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**Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme
Twelfth Meeting**

Nairobi, 1-5 September 2025

10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00

Conference Room 2 (in person) and

Microsoft Teams (online)

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of a draft Chair's summary of the meeting

Final Chair's summary¹

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting.

1. H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyeve, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme, opened the meeting and welcomed the members and observers, including the Major Groups and Stakeholders. The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, paid tribute to the memory of the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to UNEP, His Excellency Mzinwa Johannes Mahlangu, who passed away on 24 August, and conveyed his condolences to the Government and people of South Africa and to the bereaved family of the Ambassador. The Committee observed one minute of silence.
2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Inger Andersen, delivered a [statement](#).
3. Regional and Political Groups followed by individual Member States delivered opening statements.
4. The NGO Major Group delivered a [joint statement](#) on behalf of all the nine Major Groups and Stakeholders.
5. All written statements submitted to the Secretariat have been made available on the UN Journal, as follows:
 - Monday, 1 September 2025: [Morning Session](#) and [Afternoon Session](#)
 - Tuesday, 2 September 2025: [Morning Session](#) and [Afternoon Session](#)
 - Wednesday, 3 September 2025: [Morning Session](#) and [Afternoon Session](#)
 - Thursday, 4 September 2025: [Morning Session](#) and [Afternoon Session](#)
 - Friday, 5 September 2025: [Morning Session](#) and [Afternoon Session](#)
6. Secretariat presentations, meeting documents and reference documents have been made available on the [meeting website](#).

¹ This summary is the Chair's assessment of the key issues raised and seeks to capture the overall spirit of the discussion. The summary does not imply that all delegations explicitly debated or agreed upon individual points under each agenda item.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda.

7. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document [UNEP/CPR/ASC/12/1](#).

Agenda item 3: Programme Performance Report of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2024.

8. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, introduced the [UNEP Programme Performance Report 2024](#) (PPR).
9. The Secretariat first provided a [programme overview](#) and a [resource and management overview](#) on the implementation of the programme, followed by detailed briefings on [UNEP Programme Performance Report 2024](#) (PPR report), and discussions with Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders. All presentations are available on the following [link](#).

Programme Performance Overview

10. Comments by delegations² included:

Programme Overview

- a. Welcomed UNEP's achievement of 93% of its indicators and noted the need to revise the indicators to ensure they are realistic.
- b. Requested clarification on why two indicators under Chemicals and Pollution Action were not attained.
- c. Stressed that the PPR could be strengthened by:
 - i. Emphasizing UNEP's central role as the Member-State driven global authority on environment, while illustrating deliverables to enhance the report's strategic value;
 - ii. Providing a stronger integrated narrative of 2024 performance, focusing more on outcomes and impacts rather than activities and outputs to better enable UNEP to measure, improve, and sustain future results;
 - iii. Improving and strengthening sections on challenges, lessons learned from 2024 and next steps in a coherent and consistent manner.
 - iv. Adding information on budget and expenditures, including a breakdown on the source of funding.
 - v. Adhere to internationally agreed terminologies in all its reports;
 - vi. Enhance the quality, frequency and accessibility of capacity building programmes, ensuring they are tailored to the needs and contexts of Member States;
 - vii. Elaborate on the challenges related to indicator design and reporting and what measures are being put in place for better reporting; and
 - viii. Include the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint inspection Unit titled "Review of management and administration in UNEP" as set out in document [JIU/REP/2025/1](#) (the JIU report) in its next PPR.
- d. Requested that under agenda item 7 entitled "Draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and draft programme and budget for the period 2026-2027" (draft MTS and draft PoW and budget), that UNEP provide further clarification on the following:
 - i. Proposed criteria and actions to prioritize implementation of its programmes over the next four years;
 - ii. Improvement of indicators contained in the draft PoW; and
 - iii. Measure to enhance cooperation between UNEP and the broader United Nations system.

Resource and management overview

- e. Welcomed the increased representation of underrepresented geographical groups and young professionals in UNEP's personnel, while noting that progress remained slow.
- f. Requested UNEP to:
 - i. Building on UNEP's current achievement of gender parity, it is essential to focus on concrete measures to increase regional representation across age groups and demographics; and
 - ii. Provide information on the use and lessons learned from global and thematic funds in enhancing flexibility of resources, as well as efforts to attract additional funding sources beyond traditional donors and funding partners.
- g. Welcomed contributions made to the Environment Fund, while emphasizing the need for a broader donor base and improved resource mobilization frameworks.

² Mozambique, on behalf of the African States Group; Kenya, on behalf of the G77 and China; European Union; Mexico; Costa Rica; Portugal; Sweden; Finland; Egypt; Kenya; Spain; Netherlands (Kingdom of the); Czechia; Russian Federation; Uganda; Saudi Arabia.

- h. Encouraged UNEP to demonstrate greater consistency in future PPR reports between performance data on reporting and budgetary information, with particular attention to clarity in expenditure reporting.
- i. Appreciated the progress made by UNEP in implementing pending audit recommendations and requested further information on UNEP's management response to the JIU report, including on aspects related to prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- j. Acknowledged progress made by UNEP regarding risk management through the implementation of the new Enterprise Risk Management Strategy and requested i) clarification on improvements made in that regard compared to previous years; and ii) information on next steps in strengthening risk management in the context of ongoing UN80 Initiative.

11. The Secretariat in response provided the following clarifications:

Programme Overview

- a. Clarified that the results presented in the PPR reflected a cumulative reporting period as from the first year of implementation of the current medium-term strategy for 2022-2025 and does not necessarily mean that UNEP overachieved its targets.
- b. Noted that further details on the challenges encountered in the implementation of the subprogrammes as well as UNEP's lessons learned will be presented in the individual presentations on the thematic subprogrammes.
- c. Updated that UNEP is developing a new Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Policy to institutionalize learning across the Organization as well as methodologies for impact and outcome measurement.
- d. Committed to providing additional details on indicators during discussions under agenda item 7.
- e. Provided an explanation on the partial attainment of the two indicators under the Chemicals and Pollution Action subprogramme (at 82% and 94% respectively) and indicated that every effort was being made to meet all indicator targets by December 2025.
- f. Noted the intention of UNEP to increase engagement and staffing subject to availability of funds in countries to better engage with the UN Resident Coordinator system.

Resource and management overview

- g. Reiterated that the Environment Fund remains the backbone of UNEP's financing, providing the core flexibility needed to deliver results, emphasizing that earmarked contributions are subject to a strict audit oversight.
- h. Expressed its appreciation to the contributors to i) the Environment Fund, particularly to those who contributed their full shares; and ii) the thematic funds, which have become an important complement to UNEP's funding base.
- i. Recalled that recruitment is guided by Articles 8 and 101 of the UN Charter, and highlighted progress made in achieving regional representation and opportunities for young talent and noted that UNEP has achieved 57% female representation at the professional and above levels, which is above the UN Secretariat's parity benchmark.
- j. Provided clarification on audit and accountability, noting that the Enterprise Risk Management framework has been strengthened and that several recommendations contained in the JIU Report are being addressed, including those pertaining to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, administrative efficiency, and other cross-cutting reforms.

Strategic Objective 1: Climate Stability

12. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Appreciated the inclusion of case studies highlighting UNEP's work on the ground, while encouraging stronger emphasis on adaptation and its linkages to land degradation in future reports.
- b. Underlined that the importance of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as **national** blueprints for investments and policy direction, calling for national carbon budgets to include demonstrable social economic evidence and leverage on finance and reiterated UNEP's important role in supporting NDCs.
- c. Requested UNEP to:
 - i. Expand on challenges, lessons learned, opportunities identified in the implementation of the subprogramme and how these would inform the draft MTS, the draft PoW and budget and UNEP's resource mobilization strategy;
 - ii. Elaborate on the measures to mitigate challenges related to data collection, storage and management in the context of the Enhanced Transparency Framework, including in coordination with the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
 - iii. Provide more examples regarding the [IMEO's Methane Alert and Response System](#) (MARS);
 - iv. Elaborate on strategies implemented by UNEP in the field of climate finance, beyond carbon markets mechanisms which should be open, accessible and transparent;

- v. Highlight how UNEP supports Member States so that NDCs can provide a real basis for mobilizing private investments;
- vi. Update on UNEP's collaboration with financial institutions and implementing GEF-funded projects help to address the climate finance gap;
- vii. Underline the main sources of fundings for each subprogramme;
- viii. Provide details on UNEP's efforts in strengthening capacity to enhance synergies across climate action, biodiversity, conservation and sustainable land management;
- ix. Provide more information on the Seed Capital Assistance Facility's model for catalysing financial flows; and
- x. Elaborate on activities that the planetary funds enabled UNEP to develop.

13. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. The [Emissions Gap Reports](#) and the [Adaptation Gap Reports](#) support the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations with scientifically robust findings.
- b. UNEP is implementing the NDC Act and Invest to support countries in aligning the different targets and goals that countries have across NDCs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Support provided by UNEP at the country-level also includes work with Ministries of Planning and Finance, in addition to Ministries of Environment.
- c. Clarified that a major learning from the subprogramme implementation was to have a more positive narrative that focus on the co-benefits, such as job creation, positive changes in well-being and health and savings on energy bills through increased energy efficiency.
- d. Emphasized that UNEP supports around 100 countries on the Enhanced Transparency Framework, supporting countries with national communications, Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) including robust Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and inventory systems.
- e. Explained that MARS is a platform that collects data from different satellites to identify methane leaks which notifies MARS country focal points of leaks, so that they can take action to address potential leakages and unplanned releases.
- f. Highlighted that UNEP's work on climate finance extends beyond carbon markets, by de-risking investments and working with the insurance and banking sectors through UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)-led Alliances.
- g. Also highlighted that on NDCs, UNEP has been working very closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), NDC Partnership and UNFCCC in NDC clinics.
- h. Underscored that UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, the Emissions Gap Report process and the Climate Action Team have been working on analytics to support national and collective NDC ambition-setting in alignment with a 1.5 pathway.
- i. Also explained that UNEP has a complementary role to that of the UNFCCC in the climate space, with UNEP supporting Member States at their request in programmatic work and supporting global science and analysis
- j. Explained that main sources of funding for climate action are the GEF, the GCF, the Adaptation Fund and bilateral contributions, including the planetary funds.
- k. Highlighted that UNEP's Climate Change Division is working closely with the Chief Scientist Office, as well as with Science and Policy, and Digital Transformation subprogrammes, to take full advantage of latest advancements in data collection and processing.
- l. Stated that UNEP is exploring how to scale up the use of remote sensing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate data, building on experiences with its methane detection system, noting the challenges faced in harmonizing data across sources like the IPCC report, the emissions and adaptation gap reports, the reports on buildings and construction, energy efficiency, cooling, food waste, finance for forests and nature and sectoral datasets and inventory data.
- m. Confirmed the importance of flexible funding and the Planetary Funds for strategic and impactful implementation of UNEP climate action.

Strategic Objective 2: Living in Harmony with Nature

14. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Requested further details on:
 - i. Specific joint outcomes achieved by UNEP, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in strengthening countries' capacity to meet their obligations under these conventions;
 - ii. How UNEP is supporting Member States in fostering synergies and coordinated actions between NDCs and NBSAPs;
 - iii. Why the adoption of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health was highlighted as a first most significant result under this strategic objective, seeking details on UNEP's specific contributions toward achieving this outcome;

- iv. UNEP's role in advancing Article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly regarding efforts to respect, preserve, and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as to promote wider application of this knowledge with the approval of knowledge holders and to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of this knowledge.
- v. Opportunities to protect coastal reef ecosystems, key results achieved in ocean and freshwater conservation, and UNEP's engagement in the upcoming UN Water Conference; and
- vi. Sources of funding and sought clarification on whether the expansion of work on land degradation, drought, and desertification comes at the expense of other portfolios.

15. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Capacity Building and Enhanced Synergies: UNEP supports Member States through capacity building initiatives at national and regional levels and through the support provided for the revision of NBSAPs. UNEP also works closely with countries to define monitoring targets and tools that not only address biodiversity priorities but also intersect with land and climate-related objectives.
- b. Marine and Freshwater Ecosystem Initiatives: UNEP is engaged through the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), and the One Ocean Finance Facility. UNEP has contributed to the UN Systemwide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, and an internal process is underway to align this with UNEP's freshwater strategy and enhance delivery of results for freshwater ecosystems.
- c. Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health: UNEP played a facilitative role in the adoption of the Global Action Plan on Health by providing technical assistance, co-organizing events with the World Health Organization (WHO), and collaborating with the CBD Secretariat on developing indicators linking biodiversity and health.
- d. Article 8 (j): UNEP elaborated on its collaboration with the CBD Secretariat in operationalizing the new subsidiary body under Article 8 (j), aimed at empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. An update was shared on a related event planned for UNEA-7.
- e. Funding and Portfolio Balance: Increased focus on land degradation, drought, and desertification does not come at the expense of other portfolios provided that additional resources can be mobilized.

Strategic Objective 3: Towards a Pollution-Free Planet

16. Comments by delegations included:

- a. The PPR should include a stronger analytical assessment, with greater emphasis on demonstrating co-benefits across pollution, climate, and biodiversity.
- b. Requested clarification on:
 - i. UNEP's role in addressing limited prioritization and funding for pollution;
 - ii. How lessons learned in chemicals and pollution action relate to lessons and synergies in other thematic programmes, particularly under the current funding constraints;
 - iii. Which indicators were not fully achieved, and why; and
 - iv. How UNEP worked on the implementation of the UN Common Approach to Pollution in 2024.
- c. Emphasized the need to:
 - i. Elaborate the roles of different funding sources, including the Thematic Fund;
 - ii. Link lessons learned with identified challenges and next steps, including on sectoral approaches; and
 - iii. Clearly articulate sectoral approaches and how UNEP can support countries in implementing them, despite varying sectoral priorities.
- d. Sought clarification on why the Secretary General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals was presented as a key result and requested information on [UNEA resolution 6/5](#) on environmental aspects of minerals and metals.
- e. Highlighting the multi-stakeholder nature of the Global Framework on Chemicals as different from Member State-driven processes, requested UNEP's guidance on overcoming potential confusion during future voluntary implementation.
- f. Requested the Secretariat to provide recommendations on how to better incorporate chemicals and pollution action into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).
- g. Highlighted the challenges of "zero waste" language for many developing countries and asked how UNEP is addressing this issue in practice.
- h. Stressed the importance of integrating gender considerations into chemicals and pollution action, calling for collection of gender-disaggregated data and embedding gender equity as a core principle of future frameworks and implementation.

17. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Highlighted that the work with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was increasingly aligned towards systemic approaches in key industry sectors.

- b. Clarified that the GEF remains the principal funding mechanism for the Subprogramme, with growing exploration for integrating chemicals and pollution dimensions into broader priorities, including through synergies with nature and climate portfolios.
- c. Noted that a market for “sustainable chemistry” is emerging and could be a significant change for chemical markets and engagement with brands in different industry sectors.
- d. Confirmed that the Thematic Fund has been critical in supporting underfunded and emerging areas, including air quality, textiles, and to support key normative work on plastic pollution and the science-policy panel process.
- e. Acknowledged that UNEP is working to strengthen pollution related cross-linkages with other Subprogrammes, including through its work in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and energy.
- f. Clarified that the Secretary General’s Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, an initiative of the UN Secretary General that convened a diverse group of governments and other stakeholders, to which UNEP contributed through technical inputs, is an important milestone - rather than a final result, and that UNEP supports the implementation of [UNEA resolution 6/5](#) through informed discussions on circularity, standards, disclosure, and traceability in this sector.
- g. Clarified that an Issue Management Group has been established under the Environment Management Group to implement the Common Approach to Pollution, with an implementation plan guiding its work, which includes a focus on integrating the common approaches priorities in UN Agencies’ respective strategies, in UNSDCF’s and in United Nations Development System (UNDS) processes.
- h. Clarified that under the Global Framework on Chemicals, both Member States and non-state actors have differentiated roles and targets, with indicators to be developed for monitoring implementation at the first Conference in 2026.
- i. Highlighted that pollution is often underrepresented in UNSDCF’s which might prioritize national priorities such as climate resilience or food security, while chemicals and pollution are a key dimension of these priorities.
- j. Noted that “zero waste” is as an ambition to minimize waste and reduce the burden on national waste management systems.
- k. Confirmed that the Global Framework on Chemicals includes a draft Gender Action Plan and welcomed stakeholder engagement to ensure gender-responsive implementation.

Foundational Sub-programme: Science Policy

18. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Highlighted that a more in-depth analysis of the subprogramme was expected, including on lessons learned.
- b. Noted the small budget size of the science policy subprogramme in comparison with other UNEP subprogrammes and suggested a higher allocation of core funding to the subprogramme.
- c. Requested the Secretariat to share more information on the new Office of Science and present the update during a forthcoming CPR meeting.
- d. Requested more details on:
 - i. UNEP’s Measurement of the impact of scientific outputs as well as their integration into national policies;
 - ii. UNEP’s Engagement with stakeholders for the uptake of its scientific products;
 - iii. UNEP’s Integration of Indigenous and Local Knowledge into the subprogramme; and
 - iv. The impact of the recruitment freeze on the recruitment of the D2 position in the Office of Science.
- e. Underlined how important it was that UNEP remains adaptable and capable of providing foresight and early warning in a fast-changing environment, requesting more information on the foresight training for staff.
- f. Suggested that UNEP undertakes a comparison between the impact of government-generated data and information provided by other sources, such as satellite data.

19. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Highlighted that contributions received through thematic funds are allocated to specific pillars such as climate, pollution, or biodiversity loss, with a specific percentage allocated to foundational and enabling sub-programmes, based on submitted proposals.
- b. Agreed that a brief on the new Office of Science will be provided to the CPR and clarified that the science policy subprogramme was a foundational Subprogramme and hence cross-organizational, while under the auspices of the new Office of Science.
- c. Confirmed that there have been good uptakes of institutional series such as the Emission Gap Report and the Adaptation Gap Report as well as of specific UNEP products on emerging issues, like the report on single-use plastics.
- d. Clarified that UNEP has collaborated with multi-agencies in regions to strengthen data collection, acknowledging that efforts should be made in establishing the impacts of data collection across regions.
- e. Noted that the new Office of Science will deliver foresight training for staff, outlining that the foresight platform, used to collect data, monitor the environment, and provide data and information to Member States, was being established and that several workshops were organized in that regard.

- f. Underlined that the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook integrates Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge into the report and noted that this will serve as an example for future work in UNEP.
- g. Clarified that the D2 recruitment for the Office of Science is currently underway with expected starting date early 2026. It was equally further clarified that this recruitment was cost neutral.

Foundational Sub-programme: Environmental Governance

20. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Commended UNEP for its work on environmental law and its capacity-building initiatives, notably those conducted in Africa on chemicals and biodiversity.
- b. Highlighted the need for more contextualization of results, including the impacts of assistance provided and tools developed.
- c. Requested clarification on:
 - i. Actions taken by UNEP to address challenges in the implementation of the subprogramme, as well as on subprogramme funding sources and lessons learned; and
 - ii. Countries supported under the Montevideo Programmes for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme) and on synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEAs).
- d. Requested more information on:
 - i. The provision of technical assistance by UNEP to African countries under the Montevideo Programme, and on work pursued related to desertification, land degradation, and drought; and
 - ii. The implementation of the Core Human Rights Principles for Conservation Organizations and Funders and the linkages between environmental and racial justice.
- e. Stressed that UNEP should ensure that Indigenous Peoples, their knowledge and data are adequately integrated into the subprogramme, including under the Montevideo Programme.
- f. Recalled that the 2022–2023 subprogramme Evaluation Synthesis Report noted the need to strengthen mechanisms and methodologies for monitoring and reporting on the subprogramme indicators to ensure effective evaluation and communication of results within the foundational subprogrammes.

21. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Clarified that the actions taken to effectively address the challenges faced in the implementation of the subprogramme, include increased engagement at the national, regional, and global levels, especially through engagement in different regional ministerial fora and enhanced capacity-building initiatives through the Montevideo Programme and synergies between MEAs.
- b. Confirmed that UNEP continued to work on MEA synergies and identified specific challenges such as fragmentation within the MEA landscape, insufficient resources, and institutional competition at the national level.
- c. Clarified that the main funding sources for the subprogramme included the Multilateral Fund, the Environment Fund, and earmarked project funds.
- d. Clarified that UNEP, through the Montevideo Programme, has provided technical assistance to African countries, upon request, in strengthening their legal and institutional capacities to address climate, nature, and pollution objectives, including other cross-cutting areas.
- e. Noted that UNEP continued to work closely with the CBD Secretariat to ensure that the environmental rights of Indigenous Peoples and other communities are respected and upheld, including through the Core Human Rights Principles for Conservation Organizations and Funders.

Enabling Sub-programme: Finance and Economic Transformations

22. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Requested the Secretariat to elaborate on efforts to improve the quality of indicators, and whether such improvements are already reflected in the next programme of work.
- b. Highlighted bioeconomy as a growing paradigm worth up to \$30 trillion – a departure from the linear fossil fuel-based economy, offering a knowledge-based paradigm that combines cutting edge technologies.
- c. Underlined that the G20 High-level Principles on Bioeconomy, adopted in November 2024, have generated significant momentum among international organizations as well as national governments.
- d. Encouraged the Secretariat to continue promoting, together with partners, the concept and methodology of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and that of environmental justice.
- e. Requested information on UNEP FI work on pollution pillar besides plastics and specifically on innovative finance solutions for pollution and ocean economy, as well as integration with UN system wide approaches.
- f. Highlighted Finance and Economic Transformation subprogramme's critical support for sustainable finance taxonomies and their adoption by public and private banks as well as insurance companies.

- g. Noted that UNEP's financial programme has and should do more to explicitly support Latin America and the Caribbean with sustainable finance taxonomies and requested the Secretariat to elaborate on finance taxonomy success stories not highlighted in the presentation.
- h. Observed a strong willingness and readiness to engage with private sector actors across a range of high impact sectors to contribute to more sustainable solutions for consumption and production.
- i. Requested the Secretariat to share reflections on how UNEP is working to deepen meaningful collaboration with the private sector, particularly in ways that support UNEP's work showcasing successful business models and opportunities to further catalyse private sector uptake at scale.
- j. Acknowledged the role of sustainable procurement, both in private and public sector, and requested the Secretariat to share clear lessons learned that indicate where progress has been made in adopting national strategies and standards.
- k. Requested the Secretariat to elaborate on strengthening regulatory frameworks, their effective enforcement, and adoption of national strategies and standards; and specifically, on UNEP's planned key actions and target partners.
- l. Requested the Secretariat to elaborate on how the potential socio-economic benefits of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and circular economy will be translated into next steps, including tackling challenges related to limited financing, market access, trade constraints and access to knowledge and science.
- m. Requested that circular economy not be presented as the sole approach, but rather among broader approaches to sustainable consumption and production.
- n. Noted the view of some delegations that that circular carbon economy can be a cross-cutting theme within the Finance and Economic Transformation subprogramme and requested the Secretariat to elaborate on its plans to work on circular carbon economy.
- o. Requested the Secretariat to elaborate its work on both fiscal and non-fiscal policies.

23. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Confirmed that:
 - i. The subprogramme is integrating lessons learned in the new programme of work, including refinement and improvement of the indicators; for example, moving from number of policies, alliances and tools, into number of governments and private sector implementing policies and commitments.
 - ii. The Secretariat is working on strengthening the metrics on the social and economic benefits of sustainable consumption and production and circular economy, mainly through the work of the International Resource Panel and that there is a compelling business case for circularity if the right policy and legal environment are in place;
 - iii. Collaboration was ongoing between UNEP FI with UNEP's Ecosystem Division, including UNEP FI developing resources to guide financial institutions on financing a blue economy and working with UN Global Compact and others to develop a guide for bonds to finance a sustainable blue economy, as well as an Ocean Investment Protocol;
 - iv. UNEP FI has assisted in the development of a regional taxonomy for sustainable finance for Latin America and the Caribbean, and national taxonomies in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, and other countries in Latin American and the Caribbean and other regions;
 - v. The subprogramme supports countries to establish their public procurement plans and more work is needed to enable governments to send market signals and shift the markets for certain commodity groups;
 - vi. The subprogramme is collaborating with partners to analyse the potential opportunities and challenges of a carbon circular economy; and
 - vii. The main challenge for sustainable public procurement remains the implementation gap and indicated that UNEP is focusing its efforts on four levers: capacity building of procurement professionals; use of ecolabels and lifecycle costing beyond price; stronger collaboration with markets and suppliers; and building the evidence base in line with SDG 12.7.1.
- b. Agreed on the importance of bioeconomy and confirmed that the Secretariat continues to support this agenda through capacity building and NBSAPs working across Divisions.
- c. Clarified that the subprogramme's work on eco-labelling and consumer information is linked to the human right for a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and UNEP is working with consumer protection agencies, and regional and national standardization and certification standards.
- d. Agreed on the importance of engaging the private sector as a driver of innovation and investment, noting that this underpins the focus on high-impact sectors such as plastics, electronics, textiles, mining, and construction.
- e. Clarified that voluntary efforts by private sector actors are underway, but scaling impact depends on adequate ambition and regulatory frameworks to enable market transformation.
- f. Confirmed that subprogramme supports countries to establish their public procurement plans and that more work is needed to enable governments to send market signals and shift the markets for certain commodity groups.
- g. Confirmed that the subprogramme is collaborating with partners to analyse the potential opportunities and challenges of a carbon circular economy.
- h. Clarified that the subprogramme's work on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has been mainly fiscal based, however, some countries have adopted a non-fiscal based EPR while UNEP continues to share lessons across countries.

24. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Underlined that digital transformation must be inclusive, equitable and leave no one behind, with attention to gender, youth, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable groups, and building on existing resolutions, infrastructure, and partnerships.
- b. Considered that AI and digitalization bring opportunities (e.g. sustainability, early warning) but also challenges (e.g. resource use, e-waste, bias) that should be addressed with science, metrics, and methodologies on AI's environmental footprint to ensure digitalization advances without undermining environmental goals.
- c. Requested UNEP to:
 - i. Clarify budget sources and coherence of GEDS with the subprogramme;
 - ii. Integrate the subprogramme's outputs into the draft MTS indicators and provide clear linkage of GEDS to the draft MTS;
 - iii. Provide further guidance on AI's environmental impacts;
 - iv. Defer endorsement of governance and financial mechanisms until consensus on the GEDS is reached at UNEA-7;
 - v. Clarify on pilot selection criteria, support for conflict-affected contexts, and transparent, merit-based governance composition, and map potential private-sector funders with contingencies if financing is not secured; and
 - vi. Circulate an "options paper" on GEDS outlining alternative governance and financing models for consideration at UNEA-7 or subsequent CPR sessions.
- d. Requested for: i) a further streamlined GEDS around core pillars; ii) a concise value proposition backed by evidence of socio-economic benefits; and iii) clearer stakeholder roles, including national statistical offices, to ensure coordination and avoid duplication.
- e. Stressed that the GEDS framework should be flexible and voluntary, avoid new reporting or legal obligations, and build on existing standards and infrastructures, with new or harmonized standard pursued only where clearly necessary and adaptable.
- f. Emphasized sovereignty and national decision-making on environmental data, with caution against centralized technical frameworks or de facto obligations, and underlined that any governance mechanism such as a steering committee, should be advisory and Member State-driven.
- g. Called for focus on developing-country needs, long-term technical assistance, and priority datasets (e.g. land cover, rainfall, air/water quality, coastline change, biodiversity, pollution hotspots) with service-level objectives (e.g. uptime, frequency, latency), equitable access, and affordable or capped pricing options.
- h. Requested to integrate the reuse and monetization rights to ensure open access to publicly funded data sets.

25. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Clarified that both the subprogramme and the GEDS are fully embedded in the draft MTS and draft PoW and integrated with the Science Policy subprogramme.
- b. Confirmed that funding of the subprogramme has mainly come from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), with smaller project-based contributions received from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for activities in Africa and from EF for specific initiatives, and noted that no flexible thematic funding is available.
- c. Explained multiple pathways for implementation of the GEDS, depending on Member State guidance:
 - i. No action: finalize GEDS as an information document;
 - ii. Pilot action: proceed with pilots and frameworks for selected pilot countries, funding permitting; and
 - iii. 10-year action plan: establish a steering committee for a 10-year implementation plan, if funding is available and consensus reached.
- d. Stressed that participation in GEDS is voluntary, fully respects data sovereignty and ownership, and seeks to encourage innovation and cooperation without imposing new obligations.
- e. Noted that capacity-building for the Global South remains a priority, including pilots, training, and digital literacy initiatives, contingent on available funding.
- f. Agreed to consider further clarifications on pilot selection, and the role of existing standards and infrastructures in the final draft.
- g. Clarified that equitable access to data will be reflected through the World Environment Situation Room as a practical example of GEDS implementation, with integration of socioeconomic data, gender, and indigenous peoples' data.
- h. Confirmed that an option paper on GEDS implementation plans will be made available.

Concluding remarks

26. The Secretariat provided the following concluding remarks:

- a. Reaffirmed the role of UNEP as the leading global authority on the environment, including in agenda-setting.
- b. Reflected on the rich discussions held over the past two days on UNEP's performance in 2024, and its portfolio under implementation of approximately USD 2.5 billion.
- c. Thanked Member States for their continued role in providing effective oversight over UNEP, ensuring that UNEP remains an impactful, effective, responsive and agile organization while dealing with the change being witnessed under the purview of UN80.
- d. Reflected on key overarching themes emerging from the discussions, including on the importance of continuing to showcase learning in UNEP reports, and enhancing UNEP measurement frameworks.
- e. Highlighted clear messages emerging from the 2024 PPR including:
 - i. **Climate Action:** UNEP's role in advancing transparency frameworks, supporting the energy transition, and facilitating climate finance beyond carbon markets. Continued emphasis on integrating climate risk assessments, leveraging innovative technologies, and fostering partnerships will be instrumental in ensuring that climate strategies effectively contribute to global climate goals.
 - ii. **Nature Action:** The challenges of biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change are interlinked and demand coordinated solutions. Going forward, UNEP will optimize synergies among subprogrammes in programmatic delivery.
 - iii. **Chemicals and Pollution Action:** Underscored UNEP's utilization of high-impact sectors to look at chemicals together and not in isolation.
 - iv. **Environmental Governance:** The subprogramme demonstrated proactive work in addressing resource constraints and fragmentation within MEAs to strengthen governance effectiveness.
 - v. **Finance and Economic Transformation:** Highlighted the subprogrammes critical support for green finance taxonomies and their adoption by public and private banks as well as insurance companies.
 - vi. **Digital Transformation:** Acknowledged the need for country-responsive options for WESR and GEDs, despite progress in advancing global frameworks and enhancing monitoring through digital platforms. Reiterated the multiple pathways for implementation ending on Member States guidance. Emphasized that UNEP is informing, inspiring, and enabling action to address the prevailing environmental challenges and to make an impact for people and planet together, focusing on resilience, health and prosperity.

27. Draft recommendations under agenda item 3 for further consideration by the CPR at the subcommittee meeting scheduled on 11 September and subsequently at the 171st meeting of the CPR:

- a) **The Committee for Permanent Representative reaffirms the request to the Secretariat to include in future programme performance reports, in a consistent manner, lessons learned that address institutional learnings, programme performance learnings and partnership learnings relevant to the improvement by the United Nations Environment Programme of its operations and performance.**
- b) **The Committee for Permanent Representative also reaffirms the need to improve the integration and linking of information on policy work, results, available financial resources and expenditure in future programme performance reports.**

Agenda item 4: Funding base of the United Nations Environment Programme

28. The Secretariat presented a [briefing](#) on the [funding base of the United Nations Environment Programme](#), providing an overview of the current financial landscape and the actions taken to follow up on the recommendations made by Member States on resource mobilization during the previous funding dialogues of the CPR, including the current efforts to update UNEP's Resource Mobilization Strategy, in line with the draft MTS. The presentation was followed by a dialogue moderated by Ms. Maria Cristina Zucca, Global Coordinator, Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme, and with the participation of Ms. Rose Mwebaza, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa; Ms. Brenda Koekkoek, Senior Coordination Officer at the Minamata Convention on Mercury; and Mr. Altanbagana Bayarsaikhan, Task Manager within the Global Environment Facility Chemicals and Waste Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division. The dialogue was followed by an exchange of views with Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders.

29. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Reaffirmed the importance of the Environment Fund as the backbone of UNEP's financing and invited Member States to contribute.
- b. Welcomed the record number of contributors in 2024 and encouraged UNEP to continue outreach to broaden participation, which strengthens predictability and sustainability of core funding, noting the heavy reliance on the top 15 funding partners.

- c. Commended efforts to improve visibility and recognition of contributors of core and other flexible funding.
- d. Called for UNEP to prioritize transparency and accountability in reporting, including outcome-oriented results frameworks that demonstrate tangible impacts of funding.
- e. Requested the Secretariat to present the updated mobilization strategy for the EF, including options to broaden donor base, additional actions to mobilize resources for the implementation of the PoW and leveraging financial resources including from IFI's and MDBs.
- f. Suggested that the new resource mobilization strategy include a framework with indicators of success that go beyond financial inputs, taking into account diversification, flexibility and connection with impacts.
- g. Urged UNEP to strengthen partnerships with the private sector, philanthropic sector, international financial institutions, and regional development banks.
- h. Requested information on lessons learned from UNEP's engagement with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- i. Recommended that UNEP undertake a survey to identify barriers and potential incentives for contributions.
- j. Encouraged further development of the business case for UNEP as a partner of choice and clarification of roles and responsibilities in resource mobilization, including better coordination across the Secretariat and system wide.
- k. Asked for information on criteria and processes for prioritization of funding allocations, especially in the event of shortfalls, and how UNEP intends to safeguard essential functions.
- l. Requested to receive breakdown of funding received by subprogramme and highlighted the importance of provision of adequate funding for foundational subprogrammes.

30. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Appreciated the strong support and commitments announced by Member States, including multi-year contributions, and emphasized that stable and flexible funding is essential for UNEP to deliver on the draft MTS.
- b. Clarified that the Member States' contributions to the Environment Fund remain the backbone of UNEP financing, while the Planetary Funds provide an option for soft earmarked funding.
- c. Clarified that with respect to GEF and GCF resources, these are not resources mobilized for UNEP, but rather that UNEP's role in this context is to support countries, at their request, to access these funds and to effectively implement the funded activities.
- d. Reaffirmed efforts to broaden the donor base through outreach at national, regional, and global levels, including through new surveys.
- e. Clarified that engagement with the private sector as financial contributor requires careful due diligence, while the philanthropic sector is pursued mainly at the sectoral or initiative level, emphasizing that UNEP continues to explore to diversify its funding base, including the review of the enabling environment with streamlined process to partner with international financial institutions and regional development banks.
- f. Emphasized ongoing work to strengthen reporting through UNEP's One Impact framework, aimed at linking funding to outcomes and enhancing transparency.
- g. Clarified that information on budget, allocation and expenditure was provided in the Programme Performance Report, and further reflected in the Quarterly CPR reports by subprogramme.

Agenda item 5: Management and administration of United Nations Environment Programme.

- 31. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the management and administration of UNEP.

32. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Took note of the ongoing reforms at UNEP in alignment with the UN80 Initiative, including the UNEP Functional review, and recognized the outlined strategic actions including duty of care and efficiency measures, while observing that a more detailed information document would have enhanced the discussion. Recognized that UNEP's Functional Review entailed staffing reduction, including those funded by the RB, and requested more information, including regular updates on the outcomes of the process.
- b. Called UNEP to ensure that the outcome of the UN80 Initiative and of the UNEP Functional Review does not adversely impact on the human resources parameters, in particular, diversity and parity, geographical representation and retention of young talent as well as continued efforts on protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBTQI+).
- c. Requested updates about the recent merger of the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Early Warning and Assessment Division.
- d. Requested clarity on the outlook for 2026–2027, including budget reductions, opportunities for modernization, robust core funding, and UNEP's immediate and medium-term priorities.
- e. Took note of the importance of considering UN Volunteers in pathways for young talent uptake into the workforce of UNEP.

33. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Reminded delegations of the ongoing deliberations at the Head of Entity (USG) level on the three workstreams of the UN80 Initiative, noting that the report of the Secretary-General is pending and no final decisions are currently available to Member States.
- b. Emphasized that efficiency gains, such as prudent travel management, hiring restrictions, and use of common services were not sufficient to fully address the current budgetary reductions responses to ensure UNEP's long term sustainable trajectory.
- c. Clarified that the difficult decision to undertake staffing reduction, including the 20% cut in the RB-funded positions subject to the GA approval, nevertheless ensured the cross-divisional, cross-functional, cross-categories coverage (Senior, Professional and General Service), and aimed to streamline and rationalize the optimal staffing composition ratio, during both the RB reduction (per the HQ guidelines) and UNEP Functional Review, while ensuring that the geographical representation and gender parity gains that have been achieved will be protected.
- d. Added that both the UN80 initiative and the UNEP Functional Review is not just about post management exercises but calling for the 'out-of-the-box' efficiency measures to arrive at fit-for-purpose policies, procedures and practices that balance internal control with the operational flexibility, facilitated by process simplification and risk-contextualized review layers, with concrete examples provided.
- e. Indicated that, given the call for voluntary separation launched by the UN Headquarters closing on 12 September 2025, more information about the changes in the staffing portfolio will be provided in future CPR meetings, pursuant to the next steps to be taken in line with the established HR policy/procedures.
- f. Reiterated UNEP's commitment to protecting the rights of LGBTQI+, including through active engagement in the [UN-Globe](#) and collaboration with UNON and UN-Habitat.
- g. Affirmed that the merger of the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Early Warning and Assessment Division aimed at streamlining and uplifting UNEP's science functions.
- h. Underlined UNEP's commitment to strengthening opportunities for young talent across the organization.

Agenda item 6: Contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP Medium-term Strategy and Programme of Work.

34. The Secretariat presented a [summary of the key findings](#) of the report on the role and viability of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities as catalytic platforms for international cooperation in tackling prevalent environmental challenges. The presentation was followed by a [panel discussion](#), moderated by Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, with presentations made by H. E. Mr. Ibrahim Munir, the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and Minister of Environment of Libya; Ms. Raquel Soto, Vice-Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment of Peru, representing the Presidency of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean; and Ms. Dechen Tsering, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific, on behalf of Mr. Sivendra Michael, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Fiji, representing the Chair of the 6th Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forum on Environment. The panel discussion was followed by an exchange of views with Member States and Stakeholders.

35. Comments by delegations included:

- a. Welcomed the Forums as platforms for consolidated regional voices:
 - i. Facilitating the alignment and contextualization of national priorities into common regional positions for global negotiations;
 - ii. Bridging global commitments with local implementation, including through ministerial declarations, working groups, and technical initiatives;
 - iii. Strengthening stakeholder participation, engaging Small Island Developing States, youth, indigenous peoples, civil society, and major groups, further highlighting the establishment of regional Youth Environment Forums across Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe.
- b. Stressed the importance of strengthening collaboration across sub-regional institutions and encouraged UNEP to integrate the regional environmental priorities into its strategic planning, including through scaling up initiatives on climate change, biodiversity, and pollution.
- c. Acknowledged the important role of the Forums in preparing for the sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), including through shaping draft resolutions, providing inputs to ministerial declarations, and contributing to UNEP's draft MTS and draft PoW and budget.

- d. Called for stronger linkages between the Forums and CPR-related processes, also encouraging that the Chairs of the Forums present the outcomes of the Forums to UNEA sessions.
- e. Called for strengthening UNEP regional offices, stable funding to the Forums, and improvement of coordination across regions.
- f. Noted that the outcomes of the upcoming XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Lima Declaration, the Africa's Tripoli Declaration and African Ministerial Conference on the Environment's 40 years (AMCEN@40), as well as Asia and Pacific Ministers of Environment and Environmental Authorities and Fiji Declaration will provide contributions to the seventh session of UNEA (UNEA-7).
- g. Encouraged UNEP to:
 - i. Continue mobilizing resources, technical support, and partnerships to translate ministerial commitments into concrete actions at country and regional levels; and
 - ii. Invite the Chair of the Europe Environment Ministers Conferences organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), to the future panel discussions on the contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEA related meetings and processes.
- h. Requested further clarification on:
 - i. The existence of analytical reports to assess the coherence and the complementarity between the outcomes of the Forums and UNEA resolutions; and
 - ii. The functions and outputs of the working groups of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

36. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Clarified the cost of organizing the Forums are co-shared between UNEP and the respective host countries, with resource mobilization efforts taking place to ensure a broad participation.
- a. Confirmed that UNEP regional offices coordinate closely with UNEP headquarters and UN Country Teams to ensure that the outcomes of the Forums are aligned with UNEP's Programme of work and budget.
- b. Acknowledged that there is opportunity for i) a greater cross-regional collaboration, including for strengthening the science-policy interface at the regional level as well as ii) a stronger contribution to CPR-related processes.
- c. Appreciated the contributions of the Forums to the sessions of UNEA, and noted the complementary nature of decisions adopted by the Forums and UNEA resolutions, further acknowledging that an analytical reporting on the coherence and complementarity of processes was in the context of the implementation of UNEA resolution 6/3.
- d. Confirmed that 13 working groups were established under the auspices of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean with respective chairs, Terms of Reference and workplans.

Agenda item 7: Draft Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2026-2029 and draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027

- 37. The Secretariat presented an [overview](#) of the [draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029](#) and [draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027](#).

38. Comments by delegations on the draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 included:

- a. Appreciated the Secretariat's efforts in preparing the draft MTS and draft PoW and budget with a strategic focus on impact and operational efficiency, as well as for the consultative process, further encouraging the Secretariat to continue consulting with Member States to finalize the documents.
- b. Noted the need to improve the use of universally agreed language, pointing out some concerns remained such as 'Indigenous Peoples' (to be capitalized and in plural), "just transition" and "bioeconomy".
- c. Requested that references to the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC be carefully balanced to reflect views of Member States.
- d. Requested also to replace 'sex disaggregated' with 'gender disaggregated'.
- e. Welcomed the inclusion in the draft MTS of key themes such as Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD), and Sand and Dust Storms, particularly in developing countries, given their impact on food security and livelihoods.
- f. Expressed concerns that the heightened emphasis on land issues could diminish attention to other ecosystems, such as marine, coastal, and freshwater and proposed to broaden the focus of the Strategic Objective 2.
- g. Also expressed concern over references to UNEP's "normative role suggesting alternatives such as "policy guidance" or "advisory services," while other delegations emphasized the importance of retaining the existing

- reference.
- h. Requested UNEP to strengthen its work on capacity building and technology transfer.
 - i. Acknowledged differing views on the use of “environmental rule of law” term while others preferred the use of term use of the term “environmental law”.
 - j. Divergent views were expressed on the reference to the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; while some supported its inclusion as a guiding principle, and others called for cautious reflection in line with UNGA resolution 76/300.
 - k. Proposed using “global environmental challenges and crises as an alternative to “triple planetary crisis” in alignment with the language of the UNEA-6 Ministerial Declaration.
 - l. Requested the use of the agreed language “halt and reverse biodiversity loss,” in line with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
 - m. Requested to strictly refer to “circular economy” as it appears in resolutions previously adopted by UNEA.
 - n. Reiterated caution against references to “redirecting finance” and “harmful subsidies” as they are outside UNEP’s core mandate and could infringe on sovereign fiscal policy, which should be avoided in light of Principle 3 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.
 - o. Reiterated the importance of ensuring technological neutrality when prioritizing interventions in areas such as climate mitigation and adaptation, and the obligation of developed countries to provide climate finance to developing countries in energy transition.
 - p. Supported leveraging digital tools and AI, while noting concerns over data integrity, algorithmic bias, and equitable access.
 - q. Stressed the importance of timely submission of documentation.
 - r. Advocated for the reinstatement of science-based solutions and comprehensive situation analysis addressing both positive and negative impacts or alternatively refer to harm instead of impacts.
 - s. Highlighted the limited mentions of forest and forestry in the document.
 - t. Proposed removing specific language causing forced migration.
 - u. Expressed concerns to the term "Climate Stability" as a duplicate of the UNFCCC mandate and that "measuring progress" duplicates the UNFCCC's transparency framework.
 - v. Requested inclusion of the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), as well as sustainable development and poverty eradication.

39. Comments by delegations on the draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027 included:

- a. Welcomed the shift to impact- and outcome-oriented results frameworks, while calling for methodological clarity and the avoidance of duplication between indicators
- b. Called for more predictable public funding from developed countries to the Environment Fund to enable full implementation of the draft PoW and budget, with special emphasis on capacity-building and technology transfer in developing countries.
- c. Expressed concerns over the reduced Environment Fund allocations to some subprogrammes, particularly to the Science-Policy subprogramme and requested for clarifications on budget allocations.
- d. Requested greater clarity on the cost of implementing the strategy and on resource allocations, particularly the reduced funding for the science–policy and environmental law and governance subprogrammes, and the increased budget for executive direction and management.
- e. Sought further details regarding the increase in funds allocated to Policy-Making Organs and Executive Direction and Management.
- f. Noted the target that 9% of UNEP’s expenditure in the draft programme of work and budget is directed to developing countries and requested clarification on whether this applies to all developing countries or only to least developed countries.
- g. Requested the rationale behind the low target for the implementation rate of Board of Auditors and Office of Internal Oversight Services audit recommendations, while highlighting the importance of timely implementation for ensuring transparency and accountability.
- h. Raised a question regarding the transition period between the two programmes of work and its potential impact on ongoing projects.
- i. Inquired about the broad nature of some indicators, particularly those relating to financial flows.
Requested an update on the planned reduction of positions funded by the Environment Fund, by subprogramme, policymaking organs, executive office, and senior management.

40. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications;

On the draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029:

- a. Thanked Member States for their constructive inputs and confirmed that the drafts MTS and draft PoW and budget are fully aligned with UNEP’s mandate.

- b. Agreed to use “to halt and reverse biodiversity loss” and ‘gender disaggregated’.
- c. Noted some remaining concerns over terminology and agreed to review non-consensus terms.
- d. Assured Member States of UNEP’s continued commitment to protecting and restoring all ecosystems, including through the contributions of Ecosystem-based Approaches and Nature-based Solutions (NbS).
- e. Agreed to further elevate ocean and freshwater issues in order to balance the importance of all ecosystems and find language to address Member States concerns with regard to Strategic Objective 2 and the associated thematic subprogramme.
- f. Encouraged Member States to provide written comments as soon as possible and no later than Monday, 8 September 2025, for the Secretariat to provide the revised versions of the draft MTS and draft PoW and budget ahead of the 171st quarterly meeting of the CPR, to be held on 16 September 2025.
- g. The Secretariat also introduced draft decision entitled “Medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027” which has been made available to delegations ahead of the annual subcommittee and which is set out in document UNEP/CPR/ASC/12/9.

On the draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027:

- h. Explained that some difference in the budget in the previous versions of the draft PoW and the current, including the budget allocated to the Science-Policy Subprogramme, is a consequence of the functional review and recent institutional changes. They include creating a new division and integrating the functions of the Early Warning and Assessment Division into divisions and offices including the Offices of the Chief Scientist and the Chief Digital Officer and the Climate Change Division.
- i. Committed to organising a workshop in the next week on UNEP’s Impact Framework and the associated results framework.
- j. Reiterated that budget allocations to subprogrammes reflect a realignment of posts to respective subprogrammes. Clarified that the increase in the Executive Direction and Management budget category is a result of clearer mapping of staff to functions.
- k. Clarified and confirmed that the 9% target figure in the Results framework in the POW and budget refers to increased expenditure target for least developed countries (LDCs).
- l. Clarified that the increase in the audit implementation target rate is 1%, and while this may look modest, UNEP is starting from a high baseline of 70%. Audit recommendations usually require organization-wide changes, are multi-year and need a whole-of-organization change. UNEP already has a very high compliance rate which shows its commitment to audits, learning and becoming a stronger, more efficient and effective organization.
- m. Reminded that the draft PoW and budget would need to be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Administrative Questions (ACABQ), by 19 September, which is the deadline provided by the ACABQ.

Agenda item 8: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

- 41. The Secretariat presented a [briefing](#) on the preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), including on the guidance for the submission of draft resolutions and decisions and on the roadmap for the intersessional period.

42. Delegations provided the following comments:

- a. Encouraged all delegations to follow the [guidance on the submission of draft resolutions and decisions to UNEA-7 and the roadmap of the intersessional period](#).
- b. Presented conclusions from an informal retreat of UNEP Deputy Permanent Representatives held on 20 June 2025 in Nairobi³, where, among others, delegations; i) called for early empowerment of co-facilitators to foster consensus and merge proposals where appropriate; ii) transmission of intersessional work to the OECPR-7; and iii) called for fewer, targeted and impactful resolutions with strong coherence with UNEA resolutions, MEAs and with the MTS and PoW.
- c. Encouraged Member States to submit streamlined and focused resolutions.
- d. Noted that co-facilitators would lead consultations on draft resolutions from 3 November 2025.
- e. Requested UNEP to prepare budget scenarios for UNEA-7, for consideration by the UNEA and CPR Bureaux at their joint meeting to be held on 10 September, focusing on potential adjustments and cost saving measures to address the UNEA-7 funding gap, including through i) a four-day UNEA, ii) cost saving through conference services and iii) travel entitlements.

³ The retreat was held under Chatham House Rules. The summary that follows does not represent an exhaustive record of all that was discussed, nor do they reflect any agreed outcome.

- f. Requested UNEP to provide an itemized comparison between the estimated and actual costs for UNEA-6.
- g. Expressed concerns about the [funding gap for UNEA-7](#) and urged intensified resource mobilization by UNEP to ensure inclusive participation.
- h. Requested clarification on how the current budget constraints affect UNEP's ability to implement new mandates derived from UNEA resolutions.
- i. Member States provided general comments on the revised first draft Ministerial Declaration.

43. The Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- a. Highlighted that a note on UNEA-6 budget estimates and actual as well as the budget estimates for UNEA-7 and OECP-7 is available on the meeting portal of the 10 September 2025 joint meeting of the UNEA and CPR Bureaux for their consideration and guidance.
- b. With regard to the funding gap for UNEA-7 budget, noted suggestions to simplify documentation through modern tools such as AI translation, and recalled that decisions in this matter are governed by the United Nations General Assembly, and indicated that the Secretary-General's forthcoming report could provide an opportunity for discussion.
- c. Clarified that implementation of new mandates from UNEA-7 resolutions would remain subject to availability of extrabudgetary funds.

Announcement of possible draft resolutions and decisions for UNEA-7

44. Delegations announced the submission of the following draft resolutions for UNEA-7:

- a. **India:** Strengthening global response on management of wildfires.
- b. **Indonesia:** Protection and sustainable management of Karst ecosystem.
- c. **Japan:** Promoting Synergies, Cooperation or Collaboration for National Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Other Relevant Environmental Instruments.
- d. **Kenya:** Safe, responsible and sustainable Artificial Intelligence for people and planet.
- e. **Kenya:** Environmental dimensions of antimicrobial pollution.
- f. **Kenya:** Promoting sustainable solutions through sport for a resilient planet.
- g. **Mexico:** Strengthening the role of Nairobi.
- h. **Peru and Kenya:** Enhancing the international response to address crimes that affect the environment.
- i. **Sri Lanka:** Enhancing the meaningful participation of children and youth in environmental and climate change action.
- j. **Switzerland:** Chemicals and waste.

45. As requested, the Secretariat informed that the following additional intentions regarding the submission of draft resolutions have been received:

- a. **Bolivia (Plurinational State of):** Living Well in Balance and Harmony with Mother Earth and Mother Earth-Centric Actions.
- b. **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in global environmental governance.

Agenda item 9. Consideration of a draft Chair's summary of the meeting.

46. The Committee took note with appreciation of the draft Chair's summary, on the understanding that it would be finalized taking into account to the extent possible the comments made by delegations, for consideration and adoption at the 171st meeting of the CPR, and also on the understanding that the draft decision containing draft recommendations proposed by delegations during this meeting will be considered at a subcommittee meeting scheduled on 11 September 2025 in advance of the 171st meeting of the CPR.

Agenda item 10: Other matters.

47. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 11: Closing of the meeting.

48. Closing statements were delivered by some members of the Committee and a Major Group and Stakeholder on behalf of the 9 Major Groups.
49. The Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, delivered closing remarks.
50. The meeting closed at 17:30 (GMT+3).

Annex I

Draft recommendations proposed by delegations at the twelfth annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR for consideration by the CPR at the subcommittee meeting scheduled on 11 September and subsequently at the 171st quarterly meeting:

The Committee of Permanent Representatives,

Recalling the draft recommendations proposed by delegations at the twelfth annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 1 to 5 September 2025,

Programme Performance Report of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2024⁴

1. *Reaffirms* the request to the Secretariat to include in future programme performance reports, in a consistent manner, lessons learned that address institutional learnings, programme performance learnings and partnership learnings relevant to the improvement by the United Nations Environment Programme of its operations and performance;
2. *Further reaffirms* the need to improve the integration and linking of information on policy work, results, available financial resources and expenditure in future programme performance reports;

⁴ Draft [recommendations proposed under Agenda item 3](#), namely “Programme Performance Report of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2024”.