

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 27 February 2025
10:00 –13:00 and 15:00 – 17:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Draft 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 Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting and chaired the morning session. H. E. Ms. Nicol Adamcová, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, chaired the afternoon session.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Review of UNEP's thematic programmes.

3. The Secretariat provided a review of the following two thematic programmes of UNEP: "[Finance and Economic Transformation](#)" and "[Circularity in Sectors](#)".
4. Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

Finance and Economic Transformation

- a. Acknowledged the programme's role in accelerating the mobilisation of private and public funding to address environmental crises.
- b. Highlighted that addressing environmental challenges presents opportunities to develop new markets and drive economic transformation and competitiveness.
- c. Recognized the significance of integrating sustainability into financial and economic policies while emphasizing the need for adaptable solutions tailored to national circumstances and priorities.
- d. Stressed the importance of harmonizing economic growth and social progress with environmental action, ensuring that global framework commitments support economic resilience, poverty eradication and job creation.
- e. Requested UNEP to provide further information on:
 - i. Its engagement with the [Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action](#), including scaling finance to address the three planetary environmental crises.
 - ii. Its involvement with forums such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including its participation in related events like the [13th WTO Ministerial Conference](#) and the [5th WTO Trade and Environment Week](#) regarding the agriculture subsidy repurposing campaign, and its alignment with the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(KMGBF\)](#), specifically [Target 18](#), as well as the [WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies](#).
 - iii. Approach to measuring broader economic transformations beyond project outputs, including the potential use of metrics such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) composition or the systematic introduction of new evaluation parameters.

¹ Spain, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Morocco, European Union, State of Palestine, Children and Youth Major Group

- f. Acknowledged initiatives on youth employment and requested further details on the impact of green jobs projects in Kenya and South Africa.
- g. Suggested inclusion of youth in the development of financial and economic strategies at global and national levels while advocating for capacity building in these areas.

Circularity in Sectors

- h. Expressed appreciation for the inclusion of project budgets, and funding sources, in the presentation as requested during previous subcommittee meetings.
 - a. Requested UNEP to provide further information on:
 - i. Rationale for prioritizing the four high-impact sectors of plastics, textiles, minerals and metals, and electronics over others like energy and construction, including the criteria used for selection and any internal reorganization to address each sector.
 - ii. Its support to countries implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations, including successes, expansion plans and applicability across regions.
 - iii. Implementation of [actionable recommendations](#) from the [UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#) and the modalities for multi-stakeholder engagement.
 - iv. Tools used to define capacity-building needs assessments for countries, the criteria for providing such support, and lessons learned from past capacity-building initiatives.
 - v. Prioritization of upstream solutions and a life cycle approach in the plastic pollution treaty negotiations, UNEP's perspective on potential actions by Member States, and the adequacy of the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) support for plastics-related initiatives.
 - vi. Strategy for scaling up innovative projects, including approaches and target sectors.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

Finance and Economic Transformation

- a. Highlighted UNEP's collaboration with commercial banks and institutional investors, such as Kenya Commercial Bank's partnership with the [Green Climate Fund](#), as a mechanism to unlock financing from non-traditional sources and invest in projects advancing sustainable economic transformation.
- b. Explained that economic transformations occur through global regulations and a standardized set of rules that facilitate seamless operations in the international market, highlighting an example where 130 major private sector finance leaders advocated for a circular economy in plastics, recognizing it as a source of competitive advantage.
- c. Noted UNEP's observer status at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and its support for the agenda on environmental goods and services as a tool for advancing social development and environmental sustainability.
- d. Emphasized that the primary objective of UNEP's work on subsidies is their repurposing to minimize environmental impact and evaluate their beneficiaries.
- e. Informed that programmes, including the [Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action](#), have been introduced to enhance engagement between Ministers of Finance and Environment, such as integrating Ministers of Finance into the development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), with plans to extend this approach to biodiversity action plans, subject to resource availability.
- f. Explained that UNEP measures the transition toward a green economy using the [Green Economy Progress Index](#), which incorporates 12 economic, social, and environmental indicators, noting that an increase in the Human Development Index alongside a decrease in the ecological footprint signifies progress in the transition.
- g. Highlighted that UNEP leads the [Green Jobs for Youth Pact](#) in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as support for Kenya's government-led green jobs initiative through tools, regulatory mechanisms and policy development within the National Legislative Framework on Green Jobs.

- h. Emphasized the need for capacity-building and the creation of green and just jobs in the transition to circularity and sustainable development to address employment displacement risks and South-North migration.
- i. Noted the investment interest in how countries can achieve their land degradation neutrality targets, highlighting opportunities for resilient crops and pastoralist solutions to mitigate drought impacts.

Circularity in Sectors

- j. Clarified that circularity in sectors programme prioritizes the four high-impact sectors, while others like agriculture, mobility, and energy fall under different UNEP programmes, and proposed integrating circularity across all high-impact sectors in the next medium-term strategy.
- k. Highlighted UNEP's technical and capacity-building support for EPR policies and schemes, noting that over 60 countries in 2022 and over 80 in 2024 have adopted EPR policies or laws, with tailored solutions based on country size, waste volume, and alternative approaches.
- l. Informed that UNEP is coordinating the implementation of the [UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals actionable recommendations](#) 3, on establishing a global mining legacy fund, and 5, on promoting material efficiency and circularity, from, while also supporting the implementation of the other 3 recommendations led by different UN agencies such as recommendation 2 on traceability for accountability, which is led by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- m. Explained that UNEP's capacity-building effort: i) is driven by country requests, co-designed based on available resources, and coordinated with the UN Resident Coordinators, Country Teams and other UN agencies to maximize synergies and avoid duplication; and ii) shapes future interventions based on lessons learned from medium-term strategies, programmes of work, and project evaluations.
- n. Highlighted that phasing out single-use and short-lived plastics is a key upstream solution to significantly reducing plastic pollution and noted that GEF's support for plastics focuses on product design, where the expected impact is highest.
- o. Emphasized that strengthening the One UNEP approach, such as in textiles and plastics, ensures a unified strategy and clear framework for countries and donors while welcoming guidance from Member States to accelerate efforts, enhance ambition and improve delivery.

Agenda item 3: Briefing on the outcomes of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 29).

- 6. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the outcomes of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties of the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).
- 7. Delegations² that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Emphasized the importance of resources from public and private investments in a holistic approach toward low carbon and climate resilient development.
 - b. Requested UNEP to provide further details on:
 - i. Actions planned for the implementation of the [COP 29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste](#).
 - ii. Next steps concerning the [COP 29 Declaration on Water for Climate Action](#).
 - iii. Plans to integrate joint action on biodiversity and climate change within its programme portfolio.
 - iv. Approaches to engaging stakeholders to improve financial flows for capacity building and technology development, noting the process under [Article 6](#) of the Paris Agreement.
 - c. Requested clarification on climate finance regarding i) its definition, ii) its collective quantified goal; and iii) whether it encompasses grants, loans, and investments.

² Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Brazil, Türkiye, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Kenya, European Union, Children and Youth Major Group.

- d. Highlighted the need for enhanced support for the least developed countries (LDCs) in developing NAPs and transparency reports.
8. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Explained that, based on the agreements reached at COP 29: i) there is no precise definition of climate finance; ii) the goal is for developed country parties to take the lead in mobilizing at least USD 300 billion per year for developing country parties for climate action by 2035; and iii) climate finance encompasses local, national or transnational funding from public, private and alternative sources, aimed at supporting mitigation and adaptation actions to address climate change.
 - b. Highlighted that UNEP takes a human rights-based approach with meaningful participation of stakeholders in implementing its climate work.
 - c. Noted the close connection between climate, nature and pollution pillars, and that UNEP regularly organizes capacity building on synergies across NDCs and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
 - d. Emphasized UNEP's role in supporting countries, particularly developing countries, with NAPs, transparency reports, and the implementation of NDCs.
 - e. Reiterated UNEP's commitment to supporting countries in mobilizing climate finance and upholding the integrity of carbon markets under Article 6.
 - f. Highlighted that UNEP and the Government of Azerbaijan are currently in discussions on the next steps with regards to the [Declaration on Water for Climate Action](#) and the [Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste](#).

Agenda item 4: Briefing on the outcomes of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5).

9. The INC Secretariat provided a briefing on the outcomes of the [fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment](#).
10. Delegations³ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
- a. Expressed gratitude to the Republic of Korea for hosting [INC-5.1](#) and Switzerland for convening the upcoming [INC-5.2](#).
 - b. Emphasized commitment to finalizing the negotiations at INC-5.2 and securing the adoption of a legally binding international instrument on plastic pollution that addresses the full cycle of plastics.
 - c. Highlighted the need for the Executive Director to continue supporting the INC as its convener, including through the provision of secretariat support in line with UNEA resolution [5/14](#).
 - d. Stressed the importance of maintaining the political momentum toward INC-5.2, particularly through ministerial engagement.
 - e. Recommended that Heads of Delegations meetings: i) serve as a platform for advancing strategic discussions informally, rather than focusing solely on the organization of work; ii) be open to Nairobi-based representatives to support capital-based delegates if meetings are held in Nairobi.
 - f. Emphasized the need for: i) a streamlined and well-structured organization of work to guide discussions at INC-5.2; ii) minimizing closed-door negotiations; iii) ensuring robust observer

³ United Kingdom, Norway, Canada, Djibouti, Türkiye, State of Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Indonesia, European Union, Women Major Group, Children and Youth Major Group.

and stakeholder participation; and vi) integrating the voices of frontline communities and small delegations into the process.

11. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Noted the request to share the reports of the INC Bureau meetings and confirmed their availability on the [INC website](#).
 - b. Expressed appreciation to donors for their generous contributions to the INC.
 - c. Underlined that at the closing plenary of INC-5.1, the Executive Director was requested to invite Ministers to participate in INC-5.2, adding that travel support for Ministerial participation is being secured.
 - d. Confirmed plans for a one-day regional consultation preceding the resumed INC 5.2 session.
 - e. Acknowledged the pivotal role of observer organizations while noting that, as with all meetings, space constraints and seating capacity limitations must be considered.
 - f. Noted that INC 5.2 will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, and that details regarding dates, venue, and a revised scenario note will be communicated as soon as possible.
 - g. Informed that the INC Secretariat has engaged with all regional coordinators and INC Bureau members regarding the regional consultations, with details being worked out bilaterally.

Agenda item 5: Briefing on the first session of the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and early actions for the ratification and implementation of the Agreement.

12. The UNEP Secretariat and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the United Nations Secretariat provided a [joint briefing](#) on the first session of the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.
13. Delegations⁴ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
- a. Noted paragraph 2 (a) of UNEA resolution [6/15](#) which encourages Member States to sign and ratify the [BBNJ Agreement](#), and recommended ratification ahead of the [Third United Nations Ocean Conference \(UNOC3\)](#) as well as active participation by Member States in the upcoming sessions of the [Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement](#) (Prep Com).
 - b. Acknowledged the Agreement's significance in enhancing global environmental governance and advancing SDGs 2 (zero hunger), 13 (climate action) and 14 (life below water).
 - c. Requested further information on:
 - i. Minimum number of signatures and ratifications required for early action toward the ratification and implementation of the Agreement.
 - ii. How the convening of the first COP will affect Member States that will still be under the early actions of ratification.
 - iii. The role of the Prep Com in preparing for the Agreement's entry into force.
 - iv. A cohesive approach to marine biodiversity conservation under the Agreement, particularly in relation to existing scientific and technical bodies like the discussions on [establishing a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals](#) and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, to avoid overlapping mandates.
 - v. How to ensure adequate support for all BBNJ Agreement obligations, particularly capacity building and technology transfer to developing states, considering the historical challenges in securing financing for climate and biodiversity.

⁴ Mexico, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Spain, European Union

- d. Informed of a side-event titled “*Building the BBNJ Secretariat: Functions, priorities and a path forward*” to be hosted by Belgium at Prep Com, providing a platform for Member States and Stakeholders to exchange knowledge and discuss key priorities.
 - e. Noted UNEP’s readiness to support the establishment and functioning of the Agreement’s Secretariat if requested.
14. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Acknowledged the key role of DOALOS as interim secretariat in facilitating the early actions for the ratification of the Agreement.
 - b. Offered UNEP’s support to establish the Secretariat of the Agreement and highlighted: i) UNEP’s stewardship of 17 biodiversity-related treaties and agreements, including the Regional Seas Conventions, ii) its history of providing secretariat support to scientific, technical, and subsidiary bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and iii) experience in mobilizing resources for environmental initiatives.
 - c. Clarified that the first COP will proceed in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, where Parties will adopt key decisions, including the rules of procedure, and that Member States joining after the first COP will retain their rights and be bound by these decisions.
 - d. Explained that the Prep Com will provide guidance on the necessary steps for ratification and implementation, with the aim of achieving 60 ratifications by UNOC3 to accelerate the Agreement’s entry into force.
 - e. Confirmed that the Agreement remains open for signature until 20 September 2025, and clarified that signing the Agreement does not legally bind a Member State, highlighting that [17 ratifications](#) have been received so far, while 60 ratifications, approvals, acceptances or accessions are needed to enter into force, which will occur 120 days after the deposit of the 60th instrument, in accordance with [Article 68\(1\)](#) of the Agreement.
 - f. Reiterated the One UN system approach to support the implementation of the treaty, ensuring coherence in marine biodiversity conservation and preventing overlap.
 - g. Highlighted that the Agreement will rely on three primary funding sources: the GEF, contributions to a special fund, and a financial mechanism established by the COP.
 - h. Further informed that GEF has provided financing to support national processes for the ratification of the BBNJ Agreement.

Agenda item 6: Other matters.

15. The Secretariat reminded delegations to complete a [survey](#), by 13 March 2025, on the performance of UNEP in its implementation of the Programme of Work for the period 2024-2025 which will inform the 2024 Programme Performance Report that will be considered at the 12th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the CPR scheduled for 1 to 5 September 2025.
16. One member of the subcommittee submitted the following recommendation for consideration at the 169th meeting of the CPR, scheduled for 20 March 2025, as follows;
- a. *Recalls* the guidance on the organization of work for the Committee of Permanent Representatives endorsed by the Committee at its resumed 162nd meeting, on 31 October 2023, in particular paragraphs 4 and 5 setting out the requirement that documents be made available no later than 15 working days before the quarterly meetings of the Committee and 7 working days before the subcommittee meetings, and recommends that, in accordance with that guidance, consideration of relevant agenda items be postponed to subsequent meetings when documents are not made available within the mentioned time frames.

Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting.

17. The meeting closed at 17:00 (GMT+3).