

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 15 May 2025
09:00 – 12:00 and 13:30 – 16:15 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Chair's Summary

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

1. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting and chaired the morning session. H. E. Mr. Wael Nasreldin Attiya, Vice Chair of the CPR, Ambassador of Egypt to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, chaired the afternoon session.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

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

3. The Secretariat provided a review of the following three UNEP's thematic programmes: "[Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Across Sectors and Systems](#)", "[Environmental Governance](#)" and "[Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity](#)".
4. Under the presentation of UNEP's thematic programme "[Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Across Sectors and Systems](#)", and as a follow-up to the [meeting of the subcommittee of the CPR held on 17 April 2025](#), the Secretariat provided an overview of UNEP's work in addressing subsidies harmful to biodiversity.
5. Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Across Sectors and Systems

- a. Requested:
 - i. That a dedicated briefing to the subcommittee of the CPR be scheduled on UNEP's work in addressing subsidies harmful to the environment.
 - ii. More information about support provided by UNEP to the developing countries to transform food systems, leveraging private sector investments in strategic value chains.
 - iii. More details and information regarding the projects implemented under the [Nature for Health](#) (N4H).
- b. Enquired how UNEP intends to strengthen its engagement with Ministries of finance, national treasuries and other stakeholders to streamline environmental metrics into economic decision making.
- c. Sought clarification on the role of UNEP regional offices in implementing the thematic programme.

¹ European Union; Chile; Finland; France; Spain; United Kingdom; Netherlands (Kingdom of the); Mexico; Argentina; Indonesia; Brazil; Portugal; Spain; Kenya; State of Palestine; Children and Youth Major Group.

Environmental Governance

- d. Requested further details on UNEP's work in promoting environmental defenders and further information on UNEP's support to the implementation of the [Escazú Agreement](#).
- e. Noted the role of people of African descent in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in their territories and requested more information on UNEP's work on the interconnections between environment, race and justice.
- f. Requested UNEP to provide further information on:
 - i. The role of the [Global Judicial Institute on the Environment](#).
 - ii. UNEP's capacity-building activities for supporting developing countries, in particular initiatives addressing land degradation and desertification, and any challenges faced in capacity-building efforts towards the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
 - iii. The criteria used by UNEP for creating initiatives under the thematic programme and selecting the countries benefiting from such activities, as well as UNEP's efforts implemented in reducing duplication and promoting coherence in the implementation of the thematic programme.
 - iv. The interlinks between the Environment Management Group and the thematic programme.
 - v. UNEP's work on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and, in particular, on its interconnections with ocean governance and plastic pollution.
 - vi. The proposed funding mechanisms and strategic partnerships aimed at improving resource mobilization for the thematic programme.
- g. Called for more enhanced awareness-raising on the various digital tools available within the thematic programme to improve complementarity and interoperability.

Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity

- h. Enquired how UNEP avoids duplication across the three thematic programmes under the Nature Action pillar.
 - i. Requested UNEP to provide more information on:
 - i. UNEP's strategy to implement the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to delivery of the KMGBF at the national levels.
 - ii. UNEP's role in supporting the [first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8\(j\) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\) Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#), scheduled in Panama from 27 to 30 October 2025.
 - iii. UNEP's approach in ensuring that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities can meaningfully contribute to biodiversity monitoring, trend analysis as well as to decision making.
 - iv. UNEP's approach to strengthening national biodiversity information and monitoring systems.
 - v. Platforms facilitated by UNEP in collaboration with governments to foster innovative partnerships.
6. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Across Sectors and Systems

- a. Noted the request for a dedicated briefing to the subcommittee of the CPR on UNEP's work in addressing subsidies harmful to the environment.

- b. Shared examples of its work in African countries on food systems transformation, collaboration with other United Nations agencies and support provided to countries to align national food systems pathways with [National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans](#) (NBSAPs).
- c. Highlighted UNEP's engagement with the Ministries of finance and other stakeholders for the prioritisation and allocation of budget for environmentally sustainable practices, including tools used to facilitate this process.
- d. Provided the status of the projects implemented under the Nature for Health programme across two phases and indicated UNEP's readiness to provide an in-depth briefing on the Nature for Health programme upon request.
- e. Elaborated on the co-creation process between UNEP's headquarters and regional offices for designing projects implemented under the thematic programme and provided further details on regional offices' contribution in aligning projects' delivery with the changing needs on the ground.

Environmental Governance

- f. Noted UNEP's continued support to various regional forums on human rights defenders in environmental matters as well as to the development of toolkits for human rights defenders, and highlighted UNEP's collaboration with the Secretariat of the Escazú Agreement for its implementation.
- g. Clarified that the third version of the [Environmental Rule of Law Report](#) was under development for release in 2026, reaffirming the importance of the environmental rule of law as a priority.
- h. Explained that the [Global Judicial Institute on the Environment](#), a network of judges for judges, is an important partner of UNEP in judicial capacity-building and awareness-raising.
- i. Clarified that UNEP provides capacity building to countries upon request, through various interrelated actions, including through providing technical and legal assistance and organizing activities at the regional and national levels.
- j. Highlighted UNEP's efforts to promote digital legal tools through various fora and engage stakeholders to explore opportunities for cross-promotion and integration.
- k. Emphasized on UNEP's ongoing cooperation with the Secretariat of the [UN Convention to Combat Desertification](#) (UNCCD) to address land degradation and desertification and expand national-level engagement.

Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity

- l. Shared UNEP's approach to supporting countries in facilitating cross-sectoral discussions and collaboration on commitments under different biodiversity-related MEAs, with specific examples.
- m. Highlighted the [Go-Blue project](#) implemented in Kenya as a case study where government and non-government actors coordinate to design and implement an integrated, nature-based land-sea planning process.
- n. Clarified that the three thematic programmes under the Nature Action pillar are working in close coordination, to contribute to the overall biodiversity goals.
- o. Noted that UNEP is working with and supporting the CBD Secretariat in preparation for the Subsidiary Body meeting scheduled in October 2025.
- p. Explained that UNEP is carrying out awareness-raising events, facilitating platforms for knowledge sharing and learning, building the capacity of community representatives, and bringing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities into national planning and decision-making processes.
- q. Highlighted that UNEP has supported more than 100 countries in improving national data collection, setting baseline and targets, and monitoring progress on national commitments on biodiversity conservation, and reiterated readiness to work with specific countries upon request.
- r. Provided specific examples of innovation hubs and communities of practice facilitated by UNEP.

Agenda item 3: Briefing on the outcomes of the 2025 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

7. The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions provided a [briefing](#) on the outcomes of the BRS 2025 Conference of the Parties (COPs) which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 28 April to 9 May 2025.
8. The briefing was complemented by a [presentation](#) from UNEP on how the outcomes of the BRS 2025 COPs contribute to the implementation of UNEP's programme of work.
9. Delegations² that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Welcomed the [progress](#) achieved during the [2025 BRS COPs](#), including the adoption of the programmes of work, decisions on financial resources and technical assistance, and the listing of three new substances for elimination under the Stockholm Convention, further reaffirming Member States' commitment to the objectives of the three conventions in protecting human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes.
 - b. Commended UNEP's efforts in monitoring the [Persistent Organic Pollutants](#) (POPs), noting that such efforts provide a strong foundation for assessing progress and identifying areas requiring increased attention.
 - c. Expressed support for UNEP's initiatives that could contribute to the development of new markets for green chemicals and foster circular economies.
 - d. Emphasized the need to strengthen collaboration between the BRS conventions and the [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#), particularly on challenges relating to plastic and e-waste management, to streamline global efforts and avoid duplication.
 - e. Highlighted challenges related to the election processes for governing and subsidiary bodies of the BRS conventions, and noted disparities between scientific advice and action, with only two out of ten substances recommended to be listed for elimination by the [Rotterdam Convention's Chemical Review Committee](#) being actually listed.
 - f. Drew attention to the limited availability of data from national reports, [National Implementation Plans](#) (NIPs), and qualitative information on POPs production, which hampers trend analysis and evaluation of effective progress.
 - g. Welcomed UNEP's commitment to addressing data and reporting gaps under [Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention](#) and encouraged continued efforts to develop flexible approaches, strengthen reporting mechanisms, promote best practices among non-state actors, and increase adoption of electronic toolkits by Parties.
 - h. Requested further information on:
 - i. The role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) concerning the new workstream on used textiles and textile waste under the Basel Convention.
 - ii. The resource mobilization strategy targeting non-state actors, especially within the Latin American and Caribbean region.
 - i. Noted that the modular structure of the integrated electronic toolkit harmonizing national reporting frameworks represents a significant step forward, as it will help countries more efficiently organize and review data for submissions to BRS COPs and meet their reporting obligations.
10. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
 - a. Explained that initial activities are underway to determine the extent and scope of non-state actors involvement in the development of the resource mobilization strategy mandated by the 2025 BRS COPs.
 - b. Highlighted the well-established working relationship with WTO which will ensure effective

² European Union; United Kingdom; Costa Rica; Saudi Arabia; Children and Youth Major Group.

information sharing, including at the next meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment.

- c. Clarified that the listing of chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention requires consensus among Parties and highlighted ongoing efforts to engage with Parties on the remaining recommendations of the Chemicals Review Committee with a view to agree on potential future listings.
- d. Clarified that the election of regional representatives is conducted at the regional level, in accordance with established practice under the BRS Conventions.
- e. Reaffirmed UNEP's continued commitment to supporting countries and the BRS Secretariat in the effective implementation of the conventions.
- f. Explained that the [Integrated Electronic Toolkit](#) developed by UNEP is being used by Parties to update their NIPs, facilitating integration with previously submitted information and enhancing reporting coherence under the Stockholm Convention.
- g. Informed that UNEP is developing the third phase of the [Global Monitoring Plan project](#), supported by the [Global Environment Facility](#) (GEF), which will contribute to over 20 years of monitoring data on POPs in developing countries and support the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention.
- h. Highlighted the contributions of GEF-funded programmes in removing hazardous chemicals from key sectors, including the fashion/textile and construction value chains.

Agenda item 4: Briefing on the environment and health nexus: promoting environmental and health outcomes.

11. The UNEP Secretariat and the World Health Organisation (WHO) Secretariat for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) provided a [joint briefing](#) on the linkages between environment and health, including recent and upcoming developments in One Health and [NCDs](#).
12. Delegations³ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:
 - a. Underscored the importance of aligning the environment and health agenda with UNEP's 2025 priorities, including the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment ([INC-5.2](#)) and the resumed third session of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals, waste and to prevent pollution ([SPP OEWG 3.2](#)).
 - b. Requested further information on:
 - i. UNEP's work on environment and health, including measurable outcomes related to the environment and health nexus with land degradation.
 - ii. UNEP's role in the [Quadripartite Secretariat for One Health](#) and in the [One Health Joint Plan of Action](#) (2022-2026).
 - iii. How UNEP plans to collaborate with Member States and other UN agencies in advancing the One UN approach towards One Health.
 - iv. UNEP's work on air quality in collaboration with the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#) (CCAC).
 - v. UNEP's efforts and intentions to align with the [WHO's Global Strategy on Health, Environment and Climate Change](#).
 - vi. Challenges and key lessons learned in implementing relevant UNEA resolutions related to the environment and health nexus.
 - vii. Possibility for UNEP to conduct a Cochrane review on the effectiveness of One Health intervention in reducing environment-derived diseases.
 - viii. The feasibility of developing a global Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform that integrates

³ European Union; United Kingdom; Egypt; Saudi Arabia; Spain; Japan; Netherlands (Kingdom of the).

- environmental, human, and animal health data to predict and prevent health-environment crises.
- ix. Whether UNEP intends to launch knowledge-sharing products related to operational work on environment and health, or if this matter will be addressed within the next Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029.
 - c. Requested how UNEP intends to support Member States in implementing environment-related commitments as outlined in the [WHO Pandemic Agreement](#) adopted by the seventy-eighth session of the World Health Assembly.
13. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:
- a. Highlighted the strong coordination and collaboration within the Quadripartite Secretariat for One Health, including regular meetings of the [Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance](#), [Health4Life Fund](#), and other fora, further emphasizing this as a means to promote the One UN approach towards One Health and catalyse country-level actions.
 - b. Explained that UNEP's role in the [One Health Joint Plan of Action](#) primarily focuses on integrating environmental dimensions.
 - c. Highlighted the importance of a systemic approach in implementing the One Health framework to effectively address antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
 - d. Emphasized the need to systematize available evidence on the environment and health nexus to ensure coordinated action without overlaps and raised concerns about funding constraints, particularly in areas like air pollution which are hindering implementation efforts.
 - e. Clarified that fragmented data and actions hinder the implementation of UNEA resolutions related to the environment and health nexus, emphasizing the need for consolidated and joint efforts to address these issues.
 - f. Explained that UNEP's support to Member States in implementing the [WHO Pandemic Agreement](#) would require consideration and guidance from Member States, further highlighting that UNEP could play a key role in areas such as environmental surveillance and the environment-climate nexus.
 - g. Noted that a dedicated briefing on UNEP's Land Degradation portfolio was held on [20 February 2025](#), and explained UNEP's ongoing work on chemicals, pesticides, and fertilizers in relation to land degradation, highlighting the collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), further noting that UNEA resolutions and the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#) (GFC) mandate UNEP to work toward the reduction of highly hazardous pesticides.
 - h. Explained the collaboration between UNEP and the CCAC in implementing [UNEA resolution 6/10](#) on promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally.
 - i. Noted that UNEP's ongoing work on agricultural emissions aimed at demonstrating productivity gains through best practices that reduce land pressure and emissions from agriculture.
 - j. Emphasized the importance of evidence-based action, particularly in the formulation of political declarations, underscoring the need to prioritize issues that demonstrate the greatest impact based on robust scientific evidence.
 - k. Agreed to provide further details on UNEP's work on the environment and health nexus and expressed openness to holding a follow-up briefing.

Agenda item 5: Development of a medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027.

14. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the ongoing development of a medium-term strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work (PoW) and budget for the period 2026-2027, outlining key elements of both drafts.

15. Delegations⁴ that took the floor welcomed the presentation and provided the following comments in summary:

- a. Welcomed the inclusion and visibility of land degradation, desertification and drought, and supported the integration of science-based solutions and MEAs into the MTS.
- b. Called for a concise MTS with logical, clear strategic objectives that effectively convey key messages to a broad range of stakeholders, forming the foundation for a robust results framework in the PoW.
- c. Noted that while the MTS and PoW texts are not negotiated documents, they should reflect consensus views of Member States.
- d. Expressed concern over delay in the circulation of the first drafts of the MTS and PoW and budget for the meeting and highlighted the importance for the Secretariat to timely circulate the drafts to ensure meaningful engagement of delegations and requested further clarification on the timeline for the drafts' release.
- e. Emphasized on the need to align the MTS with global environmental priorities, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while ensuring that the MTS reflects the diverse needs of Member States
- f. Shared concerns about merging biodiversity loss and land-related issues into a single strategic objective, emphasizing the need to retain biodiversity as a standalone core priority in the MTS.
- g. Requested further clarification on the following:
 - i. UNEP's strategy for leveraging its role within the UN system, including through enhanced collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators.
 - ii. Alternative funding sources under consideration by UNEP to support the full implementation of the MTS.
 - iii. Whether UNEP would consider subregional disaggregation in the MTS monitoring indicators, reflecting ecological and socio-economic diversity of each region.
 - iv. Scope, timeline, and expected outcomes of the ongoing UNEP's functional review, including improvements to the delivery model to enhance impact and equity.
- h. Underlined the need for the MTS to consider the following:
 - i. A people-centred and human rights-based approach.
 - ii. Regional needs and tailored support for countries with specific challenges, including consideration of national circumstances, laws and policies, when addressing human rights and providing support to areas affected by disaster and conflict.
 - iii. The integrated nature of sustainable development, emphasizing the interdependence of economic, social, and environmental pillars.
 - iv. Cost-effectiveness in achieving environmental goals using the most effective solutions.
 - v. Strengthening areas such as Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), bioeconomy, circular economy, water, oceans, floods, early warning systems, food security, environmental education, green jobs and the [UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on Environment](#) (UN-SPBF).
 - vi. Use of previously negotiated and internationally agreed language, including UNEA resolutions, particularly on issues concerning vulnerable and marginalized groups, water, oceans, seas, sand and dust storms.
- i. Stressed the importance of UNEP's strategic partnerships with international financial institutions, multilateral actors, and the private sector to diversify funding sources and drive an effective implementation of the MTS.

⁴ European Union; Russian Federation; Türkiye; Switzerland; Brazil; Norway; Japan; Indonesia; Saudi Arabia; United Kingdom; Peru; Uganda; Costa Rica; Canada; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Portugal; Netherlands (Kingdom of the); Argentina; State of Palestine.

16. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

- a. Confirmed that the first drafts of the MTS and PoW and budget will be shared with Member States by the end of May 2025, ahead of the [subcommittee meeting to be held on 12 June 2025](#) and the [170th meeting of the CPR](#) to be held on 23 June 2025.
- b. Informed that the [2024 Formative Evaluation of the UNEP Delivery Model](#) has been completed and will be presented to the Committee at its subcommittee meeting scheduled for 12 June 2025.
- c. Requested Member States support in keeping the MTS and PoW each under 8,500 words to ensure clarity and focus.
- d. Reaffirmed that biodiversity remains a core pillar of UNEP's work.
- e. Emphasized UNEP's commitment to support countries in a context-sensitive manner.
- f. Recognized the need for continued engagement and expressed openness to holding additional meetings.
- g. Acknowledged all comments received during the meeting and confirmed that inputs will be incorporated into the first drafts of the MTS and PoW to the extent possible.
- h. Informed that an additional meeting of the subcommittee of the CPR will be scheduled, in addition to the 12 June date, to allow ample exchange of views on the first drafts.

Agenda item 6: Other matters.

17. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting.

18. The meeting closed at 16:15 (GMT+3).