

Meeting of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly
25 March 2025 15:00 – 17:00 (GMT+3)
Online meeting

Agenda item 3: Structure (programme of work), participation modalities and national statements for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

This note, entitled “Structure (programme of work), participation modalities and national statements for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”, has been developed by the Secretariat for the consideration and possible guidance by the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The note outlines a proposal for the UNEA-7 structure based on the established practice of past sessions of UNEA; a proposal for participation modalities; and a proposal for the arrangement for national statements, for consideration and guidance by the UNEA Bureau.

Proposed structure, participation modalities and national statements for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

A. Background

1. In accordance with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) [decision 6/7](#), the seventh session will be held in Nairobi from **8 to 12 December 2025**, and the seventh meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will be held from **1 to 5 December 2025**.
2. Pursuant to Governing Council [decision 27/2](#) and established practice of past UNEA sessions, the following components have formed the structure of the UNEA sessions:
 - Opening plenary meeting;
 - Closing plenary meeting with action on draft proposals;
 - An MEA day;
 - A 2-day high-level segment, which includes national statements, 3 leadership dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue; and
 - A committee of the whole to negotiate any outstanding draft resolutions/decisions, as needed.
3. In order to cater for special circumstances, some meetings of UNEA have started at 9:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. and/or continued beyond 6:00 p.m.
4. In addition, UNEA also hosts several other associated events, including pre-session events (such as the self-organized Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum), and in-session events (lunchtime and evening official side events selected by UNEP, flagship events to launch publications, media events, activities organized by stakeholders and receptions).

B. Draft structure

5. The draft structure for UNEA-7 is outlined in the Annex to this document and includes the following key components:
 - The formal opening of the session to be held in the morning of Monday, 8 December.
 - The Committee of the Whole, if needed, will be established at the opening plenary meeting and will meet from Monday to Wednesday, 8 – 10 December. On 10 December, the Committee of the Whole will meet in parallel to the “MEA day”.
 - Also, Wednesday, 10 December, will be specifically devoted to the consideration of the item on “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements” - the “MEA Day”, in the form of a formal opening followed by two consecutive informal high-level dialogues and a short closing segment. It is expected that the MEA Day will attract

high-level participation. More information on the proposed MEA Day, including the focus of the dialogues, will be made available in due course.

- The high-level segment will open on Thursday, 11 December (am), and close on Friday, 12 December (pm). The opening of the high-level segment will feature keynote speakers, followed by national statements based on an established list of speakers which may include statements by Heads of State and Government.
- The plenary meeting on Thursday, 11 December, will be extended into the evening, to accommodate statements from Member States and stakeholders. National statements are also expected to continue on Friday, 12 December.
- Three leadership dialogues, each for 90 minutes, are proposed, as follows:
 - One in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 December; and
 - Two consecutively in the morning of Friday, 12 December.
 - Additional information on the organization of the leadership dialogues, including the focus of the dialogues, will be made available in due course.
- The multistakeholder dialogue is proposed to take place in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 December for 90 minutes. As per established practice, the focus and format of this dialogue will be organized in close cooperation with the elected representatives from Major Groups and Stakeholders. More information on the multistakeholder dialogue will be made available in due course.
- The closing plenary will be held on Friday, 12 December, in the afternoon, inter alia to take action on the draft ministerial declaration, draft resolutions and decisions, hear the reports from the high-level and multistakeholder dialogues and to elect the Bureau of UNEA-8.

C. Participation modalities for UNEA-7

6. Based on the lessons learned from previous UNEA sessions, it is proposed that UNEA-7 is held fully in-person:
 - All meetings, i.e. formal plenary meetings and informal meetings (leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues and the MEA Day high-level dialogues), as well as the meetings of the Committee of the Whole, are to be held fully in-person. These meetings will have live web-streaming in all six UN languages to allow participants as well as the general public to follow the proceedings.
 - Contact groups meetings of the Committee of the Whole will be held fully in-person.
7. The meetings of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, including working groups meetings, will also be held fully in-person.

National statements

8. National statements on the theme of UNEA-7 will be delivered in-person during the high-level segment. Statements may be delivered by representatives of Member States and, time permitting, in accordance with rules 68, 69 and 70 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, by members of specialized agencies, the specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, accredited intergovernmental organizations, regional economic integration organizations, and major groups and stakeholders.
9. The list of speakers for national statements will be established on a first-come, first-served basis, with due regard to protocol and established practices. Accordingly, the Heads of States will be accorded priority, followed by Vice Presidents, Heads of Government, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers and Vice Ministers followed by Heads of Delegation.
10. Further to the [decision](#) of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on UNEA-6 lessons learned¹, and in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau may wish to consider establishing a time limit of 4 minutes for statements by individual delegations and 5 minutes for statements made on behalf of groups of States², on the understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts. Observers, major groups and stakeholders may be given a time limit of 3 minutes, unless for the major groups the statement is on behalf of all nine major groups, in which case the time limit may be 5 minutes. A countdown timer will operate in the conference room to guide speakers. When a representative exceeds her or his allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay, which will be done by means of automatic microphone cut-off.
11. The increase in the time limit for national statements will have an impact on the structure (programme of work). As shown in the proposed structure, the plenary meeting on Friday, 12 December, in the morning will begin at 9 a.m. and if needed will continue from 1:30 to 4 p.m. to exhaust the list of speakers. This would also imply that the closing plenary start may be delayed.

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¹ The UNEA Bureau, following discussions in the CPR, is invited to consider, with the support of the Secretariat, the time allocation at the high-level segment, in order to provide sufficient time for Heads of Delegations to deliver their national statements

² In the past UNEAs, the time limit for statements was 3 minutes for statements by individual delegations and 5 minutes for statements made on behalf of groups of States.

Annex: Proposed schematic structure for UNEA-7

		High-level segment				
	Monday, 8 Dec	Tuesday, 9 Dec	Wednesday, 10 Dec	Thursday, 11 Dec	Friday, 12 Dec	
8.00 – 9.00	Reg/Pol groups/MG meetings [Restricted]		Reg/Pol groups/MG meetings [Restricted]	Reg/Pol groups/MG meetings [Restricted]	African Ministerial breakfast	
9.00 – 10.00		Reg/Pol groups/MG meetings [Restricted]	Bureau meeting [restricted]	High-level segment cultural opening		
10.00 – 13.00	[1st plenary meeting] Opening plenary of UNEA ACEFRS [CR2] - Opening of the session [item 1] - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work [item 2] <i>Adoption of the agenda, establishment of a committee of the whole, election of the chair and the rapporteur of the committee [TBC], allocation of agenda items, organization of work</i> - Opening of the session [item 1] (continued) - Opening statements - Stakeholder engagement [item 7] - Credentials of representatives [item 3] - Report of the CPR [item 4] - Contributions of UNEA to the HLPF [item 8]	Committee of the Whole/Contact groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] [CR2]	Committee of the Whole/Contact groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] [CR2]	[2nd plenary meeting] Cooperation with MEAs [item10] ACEFRS [CR1]	[3rd plenary meeting] Opening of the High-level segment [item 9] "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet" ACEFRS [CR2]	
	Committee of the Whole Opening plenary [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] ACEFRS [CR2]			High-Level dialogue on Cooperation with MEAs ACEFRS [CR1]	[3rd plenary meeting - continuation] National statements (List of speakers) [item 9] ACEFRS [CR2]	
13.15 – 14.45	Side events	Side events	Side events	Side events	UNEP hosted "Women leaders luncheon"	
15.00 – 18.00	Committee of the Whole/Contact groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] [CR2]	Committee of the Whole/Contact groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] [CR2]	Committee of the Whole Closing plenary [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] ACEFRS [CR2]	High-Level dialogue on Cooperation with MEAs ACEFRS [CR1]	[4th plenary meeting] - Credentials of representatives [item 3] (resumed) - National statements (List of speakers) [item 9] ACEFRS [CR 2]	
					Leadership dialogue ACEFRS [CR1]	Multistakeholder dialogue ACEFRS [CR1]
				Moderated discussion on the conclusions ACEFRS [CR1]		
18.15 – 19.45	Side events	Side events	Side events	Side events		
			MEA Reception [TBC]	[5th plenary meeting] National statements (List of speakers) [item 9] ACEFRS [CR 2] 19.30 – 22.30	Host Country Reception	
MEAs side events [pavilion tent] from MON-FRI – TBA						