

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Nairobi, 10 July 2025  
9:00 – 13:10 (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. Ms. Marie Charlotte Tang, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of the Philippines to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened and chaired the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 2: Development of a medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027.**

3. The Secretariat provided an [update](#) on the development of a [medium-term strategy \(MTS\) for the period 2026-2029](#) and a [draft programme of work \(PoW\) and budget for the biennium 2026-2027](#).
4. Delegations<sup>1</sup> that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
  - a. Welcomed improvements in structure and clarity of the drafts, including the inclusion of separate paragraphs on desertification, land degradation, drought, and biodiversity.
  - b. Expressed concern regarding references to UNEP's "normative role" and urged UNEP to maintain clear boundaries between normative and operational functions in the drafts, to avoid overreach or mandate expansion.
  - c. Reiterated the importance of using only internationally agreed and consensus-based language throughout the MTS and POW and budget, cautioning against the use of terms such as "natural capital", "environmental rule of law", "climate stability", "triple planetary environmental crises", and "zero waste".
  - d. Some delegations emphasized the need to reflect national contexts, equity, and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), particularly in climate-related sections and in light of the mandates of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), including the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) and its [Paris Agreement](#), the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD) and the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#) (UNCCD).
  - e. Called for stronger language on implementation support, including capacity building, technology transfer, innovative and concessional financing, and alignment with national priorities.
  - f. Requested the inclusion of references to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, intergenerational equity, gender equality and meaningful youth engagement, with specific indicators and resources.
  - g. Expressed concern regarding the deletion of references related to green accounting, ecosystem

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<sup>1</sup> European Union, Brazil, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, Colombia, Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, China, Saudi Arabia, Peru, Japan, Norway, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Algeria, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), United States of America, Egypt, Costa Rica, State of Palestine, Children and Youth Major Group, NGO Major Group

- valuation, deforestation, and renewable energy cost-effectiveness, and requested their reinstatement.
- h. Called for coherence with MEAs and urged UNEP to avoid duplication with other UN entities, particularly in areas such as fiscal policy, food systems, and human rights, noting that UNEP's role should remain focused on the environmental dimensions.
  - i. Highlighted the need for clarity on UNEP's engagement with philanthropic entities, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and the private sector, while preserving impartiality and ensuring coherence with Member States expectations.
  - j. Welcomed the introduction of the impact framework and results-based approach into the drafts with expectations for strengthened integration across the three strategic objectives.
  - k. Called for credible and attributable reporting, enhanced transparency in the budget breakdown by thematic sub-programmes, and clarity on the methodology used for developing and reporting indicators through established monitoring and evaluation procedures.
5. The Secretariat in response provided the following clarifications:
- a. Confirmed that the draft MTS and PoW are aligned with UNEP's mandate and with resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and of the Governing Council and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
  - b. Reiterated UNEP's role in supporting MEA's implementation upon request, in partnership with entities such as the [Global Environment Facility](#) (GEF) and the [Green Climate Fund](#) (GCF).
  - c. Confirmed the removal of the term "natural capital" from the draft documents.
  - d. Clarified that UNEP partners with philanthropic foundations through co-financing and parallel funding arrangements; collaborates with IFIs on resource mobilization and policy alignment; and does not accept direct financial contributions from the private sector, in order to maintain impartiality.
  - e. Acknowledged concerns over the reduction of indicators, noting that the streamlining aimed to enhance focus, eliminate duplication, and improve outcome reporting.
  - f. Committed to reviewing requests for enhanced references to youth, intergenerational equity, agroecology, and environmental education within UNEP's programmatic scope.
  - g. Reiterated UNEP's commitment to operate within existing budget constraints and the ongoing functional review.
  - h. Encouraged Member States to submit written comments by Monday, 21 July 2025 and confirmed that a revised version of the drafts MTS and PoW and budget will be circulated by the end of July 2025, as background documents for the [twelfth annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR](#) scheduled for 1 to 5 September 2025.

### **Agenda item 3: Other matters.**

6. Delegations <sup>2</sup> that took the floor provided the following comments in summary on the recommendations process of the CPR:
- a. Recalled the Committee's oversight role and the importance of its contribution to the work of UNEA and UNEP.
  - b. While recognizing that the current recommendations process can continue to be improved, emphasized that it provides a platform for genuine dialogue, has strengthened CPR's oversight role and enhanced its deliberations, contributed constructively to UNEP's work and improved Member States and Secretariat relations.
  - c. Also emphasized that a review of the working methods of the Committee should be inclusive and involve its full membership.
  - d. Highlighted that the [note on the mandate of the CPR](#) prepared by the Secretariat and availed as background document prior to subcommittee meetings was sufficient at this stage to guide the work of the Committee.

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<sup>2</sup> Portugal, Algeria, Brazil, Egypt, Mozambique, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Norway

- e. Invited the Secretariat to fully support the implementation of recommendations/decisions deriving from subcommittee meetings once adopted at the quarterly meetings of the Committee.

**Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.**

- 7. The meeting closed at 13:10 (GMT+3).