
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 9 October 2025
9:00 – 12:00 (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. Mr. Sultan Hajiyeve, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to UNEP, opened and chaired the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Global Environmental Data Strategy.

3. The Secretariat [presented](#) an overview of the options for the [Global Environmental Data Strategy \(GEDS\)](#).
4. Delegations¹ welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Highlighted the need for transparency regarding budget allocations and requested clarification on the intended funding sources, as well as on measures to ensure the financial sustainability of the Strategy.
 - b. Showed broad support for pursuing a phased approach to implementation, with several delegations indicating a preference to begin with [Option 1](#) and transition to [Option 2](#) as additional resources become available.
 - c. Suggested that digital technologies could be leveraged to reduce overall implementation costs and thereby enable consideration of the more ambitious option, as long as differences between Member States' digital capabilities are considered.
 - d. Stressed that capacity-building, data provenance, and data quality should form the foundation for implementation, as these pillars are critical for cost-effectiveness and for strengthening trust in environmental data.
 - e. Suggested that GEDS implementation steps should establish feedback loops to support national-level implementation and serve as catalysts for enhancing visibility and engagement on the Global Environmental Data Strategy.
 - f. Encouraged the Secretariat to consider how digital technologies, including blockchain and other innovative solutions, could facilitate data exchange, enhance knowledge sharing, and promote incentives for data contributions.
 - g. Proposed that interim updates be provided to assess progress in addition to an evaluation after two years.
 - h. Sought clarification on how GEDS aligns with UNEP's scientific work and the new Office of Science.
 - i. Requested further clarification on how the Strategy would add value to existing global and national data systems, UNEP science, and other research organizations, as well as the mechanisms to share best practices collected during GEDS implementation.

¹ European Union, Japan, Peru, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Spain, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Saudi Arabia, Finland.

5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Informed that the Environment Fund resources are currently limited and earmarked contributions from Member States would be needed to support implementation.
 - b. Clarified that enhancing environmental data management contributes directly to the objectives of UN80 by improving the effectiveness of the UN system in delivering global environmental action.
 - c. Highlighted that implementation could begin with Option 1 and then move to Option 2 if funds are secured, noting that funds would still need to be raised even for Option 1.
 - d. Recalled that Option 1 is already reflected in UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and includes mechanisms to produce analytical outputs, strengthen national capacities, and inform UNEP projects, while Option 2 augments this by facilitating expert dialogues between Member States and other stakeholders, particularly to strengthen data quality and interoperability.
 - e. Emphasized that GEDS is more advanced than comparable global data governance processes and represents UNEP's contribution to the broader digital transformation agenda, including the [Global Digital Compact](#).
 - f. Clarified that the global frameworks envisaged under Option 1 will be developed through desk research and identification of existing best practices, while Option 2 will enable Member States to exchange experiences directly.
 - g. Noted that ongoing UNEP projects, including the one in East Africa, have been largely conducted through virtual modalities and therefore demonstrate that a largely remote approach can effectively build capacity and reduce implementation costs.
 - h. Reiterated the intention to explore pooled funding options and collaboration with partners such as the Global Environment Facility to support in-country implementation.
 - i. Welcomed the suggestions to explore the use of blockchain for data exchange and explained that WESR will follow a federated architecture to avoid duplication and facilitate interoperability and access to multiple data sources.
 - j. Informed that the Office of Science ensures alignment of GEDS with UNEP's scientific work and that data provenance and quality management will be maintained as internal implementation priorities.
 - k. Noted that virtual expert meetings will be designed to generate practical outputs and recommendations that can inform national policy design, implementation and capacity-building efforts.
 - l. Confirmed openness to collaborate with Member States on the fundraising for national-level implementation and pilot projects, including through development partners and existing funding channels.

Agenda item 3: Third reading of UNEA-7 draft decisions.

6. The Chair invited delegations to the third in-depth paragraph-by-paragraph informal consultation on the three draft decisions to be considered at the upcoming seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), in the following order:
 - i. Draft decision entitled "Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions";
 - ii. Draft decision entitled "Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly"; and
 - iii. Draft decision entitled "Medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027".
7. Delegations commented and offered text proposals on the three draft decisions.
8. The Chair informed the meeting, that in accordance with the "Roadmap for the intersessional period", approved by the UNEA and CPR Bureaux at their joint meeting on 3 July, the three draft decisions reflecting textual proposals from delegations, without attribution, would be submitted by the Secretariat to UNON for editing in order to make them available for the consideration by the Open-ended CPR.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

9. One delegation² inquired whether any further consultations were scheduled on the three draft decisions.
10. The Secretariat responded that the current texts constitute the final versions of the three draft decisions to be submitted to the Division of Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi for editing. Edited version of the draft decisions, without attributions, will be made available for the seventh meeting of the Open-ended CPR through the e-Proposals module on the [e-deleGATE](#) platform.

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting.

11. The meeting closed at 12:00 (GMT+3).

² Brazil