

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 25 February 2025
14:30 – 17:30 (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. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of Jordan to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Briefing on the preparations for the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

3. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the preparations for the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention (OEWG 3.2).
4. Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Commended Uruguay for offering to host the [OEWG 3.2](#) and the [intergovernmental meeting](#) to consider the establishment of a science-policy panel, scheduled to take place back-to-back from 14-20 June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay.
 - b. Emphasized the importance of establishing a science-policy panel and urged all parties to prioritize finalizing the foundational document at OEWG 3.2 for adoption at the intergovernmental meeting.
 - c. Called for streamlining the work of contact groups by drawing from UNEA resolution [5/8](#) and [OEWG 3.1](#) experiences, while establishing clear and concise mandates for all contact groups and informal groups.
 - d. Requested further information on i) the circulation of the formal invitation, supporting documents, and administrative arrangements for participants; ii) the rationale behind the proposed distribution of topics among contact groups; and iii) the possibility of holding a webinar or virtual meetings to facilitate understanding and gather inputs on the topics.
 - e. Highlighted the challenge faced by countries with small delegations fully participating if meetings are extended into the night.
 - f. Emphasized the critical role of the new panel in supporting the sound management of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention, building on [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) and [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES).
 - g. Highlighted the need to address gaps in scientific assessments and information sharing on the

¹ Norway, Indonesia, European Union, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Brazil, United Kingdom, Portugal, Children and Youth Major Group and Science and Technology Major Group

- risks of chemicals and pollution.
- h. Encouraged Member States to come prepared to OEWG 3.2 and engage meaningfully in finalizing the work.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- Informed that the invitation letter and logistical note are expected to be available on the [website](#) within a week.
 - Clarified that the deadline for OEWG 3.2 working documents is 22 March 2025, with efforts made to release documentation earlier.
 - Explained the process to streamline negotiations at OEWG 3.2, stating that i) discussions will be organized into clusters based on interlinked topics; ii) the proposed clustering has been shared through the Bureau for regional feedback; and iii) a webinar will be held to brief focal points on the OEWG 3.2 scenario note.

Agenda item 3: Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-level political forum on sustainable development.

6. The Chair recalled that the 2025 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) to be held from 14 to 23 July 2025 in New York under the theme "*Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind* " which will review in-depth SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.
7. The Chair informed of the timeline, as agreed by the Bureau of the CPR, for the finalization of UNEA's consideration, highlighting the timeline set by the President of the Economic and Social Council is 3 March 2025:
- The Secretariat circulated on **Tuesday, 7 January** a call for contribution of written inputs to inform the preparation of the first draft.
 - The Secretariat circulated the first draft of UNEA's contribution on **Monday, 3 February**, considering the inputs provided by delegations, and invited written comments on the first draft to be submitted by **Monday, 10 February**.
 - Based on inputs received from delegations, the Secretariat circulated a revised draft on **Tuesday, 18 February**.
 - Comments to be provided on the revised draft during the 25 February subcommittee meeting and in writing by the end of the day on **Tuesday, 25 February**.
 - The Secretariat to circulate the final draft under a silence procedure on **Thursday, 27 February**.
 - Following the conclusion of the silence procedure on **COB Friday, 28 February**, the UNEA President to transmit the final contribution to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) President on **Monday, 3 March**.
8. Following the introduction by the Chair, the Secretariat provided a briefing on the [revised draft contribution](#).
9. Delegations² that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
- Calls were made to adequately reflect previously agreed commitments.

² Brazil, European Union, Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Argentina, France, Australia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Colombia and Argentina.

- b. Highlighted the importance of maintaining coherence with [SDG 14](#) and stronger linkages between [SDG 8](#) and environmental crises.
 - c. Diverging views were expressed on references to human rights and gender equity.
 - d. Requested:
 - i. That the reference to the [One Health](#) approach aligns with the language of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF) in Section C, as outlined in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) decision COP [15/4](#).
 - ii. The inclusion of references to the [Third UN Ocean Conference](#) (UNOC3).
 - iii. The inclusion of strengthening international and regional cooperation, mobilizing financial resources, enhancing national and local capacities, and ensuring access to technology for sustainable development.
 - iv. The inclusion of references to indigenous and local communities.
 - v. A reference on promoting synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in line with UNEA resolutions.
 - e. Requested clarification on the procedural steps and the finalization of the contribution following the conclusion of the silence procedure.
 - f. One delegation recalled that they had disassociated themselves from the Pact for the Future.
10. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Noted the feedback received and encouraged delegations that had not yet submitted their written comments to do so by the close of business on 25 February 2025, to ensure a comprehensive review of all inputs.
 - b. Acknowledged the requests for additional language and new paragraphs and committed to accommodating them to the extent possible while considering the constraints on the overall length of the document, which should be 2000 characters maximum.
 - c. Clarified that: i) upon conclusion of the silence procedure, the UNEA President will send a letter to the ECOSOC President attaching the final contribution; ii) the final contribution and the letter will be made available on the UNEA website under the tab for [communications from the UNEA President](#); iii) a message will be circulated to inform Member States of the conclusion of the silence procedure and sharing the final version of the contribution; and v) the HLPF Secretariat will prepare a document incorporating inputs from various intergovernmental bodies, including UNEA, which is then issued as an official document of the HLPF.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

- 11. The Secretariat reminded delegations to complete a [survey](#) by 13 March 2025 on UNEP's performance in implementing the Programme of Work for the period 2024-2025. This information will inform the 2024 Programme Performance Report, which will be considered at the 12th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the CPR scheduled for 1 to 5 September 2025.

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting.

- 12. The meeting closed at 16:15 (GMT+3).