
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau meeting
19 February 2026
10:00 – 12:00 (GMT +3)
Conference Room 9 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. His Excellency Sultan Hajiyeve, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting and welcomed His Excellency Matthew Samuda, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica, who participated as an ex officio Bureau member, the other Bureau members, as well as the co-facilitators of the draft resolutions and decisions of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), who attended as observers.
2. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, delivered her opening remarks.
3. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: UNEA contribution to the High-level political forum on sustainable development

4. The Executive Director recalled that, pursuant to UNEA resolution 3/3, the United Nations Environment Assembly is to provide timely substantive inputs to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and that such inputs are to be prepared by the Executive Director or the UNEP Secretariat under the guidance of the UNEA President, in consultation with and for consideration by the CPR. She informed that, taking into account this mandate, the Secretariat prepared [a zero draft contribution](#), under the guidance of the UNEA-8 President, taking into account the outcomes of previous UNEA sessions and the guiding questions provided in the letter from the President of the Economic Social Council (ECOSOC); and the Secretariat circulated the zero draft to delegations on 26 January 2026 and invited them to provide written inputs by 6 February. She also informed that based on the inputs received, a revised draft is being finalized and will be circulated to delegations on 20 February 2026; the President of UNEA will present the revised draft at a CPR Subcommittee meeting scheduled for 3 March, the originally scheduled meeting of 24 February having been rescheduled to allow delegations sufficient time to review the revised draft; Member States will also have the opportunity to submit further comments in writing by 4 March 2026; And the final document will be transmitted by the President of UNEA to the President of ECOSOC on 6 March, a few days beyond the deadline of 2 March indicated by the President of ECOSOC. She recalled that the process and timeline had been communicated to delegations on 6 January and noted that the process does not envisage a silence procedure for the finalization of the inputs, reflecting the provisions of UNEA resolution 3/3 with consultations with the CPR ongoing, both through written inputs and the subcommittee

meeting scheduled for 3 March, and the input will be finalized by the Secretariat under the guidance of the UNEA President.

5. Bureau members who took the floor provided the following comments:
 - a. Welcomed the preparation of the UNEA contribution to the 2026 HLPF, emphasized that contributions should be substantive and sought guidance on how the Bureau could support the process, noting that no UNEA contribution had been provided to the 2025 HLPF.
 - b. and Suggested that the CPR Bureau review the process pending the outcome of the finalization of the 2026 contribution.
6. The Secretariat noted the comments and provided the following clarification in response:
 - a. The Legal Advisor emphasized that, pursuant to UNEA resolution 3/3, paragraph 3, the President of UNEA is responsible for considering the views received and finalizing the submission to ECOSOC.
 - b. The Executive Director clarified that UNEA decision 6/5 was limited in scope, as it applied only to UNEA contributions to the 2024 and 2025 HLPF and that at UNEA-7 the Assembly took note of the existing procedure as outlined in resolution 3/3 which continues to be applicable.
 - c. The Executive Director informed that the Secretariat would prepare for the Bureau a note outlining the process for the preparation of UNEA's contribution to the HLPF, to facilitate the Bureau members discussion within their respective regional group, as needed.

Agenda item 3: Assessment of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

7. The Executive Director introduced the agenda item, thanking the Bureau members and the co-facilitators for their contribution in delivering an impactful outcome of UNEA-7. She highlighted that UNEA-7 brought together nearly 5,000 participants from 178 nationalities, including Heads of State and Government, ministers, vice ministers, MEA Secretariats, UN system entities, intergovernmental organizations and major groups. She noted that the MEAs Day and the high-level segment saw strong engagement, supported by approximately USD 1.3 million in contributions from Member States and donors, which enabled participation of 165 representatives from 101 countries, including youth and major groups.
8. She recalled that Part I of the Executive Director's report, issued in April 2025, suggested areas for possible UNEA-7 resolutions for consideration by Member States, and Part II, issued in September 2025, reflected on UNEA's role after ten years. She reported that 15 progress reports on previous resolutions were issued on time and that dedicated time was allocated during the OECPR to discuss the reports. She further mentioned that 12 draft resolutions and three draft decisions were submitted by the 29 September deadline, with three additional draft resolutions submitted after the deadline. She noted that technical notes were issued within two weeks, and for the first time included impact indicators and more realistic cost implications focusing on requests to the Executive Director. She added that the co-facilitators of UN General Assembly informal ad hoc working group on the mandate implementation review, the Permanent Representatives of Jamaica and New Zealand to the UN, are keenly interested in the modalities of the concept note provided by the proponent and technical notes of the Secretariat, which is seen as novel.

9. She highlighted that support to delegations included technical and legal advice, negotiation skills training, including targeted briefings for the co-facilitators, guidance on the organization of work of the OECPR and Committee of the Whole, and early intersessional work with paragraph-by-paragraph readings of the drafts, which helped proponents merge proposals and better prepare for negotiations, and the e-proposals module, which proved to be an effective tool. She added that the President of UNEA, supported by the Ambassadors of Belgium and Peru as co-facilitators, led inclusive and transparent consultations on the draft ministerial declaration and that all resolutions, decisions, and the ministerial declaration were adopted by consensus with the “Nairobi spirit”
10. The Secretariat introduced the assessment of UNEA-7 and [the post-UNEA survey results](#), provided as [background documents](#) for the meeting.
11. The co-facilitators who took the floor welcomed the assessment and provided the following comments in summary:

General comments

- a. Commended the overall success of UNEA-7, noting that all resolutions and decisions were adopted by consensus.
- b. Noted that lessons learned from UNEA-6 were effectively applied, although the recommendation to reduce the number of draft resolutions was not fully respected.
- c. Highlighted that some draft resolutions were submitted after the deadline and stressed the need for Member States to respect the deadline.

Intersessional period

- d. Acknowledged the well-organized intersessional preparatory phase, which worked very well.
- e. Emphasized the usefulness of the technical notes prepared by the Secretariat, noting that they helped the co-facilitators in consulting with proponents and delegations.
- f. Noted that the practice of having proponents introduce their draft, followed by the presentation of technical notes by the Secretariat and Q&A sessions, assisted the work of the facilitators and proponents in developing revised drafts.
- g. Highlighted that holding consultations on the operative paragraphs (OPs) with textual proposals (first reading) during the intersessional period and the CPR subcommittee tasking the co-facilitators to develop streamlined preambular paragraphs (PPs), which were shared as non-papers before the OECPR, were helpful in advancing negotiations during the OECPR and should be maintained, while acknowledging that negotiations are ultimately held during the OECPR and UNEA.
- h. One facilitator suggested keeping attributions in the drafts transmitted to the OECPR to avoid delegations repeating their comments during the OECPR.
- i. Acknowledged capacity constraints among some Member States, including limited engagement of delegations during the first reading, and stressed the importance of engagement of capital-based focal points.

Training for co-facilitators

- j. Highlighted that training and briefings for the co-facilitations organized by the Secretariat were critical and that well-networked Nairobi-based facilitators were considered an asset.

OECPR and UNEA

- a. Emphasized the importance of technical expertise of the Secretariat, including legal, and support of the technical focal points throughout the process.
- b. Highlighted that daily meetings of the co-facilitators with the Secretariat during the OECPR and UNEA were helpful allowing for flexibility and transparency.
- c. Noted that the processes, procedures and guidance put in place by the Secretariat prior to and during the OECPR and UNEA were clear and helpful.
- d. While noting that starting negotiations on the OPs was helpful, it was suggested that some space should be given during OECPR for discussion on the PPs. It was also noted, however, that it was best to finalize the PPs once the negotiations on the OPs had concluded to better utilize the limited negotiation time.
- e. Stressed the importance of in-person participation of the proponents in the negotiations.
- f. Noted that while the Bureau had provided guidance on the timings of the working groups during the OECPR but Member States decided otherwise and taking into account the recommendation in UNEA decision 7/7 that, unless otherwise agreed, preferably no session be scheduled beyond 13 hours from the start of the first open-ended meeting of each day, negotiations might continue till Thursday or Friday of UNEA, to which delegations would need to adapt.
- g. Highlighted that the approach taken on cross-cutting issues, allowing delegations time to discuss among themselves, worked well.

e-Proposals portal

- h. Praised the digital tools provided and suggested improvements to the e-Proposals portal, including tailored notifications and a system to filter updates by resolution(s) of interest, which could save time for delegations.

Looking ahead

- i. Recommended a follow-up meeting on the Youth Environment Assembly and MEA Day with donors, participants, and speakers to assess impact, identify lessons learned, and explore ways to strengthen future engagement.
 - j. Acknowledged the importance of the report of the Executive Director containing suggestions, for consideration by Member States, for possible areas in which resolutions might be developed (UNEP/EA.7/2(I) but suggested the need for better socialization. Similarly, suggested that part II of the report focusing more broadly on UNEA and reflecting on lessons learned after a decade of existence, should be discussed by the Bureau of UNEA-8.
 - k. Suggested having facilitators assigned to individual drafts rather than having co-facilitators working in clusters.
 - l. Suggested adopting a participant-centred perspective to enhance the UNEA experience and foster a greater level of engagement.
12. Bureau members who took the floor welcomed the assessment, thanked the co-facilitators, and provided the following comments in summary:
- a. Recognised the importance of technical notes and the Secretariat support during negotiations; maintaining careful reading of both preambular and operative paragraphs; ensuring transparent consultation and engagement, including keeping proponents closely involved to reach compromises; and the value of discussions on cross-cutting issues.
 - b. Emphasized that UNEA-7 was well organized and the preparation phase was thorough.

Noted that, despite careful planning, a gap between capital-based and Nairobi-based delegations remains,

- c. Acknowledged that the Secretariat provided strong support to facilitate the process.
- d. Suggested creating space through a subcommittee meeting for Member States discussion on UNEA-7 lessons learned.

13. The President of UNEA-8 acknowledged the work of the Secretariat and the Bureau, which contributed to UNEA-7's success.

14. The Bureau agreed that UNEA-7 lessons learned be discussed at a subcommittee meeting in advance of the 173rd quarterly meeting of the CPR.

Agenda item 4: Organization of work.

15. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the proposed organization of work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives based on [the roadmap for the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Bodies \(January 2026 – December 2026\)](#)

16. A Bureau member sought clarification on whether the Executive Director would continue to provide updates on the UN80 initiative.

17. The Executive Director clarified that the UN 80 initiative is led by the UN Secretary-General and ongoing work under workstream 27, all the reports will be addressed to the Secretary-General, who will inform Member States in due course. She added that oral updates will be provided during CPR quarterly meetings.

18. The Chair informed that, regarding the organization of work, his availability will be limited over the next three to four months due to two major upcoming events, the World Urban Forum and the World Environment Day, which are both to take place in Azerbaijan. He thanked the Vice Chairs for their availability to step in when needed.

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

19. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

20. The meeting closed at 11.40 (GMT+3).

* * *

Annex: List of Participants

Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau Members:

H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyeve, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya, and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Ms. Marie Charlotte G. Tang, Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of the Philippines to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Mr. Anouar Ben Youssef, Vice Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of Tunisia to Kenya, and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Mrs. Romy Sonia Tincopa Grados, Vice Chair, Ambassador of Peru to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Ms. Jenny Da Rin, Rapporteur of the Committee and High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Australia to UNEP.

Representative of the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly participating in an ex officio capacity:

H. E. Mr. Matthew Samuda, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Minister of Water, Environment, and Climate Change of Jamaica.

Mr. Wayne O. Robertson, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Water, Environment, and Climate Change of Jamaica.

The UN Environment Program Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.

Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.

Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor.

Co-facilitators as observers:

From the African States Group:

Mr. Ontumetse Ontumetse of Botswana.

From the Asia-Pacific States Group:

Mr. Nader Al-Tarawneh of Jordan; and

Ms. Kanako Okano of Japan.

From the Eastern European States Group:

Mr. Michal Novotny of Czechia.

From the Western European and other States group:

Mr. Martin R  w of Germany; and

Ms. Marie Haraldstad of Norway.