

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau Meeting
Wednesday, 14 February 2024
10:00 – 12:00 (GMT +3)
Conference room 9
Hybrid meeting

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 the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, opened and chaired the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the sixth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. The Secretariat provide a briefing on the status of preparations for the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of the Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6), scheduled for 19 to 23 February 2024, including with regard to an updated and more detailed version of the draft structure of OECPR-6.
4. One Bureau member proposed a minor change to the draft structure to ensure that the same clusters are allocated to the same working group and shared a tentative alternative proposal relating to the draft decision on the provisional agenda, dates and venue for UNEA-7 (UNEP/OECPR.6/L.2/Rev.1), suggesting a three-year term for the incoming President and Bureau of UNEA-7 until 2027, with a short UNEA special session held in February 2026 solely to approve a new Medium-Term Strategy and the Programme of Work and Budget for the period 2027-29, followed by a regular session of UNEA to be held in February 2027.
5. The Secretariat confirmed that the draft structure of OECPR would be adjusted as proposed and clarified that the alternative proposal would have several negative consequences by 1) requiring an extension of the existing Programme of Work and Medium-Term Strategy by one more year until the end of 2026; 2) creating a misalignment between the adoption and implementation of the Programme of Work and the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) cycle, as decided by the General Assembly; 3) requiring significant additional extra-budgetary resources to finance a UNEA special session on 2026 (noting that no UN regular budget resources are provided for special sessions); 4) setting a second precedent to expand the UNEA Bureau term of Office from 2 to 3 years; and 5) expanding the time frame between two regular sessions of UNEA from 2 to 3 years.
6. The Secretariat furthermore pointed out that the new proposal in many aspects was similar to ALT 3 in the draft decision – which would ensure that the incoming UNEA-7 Bureau would serve a full 2-year term, but without creating a precedent for a 3-year term while requiring an extension of the existing programme of work until end of 2026 – and thus recommended that the discussion in the OECPR would be limited to the three existing alternatives, as already reflected in the draft decision as ALT 1, 2 and 3.”

Agenda item 3: Organization of work.

7. The Secretariat presented a [roadmap of meetings](#) for the period March to December 2024, highlighting that the 11th annual subcommittee meeting has, for the first time, been scheduled in the second week of July, with a view to better align the annual subcommittee with UNEP's reporting cycle. Secondly, at the request of Member States, the roadmap also includes regular scheduling of briefings on the implementation of the 13 UNEP thematic programmes as contained in the 2022 – 2025 Programme of Work. It was underlined that the roadmap, which includes quarterly CPR meetings, UNEA Bureau meetings, CPR Bureau meetings, and UNEA and CPR Joint Bureaux meetings, is a “living document” and that dates may need to be adjusted.
8. One Bureau member welcomed the draft roadmap but expressed potential concerns about scheduling the annual subcommittee meeting in July, which is close to the summer holiday season for most delegations.
9. The Secretariat acknowledged the challenge of scheduling the annual subcommittee meeting in July, explained that the idea originated from a proposal at the 9th annual subcommittee, and noted that the timing is amicable to present the UNEP programme performance report for the period 2022-23, which will be ready in June 2024.
10. The Bureau endorsed the draft roadmap for the period March to December 2024 on the understanding that it is a living document and that additional meetings might be added, and with the dates of the 11th annual subcommittee reflected as TBC for the time being.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

11. The Legal Advisor informed the Bureau that the State of Palestine is currently the Chair of the Asia-Pacific States group until 30 June 2024, also noting that the State of Palestine is a full member of the CPR but that according to UNEA rules of procedure, it enjoys observer status in UNEA. In order for the State of Palestine to exercise its function as the Chair of a regional group, the State Member of the Asia-Pacific States group is considering submitting a draft procedural resolution for consideration by UNEA, similar to General Assembly resolution 73/5 on the State of Palestine's rights as the Chair of the G77 and China.
12. Bureau members took note of the information and requested further consultations with the Chairs of the Regional and Political groups to seek agreement on how to proceed.
13. The representative of the UNEA Presidency provided an update on the status of the consultation on the final draft ministerial declaration and announced that a revised final draft ministerial declaration will be shared with all Member States and Stakeholders very soon as a basis for the informal consultations in the margins of OECPR-6, scheduled for 22 February.

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting.

14. The meeting closed at 11:40 (GMT+3).

Annex: List of Participants

The Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau Members:

H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Mr. Wael Nasreldin Attiya, Vice Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Permanent Representative to UNEP,

H. E. Ms. Nicol Adamcová, Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of Czechia to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Vice Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of Norway to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

Mr. Jovan Bernard Reid, Deputy Head of Mission of the Permanent Mission of Barbados.

Representatives of the President of the UN Environment Assembly participating in an ex-officio capacity:

H.E. Mr. Abderrazzak Laassel, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to UNEP.

Ms. Siham Mourabit, Deputy Permanent Representative of Morocco to UNEP.

The UN Environment Program Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director.

Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Adviser.