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Asia/Pacific Consultation on UNEP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS 2026–2029) and Programme of Work (PoW 2026–2027)

27 May 2025

Discussion Document-Not for quotation or citation: The purpose of this document is to facilitate discussions during the Sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, 26-29 August 2025. Comments are welcome and should be sent to unep-apmf@un.org.

1. Background and Objectives

[Decision 6/7](#) requested UNEP to prepare the new Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and a Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for its first two biennium, through inclusive and regular consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders. In line with this, UNEP has been facilitating a series of informal and inclusive dialogues with [Member States, Major Groups and Stakeholders, MEAs, and the private sector](#) where the importance of regional and country perspective in the new MTS was strongly emphasized.

In this context, UNEP will host a session to provide an update on the development of the MTS. The session will be based on the presentation on the MTS at the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Subcommittee on 15 May and [the draft annotated outline](#) presented at the 169th CPR on 20 March.

2. The Head of the Strategic Planning Unit in the Policy and Programme Division made a presentation on the UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2026-2029.

3. Delegations¹ that took the floor provided the following statements:

- a. Expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's efforts in preparing the MTS presentation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- b. Welcomed the MTS's concise format and its focus on land degradation, LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, and conflict-affected countries.
- c. Highlighted UNEP's role in coordinating environmental policy and emphasized the need for the MTS to align with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, while respecting national contexts and development rights.
- d. Acknowledged the importance of avoiding duplication by leveraging existing strategies, frameworks, and international processes.
- e. Underlined the importance of the following issues as priorities for Asia-Pacific in the MTS:
 - GLOF (glacial lake outburst flood), Oceans, sustainable hydropower, and nature-based solutions.
 - Air pollution and pollution challenges in low-industrialized countries.
 - Human-wildlife conflict and climate-induced displacement.
 - Disaster risk reduction in mountain and seismic-prone regions, including the use of AI and remote sensing.
 - Digital transformation, with attention to capacity gaps.
 - Green finance and economic transformation, including green bonds and private sector innovation.
 - Transboundary cooperations and the UNEA-6 resolution related to synergies (6/4).
 - Indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge.
- f. Requested collaboration with UNDRR on early warning systems and capacity building.
- g. Acknowledged data gaps and the digital divide in the Pacific as barriers to evidence-based policymaking.
- h. Called for tailored support for SIDS, including equitable funding, localized monitoring, regional data systems, technical capacity, and legal frameworks for climate displacement.
- i. Stressed continued support for UNEP's MTS development and the need to translate synergies into concrete action.

4. The Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

- a. Appreciated Member States for their constructive feedback.
- b. Reaffirmed UNEP's commitment to measurable impact and agreed on the need to tailor implementation to national and regional contexts and strategies.
- c. Agreed with the importance of avoiding duplication, leveraging existing strategies, and ensuring equitable access to funding, data, and technical support.

¹ Pacific: Australia, Samoa, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, New Zealand. Asia: China, Cambodia, Bhutan, Japan, DPR Korea, Republic of Korea.

- d. Highlighted SIDS' concerns on climate displacement, freshwater protection, equity, and the need for region-specific support and clearer MTS pathways.
- e. Acknowledged support for key themes including synergies, early warning systems, land degradation, oceans, indigenous knowledge, green jobs, youth empowerment, and traditional practices.
- f. Clarified that while the MTS is not negotiated, it should be endorsed by Member States.
- g. Emphasized the importance of Member States' input on strategic direction and priority areas.

5. Conclusion

The Asia/Pacific consultation provided a valuable platform for Member States to share regional perspectives and priorities, contributing meaningfully to the development of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2026–2029. The discussion reaffirmed strong support for a concise, action-oriented MTS that aligns with the 2030 Agenda and addresses the unique challenges of LDCs, SIDS, and conflict-affected regions. Member States emphasized the need for UNEP to promote synergies, enhance regional partnerships, and ensure equitable access to data, funding, and capacity building. The Secretariat acknowledged the constructive feedback and reiterated its commitment to an inclusive and impact-driven MTS. Inputs from this consultation will serve as an important reference as UNEP continues to refine the strategy in close collaboration with Member States and stakeholders.