United Nations Environment Programme
1 September 2025

Joint Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
10 September, 16:00 - 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online

Agenda item 3: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

This note, entitled "Recommended list of official side events for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly", serves as a background document for consideration of agenda item 3 entitled "Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly".

This note includes a recommended list of 19 official side events to be held during the seventh session of the Environment Assembly for endorsement by the members of the UNEA and the CPR Bureaux.

Following an open call for applications from 2 June to 22 July 2025 to Member States, intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and UN system entities and major groups and stakeholders accredited to the UN Environment Programme and its governing bodies, a total of 102 side event eligible applications were received by the secretariat through an online application form.

The secretariat has reviewed and assessed the applications received with a view to ensure a broad geographical representation of stakeholders, a high potential to add value to UNEA sessions, as well a high-level resonance in relation to the overall theme for UNEA-7 – "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet".

More specifically, the following criteria have been applied in the selection process:

1. Thematic consideration: the focus of the side events should relate to the theme of UNEA-7.
2. Outreach: priority has been given to the side events that are to be organized in partnership with other Member States and/or stakeholders and that help raise the profile of UNEA-7.
3. Representation: the side events should facilitate broad stakeholder participation and should, where relevant, include civil society, private sector and the scientific community, and the choice of lead speakers / contributors / panelists should be geographically, generationally and gender balanced.

The shortlisting of recommended side events was carried out in two phases, whereby a thorough review and evaluation of all the applications were undertaken by a committee comprised of secretariat staff based on the above-mentioned established criteria. In the second phase, the internal secretariat task force on UNEA-7 preparations assessed the list based on which the final recommended list has been prepared.

In addition to the recommended list of side events, 13 additional proposals have been identified as potential contributors to some of the recommended side events that address same or similar topics. On this basis, the organizers of the selected side events will – with the support of the secretariat – be invited to reach out to the other applicants to explore possible cooperation to enhance the quality and ownership of the final side event, with potentially higher impact. Such an approach can lead to broader engagement

among key stakeholders and may spur new forms of cooperation across Member States and organizations that go beyond the organization of a single event.

In addition, the UNEP Secretariat is coordinating with the Secretariats of multilateral environmental arrangements (MEAs) to accommodate MEAs-related side events proposals in the MEAs Pavillion, ensuring alignment with their work and priorities.

Official side events, for a duration of 75 minutes each, will be convened in person over the five days of UNEA-7, during lunch breaks and in the evenings.

Regarding the specific distribution of events in time and space, the secretariat will need more time to prepare a full-fledged programme.

Finally, the secretariat will seek to ensure that the UNEA official side events reach as large an audience as possible, through effective promotion and communication on UNEA-7 website and social media platforms, and by reaching out to UNEP partners, goodwill ambassadors and others.

The members of the two Bureaux are invited to endorse the proposed list of recommended official side events to be held during UNEA-7.

Recommended list of official side events for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)

	Title	Lead organizer	Partners
#1	**Proposal 1: From National Integration to Global Impact: Strengthening Synergies Across Climate, Biodiversity and Land Governance**	Kenya	
#2	**Proposal 30: Sustainability in Action: Oman's Experience and Innovations towards a Resilient Planet**	Environment Authority, Oman	UNEP
#3	**Proposal 31: GEO-7 Solutions for a Resilient Planet: Turning Knowledge into Action**	UNEP	
#4	**Proposal 36: Environment and Crime – a Global Dialogue to foster International Cooperation**	UNEP and International Criminal Court	
	Potential contributors		
	Proposal 60: Combating Environmental Crime: A Prerequisite for a Resilient and Sustainable Planet	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
#5	**Proposal 45: Drying Seas and Lakes – A Global Catastrophe of the 21st Century**	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan	UNEP, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)
	Potential contributors		
	Proposal 21: High-level International Conference on Glaciers Preservation 2025: Outcomes and Results	Tajikistan	WMO
	Proposal 33: Melting Point: Global Action for Glacier Preservation in a Warming World	Committee for Environmental Protection, Tajikistan	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
#6	**Proposal 49: Flow Forward: Transboundary water cooperation to restore and sustain water ecosystems from source to sea**	International Union for Conservation of Nature	European Union; Finland
#7	**Proposal 59: Mainstreaming Justice into Global Critical Raw Materials Consumption and Production**	Children and Youth Major Group (CYMG) and Portugal	International Resources Panel (IRP)
#8	**Proposal 71: Beat the heat: Local and Regional Action for a resilient planet**	Global Cities Hub	UNEP; Brazil; ICLEI
#9	**Proposal 72: Enabling circular solutions for achieving sustainable and just transitions and resilient societies for all**	Ministry of the Environment, Finland	EU Circular Economy Resource Centre; Senegal; Brazil
	Potential contributors		
	Proposal 70: Zero Waste Societies: Accelerating Local Action for a Circular and Pollution-Free Future	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	UNEP; Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI); ISWA
	Proposal 78: Circular Economy in Practice – Global Trends and Transformation of the Textile Industry	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany	UNEP; Systemiq; Ellen MacArthur Foundation

	Proposal 81: Sustainable Public Procurement: a strategic solution for a resilient and circular built environment	Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands	
	Proposal 137: Sustainable Materials Use: Towards global stewardship	Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands	World Business Council for Sustainable Development; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
#10	**Proposal 77: Community-Based Freshwater and Peatland Conservation for a Resilient Planet**	Ministry of Environment, Indonesia	UNEP; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
#11	**Proposal 94: Women Ocean Guardians: A Call to Action for Transformative Ocean Economies and Conservation Worldwide**	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	UNEP; Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society
	Potential contributors		
	Proposal 69: Ocean-Climate Justice: Coastal Solutions for Resilient Blue Communities and Future Generations in Latin America	Fundación Barranquilla+20 - Barranquilla+20 Foundation	Panama; Universidad Espiritu Santo' Guardianes por la vida
#12	**Proposal 98: Innovating for Climate Resilience: Solutions for Sustainable Land, Water and Food Systems**	Morocco	
	Potential contributors		
	Proposal 41: Restoring Lands, Securing Our Future: Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future	Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia (COP16 Presidency)	UNCCD
	Proposal 122: Advancing ecosystem restoration for resilient livelihoods and healthy planet	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), plus Member States to be announced as World Restoration Flagships	
	Proposal 134: Implementing UNEA resolutions on Land and Water: Integrated Solutions for Resilient Food Systems	Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR System Organization)	Costa Rica
#13	**Proposal 103: Unlocking Catalytic Finance for Nature-based Solutions and Climate Resilience in LDCs and SIDS**	Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Least Developed Countries Group; World Adaptation Science Programme
	Potential contributors		
	Proposal 79: Unlocking Private Finance for Nature: Solutions for Restoration, Resilience, and Adaptation.	Russian Federation	International and Comparative Law Research Center (ICLRC)
#14	**Proposal 117: Scaling Soil Health for People, Nature, and Climate: From Resolution to Implementation**	International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)	International Association of Students in Agricultural and related Sciences; World Business Council for Sustainable Development; WWF International
#15	**Proposal 132: Implementing the Global Digital Compact: Aligning AI and Digital Governance with Environmental Sustainability**	Mexico	Zambia

#16	**Proposal 135: Digital Product Information Systems for a resilient planet: Advancing circularity and transparency**	International Telecommunication Union	One Planet Network; Basel Convention Regional Centre/ INTI - Argentina
#17	**Proposal 136: Synergies in the Chemicals and Waste Cluster: The Role of Emerging and Established Instruments**	Switzerland	
#18	**Proposal 139: Advancing the Human Right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment through a Just Transition for generations of tomorrow**	Slovenia	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
#19	**Proposal 141: Responsible, just and resilient environmentally sustainable management of minerals and metals - Elements for a global traceability, transparency and accountability framework.**	Colombia	UNEP
	Potential contributors		
	Proposal 66: Communities at the Core of Just Transitions: Ethical Governance of Critical Minerals for a Sustainable Future	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh	University Nasional Indonesia [UNAS]; Ministry of Environment, Indonesia; Global One 2015, IF20; and Centre for Participatory Research and Development