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Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
Thirteenth meeting
Nairobi, 7–11 September 2026
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of a draft Chair's summary of the meeting

Draft Chair's summary of the thirteenth annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives*

Agenda item 1

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting, which was held in Nairobi in a hybrid format, was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 7 September 2026 by Sultan Hajiyev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP.

2. The Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen, delivered a statement.

3. Members of the Committee delivered opening statements on behalf of regional and political groups[1] followed by individual statements.[2]

4. Representatives of the major groups delivered statements, including a joint statement on behalf of the regional facilitators of the major groups.

5. All written statements submitted to the secretariat have been made available on the United Nations Nairobi Journal, as follows:

- Monday, 7 September 2026: morning session and afternoon session
- Tuesday, 8 September 2026: morning session and afternoon session
- Wednesday, 9 September 2026: morning session and afternoon session
- Thursday, 10 September 2026: morning session and afternoon session
- Friday, 11 September 2026: morning session and afternoon session

* The present summary is the Chair's assessment of the key issues raised and is intended to capture the overall spirit of the discussion. The summary does not imply that delegations explicitly debated or agreed upon individual points under each agenda item.

[1] Sierra Leone on behalf of the Group of African States; Mexico on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; the European Union also on behalf of its member States; Jamaica, on behalf of the Presidency of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its eighth session.

[2] Armenia, Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, Ukraine, the United States of America.

6. Secretariat presentations, meeting documents and reference documents have been made available on the meeting webpage.

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the agenda

7. The agenda was adopted on the basis of the revised provisional agenda as set out in document UNEP/CPR/ASC/13/1/Rev.1.

Agenda item 3

Management and administration of the United Nations Environment Programme

8. Item 3 was considered jointly with item 12 on consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits.

9. The Executive Director of UNEP delivered an introductory statement.

10. A representative of the secretariat provided a briefing on the management and administration of UNEP.

11. Representatives of many delegations[3] welcomed the presentation and provided comments or sought clarification on the issues raised. In their comments, the representatives:

(a) Encouraged UNEP to maintain the positive momentum in implementing Joint Inspection Unit, Office of Internal Oversight Services and Board of Auditors recommendations, and requested timelines for outstanding recommendations, including information on implementation challenges, reasons for delay and how new recommendations would be addressed alongside those outstanding from 2024;

(b) Emphasized the importance of the Committee of Permanent Representatives' oversight role and its mandate as an intersessional body, requested clarity on the timeline for the review of its mandate and working modalities in relation to recommendation 1 of the Joint Inspection Unit and called for regional group consultations to be held in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner, with sufficient opportunity for Member States to consider any new arrangements or processes, and for changes to current working methods or the frequency of meetings of the Committee to be considered only after a thorough assessment of their implications;

(c) Welcomed the work under way to develop success metrics and strengthen monitoring and quality assurance, and encouraged UNEP to ensure that such measures improved the quality, accessibility and timeliness of support provided to Member States. Delegations also emphasized the importance of adequate resources to support timely subprogramme evaluations within the required length of the 6-year evaluation cycle;

(d) Recommended introducing a standing item on the agenda of meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the implementation and systematic focus on risks and follow-up to further strengthen oversight and accountability;

(e) Sought clarification on the role of audits and evaluations in informing the UNEP approach to administration and management;

(f) Enquired what changes had been made to the revised delegation of authority framework and the monitoring of its implementation, and how the corporate guidance document would ensure timely and effective support to developing countries;

(g) Expressed concerns regarding significant delays in project closure and deployment of unutilized balances;

[3] Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, the European Union, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), children and youth major group, Indigenous Peoples major group.

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(h) Called for the consolidation of the Young Talent Pipeline to achieve a sustainable geographical balance, regular provision of comprehensive and disaggregated information on UNEP staff, affiliate and other non-staff personnel, and an update on the implementation of the Young Talent Pipeline programme;

(i) Requested additional information on measures to achieve a more sustainable balance between senior management and working-level professional capacity;

(j) Enquired whether any discussions on organizational reform had taken place at the most recent senior management team retreat, and, if so, requested that relevant information be provided;

(k) Welcomed the updated resource mobilization strategy and requested further information on its implementation, while emphasizing the importance of adequate, predictable and flexible funding, a balanced funding portfolio and ensuring that resource mobilization and allocation remained aligned with UNEP agreed priorities and responsive to regional and country needs;

(l) Sought additional information on Work Package 27, aspects of UN80-related reforms already affecting the UNEP implementation capacity, the nine guidance products of the delivery model working group, the alignment of the knowledge management strategy with the UN80 Initiative, the next steps and timeline for the potential revision of the Environment Management Group's terms of reference with input by Member States, and practical changes to the standard operating procedures for joint programming with other United Nations entities;

(m) Requested information on how recent reforms had improved accountability rather than simply introducing new planning and reporting processes;

(n) Urged the secretariat to address inconsistencies in performance targets and weaknesses identified in the integrated planning, management and reporting solution, including their implications for the reliability of performance reporting, and consolidate progress under the one impact framework;

(o) Requested timely access to other audit and evaluation reports, such as the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network of UNEP, and information on the UNEP response.

12. Responding to the comments, representatives of the secretariat:

(a) Explained that unspent balances were generally tied to specific projects, countries and donor requirements and were not freely available for reallocation, and noted that delays in financial project closure most frequently arose where the final financial report had not been received from executing ministries or other executing entity;

(b) Expressed the hope that changes to the Environment Management Group, to be outlined in a report under Work Package 27 of the UN80 Initiative Action Plan, would elevate the Group's profile within the United Nations system;

(c) Clarified that UNEP did not allocate resources on the basis of profitability or financial returns, and that one of the elements of the resource mobilization strategy was to support Governments in creating a lower risk environment that would encourage private sector investment;

(d) Reported that UNEP had been migrating the totality of its project portfolio on to the integrated planning, management and reporting solution over the previous two years and noted that the construction of the platform had been steered by United Nations Headquarters and that some Platform elements were not ideal for project-related reporting. However, continued improvements in the platform would enable enhanced UNEP reporting in accordance with the one impact framework;

(e) Also reported that UNEP was connecting the findings of the Board of Auditors report to targeted management improvements and aiming to prevent recurring weaknesses by addressing root causes;

(f) Explained that the knowledge management strategy was aimed at internal learning from science, programme and projects. Noted that many Member States were contributing significantly below the indicative scale of contribution and suggested that a subcommittee might review that issue in greater detail;

(g) Reported that the number of recommendations under implementation had been reduced from eight to six through ongoing work;

(h) Said that UNEP aimed to close several of the remaining recommendations by the end of 2026 but that the implementation of several recommendations depended on external factors, requiring multi-stakeholder coordination;

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(i) Reported that the role of Chief Risk Officer had been assigned as part of efforts to embed risk management more directly into programme delivery and decision-making and strengthen coordination at the corporate level;

(j) Also reported that some members of the first two cohorts of the Young Talent Pipeline had been recruited for UNEP positions while others had entered the institutional or private sector and that the viability of a third cohort was currently being assessed, and observed that the programme had been funded from an Environment Fund set-aside and that under the current conditions, its future viability was therefore uncertain;

(k) Drew attention to the launch of environmental job profiles in the last quarter of 2026, which would enhance workforce planning;

(l) Explained that there was no predetermined optimal workforce ratio and noted that positions at the P-5 level and above currently accounted for approximately 13 per cent of the relevant workforce, while efforts towards a leaner structure continued to take into account geographical diversity and gender parity;

(m) Explained that the delegation of authority framework had been updated to better align with the Secretary-General's bulletin on delegation of authority in the administration of the Staff Regulations and Rules and the Financial Regulations and Rules (ST/SGB/2019/2), placing greater focus on core administrative functions and processes;

(n) Also explained that the implementation plan for the resource mobilization strategy was an internal management tool that enabled UNEP to manage the multi-year strategy on an annual basis and adapt to the evolving funding and geopolitical landscape;

(o) Emphasized that the implementation of Joint Inspection Unit recommendation 1 on the mandate and role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was under the purview of Member States and clarified that the implementation of the recommendation fell under the purview of Member States, recalled that the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives had agreed on the guiding questions for the regional consultations in September and October and would reconvene on 10 November to receive updates on those consultations and consider options for the way forward, including discussion in the subcommittee meetings, in advance of the 176th meeting of the Committee, and noted that the process would remain transparent, inclusive and Member State-driven;

(p) Explained that affiliate personnel could not be reported in the same way as staff members, as they included diverse modalities – such as consultants, individual contractors, United Nations Volunteers, interns and gratis personnel – with different contractual arrangements and measurement methods. Following consultation with the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, it was confirmed that the Secretary-General's report on the composition of the Secretariat was the established reporting mechanism for the entire United Nations Secretariat on affiliate personnel, including UNEP, providing a consistent and comparable United Nations system-wide framework. The next report, covering the biennium 2024–2025, was expected in the coming months.

Agenda item 4

Programme performance report of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2024–2025

13. [to be completed]

Agenda item 5

Contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP medium-term strategy and programme of work

14. [to be completed]

Agenda item 6

Briefing on the UN80 Initiative

15. [to be completed]

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Agenda item 7

Briefing on Work Package 27 of the UN80 Initiative Action Plan

16. [to be completed]

Agenda item 8

Funding base of the United Nations Environment Programme

17. [to be completed]

Agenda item 9

Operationalizing the one impact framework: update on methodology development

18. [to be completed]

Agenda item 10

Briefing on the sessions of the conferences of the parties to the three Rio Conventions

19. [to be completed]

Agenda item 11

Coordination within the United Nations system on the environment, including through the Environment Management Group

20. [to be completed]

Agenda item 12

Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits

21. [to be completed]

Agenda item 13

Consideration of a draft Chair's summary of the meeting

22. [to be completed]

Agenda item 14

Other matters

23. [to be completed]

Agenda item 15

Closure of the meeting

24. [to be completed]

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