Committee of Permanent Representatives
Bureau meeting
03 September 2026
14:00-15:00 (GMT+3)
Conference Room 9 and online

Draft summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. His Excellency Sultan Hajiyev, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting and welcomed the Bureau members, the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director.

2. He also congratulated H. E. Ms. Gisele Fernandez Ludlow, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to UNEP, on her election as a Vice-Chair of the CPR and representing the Latin American and Caribbean States, and His Excellency Andrew Barnes, Acting Permanent Representative of Australia to UNEP, on his election as the Rapporteur and representing the Western Europe and Other States. The Chair also welcomed H. E. Mr. Matthew Samuda, President of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica, participating as an ex-officio Bureau member.

3. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, delivered her opening remarks. She welcomed the new Bureau members and underscored the importance of the Bureau's guidance ahead of the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR.

4. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

5. The Executive Director briefed the Bureau on the preparations for the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, scheduled for 7 to 11 September 2026. She informed the Bureau that the President of UNEA would participate in the meeting, including in discussions on the regional forums, the UN80 initiative and Work Package 27, and the funding base of UNEP. She informed the Bureau that, following comments made at the previous Bureau meeting, the Secretariat had prepared a revised provisional and annotated agenda[1] and revised structure[2] for the annual subcommittee meeting. She noted that the revised documents reflected the inclusion of a dedicated item on evaluation reports and audits and that a background document would be made available to provide an overview of completed, ongoing and forthcoming evaluations and audits. She further noted that this new item would be considered jointly with item 3 on management and administration and item 4 on programme performance report; emphasizing that this proposed approach will be in line with UNEP's commitment to strengthening institutional learning and the implementation of oversight recommendations. She added that consideration of oversight findings would be integrated into the discussions on management and administration and programme performance and recalled that

[1] Original provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda.
[2] Original structure.

dedicated consideration of oversight reports had already been scheduled for subsequent CPR subcommittee meetings.

6. The Executive Director also provided an update on the UN80 initiative and Work Package 27. She informed the Bureau that the Secretary-General's Information Brief was expected to be issued later in September and emphasized that the annual subcommittee meeting would provide an opportunity for Member States to receive an update on current developments and engage in discussions on the issue.
7. The Secretariat provided an update on documentation, registration, logistical arrangements, special events and the preparations for the Chair's summary of the annual subcommittee meeting.

8. The members of the Bureau:
   a. Welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to better reflect evaluations and audits in the agenda of the annual subcommittee meeting and noted that Member States had expressed interest in obtaining a clearer overview of UNEP's oversight work and follow-up actions.
   b. Endorsed the revised provisional and annotated provisional agenda, and the revised structure of the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR for the consideration of the subcommittee;
   c. Requested the Secretariat to make the revised documents available on the meeting portal and inform CPR members accordingly; and
   d. Reiterated the encouragement to Member States, through their regional groups, to deliver group statements during the opening of the annual subcommittee meeting and to reserve detailed national interventions for the relevant substantive agenda items throughout the week.

Agenda item 3: Preparations for the 175th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

9. The Executive Director briefed on the preparations for the 175th meeting of the CPR, scheduled for 16 September 2026. She informed the Bureau that the Committee would consider, inter alia, the draft Chair's summary of the 13th annual subcommittee meeting, the Executive Director's report for the second quarter of 2026, the evaluation report of the Nature Action subprogramme and the related management response, and the report of the Chair of the CPR on the activities and outcomes of the CPR subcommittee meetings held since the 174th meeting of the CPR.
10. The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the logistical arrangements for the 175th meeting, including registration requirements, interpretation arrangements and documentation. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that any recommendations proposed during the 13th annual subcommittee meeting would first be considered at a CPR subcommittee meeting scheduled for 24 September to allow Member States sufficient time to consider any recommendations emerging from the 13th annual subcommittee meeting and subsequently forwarded for consideration to the 176th quarterly meeting of the CPR scheduled for 23 November.
11. Bureau members who took the floor provided the following comments:
    a. Welcomed the inclusion of substantive agenda items, including the evaluation of the Nature Action subprogramme.
    b. Noted the Secretariat's approach to considering any recommendations and requested the Secretariat to consider the timing between the annual subcommittee meeting and subsequent quarterly meetings to ensure the prompt consideration of recommendations following the annual subcommittee meeting.

Agenda item 4: Consideration of recommendation 1 of the 2025 report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in UNEP.

12. The Chair recalled previous discussions on recommendation 1 of the 2025 Joint Inspection Unit report and introduced a set of guiding questions prepared by the Bureau members and their Deputy Permanent Representatives to support consultations within the regional groups. The questions covered clarifying the mandate and role of the CPR, the organization of CPR meetings, possible actions by the CPR and UNEA, and the process for preparing a recommendation for consideration at UNEA-8.
13. Bureau members who took the floor provided the following comments:
    a. Welcomed the preparation of the guiding questions and sought clarification regarding the timeline, format and expected outputs of the regional consultations; and

b. Emphasized the need to provide sufficient time for regional groups to conduct meaningful consultations and sought guidance on how feedback from the regions would be consolidated and presented to the Bureau.

14. In response, the Chair emphasized that the exercise should remain Member States-driven and should build upon previous work undertaken by the CPR during the CPR-based review process, while avoiding unnecessary duplication. He stressed the importance of generating practical and manageable feedback that could inform future discussion while ensuring that all regional groups had sufficient opportunity to consult.
15. The Executive Director observed that the guiding questions were comprehensive and encouraged Member States to take into account the findings and recommendations of the previous CPR-based review. She suggested that Member States remain mindful of the mandate provided by UNEA and to focus discussions on that mandate.
16. The Secretariat clarified that, following regional consultations, the Bureau would reconvene to consider the feedback received and determine how to proceed, including whether broader consultations through CPR subcommittee meetings would be required before consideration by the CPR. The Secretariat further noted that the Bureau meeting scheduled for 10 November 2026 could serve as the next milestone in the process, thereby allowing sufficient time for regional consultations.
17. The members of the Bureau:
    a. Agreed on the guiding questions as a basis for regional consultations;
    b. Agreed that regional consultations should be undertaken using the existing meeting calendar and timelines;
    c. Agreed to continue consideration of the matter at its Bureau meeting scheduled for 10 November 2026;
    d. Noted that, if required, CPR subcommittee meetings could be convened prior to the 176th quarterly meeting of the CPR to discuss the matter with the wider membership and to consider and decide on the way forward.

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

18. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

19. The meeting closed at 15:00 (GMT+3).

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Annex: List of Participants

Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau Members:

H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyev, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya, and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Ms. Marie Charlotte G. Tang, Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of the Philippines to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Ms. Gisele Fernandez Ludlow, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to UNEP.

His Excellency Andrew Barnes, Acting Permanent Representative of Australia to UNEP, represented by Ms. Alexandra Langley, First Secretary, Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to UNEP.

Representative of the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly participating in an ex officio capacity:

H. E. Mr. Matthew Samuda, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Minister of Water, Environment, and Climate Change of Jamaica.

The UN Environment Program Secretariat was represented by:
Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
Ms. Elisabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director
Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
Ms. Caridad Canales, Deputy Secretary of the Governing Bodies
Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor.