.
14. The Chair further informed that he appointed Ms. Yorita Yume of Japan, to facilitate informal consultations on the non-paper dated 18 March 2025.

Agenda Item 9: Any other matters.

15. A delegate³ expressed regret that the silence procedure on the revised final contribution of UNEA to the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) was broken by four delegations.

Agenda Item 10: Closing of the meeting.

16. The meeting closed at 18:30 (GMT+3).

³ European Union.