

The United Nations Environment Assembly Committee of Permanent Representatives

Rules of Procedure

Orientation session for the new members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme

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Legal and Procedural Framework

- Legal framework of the United Nations.
- Under Rule 63(1), UNEA may establish subsidiary bodies necessary for the effective discharge of its functions.
- UNEA's predecessor, the Governing Council, established the CPR by Decision 13/2 in 1985.
- UNEA Rules of Procedure apply *mutatis mutandis* to the CPR (*Rule 63(3)*).
- The CPR must hold four regular meetings a year, and may convene extraordinary meetings and establish subcommittees, working groups and task forces as deemed appropriate (*GC Decision 19/32*).

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL



UNITED NATIONS

Mandate of the Committee

- **GC Decision 13/2** (1985): Charged the CPR with deliberating on and forwarding recommendations to the GC on specific matters.
- **GC Decision 19/32** (1997): Expanded the mandate; established a Subcommittee; EU participation as full member.
- **GC Decision 27/2** (2013): Further delineated the CPR's functions.

The CPR underwent a consensual review process aimed at enhancing its efficiency and effectiveness, as mandated by UNEA Decision 4/2 and endorsed by UNEA Decision 5/4.



Functions of the Committee

- CPR's **main functions**: review, monitor, and assess the implementation of UNEA Decisions and Resolutions, and prepare new ones; conduct intersessional work; facilitate the work of UNEA; and take decisions on the organization of its own work.
- Implicit decision-making powers
 - Election of officers;
 - Adoption of agenda;
 - Other procedural matters.
- The CPR **may recommend policy matters** to UNEA, but it **cannot issue binding directives to the Executive Director or the Secretariat**, whose actions remain contingent upon UNEA's final decisions.

Participation in the Committee



- Representatives of all UN Member States participate as full members of the CPR (*GC Decision 19/32*).
- Specialized agencies, IAEA, UN bodies, and other intergovernmental organizations, may participate without the right to vote but may circulate written statements (*Rule 69*).
 - Members of Specialized Agencies (e.g., the European Union), participating as full members of the CPR (*GC Decision 19/32*).
- Accredited NGOs, participate as observers at public meetings, with the ability to make oral statements and submit written statements (*Rule 70*).

The Bureau of the Committee



The Chair of the CPR and the Bureau:
H.E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of The
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to
UNEP

- The CPR's Bureau is elected by the CPR and is *“composed of a Chairperson, three Vice Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, for a period of two years, taking into account the principles of rotation and equitable geographical representation”* (GC Decision 19/32, paragraph 9).
- The Bureau assists the Chair in the general conduct of CPR business.
- The Chair, in exercising her or his functions, remains under the authority of the CPR (*Rule 34*).
- The Chair of the CPR also chairs the Bureau of the CPR.

The Functions of the Bureau

The Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat and in consultation with members of regional groups, shall:

- Carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Committee and the Chair;
- Assist the Chair in the general conduct of business of the Committee;
- Prepare for the meetings of the Committee, including by providing guidance on the dates of meetings, advising and providing input on the preparation of the provisional agenda, meeting documentation, the draft programme of work and the scheduling of items for the meetings of the Committee;
- Facilitate consideration of draft resolutions and decisions by the Committee, including through the selection of facilitators, for subsequent transmission to the Environment Assembly, in close consultation with the UNEA Bureau;
- Coordinate with the UNEA Bureau and its President to ensure that the work of the Committee is coherent, complementary and in support of the decision-making process of the Environment Assembly.

(Final review of the consensual process of review by the CPR, B.10)

Decision-Making by Consensus

- In UNEA practice, most proposals are **adopted by consensus**.
- Consensus is understood to mean the **adoption of a decision without formal objection or a vote**.
- Members may record reservations, clarifications, or statements of position without blocking consensus.
- Consensus **does not necessarily imply “unanimity”**, i.e., complete substance agreement.
- As in other UN bodies, representatives may offer explanations of their stance before or after adoption, mirroring “**explanation of votes**” (*Rule 52*).



Decision-Making by Vote

- **Methods:** Show of hands, roll call, or electronic means (*Rule 50*).
- **Majority threshold:** A majority of those present and voting, determined solely by affirmative and negative votes cast (*Rule 49(1)*).
- **Quorum:** A majority of representatives must be present (*Rule 32*)—based on physical presence, not participation in voting.
- **No Interruptions:** Once voting begins, no interventions are permitted except on a point of order related to the voting process (*Rule 52*).
- **Explanation of Votes:** As in other UN bodies, representatives may explain their votes, either before or after the vote (*Rule 52*).



Thank you

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