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**Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme
172nd meeting
Nairobi, 24 November 2025**

Draft minutes of the 171st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, held on 16 September 2025

Agenda item 1

Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. The meeting was opened at 10.10 a.m. on Tuesday, 16 September 2025 by Sultan Hajiyeve, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP. The Chair noted that, following the election of officers to the Bureau, the meeting would proceed in hybrid format to enable online participants to deliver statements, in English only.
2. The meeting was attended by 127 participants representing 79 members and 5 observer missions.
3. The Chair welcomed the following new members to the Committee: Mario de Azevedo Constantino (Angola), Alexandra Langley (Australia), Kris Lapiere (Belgium), Dzmitry Krasouski (Belarus), Joshua Tabah (Canada), Leon Francois Yandouma (Congo), Hatem Yousri Hosni (Egypt), Riina-Riikka Heikka (Finland), Tyas Baskoro Her Witjaksono Adji (Indonesia), Aidil Khairunsyah (Indonesia), Khalid Abdulsattar Hasan Al-Ogaidi (Iraq), Gideon Behar (Israel), Katalin Nyirati (Hungary), Fassi Nour Ed Dine (Morocco), Adnan Javed (Pakistan), Magdalena Moryksiewicz (Poland), Peter Kakowou Lavahun (Sierra Leone), Jaime Alejandro Moreno Bau (Spain), Anthony Louis Kon (South Sudan), Lars Hakan Akesson (Sweden), Yurii Tokar (Ukraine), Rachel Parrish (United States of America) and Abdulsalam Alawi Al-Awadhi (Yemen).
4. He then bade farewell to the following departing members: Dominique Vigie (Australia), Pavel Vziatkin (Belarus), Machteld Cattrysse (Belgium), Christopher Thornley (Canada), Wael Attiya (Egypt), Pirkka Tapiola (Finland), Katariina Oivo (Finland), Zsolt Meszaros (Hungary), Michael Lotem (Israel), Firas Farhan Saleh Khouri (Jordan), Siham Mourabit (Morocco), Gunnar Andreas Holm (Norway), Joanna Szymańska (Poland), Katarina Žuffa Leligidonová (Slovakia), Cristina Díaz Fernández-Gil (Spain), Caroline Vicini (Sweden), Yunus Ozigci (Türkiye), Andrii Pravednyk (Ukraine) and James Mosher (United States of America).

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the provisional agenda of the 171st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

5. The agenda was adopted on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CPR/171/1/Rev.3).

Agenda item 3

Adoption of the draft minutes of the 170th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

6. The Committee adopted the minutes of its 170th meeting, held on 24 June 2025, on the basis of the draft minutes that had been circulated. The minutes, as adopted, are set out in document UNEP/CPR/171/2.

Agenda item 4

Consideration of the draft Chair's summary of the twelfth annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

7. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the draft Chair's summary of the twelfth annual subcommittee meeting, held from 1 to 5 September 2025, emphasizing that it was intended to capture the overall spirit of the discussions and the key issues raised. It did not reflect the positions of individual delegations, nor did it imply that all delegations had agreed on each point discussed.
8. In the ensuing discussion, two representatives said that they would not be in a position to endorse the draft summary as the comments that their delegations had made at the meeting had not been adequately reflected.
9. Responding to requests for changes to the draft summary, the Chair said that, while he had made every effort to capture all delegates' comments, it was impossible to reflect all viewpoints, some of which were mutually exclusive.
10. The Committee took note of the Chair's summary as set out in document UNEP/CPR/ASC/12/12/Rev.2.

Agenda item 5

Election of officers to the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

11. The Committee elected by acclamation Romy Sonia Tincopa Grados (Peru) as Vice-Chair of the Bureau for the period starting on the date of election and ending on 30 June 2027.

Agenda item 6

Report of the Executive Director to the 171st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

12. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report entitled "Quarterly report to the 171st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives: April–June 2025".
13. In her oral briefing, the Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen, said that a UNEP report on the environmental impact of the conflict in Gaza would be released on 17 September 2025. The report had been requested by the State of Palestine as an update to the preliminary assessment of the environmental damage arising from the conflict, and it would contain recommendations for recovery and reconstruction. It would highlight the immense damage to soil, fresh water supplies and the coastline as a result of two years of conflict. Action relating to the restoration of water resources and the removal of debris must be undertaken as soon as possible. While ending human suffering was the immediate priority, dealing with the aftermath of the conflict would be vital for food and water security. If the conflict continued, the legacy of environmental destruction could persist for generations. Recovery could begin only once the fighting had stopped. The assessment served as a stark reminder of the harm that conflict could cause to the environment; the path of peace was the only way forward.
14. The draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 had been updated in line with the guidance that had been provided during the twelfth annual subcommittee meeting. She expressed her appreciation for the participants' extensive involvement in shaping the strategy for the upcoming four years. Noting that it was important for the strategy to remain visionary in scope, she said that every effort had been made to incorporate Member States' views, despite the fact that many were in juxtaposition to each other. The strategy set the stage for a leaner, more efficient UNEP that was able to drive progress on the environmental challenges facing the world.

15. In the first part of her report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session, she had identified five priority areas for resolutions, namely water resources management, nutrient pollution, mineral governance, protection of the stratosphere and the environmental footprint of artificial intelligence. She continued to encourage Member States to propose a limited number of resolutions on matters of urgency, where they could have the greatest impact.

16. In the second part of the report, the preparation of which had been delayed pending the launch of the UN80 Initiative, she considered how Member States might unleash the full potential of the Environment Assembly as the world's highest level environmental forum and decision-making body. She envisaged a more focused and strategic body that better responded to the current environmental challenges through bold, inclusive and science-driven decision-making, with the involvement of young people, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, scientists, the private sector and local communities. The Environment Assembly should continue to enhance dialogue under the various multilateral environmental agreements and should cement Nairobi as a hub for cooperation on environmental governance. She urged Member States to consider how to ensure that the Environment Assembly threw its weight behind pressing and emerging environmental issues, with the adoption of meaningful resolutions that could deliver the change sought by Members. Those resolutions should be backed fully by domestic policies, with technical and scientific support from UNEP and the three science-policy panels – the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the newly established Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution. With the appropriate resources, the Environment Assembly could play a central role in stabilizing the climate, restoring land and biodiversity, and reducing pollution and waste to create stronger economies and societies, improve human health and security, and ensure lasting peace.

17. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including several speaking on behalf of countries, and one speaking on behalf of a major group, thanked the Executive Director for her report, which, they said, reflected the strategic priorities and achievements of UNEP, provided a strong foundation for informed dialogue, and highlighted emerging risks and areas requiring urgent attention. Several representatives expressed appreciation to UNEP, some for its support in regional and global projects and others, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, for its continued leadership in advancing global environmental governance and driving transformative change. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a major group, commended UNEP for its active participation in the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, where it had been instrumental in shaping the Kampala Declaration by calling for increased investment for accelerating progress under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. One representative applauded UNEP for co-chairing a round-table discussion on carbon markets in the sidelines of the Forum to help raise awareness of the integration of climate action into national policies.

18. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries and one speaking on behalf of a major group, expressed concern at the underrepresentation of certain regions among UNEP staff, particularly in senior positions, despite notable efforts to promote a geographical balance. They called for additional steps to expand outreach events in underrepresented regions to ensure equal representation in line with the principles of fairness, transparency and global partnership, and to make its work more inclusive and impactful. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized that the UNEP functional review process should not hinder progress towards the equitable geographical representation of UNEP staff members, and special consideration should be given to preserve recent gains in that regard.

19. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, while they welcomed the valuable contribution of UNEP, it was deeply regrettable that no agreement had been reached at the resumed fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Several representatives called for further efforts to conclude an agreement, taking into account the lessons learned. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized the need to ensure greater transparency, inclusivity and effectiveness in moving forward with that process, and the importance of consensus to ensure broad support for and the effective implementation of any future agreement. A number of representatives stressed that the future instrument should be science-based, cover the full life cycle of plastics, and involve major plastic consumers and producers.

20. Several representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries and one speaking on behalf of a major group, welcomed the activities held to celebrate World Environment Day, which had served to raise awareness of the urgency of ending plastic pollution. One

representative welcomed the signature of the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution by 180 financial institutions, marking a turning point in funding for combating pollution, and another commended UNEP for its part in organizing the World Circular Economy Forum in 2025. One representative announced her country's plans to co-host a high-level side event on 24 September, during the eightieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to build political momentum and identify pathways towards the adoption of an internationally binding instrument on plastic pollution, and encouraged representatives of all Member States to participate.

21. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation between UNEP and regional forums to enhance the implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions on the ground. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that participants in the sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific had highlighted the urgent need for regional action to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and had drawn attention to the vulnerabilities of small island developing States. One representative drew attention to the upcoming twenty-fourth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, noting that it would be essential for setting regional priorities in the lead-up to the seventh session of the Environment Assembly and provide a platform for considering the draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029. Another representative expressed gratitude to the UNEP secretariat for its readiness to assist in organizing a regional environmental summit in Kazakhstan in 2026, and welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for the Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asia and Afghanistan to assist Central Asian countries and Afghanistan in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, promote regional initiatives, and develop solutions to regional environmental problems, such as the degradation of the Aral and Caspian seas.

22. Regarding the situation in the Gaza Strip, several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the role of UNEP in environmental recovery and debris management. They commended UNEP for its preliminary assessment of the environmental impacts of the conflict and for the stakeholder consultations held with a view to providing an updated assessment. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for Member States and UNEP to join forces to stop the ongoing and destructive war of aggression in the Gaza Strip and pave the way for environmental assessments, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, the recovery of biodiversity, and long-term economic development. The Gaza debris management working group should establish a structured process for its activities. One representative welcomed the establishment of an ad hoc advisory group, comprising officials from all relevant Palestinian ministries and representatives of other stakeholders and partners, to help with the removal of debris and the recovery of Gaza. She called for additional data collection to better assess the negative environmental impacts of Israeli aggression.

23. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said the draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026–2027 broadly represented the consensus view among Committee members. One representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the outcome-focused approach of the strategy. The ability to measure the impacts of the programme of work and budget would be essential in maintaining long-term support and funding from Member States, she said. One representative expressed appreciation for the inclusion of key topics such as desertification, land degradation and drought in the strategy, given their impact on food security and livelihoods, and commended UNEP for the use of digital tools and artificial intelligence in the development of projects to address those issues. Another representative expressed the hope that scientific capacities would be bolstered in the strategy and that sufficient resources would be devoted to science in the budget, while another underscored the importance of aligning the activities of UNEP with the priorities of Member States, taking into consideration the challenging financial situation.

24. One representative said that the upcoming seventh session of the Environment Assembly would provide an opportunity to empower UNEP to address the most pressing environmental challenges while responding to the new multilateral landscape. Another representative expressed the hope that progress could be made in the building of a more just and equitable global environmental governance system at that session. Many representatives emphasized the need for a limited number of focused and impactful resolutions that would yield tangible results. Science should be at the heart of the deliberations and should guide the decision-making process, and emphasis should be placed on strengthening coherence between the various multilateral environmental agreements, they said. One representative voiced concern at the large number of resolutions that had already been proposed, noting that considering and adopting all of them would not be feasible within the time available. Another representative said that she supported encouraging the participation of representatives of the private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and youth at the Assembly session.

25. One representative said that the UN80 initiative presented a timely opportunity to strengthen coherence across the multilateral environmental agreements. Overlapping mandates, siloed reporting systems and limited coordination undermined efficiency and impact, and raised the cost of participation in agreements for many developing countries. One representative said that, as part of the UN80 Initiative and the UNEP restructuring process, similar mandates within the United Nations system should be combined and joint reporting should be undertaken where appropriate. He also highlighted the need for modernization and the use of artificial intelligence to boost efficiency and achieve measurable outcomes. One representative expressed support for UNEP efforts to enhance accountability, efficiency and collaboration, and another representative asked for an update in the Executive Director's next quarterly report on the action undertaken by the working group to improve the strategic effectiveness and efficiency of the project review processes at UNEP.
26. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Republic of Korea for hosting the Global Environment Outlook summary for policymakers drafting meeting in June 2025. A number of representatives said that the approval of the summary at a meeting in late October would be a milestone that would provide better assessment of and solutions to current environmental issues.
27. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, recalled that Member States had agreed on the importance of promoting the environmental rule of law. She urged UNEP to continue its work to strengthen environmental governance, and requested the Executive Director to maintain a commitment to do so in the draft medium-term strategy.
28. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended UNEP for its technical support and efforts to increase the number of signatures and ratifications of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, bringing its entry into force within reach. One representative said that the question remained of where the secretariat of the agreement would be hosted.
29. Regarding biodiversity loss, a representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries requested information regarding the strategy of UNEP to adopt a comprehensive approach to addressing the issues of biodiversity, water, food and health, which, he said, was essential to addressing biodiversity loss. Another representative expressed appreciation for efforts to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that she appreciated the high-level coordination of a transboundary climate adaptation project in the Euphrates-Tigris basin. She asked for more information on the work carried out with Arab States in the field of environmental data management and sharing to support the development of evidence-based national policies, enhance transparency and promote compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.
30. With regard to the Cali Fund for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, asked what was meant by the equitable sharing of benefits. He also asked how the Fund operated and how developing countries could benefit from it.
31. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for increased efforts, including the mobilization of additional resources, to combat desertification, land degradation and drought. The approval of a project supported by the Global Environment Facility to advance global efforts in combating desertification, with \$11.3 million in funding, was a welcome step in that direction, they said. A number of representatives underscored the urgent need to diversify sources of funding for developing countries and the importance of global cooperation to address land degradation, which threatened to reduce the productivity of ecosystems and derail the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those pertaining to food security and poverty. They asked whether any specific initiatives had been undertaken during the quarter under review to address land degradation and drought specifically. Another representative recalled the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, drought and pollution, with additional support for adaptation, capacity-building and technology transfer.
32. Several representatives welcomed the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, which, they said, was a significant milestone in the pursuit of sustainable and science-based solutions and a triumph of multilateralism. One representative highlighted the importance of strengthening the science-policy interface within UNEP to ensure that collective action was informed, evidence-based and responsive to the needs of all regions, while another requested information from the secretariat on the next steps to be taken following the establishment of the Panel.

33. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a major group, thanked the countries that had contributed to the Environment Fund and encouraged all Member States to do so, especially considering the impact the current financial crisis would have on the participation of developing countries at the seventh session of the Environment Assembly and on the ability of UNEP to deliver on its mandates. A number of representatives announced that their countries had made contributions to the Fund and were seeking to maintain the predictability of funding through a new cooperation agreement with UNEP to support the implementation of the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029. One representative emphasized the need for greater efforts to secure private sector investment through the UNEP Finance Initiative, while others, including one speaking on behalf of a major group, recommended broadening the donor base, encouraging more donors to make multi-year pledges to make funding more predictable and urging Member States to honour their pledges. One representative asked for information on events that had been or would be held to secure additional funding, especially non-earmarked and softly earmarked contributions, as part of the resource mobilization strategy.

34. One representative, expressing appreciation for activities to enhance the African region's readiness for the thirtieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, requested the secretariat to provide a briefing on future events related to climate finance, particularly in Africa. A number of representatives welcomed the contribution of UNEP to the formulation and revision of nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans. One representative encouraged Member States to present updated nationally determined contributions during the high-level week of the General Assembly. Another representative called for the adoption of resolutions at the Environment Assembly to address the sharp decrease in water flow and of bioresources as well as anthropogenic pollution in the Caspian and Aral seas. Another underscored the urgency of enhancing climate finance, promoting a just energy transition and integrating climate action into national development strategies. She called upon Member States, development partners and financial institutions to increase support for nature-based adaptation, capacity-building, and integrated climate and development solutions, particularly in regional carbon markets. A number of representatives expressed gratitude to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants for its support in incorporating clean cooking and air quality into their countries' nationally determined contributions, which had helped to align national development priorities with climate commitments and advance climate resilient development. One representative applauded UNEP for promoting the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, and said that comprehensive strategies must be developed to assist industrialized countries in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He welcomed the launch of three new world restoration flagship projects to address pollution, unsustainable exploitation and invasive species, saying that such restoration efforts were among the most effective strategies for sequestering carbon dioxide and restoring balance to the global climate system.

35. One representative asked for more information on the functioning of the MapBiomass initiative, whether there were any future plans to expand the initiative to cover Latin America and the Caribbean and the world, and how it could interact with existing national systems. One representative applauded the advances made in the development of the Global Environmental Data Strategy, and another urged Member States to consider how to make progress under the strategy after the seventh session of the Environment Assembly.

36. One representative commended UNEP for its participation in a side event on achieving the global forest goals in the context of the United Nations Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation during the twentieth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and called for the conservation and restoration of natural forests to be included in all relevant programmes under the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 to ensure that reforestation initiatives posed no risk to natural forest ecosystems.

37. One representative highlighted the importance of continuing to raise awareness of safeguards under the mechanism on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus), and asked whether more capacity-building was planned at the local level, particularly for Indigenous and Afrodescendent communities. He requested further information regarding the substantive aspects discussed during the webinar with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, organized by UNEP through the Geneva Environment Network, and the webinar on the circular economy and resource efficiency for critical minerals. In particular, he sought clarification regarding the outcomes of those webinars and whether any written reports had been drafted.

38. One representative welcomed the consultative workshop and science-policy dialogue on solar radiation modification, organized jointly by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization, held in Geneva in May 2025, and called for the establishment of a multilateral governance body for scientific research. Another representative, drawing attention to the growing number of countries and stakeholders supporting a non-use agreement on solar geoengineering that would prohibit public funding for research and development and outdoor experiments with solar radiation modification, strongly discouraged UNEP from incorporating the technique into international policies. He said that solar radiation modification did not offer any solutions to climate change and recalled that the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment had recently adopted a decision outlining its objections to the practice. One representative urged UNEP to take a precautionary approach to new technologies.

39. One representative welcomed the operationalization of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, and the allocation of \$28 million to fund regional projects in Latin America and Africa. While he acknowledged the remarkable engagement of developing countries, with 105 applications having been submitted to the Fund, he said it was regrettable that only four projects had been approved. He underscored the need for adequate and predictable funding to achieve the ambitious targets under the Global Framework on Chemicals.

40. A number of representatives expressed appreciation for UNEP support during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. One representative highlighted the recognition of Valdivia, Chile, as the first “wetland city” as an important development.

41. One representative commended UNEP and all the participants in the recent hackathon event entitled “Hack for the Environment: Digital Innovation for Climate, Nature and Pollution”, noting that it had provided a space for driving youth-led innovation and capacity-building and had highlighted the contribution of digital solutions to mitigating environmental crises.

42. One representative, drew attention to the underrepresentation of children and youth in decision-making processes at the national, regional and international levels, despite their particular vulnerability to climate change and environmental degradation. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a major group, encouraged UNEP to include children and youth in regional and global dialogues and to formally recognize the Youth Environment Assembly.

43. One representative said that a recent training course on negotiation skills, organized by UNEP, had significantly enhanced participants’ capacities to engage effectively in multilateral environmental negotiations. She urged UNEP to conduct longer training sessions with broader participation in the future. Several representatives referred to environment-related meetings and workshops held in their countries.

44. The representative of Ukraine drew attention to the profound and lasting environmental consequences of the ongoing war of aggression waged against his country by the Russian Federation. He said that critical infrastructure had been targeted and extensive damage had been caused to industrial facilities, energy infrastructure and agricultural lands. Air, soil and water had been polluted on a large scale, and forests, wetlands and protected natural areas had been severely damaged by shelling, wildfires and deliberate acts of ecocide. The continued occupation of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant posed grave environmental threats to Ukraine, other parts of Europe and beyond. He said that he valued the engagement of UNEP in mobilizing international experts to address and mitigate the environmental damage caused and expressed his deep gratitude to the many Member States and partners that had provided assistance to and shown solidarity with Ukraine. He encouraged UNEP to continue its activities to address conflict-related environmental damage and to maintain its support for affected countries.

45. The Executive Director thanked representatives for their comments and questions.

46. Regarding the geographical representation of UNEP staff, she said that every effort would be made to ensure that the functional review process did not jeopardize the progress that had been made. She urged underrepresented Member States to encourage their citizens to apply for UNEP positions.

47. Concerning the Cali Fund, she recalled that benefit-sharing was one of the pillars of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Negotiations on the operationalization of the Fund and resource mobilization were currently under way, and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity had recently received a significant amount of input on the matter from States parties and stakeholders. She encouraged Member States to ensure accountability and responsiveness in the management of the Fund in order to attract private sector investment, given the voluntary nature of the Fund.

48. On desertification, she noted that 52 African, 22 Asian, 6 European, 18 Latin American and Caribbean, and 14 Pacific countries – 112 in total – were recipients of assistance under the Global Environment Facility project to support the national reporting process under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.
49. UNEP had provided assistance to the African Group of Negotiators at a meeting held in the United Republic of Tanzania in April 2025. It had given workshops on nationally determined contributions on the sidelines of the Africa Climate Week in Addis Ababa in September 2025 and would be supporting the organizers of an upcoming workshop on the enhanced transparency framework for the Middle East and North Africa region in Egypt. It had also worked with international financial institutions and development banks to enhance knowledge and coordination within the Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Programme. UNEP was also reaching out to donors to boost contributions as part of the resource mobilization strategy.
50. The inaugural meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution was expected to be held in the first quarter of 2026, with the exact dates to be determined. The interim secretariat for the Panel was currently raising funds to prepare for that meeting.
51. The MapBiomas initiative was a multi-institutional network formed of universities, non-governmental organizations and technology companies in the South America region that monitored land cover and use in different territories. The databases were up-to-date and detailed, and the scope had been expanded across 14 South American countries and Indonesia owing to the partnerships that had been established. The UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Office had worked with the initiative to monitor ecosystems, changes in land use and deforestation.
52. The first round of applications to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund had been a pilot round, and only \$3 million of the available funds had been allocated. The second would be launched in the near future, and the Executive Board of the Fund would meet in March 2026 to consider the applications. The initial four projects, covering 11 countries in Latin America and Africa, were focused on implementing a globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals, thereby reducing the risks from highly hazardous chemicals.
53. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was organizing a special event in New York on 24 September that would give Member States an opportunity to announce their nationally determined contributions.
54. Noting that UNEP was proud to host the interim secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, she urged riparian countries to work together at the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Consultations had been held on the drafting of a plan under the Convention to prevent decline in the Caspian Sea level.
55. She clarified that UNEP did not have a position or policies on solar radiation modification, but she was aware that some Member States and other actors did. She reiterated that while there was an urgent need to tackle climate change, she did not believe that solar radiation modification was a solution as it did not address the fundamental issue of carbon dioxide emissions. It was nevertheless important to have discussions on the issue as research was already under way.
56. Regarding land degradation and drought, UNEP had over 70 ongoing projects across 132 countries, with more than \$390 million in grant funding from sources including the Global Environment Facility, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Green Climate Fund.
57. The representative of the Russian Federation, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his country was striking only certain facilities that were part of the military-industrial complex of Ukraine. The accusations of having caused environmental damage were false, lacked any justification and were politically motivated. They had been made in the context of that country's information war with the objective of appealing to sponsors and donors to push for the introduction of new sanctions on the Russian Federation and obtain additional financial assistance. Ukraine itself was engaging in actions that led to large-scale damage to the environment and energy infrastructure, including strikes on oil and gas pipelines and chemical plants; the Zaporozhskaya nuclear power plant had been shelled repeatedly.

58. The representative of Ukraine, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Russian Federation was once again spreading false information in an attempt to justify its aggression against Ukraine and to conceal the crimes it was committing. Residential buildings and hospitals could not be classified as military infrastructure.

Agenda item 7

Development of a draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026–2027

59. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled paragraph 9 of Environment Assembly decision 6/7, in which the Executive Director was requested, through inclusive and regular consultation with Member States and, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, to prepare a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026–2027 and a draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029, fully taking into account the views of Member States and making every effort to reflect consensual views, for consideration and approval by the Environment Assembly at its seventh session, following the established processes as set out in paragraph 11 of decision 27/2 of the Governing Council of UNEP. He noted that, at its seventh meeting, the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives would consider a draft decision on the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027.

60. He further noted that the secretariat had prepared revised versions of the draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and of the draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026–2027, as set out in documents UNEP/CPR/171/5 and UNEP/CPR/171/6, taking into account the views expressed by representatives at the twelfth annual subcommittee meeting held from 1 to 5 September 2025.

61. The Executive Director expressed her sincere appreciation to representatives for the helpful and detailed discussions at the annual subcommittee meeting. The feedback had been instrumental in shaping the draft medium-term strategy and the draft programme of work and the budget.

62. She welcomed representatives' keen interest in the one impact framework. Two informative sessions had been held on the implementation of the framework over the period 2026–2027. The secretariat had made a series of changes and updates to accommodate representatives' comments and recommendations. However, despite its best efforts, the secretariat had been unable to incorporate all inputs, owing partly to the complexity of the documents and partly to the word limit for such documents. Noting that representatives' continued engagement and support would be required in the final stages of preparing the drafts, she recalled that the draft programme of work and budget would be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for review and both documents would be submitted to the Environment Assembly for approval.

63. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, thanked the Executive Director and the secretariat for their efforts in preparing the revised draft medium-term strategy and the draft programme of work and budget, and for taking representatives' views into account following the consultation process. One representative, however, said that the consultation process had been insufficient and that the draft documents should have better reflected the views of members.

64. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the issues of food production and food security, which were intrinsically linked to environmental sustainability, should be addressed in the medium-term strategy. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the strategy should highlight the three pillars of sustainability – environmental, social and economic – and recalled that the outcome of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean had emphasized the need to align the strategy with regional priorities and guarantee the resources required for their effective implementation.

65. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they objected to the use of the term “triple planetary crisis”, which placed too much emphasis on three specific issues at the expense of many others. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed alternative language that they felt better reflected Member States' views, such as environmental “challenge” instead of “crisis”.

66. One representative asked UNEP to use clear and accurate language recognizing that women were biologically female and that men were biologically male, and to avoid initiatives that promoted gender identity, in order to acknowledge the biological reality of sex and adequately address the needs of women and men. In that vein, a number of representatives called for references to be made to

“sex-disaggregated” rather than “gender-disaggregated” data. However, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries and another speaking on behalf of a major group, said that the references to gender and gender equality should be retained, noting that such language had been accepted at the United Nations for decades and that consistency and continuity were important.

67. One representative expressed concern that various groups, such as Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and children and youth, appeared to be placed on an equal footing with governments, which were sovereign and had the ultimate authority to formulate and implement policies. One representative suggested that a generic reference should be made to “other stakeholders” rather than listing each individual group, while another said that references to “other groups” should be removed. Underscoring the sovereign right of States to pursue their own environmental and developmental policies in the medium-term strategy would help allay many representatives’ concerns related to the mandate of UNEP.

68. Several representatives objected to the inclusion of references to United Nations initiatives such as the Pact for the Future and the 2030 Agenda. They said that the Pact for the Future had not been adopted by consensus among all Member States, the 2030 Agenda was not legally binding and countries were free to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals as they saw fit. Other representatives disagreed, noting that the United Nations did not operate in silos and that the Pact for the Future had indeed been adopted by consensus. UNEP was a global leader in the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, said one representative.

69. One representative said that the term “human rights” was politically sensitive, and called for more technical language to be used; another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, invited UNEP to ensure that all references to the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment reflected the language contained in General Assembly resolution 76/300; and a third suggested that the words “as appropriate” be added after the phrase “supporting Member States” in paragraph 4 to highlight that the decision whether to request support in upholding the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment was a national prerogative. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries urged UNEP to advance the development and implementation of that right, in line with the previous wording of the draft strategy, rather than merely supporting countries when requested to do so.

70. Regarding climate action, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the importance of the provision of assistance by UNEP to Member States in addressing the immediate and long-term consequences of climate change. Several representatives called for a stronger focus on climate adaptation and disaster risk resilience, given the accelerating pace of climate change and its immediate impacts. Welcoming the support provided to countries in fulfilling their global cooling needs, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underscored that the Global Cooling Pledge should be implemented in full respect for the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requested that references to the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities be included in all sections of the draft strategy. One representative urged UNEP to prioritize action in sectors that contributed most to greenhouse gas emissions, such as energy, transportation and agriculture, and to promote the adoption of proven and innovative low-emission technologies alongside nature-based solutions.

71. A number of representatives said that the term “climate resilience” and “adverse climate impacts” should be used instead of “climate stability” and “climate instability”, respectively, to reflect the agreed language contained in the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. One representative said that he objected to references in the draft medium-term strategy to the recommendations of the global stocktake and to categories such as landlocked developing countries that were not recognized under the Framework Convention. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed regret at the deletion from the section on climate action of terms such as “climate and environmental responsiveness”, “nature-based solutions” and references to the normative role of UNEP, which, according to one representative, served to support and guide Member States in their operational work. Other representatives said that too much emphasis had been placed on efforts to address climate change, which risked duplicating the work of other United Nations bodies. One representative encouraged UNEP to instead address specific environmental issues, such as ensuring clean air and water, while another called upon UNEP to help countries implement their commitments under all multilateral environmental agreements. A number of representatives said that a reference to other low-emission energy solutions, besides renewable sources, should be added to paragraph 18 of the draft medium-term strategy to ensure a flexible,

inclusive approach to energy transition, with a mix of technologies, and to mirror the wording of paragraph 36.

72. On nature action, several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed their appreciation for the inclusion of the topics of desertification, land degradation and drought, particularly as a result of military conflicts, in the draft medium-term strategy. Several others, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, underlined the importance for UNEP of strengthening action and diversifying its sources of financing to address desertification, drought and land degradation. One representative called on UNEP to set out its methodology for addressing those issues, while another urged UNEP to develop a strong implementation plan for strategic objective 2 in order to ensure that outcomes related to biodiversity loss, desertification, land degradation, drought, and marine and freshwater ecosystems were measurable using indicators with clear baselines and targets. One representative recommended that greater emphasis should be placed on the root causes of biodiversity loss by strengthening the management and restoration of ecosystems and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

73. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the issue of land restoration should be included under strategic objective 2. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the reference to land degradation neutrality in strategic objective 2 should be removed so as not to duplicate the word “land”, which might be confusing. One representative, however, requested that the explicit reference to land degradation be retained to ensure visibility of the issue. One representative said that the strategic objectives on land degradation and halting biodiversity loss should be aligned and not stand in competition with one another.

74. One representative noted that, in the draft medium-term strategy, inadequate reference had been made to sand and dust storms, which, he said, should be a central pillar of the planning and budgeting of UNEP for the period 2026–2029. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that UNEP should incorporate desertification, drought and land degradation into the programme of work and budget; prepare a dedicated resource mobilization strategy aligned with the priorities and capacities of developing countries; and strengthen work under the Convention to Combat Desertification and other multilateral environmental agreements to maximize synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. He stressed the need to place equal emphasis on biodiversity conservation and land restoration. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed that disaggregated indicators and reporting mechanisms should be established to track progress on biodiversity and land degradation separately and in a transparent manner. Options should be explored to ensure dedicated funding for biodiversity within the thematic subprogramme on nature action, said one representative. A number of representatives expressed regret at the continued emphasis on the valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital.

75. One representative called for the inclusion of references to initiatives and partnerships to ensure drought resilience, reverse land degradation and mobilize resources for vulnerable countries, such as the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, the International Drought Resilience Observatory and the Middle East Green Initiative. Another representative said that a gender perspective should be considered in efforts to tackle land degradation, desertification and drought, as women’s active participation in decision-making significantly enhanced the effectiveness of restoration and resilience measures. In addition, coordinated financing across different multilateral environmental agreements was essential to ensure the efficient use of resources, avoid fragmentation and maximize synergies when addressing the interconnected challenges of land, climate and biodiversity. A third representative said that conservation should be linked to peoples’ livelihoods and well-being. Adequate and predictable financing was required that was not limited to external, project-based funding. Developing countries should not have to choose between development and conservation. One representative expressed regret that no reference had been made to primary forests in the draft medium-term strategy.

76. Concerning chemicals and pollution action, a number of representatives called for the technical term “hazardous chemicals” to be used rather than “harmful chemicals”, which was vague and inconsistent with the agreed terminology. One representative suggested that UNEP should support Governments and the private sector in adopting circular, zero-waste and pollution-free solutions and prioritize key value chains such as plastics, textiles, electronics and mining when seeking to reduce pollution and promote resource efficiency. Another representative said that reference should be made to the pioneering work on sand by the Global Resource Information Database in Geneva, with a view to reducing land degradation and pollution in the construction sector. One representative said that

references to technology transfer should be followed by the phrase “on voluntary and mutually agreed terms”, as in previous versions of the draft medium-term strategy.

77. Regarding science policy, a number of representatives expressed their objection to the use of citizen science for gathering data, which was not evidence-based. One representative encouraged UNEP to support better data collection systems and strong institutions at both the national and the local levels.

78. On environmental law and governance, a number of representatives welcomed the change in terminology from environmental rule of law to environmental law, which was in keeping with Environment Assembly resolutions. Other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed the view that reference to environmental rule of law should be retained, as it was fundamental to environmental governance and had been agreed by consensus in documents including the political declaration adopted at the special session of the Environment Assembly to mark the fiftieth anniversary of UNEP. Recognizing the alignment of the work of UNEP on environmental law with Environment Assembly resolution 4/20 on the fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V), one representative requested that the one impact framework be adjusted accordingly. One representative said that information on environmental governance should be included in paragraph 2 of the background section of the draft medium-term strategy, given that it had been mentioned in the paragraph heading.

79. With regard to finance and economic transformations, one representative called for more emphasis to be placed on increasing levels of public finance from developed countries, as well as from private sector investment, to support environmental action in developing countries. The draft medium-term strategy should highlight the huge gap between the finance needs of developing countries and investment in low-emission economies and natural systems, he said. A number of representatives stressed that a broad reference to subsidies harmful to the environment should be avoided, as the Framework Convention on Climate Change global stocktake had mentioned only inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. One representative said that reference should be made in the draft medium-term strategy to sustainable food systems, which were a high-impact sector of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

80. One representative said that UNEP should publish a more comprehensive and accessible annual financial report that clearly linked expenditure to the outcomes established in the programme of work and budget, in order to build trust and encourage contributions from donors. Furthermore, UNEP should conduct targeted campaigns to encourage contributions from all Member States, emphasizing shared responsibility for global environmental governance. Another representative asked when and how information on budget reductions, organizational restructuring and the updated resource mobilization strategy would be shared with Member States. A representative speaking on behalf of a major group called for more explicit language on how UNEP would help countries align debt sustainability and environmental priorities, given the fiscal pressures that many developing countries faced. One representative expressed regret at the failure to address the issue of unilateral coercive measures, which were contrary to international law and prevented developing nations from accessing the resources and technology necessary to implement their environmental policies.

81. On digital transformations, a number of representatives said that the medium-term strategy should promote the ethical and impactful use of artificial intelligence to improve decision-making and capacity-building, especially for developing countries, and to strengthen data ecosystems such as the World Environment Situation Room. One representative recommended that UNEP invest in scientific knowledge-sharing to support informed decision-making and the implementation of sustainability policies. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for the reference to finance transformation on digital innovation, including artificial intelligence governance, to be reinserted into the draft.

82. One representative said that the challenges faced by developing countries in accessing and using new environmentally friendly technologies should be explicitly addressed in the medium-term strategy. Noting that achieving a circular economy was a laudable long-term goal, another representative said that UNEP support should be tailored to meet countries' immediate practical needs rather than focusing on sophisticated solutions that required advanced technology, significant capital investment and a mature industrial base.

83. Several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, commended UNEP for its work on the draft programme of work and budget. One representative said that the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations concerning the management and administration of UNEP should be reflected in the draft medium-term strategy and the draft programme of work and budget with a view to increasing accountability, transparency, efficacy and efficiency. She strongly

urged UNEP to set more ambitious goals for compliance with oversight recommendations and to improve accountability in the draft programme of work and budget, and requested an update on the status of the UNEP functional review at the Committee's 172nd meeting.

84. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that further consideration should be given to the reference to geographic diversity and the need to respect Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and another suggested that reference to Environment Assembly resolution 5/13 on due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter, should be inserted into the draft medium-term strategy. One representative underscored her country's opposition to practices that promoted recruitment on the basis of diversity, equity or inclusion initiatives, which undermined the principle of equality and merit-based advancement. Another representative noted that merit was the guiding principle of recruitment in the United Nations system and, although geographical representation should be taken into account to the extent possible, constraints such as the number of candidates from different regions could not be ignored. One representative, however, said that blindly defending meritocracy meant disregarding the structural inequalities, biases and systemic barriers that prevented true merit-based outcomes. The recruitment of United Nations staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter, was therefore integral to the principle of justice and the legitimacy of the United Nations system.

85. In response, the Executive Director said that, while she had taken note of the representatives' comments, she would not be in a position to accommodate all the views expressed, some of which were diametrically opposed to one another.

86. On geographical representation, she emphasized that UNEP would continue to endeavour to recruit the best talent while working towards balanced geographical representation among its staff, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations.

87. Regarding biodiversity and desertification, she noted that references to living in harmony with nature and land degradation neutrality reflected the language contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. Making reference to each ecosystem in the draft medium-term strategy would be cumbersome and she asked representatives to accept the language as it stood.

88. The concept of gender-disaggregated data was widely accepted and could be interpreted by each country in line with its own domestic law.

89. On the valuation of ecosystem services, she highlighted that UNEP had conducted valuations in almost every region at the request of Member States since 2014, and had published reports on how a functioning ecosystem had added value to the wealth of the country in question.

90. She understood that subsidies were part and parcel of Member States' environmental policies. Subsidies had been mentioned using language from the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the outcomes of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

91. The Executive Director informed the Committee that, in accordance with the financial rules, she would submit the draft programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027 to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for its review, and recalled that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee pertaining to the draft programme of work and budget would be issued as an official document of the Environment Assembly before the start of the seventh meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives. Delegations would therefore have the opportunity to take into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee before the consideration of the draft programme of work and budget by the Environment Assembly.

92. Similarly, the draft medium-term strategy would be submitted to the United Nations Office at Nairobi Division of Conference Services for editing and translation and would be made available as an official document of the Environment Assembly in the six official languages of the United Nations before the start of the seventh meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

93. Speaking in exercise of the right of reply, the representative of the United States of America said that economic sanctions could be a lawful, legitimate, appropriate and effective tool for responding to malign activity and countering serious threats to peace, security, global stability and human dignity. They were not punitive and were lifted once the damaging behaviour ceased.

94. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that unilateral coercive measures and sanctions violated international law and greatly hindered the ability of developing countries in particular to respond to environmental challenges.

Agenda item 8

Consideration of relevant evaluation reports and audits

95. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled paragraph 11 of decision 168/1 of the Committee, requesting the secretariat to present, in preparation for quarterly meetings of the Committee, relevant audit and evaluation reports, including related management responses, to the subcommittee for review and possible recommendations. He noted that at its meeting held on 11 September, the subcommittee had been briefed on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and the UNEP management response. He invited the Inspector from the Joint Inspection Unit, Conrod Hunte, to present its report, entitled “Review of management and administration in the United Nations Environment Programme”, as set out in document JIU/REP/2025/1, and the Executive Director to present the management response, as set out in document UNEP/CPR/171/8. He then opened the floor for comments or questions on the matter.

96. In the ensuing discussion, all the representatives who took the floor, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their appreciation for the presentations. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underscored the importance of continuing the discussion of audits and evaluations at Committee meetings, and encouraged the secretariat to allocate sufficient time to such discussions at future meetings. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that she looked forward to continued engagement with other members on work to clarify the mandate and role of the Committee, including the potential establishment of a dedicated process to consider the matter after the seventh session of the Environment Assembly.

97. Regarding measures to enhance oversight, one representative welcomed the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit to invite representatives of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to present its findings and recommendations to the Committee, provided that it did not result in any additional funding implications for UNEP. She called on UNEP to implement all recommendations to improve transparency and accountability, and strongly urged Member States to prioritize funding for activities that served to enhance the overall efficacy and efficiency of UNEP.

98. On human resources management, one representative, noting the Unit’s finding that UNEP had an excessive number of senior posts compared to lower-level positions, said that the secretariat should also consider opportunities for reducing executive management and director-level posts. He also noted with concern that affiliate personnel accounted for more than half of the UNEP workforce, which could undermine transparency and accountability.

99. Concerning strategic planning, one representative called for greater transparency in the development of indicators, methodologies, baselines and targets. He encouraged the secretariat to continue holding workshops on the impact of the draft programme of work and budget throughout the final stages of the drafting process in the lead-up to the seventh session of the Environment Assembly.

100. Responding to the comments, Mr. Hunte proposed that a body could be formed to review the functioning of the Committee and clarify its mandate. The Executive Director suggested that the Committee might wish to revisit the self-review process that it had undertaken in 2019 and 2020.

Agenda item 9

Preparation for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

101. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the item, in the light of the fact that the secretariat would give a briefing on the matter at the subcommittee meeting to be held on 18 September 2025.

Agenda item 10

Report of the subcommittee

102. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the draft report of the subcommittee meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/CPR/171/7/Rev.1); the draft decision containing draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at its subcommittee meetings held on 10 September 2024, and 23 January, 20 and 27 February, and 13 and 18 March 2025; the draft decision containing draft recommendations proposed by delegations at the twelfth annual

subcommittee meeting; and the draft decision containing draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at the subcommittee meeting held on 11 September 2025.

103. One representative, speaking on behalf of a number of countries, proposed that the words “within existing resources” be inserted into the chapeaus of operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft decision contained in the draft decision containing draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at the subcommittee meeting held on 11 September 2025. Another representative, expressing her strong support for the proposal, urged Committee members to be mindful of the financial and human resource limitations faced by UNEP when assigning work to and setting deadlines for the secretariat.

104. The Committee adopted the draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at its subcommittee meetings held on 10 September 2024, and 23 January, 20 and 27 February, and 13 and 18 March 2025; and the draft recommendations proposed by delegations at the twelfth annual subcommittee meeting, and adopted the associated draft decisions. Decisions 171/1 and 171/2 are set out in the annex to the present draft minutes. The Committee also adopted the draft recommendations proposed by members of the Committee at the subcommittee meeting held on 11 September 2025 and the associated draft decision, as orally revised. Decision 171/3 is set out in the annex to the present draft minutes. The Committee endorsed the draft report of the subcommittee meetings as set out in document UNEP/CPR/171/7/Rev.1.

Agenda item 11

Any other business

105. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 12

Closure of the meeting

106. The meeting was declared closed at 7.25 p.m. on Tuesday, 16 September 2025.

Annex

Decisions adopted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 171st meeting

Decision 171/1: Recommendations proposed by members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its subcommittee meeting on 11 September 2025

The Committee of Permanent Representatives,

Recalling paragraph 2 of its [decision 167/2](#) on improving the identification, formulation and recording of decisions and conclusions of the Committee,

Noting the discussions of the subcommittee of the Committee at its meeting on 11 September 2025,

Consideration of evaluation reports and audits¹

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in the United Nations Environment Programme,² the [expanded version of the Joint Inspection Unit report](#), and the United Nations Environment Programme management response;³

2. *Requests* the Executive Director, within existing resources, to:

(a) Brief the Committee, before the end of the first quarter of 2026, on the initiatives taken to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's science function, including the results of the process of consolidation of the Early Warning and Assessment Division's relevant functions with the Chief Scientist Office and the reassignment of its project-based operations to other divisions and offices;

(b) Continue to brief the Committee on the organizational functional review, including on the possible reduction of posts funded by the Environment Fund;

(c) Present to the Committee, before the end of the second quarter of 2026, a monitoring framework for the "Policy for One UNEP Delivery for Better Collaboration and Country Support" that allows the assessment of progress against expected results;

(d) Report to the Committee, before the end of the first quarter of 2026, disaggregated data on the affiliate personnel, with a view to providing Member States with a more comprehensive understanding of the composition and structure of the United Nations Environment Programme workforce;

(e) Continue the development of an updated resource mobilization strategy by the end of 2025 and present a draft version thereof to the Committee before the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and present the final version to the Committee at its first quarterly meeting in 2026;

3. *Requests* the secretariat, within existing resources, to:

(a) Report, on a regular basis, on the status of implementation of decisions adopted by the Committee;

(b) Invite, in collaboration with the Bureau of the Committee, representatives of the Office of Internal Oversight Services audit team to provide, as appropriate, an annual briefing to the Committee;

(c) Include in its briefing on the forthcoming resource mobilization strategy relevant information on the United Nations Environment Programme's philanthropic engagement strategy, playbook for private sector engagement and partnership policy and the related due diligence procedures.

¹ Highlights of the discussions under item 2, on consideration of evaluation reports and audits, of the agenda for the subcommittee meeting held on 11 September 2025 can be found in the [Chair's summary](#).

² [JIU/REP/2025/1](#).

³ [UNEP/CPR/171/8](#).

Decision 171/2: Recommendations proposed by members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its subcommittee meetings

The Committee of Permanent Representatives,

Recalling paragraph 2 of its [decision 167/2](#) on improving the identification, formulation and recording of decisions and conclusions of the Committee,

Noting the discussions of the subcommittee of the Committee at its meetings on 10 September 2024, 23 January, 20 February, 27 February, 13 March, 18 March and 11 September 2025,

(a) Review of thematic programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme⁴

1. *Takes note* of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on technical support and capacity-building programmes for developing countries and requests the secretariat to present to the Committee, at its next quarterly meeting, possible options for scaling up resource mobilization to further such work in areas such as employing digital solutions for increased transparency, with the aim of enhancing data collection and analytical processes and preparing relevant reports at the national level, for consideration by the Committee in the context of preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in full respect of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. *Requests* the secretariat, in future briefings, to give equal attention to all thematic programmes and provide all relevant information, including on the available budgets, in a balanced and consistent manner;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to provide a presentation on the work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network on capacity-building, technology and technology transfer;

(b) Land degradation portfolio of the United Nations Environment Programme⁵

4. *Recommends* that the secretariat, in line with [Environment Assembly resolution 6/14](#), address Member States' demands for effective action to tackle desertification, drought and land degradation and mitigate their effects, including by facilitating the mobilization of resources in accordance with [Environment Assembly resolution 6/14](#), and to present options to the Committee for Member States' consideration on enhancing the relevant United Nations Environment Programme portfolio on desertification, drought and land degradation by mainstreaming and emphasizing the issues of desertification and drought into the United Nations Environment Programme medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and related programmes of work and budget, avoiding duplication with the work of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

(c) Organization of work⁶

5. *Recalls* the guidance on the organization of work for the Committee⁷ 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 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.

⁴ Highlights of the discussions under agenda item 2, on the review of UNEP thematic programmes, at the subcommittee meetings held on 10 September 2024 and on 23 January and 13 March 2025, as well as the follow-up discussion at the subcommittee meeting held on 18 March 2025, can be found in the Chair's summaries of the meetings held on [10 September 2024](#) and [23 January](#), [13 March](#), [18 March 2025](#) and [11 September 2025](#).

⁵ Highlights of the discussion under agenda item 3, on a briefing on the UNEP land degradation portfolio, at the subcommittee meeting held on 20 February 2025 and the follow-up discussion at the subcommittee meeting held on 18 March 2025 can be found in the Chair's summaries of the meetings held on [20 February](#) and [18 March 2025](#).

⁶ Highlights of the discussion under agenda item 6, on other matters, at the subcommittee meeting held on 27 February 2025 and the follow-up discussion at the subcommittee meeting held on 18 March 2025 can be found in the Chair's summaries of the meetings held on [27 February](#) and [18 March 2025](#).

⁷ See [UNEP/CPR/162/7/Rev.1](#).

Decision 171/3: Recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its twelfth annual subcommittee 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,

Recalling also paragraph 2 of its [decision 167/2](#) on improving the identification, formulation and recording of decisions and conclusions of the Committee,

Noting the discussions of the subcommittee of the Committee at its meeting on 11 September 2025,

Programme Performance Report of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2024⁸

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. *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.

⁸ Highlights of the discussion under item 3, on the Programme Performance Report of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2024, of the agenda for the twelfth annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives can be found in the [Chair's summary](#).