

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
3 July 2025
Online meeting

Agenda item 2 (c): Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs day)

This note, entitled "*Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements*", has been developed by the Secretariat for the consideration of and possible guidance by the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under agenda item 2 (c) (Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs day)) at the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to be held online on 3 July 2025.

The note outlines the overall objective and focus of the MEA agenda item, as well as the proposed theme for the two high-level dialogues to be held on the MEAs day.

Agenda item entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements”

Concept note in preparation for UNEA-7

1. Background

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), in its [decision 6/7](#) on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, decided to include in its provisional agenda for UNEA-7 an item entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements”.

2. Overall objective and focus of the MEA agenda item

The agenda item on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) provides a compelling platform to highlight how UNEP cooperates with the MEAs – and how the MEAs cooperate together – celebrating success stories, championing integrated solutions, and inspiring greater collective environmental action.

As recognized in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 2022-2025 Medium Term Strategy (MTS), the overall goal of strengthening the engagement of MEAs in UNEA is to strengthen convergence and dialogue on common strategic actions and shared experiences, whilst providing increased visibility to the decisions of the governing bodies of the MEAs. To that end, UNEA serves as an important forum for promoting coherence and complementarity between the resolutions of the Assembly and the decisions of the governing bodies of the MEAs, while fully respecting the autonomy of the MEAs and without introducing new and additional requirements for the contracting parties.

The UNEA-7 theme “Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet” is well aligned with MEAs objectives. It provides an opportunity to highlight how UNEA can catalyze solutions to environmental challenges including through the implementation of MEAs.

The agenda item will facilitate sharing of success stories, ideas and innovative solutions on integrated approaches that promote synergies, collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of MEAs. Through their engagement, countries will be able to demonstrate their commitment and the progress made to date. The agenda item will also encourage countries to accelerate action in meeting their environmental commitments, strengthening partnerships and scaling up practical action on the ground, recognizing that there is no “one size fits all”.

This approach responds to the [UNEA resolution 6/6](#) on fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the UNEA, UNEP and MEAs, and the [UNEA resolution 6/4](#) on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of MEAs. It also responds to the increasing calls from the governing bodies of the MEAs, including those of the Rio Conventions,¹ for strengthening cooperation and synergies among the MEAs.

¹ For example: CBD COP decisions [16/22](#) and [16/35](#) and UNCCD COP decision [8/16](#)

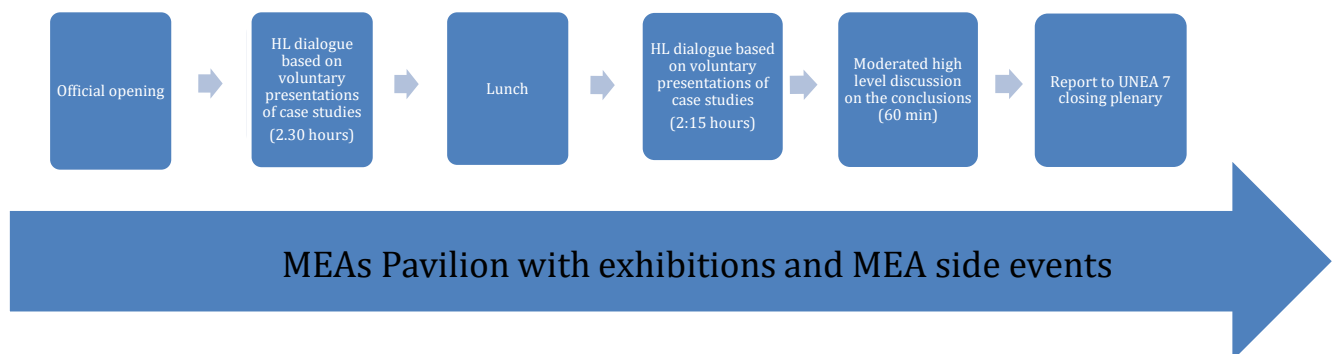
The agenda item will also provide space for the consideration of possible draft resolutions tabled by Member State(s) relevant to the agenda item. It is further expected that the outcome will be brought to the attention of the governing bodies of the MEAs, as appropriate.

3. The organization of the agenda item on cooperation with MEAs at UNEA-7

Based on the experience from UNEA-6, it is proposed that the consideration of the MEAs agenda item will consist of three components:

- 1) An “MEAs Day” held on Wednesday, 10 December 2025, which will include high-level dialogues informed by the UNEA-7 theme for sharing success stories, ideas and innovative solutions to advance integrated approaches and promote synergies, collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of MEAs.
- 2) A dedicated exhibition area (MEAs Pavilion) during the week of UNEA-7 for the MEA Secretariats and UNEP to showcase their work with their key partners on integrated approaches and solutions to advance cooperation, collaboration and synergies; and
- 3) A programme of side events held during the week of UNEA-7 that will enable the MEAs, UNEP and relevant partners to showcase partnerships and success stories in MEA implementation, promoting integrated approaches, collaboration, cooperation and synergies.

Diagram 1: Proposed sequence for the consideration of the MEAs agenda item



3.1 MEAs Day

The “MEAs Day” will be **formally opened** by the UNEA President, followed by a statement by the Executive Director and possible brief high-level introductory remarks, prioritizing the participation of the Presidents of the Conference of the Parties of the MEAs (TBC).

Immediately thereafter, 2 hours and 30 minutes of High-Level Dialogue 1 will be held in a round table format. *The Dialogue 1* will focus on showcasing integrated approaches for coherent and effective MEAs implementation at the national level including through strengthening legal, policy and institutional frameworks and promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. A proposed title for Dialogue 1 is as follows:

“Signed, Sealed, Delivered?” - Turbocharging MEAs implementation through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

A second high-level dialogue of 2 hours 15 minutes in round table format will be held in the afternoon. The *Dialogue 2* will elaborate how MEAs can drive forward the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the necessary enabling conditions to accelerate progress and close implementation gaps in addressing the environmental dimension of sustainable development and the environmental challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation and pollution. A proposed title for Dialogue 2 is as follows:

“Keeping the Promise” – Boosting SDG implementation through the MEAs.

Each dialogue will be preceded by a short keynote presentation and will be steered by guiding questions.

The two dialogues will be followed by **a one-hour moderated discussion** on the conclusions of the MEAs Day, reflecting on the solutions and ideas, as well as the suggested areas for further action. It is suggested that this dialogue may be moderated by the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (TBC).

A dedicated Secretariat background document will be prepared in advance of the meeting to support consideration of the agenda item. The background document will include a short analysis of the interconnected environmental challenges and present a selected number of case studies on integrated approaches and solutions to deliver common objectives across MEAs, including through a balanced representation of geographical regions. UNEP will consult relevant MEA secretariats on the preparation of the document. The document will complement the Executive Director’s report submitted to UNEA-7 on the implementation of UNEA resolutions 6/4 and 6/6, which include, inter alia, an invitation to the Executive Director to collect, analyze and compile case studies of best practices and lessons learnt from cooperation and synergies at the national level.

A summary of the discussions, including the key messages for action from the MEAs Day, will be presented at the closing plenary meeting on Friday, 12 December and reflected in the proceedings report of UNEA-7.

3.2. MEAs Pavilion and the MEAs-related side events

It is planned that an “MEAs Pavilion” will be organized during the full week of UNEA-7, subject to availability of financial resources, as a multipurpose space to showcase integrated approaches, cooperation and synergies in implementation of MEAs, relevant to the theme of UNEA-7. UNEP will plan the Pavillion space together with the MEA Secretariats.

The Pavilion would be open to all UNEA participants providing space for networking, knowledge sharing and MEAs related side-events and exhibitions. All MEAs-related side-events and exhibitions will be organized in the Pavilion.

The summary of the discussions at the Pavilion will be made available on the UNEA-7 website.

4. Participation

The invitation to effectively participate in UNEA-7, including the MEAs Day, will be extended to the UNEP administered global and regional MEA secretariats², to the secretariats of the two other Rio Conventions (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and UN Convention to Combat Desertification) and secretariats of the five non-UNEP administered MEAs whose executive heads are members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions³ as well as other global and regional environmental conventions’ secretariats, as appropriate.

Similar to the high-level dialogues that were held during the MEAs Day at UNEA-6 in February 2024, participation in the MEAs dialogues at UNEA-7 is open to all Member States, Heads of MEA secretariats and relevant UN entities and Specialized Agencies and intergovernmental/international organizations, as well as accredited major groups and stakeholders.

² UNEP-Administered MEA Secretariats: Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone layer, Bamako Convention, Carpathian Convention, Abidjan Convention, Barcelona Convention, Cartagena Convention, Nairobi Convention and Tehran Convention.

³ In addition to the heads of CBD, CITES and CMS, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity- related Conventions includes the heads of the International Plant Protection Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Whaling Commission, the Ramsar Convention and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.