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13th meeting**

Nairobi, 7–11 September 2026

Conference Room 2 (in person) and Online

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Contribution of the regional forums of ministers of
the environment and environment authorities to the
UNEP medium-term strategy and programme of work**

**Concept note for a panel discussion with the Chairs of the Regional Forums of
Ministers of the Environment and Environment Authorities**

This concept note has been prepared by the Secretariat to guide the discussions at the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under agenda item 5, entitled *“Contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the medium-term strategy and programme of work of UNEP”*.

Background

The United Nations Environment Assembly, in its [resolution 6/3](#), requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to include, in the agendas of the annual subcommittee meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), an item on the contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to UNEP's medium-term strategy (MTS) and programme of work (PoW).

The Environment Assembly, in the same resolution, also requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue to provide technical support, where requested, through the regional offices for the implementation of decisions adopted at sessions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities, as appropriate, and in line with the MTS and the PoW and budget.

In response to the request in paragraph 5 of the resolution, a [report](#) was issued on the role and viability of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities, along with a summary of its findings for consideration by UNEA at its seventh session. The report highlighted that regional forums are vital platforms for environmental governance and cooperation, each making distinct contributions to the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and global agendas. These forums provide region-specific perspectives, priorities, and guidance that support UNEP's responsiveness to diverse environmental challenges across different parts of the world, including through its MTS and PoW.

Focus of the panel discussion

In light of the approval of the MTS for the period 2026–2029 and the PoW and budget for the biennium 2026–2027 by UNEA-7, and recognizing the substantive contributions made by the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities throughout the development of the MTS and PoW, UNEP will provide an update on the support provided for the implementation of decisions adopted at sessions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities, which align with and contribute to the implementation of the current MTS and PoW. Further, representatives of the chairs of the ministerial forums will reflect on how regional priorities are reflected in the MTS and PoW, emerging issues and support needed to address environmental issues to support sustainable development.

Scenario

1. Opening and welcoming by the Chair of the CPR.
2. Introduction of the item by UNEP.
3. Panel discussion moderated by the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. Panellists will include the Chairs of the Regional Forums or their representatives (African Ministerial Conference on the Environment; Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific; and Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean).
4. Interactive discussion with members of the Committee and stakeholders.
5. Closing.