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Proceedings of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session

I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. The seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi from 8 to 12 December 2025.

2. The session was opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 8 December 2025 by Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of the Environment Assembly. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Al-Amri; Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, via video message; Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP; Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; and Deborah Mlongo Barasa, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Kenya. The opening of the session was preceded by a cultural performance by the Kenya Boys Choir.

3. In his opening remarks, Mr. Al-Amri said that the seventh session of the Environment Assembly, held under the theme "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet", was an opportunity to reaffirm shared responsibility and transform determination into tangible results for the people, ecosystems and stability of the planet. The Assembly was meeting at a critical juncture: the impacts of challenges such as climate change and pollution continued to threaten communities worldwide, undermining trust in the collective effort to address them. The Assembly had proved that multilateralism was successful when it was based on scientific evidence and practical solutions. The Assembly had before it a number of important draft resolutions and documents that would shape the vision for a resilient planet. Success would be measured not only by the outcomes adopted but also by the inclusive and cooperative manner in which that was achieved.

4. The Assembly had been created as a forum to express the world's environmental conscience and safeguard the planet. A spirit of consensus and cooperation must guide its work at the current session. Also needed were ambition, as implementation had been insufficient to cope with the pace of change; solidarity, because resilience could be built only by working together; and science, as the challenges faced were immense but not insurmountable. The Assembly would have fulfilled its mission of charting a credible, cooperative and science-driven path towards a resilient planet if, by the end of the session, it had adopted implementable resolutions that were guided by science, a unifying ministerial declaration and a robust UNEP medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027.

5. In her statement, Ms. Mohammed said that the time had come for Member States to turn promises into action in order to strengthen the planet's resilience and deliver prosperity for all. Urgency was needed to safeguard the planet's health and people's well-being, as agreed in the Pact for the Future, and advance the collective environmental action that was at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There was no better time to invest in a stable climate, thriving ecosystems, resilient lands and sustainable development that delivered for all. The Assembly must

draw on lessons learned, protect what worked and champion scalable innovations. Multilateralism needed to be more than just words; it must deliver tangible results for people and the planet. The Assembly must build on the momentum of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which had shown that real progress was possible when countries, civil society and young people came together.

6. Despite notable progress, efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals were significantly off track, with dangerous consequences for all. Evidence on the climate was everywhere. Droughts and other disasters were growing in frequency, scale and severity; up to 40 per cent of the world's land had been degraded; a million species were at risk of extinction; and 9 million people died prematurely every year owing to pollution. According to the latest reports, the global average temperature increase redline of 1.5 degrees Celsius would be crossed within the next decade; bold action was required to bring global temperatures down as quickly as possible. Developing countries needed $365 billion annually by 2035 for climate adaptation, requiring the big CO_2 emitters to step up their support. Meeting sustainable development and climate commitments would require a reformed, financially viable, socially equitable and politically relevant green agenda. She urged the Assembly to take bold and transformative action for a healthy planet, people and economies.

7. In her comments, Ms. Andersen, expressing her appreciation to the Government of Kenya and to the many donors that had contributed to the organization of the session, said that the Assembly, the world's most influential decision-making body on the environment, had consistently demonstrated unity when it came to action on the three planetary environmental crises of climate change; nature, land and biodiversity loss; and pollution and waste. It must draw on that history of unity and dig deeper than ever, as those environmental crises were accelerating. In addition to the rise in average global temperatures, ecosystems were disappearing, land was degrading, dust storms were intensifying and toxins were continuing to pollute the air, water and land. The world was in turbulent geopolitical waters, putting multilateral processes under strain. The Assembly must keep its eyes on the horizon, cooperate to find consensus and show ambition in order to safeguard the planet and humanity's collective future.

8. Even in tough times, the environmental community had found consensus. For example, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction had entered into force and the new Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution had been established. The seventh *Global Environment Outlook* outlined transformation pathways to deliver higher global gross domestic product, fewer deaths, and less hunger and poverty – all through action on climate, nature and pollution. The Assembly could accelerate that transformation through inclusive multilateralism. It would consider draft resolutions that struck at the heart of the world's environmental challenges, including on the environmental sustainability of artificial intelligence, the environmental dimension of antimicrobial resistance, and the sound management of chemicals and waste. The Assembly session gathered diverse voices together to discuss new ideas and build new momentum on environmental action. It must also take into account the UN80 Initiative, which sought to find efficiencies, review mandates and consider possible structural changes and programme realignment opportunities. Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements would be crucial in that endeavour, as would strengthened coherence between the decisions of their governing bodies and Assembly resolutions. While differences sometimes seemed insurmountable, everyone on the planet wanted the same thing: a better future. The foundation for that future was a stable climate and a safe, clean, sustainable and pollution-free environment.

9. In her remarks, Ms. Bangura said that Nairobi had become the centre of environmental multilateralism and a beacon for international dialogue and cooperation on the shared environmental future of people and the planet. For its part, the United Nations Office at Nairobi "walked the talk" when it came to environmental sustainability. It was the only United Nations headquarters duty station to have successfully achieved and maintained the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001:2015 certification for environmental management systems. Its multiple environmental initiatives, including reforestation of the Gigiri compound in Nairobi, increased biodiversity and a 2030 net-zero vision, had shown that a little could go a long way towards saving the planet.

10. As the Assembly looked ahead to its forthcoming discussions, she recalled that the health, survival and positive growth of the planet was deeply intertwined with peace, security, equality, justice and prosperity for all. Today's challenges demanded bold ambition and united action. The solutions forged by the Assembly would resonate worldwide, shaping communities, economies and ecosystems. The Assembly must seize the moment, nurture the spirit of global solidarity and drive the positive change that the world so urgently needed in order to transform shared ambition into tangible, measurable progress. In so doing, it would enable future generations to inherit a greener, safer,

healthier and more just world – one where everyone was treated equally, with dignity and respect, and where no one was left behind.

11. In her statement, Ms. Barasa, providing an overview of side events and exhibitions being held during the seventh session, said that the time for small, cautious steps had passed; bold, integrated and inclusive action was now needed. A resilient planet involved more than protecting ecosystems: it entailed using resources wisely, building just and inclusive societies, ensuring economic growth that respected the planet and embracing innovation to prevent harm. The crises that the world faced – climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, toxic pollution, and unsustainable consumption and production, exacerbated by factors including political instability – were intertwined and could not be tackled in isolation.

12. At its seventh session, the Assembly would consider the UNEP medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget, which would set the strategic direction of UNEP and shape collective environmental action for the years ahead. Those documents should reflect ambition, science-based policy, equity and innovation opportunities, especially for developing countries. She was optimistic that the ministerial declaration, resolutions – a number of which had been sponsored or co-sponsored by her Government – and decisions would contribute to addressing the pressing environmental challenges. The Assembly would rightly focus on three imperatives: sparking sustainable solutions to restore ecosystems, support livelihoods, cut emissions and eliminate waste; strengthening resilience, with the aim of moving from vulnerability to empowerment, from reaction to prevention and regeneration; and championing inclusive environmental governance, giving a voice to women, young people, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups. The Government of Kenya pledged to stand firm in those efforts. She urged the Assembly not just to talk about the future but to help to create it; to embrace the boldness, collaboration and urgency needed; and to be guided by science and fairness in order to forge a resilient planet for current and future generations.

II. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 2)

A. Adoption of the agenda

13. At the 1st plenary meeting, in the morning of Monday, 8 December 2025, the Environment Assembly adopted the following agenda for the session, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.7/1) (decision 7/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. International environmental policy and governance issues.
6. Programme of work and budget and other administrative and budgetary issues.
7. Stakeholder engagement.
8. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. High-level segment.
10. Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements.
11. Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Environment Assembly.
12. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
13. Election of officers.
14. Other matters.
15. Adoption of the report of the session.
16. Closure of the session.

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B. Organization of work

14. At the 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 8 December, in accordance with rule 63 of its rules of procedure, the Environment Assembly decided to establish a committee of the whole, open for participation to States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and the regional economic integration organizations, for the consideration of various items on its agenda. On the recommendation of the Bureau, the Assembly elected by acclamation Joyelle Clarke (Saint Kitts and Nevis) as Chair of the Committee of the Whole and also elected by acclamation Nino Tandilashvili (Georgia) as the Rapporteur. The Assembly decided that the Committee would consider item 5, international environmental policy and governance issues, item 6, programme of work and budget and other administrative and budgetary issues, and item 11, provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Environment Assembly. In accordance with rule 61 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, the Committee would establish contact groups as it deemed necessary (decision 7/2).

15. The Environment Assembly also decided that a high-level dialogue on the theme "Signed, sealed, delivered? Turbocharging MEA implementation through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches" would be held in the morning of Wednesday, 10 December, that a second high-level dialogue, on the theme "Keeping the promise: boosting SDG implementation through the MEAs", would be held in the afternoon of the same day, and that the dialogues would be followed by a one-hour moderated high-level discussion on the conclusions of the day's discussions, providing an opportunity to reflect on the solutions and ideas presented during the high-level dialogues, as well as the suggested areas for further action (decision 7/2).

16. The Environment Assembly further decided that a leadership dialogue on the theme "An ounce of prevention beats a tonne of cure: why addressing environmental crises is essential for human health", followed by a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme "Partnering for the environment: inclusive multilateralism fit for purpose", would be held in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 December, and that two consecutive leadership dialogues on the themes "Round and round: why circularity and sustainability are critical to the future of global industry" and "The bottom line: why tackling environmental degradation is critical to the future of the global financial system" would be held in the morning of Friday, 12 December (decision 7/2).

17. In addition, the Environment Assembly decided that the time limit for statements would be three minutes for statements by representatives of individual delegations, including statements by observers and representatives of major groups and stakeholders; five minutes for statements by representatives speaking on behalf of a group of States; and three minutes for statements in explanation of vote before action and after action on a proposal. The Assembly decided that the right of reply should be exercised at the end of the day whenever two or three meetings had been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings were devoted to the consideration of the same item, or before the conclusion of the consideration of the item, with the number of interventions in the exercise of the right being limited to two per item for any delegation at a given meeting, the first such intervention being limited to three minutes and the second to two minutes (decision 7/2).

18. Pursuant to rule 69 of the rules of procedure, the Environment Assembly took note of a list of newly accredited intergovernmental organizations. The list of accredited organizations is available on the website of the Environment Assembly (decision 7/3).

C. Attendance

19. The following Member States were represented at the seventh session: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore,

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Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

20. The following non-Member States were represented: Cook Islands, Holy See, Niue and State of Palestine.

21. The following United Nations bodies, conventions and related secretariats and organizations were represented: Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific; Basel Convention Regional Centre for English-speaking countries based in South Africa; Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries in Africa (BCRC-Senegal); Basel Convention Regional Centre/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, South Africa (BCRC-SCRC South Africa); Climate and Clean Air Coalition; Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia; Department for General Assembly and Conference Management; Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Department of Global Communications; Department of Peace Operations; Department of Safety and Security; Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Economic Commission for Europe; Executive Office of the Secretary-General; Global Environment Facility; Green Belt Movement; Green Climate Fund; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies; Office of Legal Affairs; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment; secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; secretariat of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern African Region; secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region; secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; secretariat of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean; secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; secretariat of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; UNEP; UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre; United Nations Capital Development Fund; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; United Nations Information Service; United Nations Office at Nairobi; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; United Nations Office for Project Services; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations Population Fund; United Nations University.

22. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Maritime Organization, International Organization for Migration, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Bank, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

23. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Development Bank, African Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Biodiversity, Caribbean Community, Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe, Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, European Space Agency, European Union, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Chamber of Commerce, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Court, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, International Seabed Authority, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Inter-Parliamentary Union, League of Arab States, Organization of Southern Cooperation, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, Southern African

Development Community, Sovereign Order of Malta, Task Force of the Lusaka Agreement, World Organization for Animal Health.

24. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented as observers. The list of participants is set out in document UNEP/EA.7/INF/14.

D. General statements

25. Following the opening of the seventh session, representatives of regional and political groups of Member States made general statements focusing on the theme of the session, "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet".

1. European Union and its member States

26. The representative of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, noting that Serbia aligned itself with the statement. He said that significant achievements in environmental multilateralism since the sixth session of the Environment Assembly included the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution and the ratification of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction by a sufficient number of parties for it to enter into force. Member States were also continuing negotiations on the urgently needed proposed international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

27. Given the insufficient level of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those related to the environment, more effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral action was required. Thanks to the third United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, the percentage of marine and coastal areas under protection at the global level had increased, but significant additional progress would be necessary to meet the goal set under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of protecting at least 30 per cent of the planet by 2030. The sustainable management of natural resources was also key to enabling a green transition, which was beneficial both to the environment and economic development.

28. The launch of the seventh *Global Environment Outlook* report was an example of the importance of independent, credible science for guiding global climate and environmental decision-making. The current session should also allow Member States to reaffirm their shared commitment to inclusivity and meaningful participation for all, with major groups and stakeholders being given the opportunity to speak, both in plenary and in the working groups, even when time was limited. Youth engagement, including through the Youth Environment Assembly, was especially important, as it strengthened inclusive multilateralism and supported more effective implementation of Environment Assembly decisions and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. A sense of urgency and compromise were required, as all the draft resolutions and all but one decision were yet to be met with agreement. The European Union and its member States remained committed to accelerating work towards resolving the outstanding issues in order to ensure successful and ambitious outcomes, including through the adoption of a medium-term strategy that would allow UNEP to fulfil its mandate in the coming years, as well as a strong ministerial declaration reinforcing environmental ambition within the United Nations system and contributing meaningfully to the implementation of the Pact for the Future and the UN80 Initiative.

2. African States

29. The representative of Eritrea, speaking on behalf of the African States, said that, although the seventh session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives had provided an essential platform for proponents and Member States to exchange views, clarify positions and move towards consensus on draft resolutions and draft decisions, several elements of the negotiations remained a concern and needed to be addressed.

30. The pace of negotiations had been slow and uneven, and therefore the President should explore alternative, more streamlined modalities to facilitate efficient, results-orientated negotiations. It was also necessary to acknowledge and integrate the Rio Principles, in particular that of common but differentiated responsibilities, into the outcomes of the current session, as well as to use terminology and commitments that had already been agreed to by all Member States within the framework of the General Assembly. The medium-term strategy should be finalized as soon as possible, as it was especially significant for the development priorities of many developing countries. Means of implementation should also be referred to explicitly and consistently across all draft resolutions, as

effective implementation by developing countries was only possible when supported by adequate finance, capacity-building and technology transfer. The use of the phrase "on mutually agreed terms" in provisions on technology transfer should therefore be avoided, as it had the potential to weaken commitments already made under multilateral environmental agreements. In addition, terms such as "citizen science" should be used with caution, as scientific processes needed to be grounded in professional expertise. References to the use of traditional knowledge should also only be made using the wording and safeguards adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to avoid fragmenting traditional knowledge into new, undefined categories.

31. The African States sought balanced, implementable and consensus-based outcomes that reflected the priorities and circumstances of developing countries, and stood ready to work with all partners to strengthen global environmental governance while upholding the fundamental principles of international cooperation.

3. BRICS

32. The representative of Brazil, speaking on behalf of BRICS, recalled that the BRICS States accounted for approximately 45 per cent of the global population and nearly 29 per cent of global land surface, hosting a substantial share of the planet's biodiversity. They remained committed to scaling up urgent action to address the challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, land degradation, drought, sand and dust storms and pollution, among other things.

33. It was important to strengthen UNEP under the oversight of its governing bodies, the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, while ensuring that UNEP acted strictly within its mandate, including in its engagement with other United Nations entities and multilateral bodies. Certain terms and definitions that had not been agreed at the intergovernmental level had been used in the draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the draft programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027, and it was vital to ensure that such a situation did not lead to negotiations, agreements or the processes of multilateral environmental agreements being prejudged. In addition, attempts to draw artificial distinctions between the two elements in "Indigenous Peoples and local communities", which was an agreed term under the Convention on Biological Diversity, were a concern, as that could be used to circumvent the obligation of fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

34. Cooperation and synergies between related multilateral conventions, organizations and instruments should be enhanced in a way that respected the mandate of each and avoided the duplication of efforts, on the understanding that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, remained the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Cooperation and solidarity were also essential between Member States on the basis of the Rio Principles, in particular those of common but differentiated responsibilities and of technology transfer. Developed countries should therefore ensure the provision of adequate, effective, predictable, timely and accessible financial resources to developing countries, including for improving capacity-building, the development and transfer of technology to developing countries. Diverse and sustainable sources of finance should be explored in relation to payments for ecosystem services at all levels, in line with multilateral commitments, national policies and priorities. It was also important that no measures taken to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss or pollution constituted a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.

4. Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

35. The representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, thanked those Member States that had provided financial contributions to support the participation of delegates from developing countries, securing an inclusive and geographically representative session, thereby ensuring the Assembly's legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness.

36. Latin American and Caribbean States had been experiencing ever more severe impacts from biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, desertification, land degradation, drought and water stress. Decisions taken by the Assembly at the current session to address those crises needed to promote multilevel and multisectoral environmental governance in order to enable effective and inclusive action that focused on sustainable development and took into account the particular needs and circumstances of small island developing States. Such action should also include the meaningful participation of all sectors of society, including the private sector, the scientific community, academia, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, people of African descent and civil society. The principle

of common but differentiated responsibilities was also key and should be duly reflected in all multilateral environmental processes.

37. With regard to the organization of work, the Group requested that no more than two negotiation or consultation sessions be scheduled in parallel at any given time to allow for the full and effective participation of small delegations. Recalling its commitment to the "Nairobi spirit" in order to reach consensus at the current session, he reaffirmed the Group's belief in multilateralism as the most effective and legitimate pathway for advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet.

5. Pacific small island developing States

38. The representative of Fiji, speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that the theme of the current session of advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet was not an abstract slogan for those States but a daily test as to whether multilateralism could still deliver justice and survival for the most vulnerable. At the sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific, held in Fiji in August 2025, the Pacific States had made it clear that the region was ready to set the pace for the world in terms of addressing the triple planetary crisis through transformative change despite facing fiscal constraints, severe climate impacts and escalating environmental pressures.

39. He described his three main expectations for the current session. First, ambition should be matched with resources; second, the integrity of science and multilateralism should be safeguarded, including by ensuring that carefully negotiated language across the multilateral system was not weakened or reopened; third, oceans and the people that depended on them should take their rightful place at the centre of global environmental governance. In that regard, the Pacific small island States would support outcomes that raised ambition and protected environmental integrity; resist efforts that weakened, delayed or shifted burdens onto those least responsible; and would continue to use their collective voice to ensure that the realities of front-line communities were never sidelined. If multilateralism was to prove its worth, it must first deliver for those who had the most to lose.

E. Work of the Committee of the Whole

40. The Committee of the Whole held three plenary meetings to consider the agenda items assigned to it, concluding its work on the evening of Wednesday, 10 December 2025. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, in the afternoon of Friday, 12 December, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the work of the Committee. The report on the work of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

III. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

41. At the 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 8 December 2025, the Environment Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item to the plenary meeting to be held in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 December, to allow sufficient time for the Bureau to examine the credentials of representatives and submit its report to the Assembly.

42. At the 4th plenary meeting, in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 December 2025, in resuming consideration of the item, the Vice-President of the Assembly, Ms. Tandilashvili (Georgia), reported that the Bureau had received and examined the credentials of Member States submitted in accordance with rules 16 and 17 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly. As at 11 December 2025, a total of 73 Member States had submitted formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Executive Director of UNEP. A further 94 Member States had submitted information on the appointment of their representatives to the Environment Assembly to the Executive Director by means of a scanned copy in electronic form of formal credentials signed by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a scanned copy of a letter or note verbale from the permanent mission concerned or by means of another form of official communication. A total of 26 Member States had not communicated any information regarding their representatives to the Executive Director.

43. The Bureau recommended that the Environment Assembly accept the credentials of the Member States.

44. The Environment Assembly approved the report of the Bureau on credentials and accepted the credentials of Member States (decision 7/4).

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IV. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (agenda item 4)

45. At the 1st plenary meeting, on Monday 8 December, Sultan Hajiyev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, presented the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/EA.7/INF/2/Rev.1).

46. The Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives had held its seventh session in Nairobi from 1 to 5 December 2025. Under item 6 of the agenda of that session, "Preparation of decisions and outcomes of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly", the Open-ended Committee had considered 15 draft resolutions submitted by Member States and 3 draft decisions submitted by the secretariat on behalf of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Open-ended Committee had transmitted the draft decision entitled on the "Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions" to the Environment Assembly for possible adoption, which was a reflection of the robust preparations carried out during the intersessional period. The Open-ended Committee had also decided to transmit 15 draft resolutions and 2 draft decisions to the Environment Assembly for finalization.

47. The Open-ended Committee had decided to transmit the non-papers with streamlined preambular paragraphs of the draft resolutions to the Assembly, given the insufficient time for consultations in the working groups. The non-papers would be used as the basis for negotiations on such paragraphs by the Environment Assembly, on the understanding that delegations could introduce additional text. The Committee had also decided that the non-paper on operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution on strengthening global response on the massive influx of sargassum seaweed blooms, discussed in informal informal consultations on 5 December 2025, would be transmitted to the Environment Assembly, to be used as the basis for negotiations on those two operative paragraphs, on the understanding that delegations could introduce additional text. The Committee had further decided that the non-paper on the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution on advancing options for international instruments on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals and guidance for mineral resources circularity would be transmitted prior to the start of the Environment Assembly session and used as the basis for negotiations on the operative paragraphs, on the understanding that delegations could introduce additional text. Moreover, the progress achieved during informal consultations held on Saturday, 6 December, had been made available as non-papers and had, together with the draft resolutions and decisions, been transmitted to the Environment Assembly to enable the Committee of the Whole to use them as the basis for negotiations within the respective contact groups.

48. He expressed his deep appreciation for the efforts of his fellow members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to the co-facilitators and the secretariat. Further, he emphasized the crucial need for collaboration in order to make progress at the seventh session of the Environment Assembly. The report of the seventh session of the Open-ended Committee was available on the Environment Assembly website (UNEP/OECPR.7/2), and a note by the secretariat containing a report of the meetings of the Committee was available in document UNEP/EA.7/INF/2/Rev.1.

49. Thanking the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for his report, the President expressed his gratitude to the following members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their diligence and dedication in preparing for the current session: Vice-Chairs Romy Tincopa (Peru), Marie Charlotte Tang (Philippines) and Anouar Ben Youssef (Tunisia); and the Rapporteur, Jenny Da Rin (Australia).

50. The Assembly took note of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Assembly decided to defer the adoption of the draft decision on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions to the plenary meeting to be held on Friday, 12 December. It also decided to allocate consideration of the 15 draft resolutions and 2 draft decisions that were pending to the Committee of the Whole for finalization and subsequent transmission to the Assembly for its adoption.

V. International environmental policy and governance issues (agenda item 5)

51. Agenda item 5 and the draft resolutions related to it were considered by the Committee of the Whole. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, in the afternoon of Friday, 12 December, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the work of the Committee and of the informal discussions that continued after the adjournment of the closing plenary of the Committee with a view to reaching consensus on certain outstanding draft resolutions and submitting

them directly to the Assembly. The Assembly took note of the report of the Committee. The report on the work of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

VI. Programme of work and budget and other administrative and budgetary issues (agenda item 6)

52. Agenda item 6 and the draft decision related to it were considered by the Committee of the Whole. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, in the afternoon of Friday, 12 December, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the work of the Committee on the matter and of the informal discussions that continued after the adjournment of the closing plenary of the Committee with a view to reaching consensus on the draft decision and submitting it directly to the Assembly. The Assembly took note of the report of the Committee. The report on the work of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

VII. Stakeholder engagement (agenda item 7)

53. At the 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 8 December, the President invited the representatives of the nine major groups and other stakeholders to address the Environment Assembly.

54. A representative speaking on behalf of the business and industry major group said that true multilateralism involved partnerships and collaboration involving all stakeholders and rights holders, including the major groups, to create common solutions for common problems. The scarce resources of the United Nations must be deployed in the most cost-effective and high-impact way possible, and Member States should refrain from expanding mandates or work streams before identifying means of implementation. The seventh session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives had been particularly challenging, with little substantive progress made. Member States should seize the time remaining at the current session to deliver a streamlined set of ambitious and science-based resolutions. Businesses worldwide were the engines of innovation and agents of real change; the private sector would serve as a strong ally in addressing local and global issues through meaningful action.

55. A representative speaking on behalf of the children and youth major group said that more than a thousand young people had participated in the recent meeting of the Youth Environment Assembly. During the closing discussion, a global youth declaration on the environment had been adopted, setting out the environmental priorities of young people across the globe. She urged Member States to continue in a spirit of cooperation with a view to delivering meaningful outcomes, despite the prevailing geopolitical headwinds, and to design a more coherent, transparent and inclusive global environmental governance system that effectively addressed the current environmental crises. She called on the Co-Chairs of the contact groups to allow sufficient time for statements by major group representatives and encouraged Member States to continue engaging civil society in constructive dialogue. As the window for action narrowed, Member States should fulfil their commitment to preserve the environment for current and future generations.

56. A representative of the farmers major group said that full participation should be granted to representatives such as himself; those who fed the world should not be silenced. Healthy soil, clean water, stable climates and accountable governance were not aspirations; they were essential to farmers, ensuring their ability to feed their families and avoid the collapse of their livelihoods. The draft resolutions under consideration at the current session, addressing climate resilience, water cycles, chemicals and pollution, antimicrobial resistance and environmental governance, would determine whether farmers could continue to survive or thrive. Peasants, smallholders and farmers must be at the centre of solutions to address ecosystem loss and the acceleration of climate disruption. Agroecology and other innovative systems, soil restoration, seed sovereignty and equitable water systems were not supplementary options; rather, they were the most effective and proven climate solutions available.

57. A representative speaking on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples and their communities major group said that Indigenous Peoples – the defenders of ecosystems around the world – were marginalized, criminalized and killed for defending their territories against the actors responsible for environmental crises. They had been failed by colonial and destructive systems that saw people and nature as resources to be exploited and sold for profit. As established international law protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples continued to be undermined, she called for Indigenous Peoples' rights, including the fundamental rights to self-determination and free, prior and informed consent, to be upheld in all Environment Assembly processes and decisions in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It was essential for Indigenous Peoples, with their knowledge systems, sciences and practices, to play a leading role in devising and

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implementing solutions to end pollution and environmental exploitation in their territories. Indigenous Peoples were rights holders, not stakeholders, and must not be conflated with civil society groups. UNEP should facilitate their full participation, along with that of women; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons; children and youth; farmers; and persons with disabilities.

58. A representative speaking on behalf of the local authorities major group said that all stakeholders and rights holders, including the major groups, had a legitimate role to play in the context of multilateralism. Member States should institutionalize multilevel environmental governance, as implementation was most effective when all levels of government designed, delivered and monitored commitments together. Stronger recognition of subnational diplomacy was also necessary, to enable cities and regions to accelerate the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. The global financial architecture should be reformed to localize environmental action, through long-term, predictable and equitable financing. Environmental justice and social inclusion were also inseparable, and the Environment Assembly must advance a people-centred just transition.

59. A representative of the non-governmental organizations major group said that recognizing the fundamental rights of nature as a primary underlying principle of environmental law was essential and should inform all related deliberations and decisions. States should support the urgent need for international recognition of ecocide as a crime in order to safeguard ecosystems, communities, economies and future generations. Furthermore, there was a strong need for the environmentally sustainable management of minerals and metals. Mineral demand around the world was increasing exponentially, which in turn increased environmental costs, human rights violations and geopolitical tensions. States should support a moratorium on deep seabed mining to allow more time for scientific research to explore the effects of such mining in terms of harm to ocean ecosystems. In addition, environmental degradation was exacerbated by militarization, armed conflict and occupation, which also impeded sustainable development. Human and planetary health, the dignity of communities and prospects for peace were inseparable. The decisions of the Environment Assembly at its seventh session must rise to the challenges ahead.

60. In her statement, the representative speaking on behalf of the scientific and technological communities major group expressed concerns over the severely restricted access for civil society to the documents on the online portal, making their participation in the Environment Assembly process very difficult. Moreover, the current session was taking place against the backdrop of highly challenging geopolitical times. The scientific and technological communities major group stood willing to contribute its expertise to help ensure the success of the current session. According to sound and credible scientific evidence, the planet was on the verge of a triple planetary crisis. Action was urgently needed, through the adoption of a set of meaningful resolutions. Rapid and transformative technological change was currently under way, and progress must be both environmentally sound and ecologically sensitive. Meanwhile, artificial intelligence was affecting the lives of everyone and must be addressed through good governance. Citizen science had a key role to play in enabling individuals to monitor the situation within their local environments.

61. In her statement, the representative speaking on behalf of the women major group expressed concerns over the shrinking space for stakeholder engagement within the Environment Assembly, including in terms of major group interventions and constructive dialogue with civil society. In addition, the language agreed upon in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5, to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, should be included in all Environment Assembly resolutions. The financing of gender equality in no way detracted from environmental action; women’s health and planetary health were inseparable. Women stood at the front lines of environmental change and the consequences of war, and carried the weight of their communities, the wisdom of their traditions and the urgency of their futures. Not only should they be included in discussions, they should also have the power to shape the decisions that impacted their bodies, lands and lives. Member States should uphold the rights of women, as once their health was compromised, so too was the well-being and even the existence of future generations. Responsible, transparent and accountable global environmental governance was needed. The women major group stood ready to support the implementation of its recommendations and to collaborate with all stakeholders.

62. A representative of the workers and trade unions major group said that the seventh session of the Environment Assembly represented a call for the world to deliver sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, and workers must be recognized as essential partners in addressing the triple planetary crisis. For workers, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution were lived realities. Heat stress was costing lives, coral bleaching and ocean degradation were destroying livelihoods, and too many workers were exposed to hazardous chemicals daily. The triple planetary crisis was not only an environmental emergency, it was also a labour and social justice emergency. Negotiations at the seventh session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives had not addressed the

fundamental rights of workers, decent work or occupational safety and health; that should be rectified during the current Environment Assembly session. Environmental policy could not be treated as a technical exercise disconnected from people. Rather, it must be grounded in social dialogue, collective bargaining and investment in green jobs and skills, to ensure the resilience of the planet and the protection of fundamental human rights.

63. A representative speaking on behalf of the major groups and stakeholders regions said that the theme of the seventh session served as a reminder that resilience depended on empowered communities, healthy ecosystems and strong, science-based environmental governance. Armed conflicts, mass displacement, destructive and unsustainable extraction and the shrinking civic space further intensified those vulnerabilities. Despite the intersecting crises, civil society continued to show courage and leadership by protecting nature, advancing peace and driving community-led solutions. Member States must match that determination with decisive action, including the protection of civic space and environmental defenders; safeguarding rights to information, participation and justice; and civil society engagement. Environmental harm linked to armed conflicts must also be addressed, while strengthening monitoring and reporting and integrating environmental restoration into peacebuilding, humanitarian response and long-term recovery efforts. Biodiversity protection must be accelerated with action plans and secure, predictable funding to safeguard critical ecosystems. Decisive action on pollution was also required, as was progress on climate resilience and adaptation. Environmental finance and governance should be transformed by making finance accessible and expanding access to environmental data. Responsible governance of technology and innovation were also key. Effective responses must be rooted in justice, science and diverse knowledge systems, including contributions from Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, local communities, farmers and citizen scientists. The health of the planet and the peace of societies were inseparable. Civil society stood ready to collaborate towards transformative change.

64. The Rapporteur of the Cities and Regions Summit, providing an overview of the outcomes of the Summit, held in Nairobi on 5 December 2025, said that a constructive dialogue had taken place on issues including sustainable resources, management, green finance, climate mitigation and adaptation. Participants had agreed that a whole-of-government approach supported by a strong multilateral and multilevel framework was essential to addressing the triple planetary crisis. Local leadership constituted one of the most powerful levers for advancing global resilience. The world was interconnected, and action must be accelerated to protect those most vulnerable to climate change.

65. The empowerment of cities and regions was the key to turning global environmental commitments into reality. Everywhere, urban areas were integrating green spaces, restoring land and strengthening climate resilience, including the ambitious climate adaptation efforts in Maldives. Multilevel governance was essential, recognizing local and regional governments within international and local frameworks on climate, land and biodiversity, as their participation would strengthen implementation. Access to local finance was the key to unlocking action and generating investment in green infrastructure and climate resilience, which would in turn generate benefits in terms of health, safety and prosperity.

66. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, in the afternoon of Friday, 12 December, a representative of the women's major group, speaking on behalf of eight of the nine major groups, expressed deep concern at the severe narrowing of opportunities for civil society to contribute meaningfully to discussions at the current session of the Environment Assembly, with the contribution of civil society being limited to symbolic remarks and decisions being negotiated behind closed doors. Such an approach was deeply damaging, as environmental governance could not be resilient if it excluded those most affected by pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss, and if it excluded the knowledge, perspectives and implementation capabilities of more than 1,300 organizations, as represented by the major groups.

67. It was especially worrying that, although some Member States still valued independent and robust scientific evidence, others did not. A consensus-based approach did not work in such a situation, and therefore a system based on voting, as was used in other parts of the United Nations system, should be considered for the Assembly. Policies informed by science and supported by the community were currently being removed from the Assembly's resolutions, which was setting a dangerous precedent of decision-making based entirely on politics and power struggles, and without the requisite scientific evidence.

68. The Environment Assembly must reaffirm its commitment to inclusive participation by guaranteeing transparent and accessible processes for all major groups and stakeholders, allowing for their input in negotiations in line with its rules and with established United Nations principles of access to information, participation and accountability; embedding mechanisms for accountability that

ensured the contributions of major groups were reflected in the outcomes of the session; and adopting whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches.

69. A representative of the Indigenous Peoples and their communities major group said that the Environment Assembly had failed Indigenous Peoples by erasing their rights and participation from negotiation processes and from the resolutions adopted at the current session. For too long, the systems of power embedded within such processes had prioritized corporate greed over the health of people and planet. Indigenous Peoples, who were at the heart of all environments and ecosystems, continued to face exclusion, land dispossession, violence, killings and criminalization for protecting their lands, waters and territories. Indigenous Peoples should be at the centre of all environmental decision-making, especially as their right to full and effective participation had been established under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and they should be recognized as rights holders rather than one of many groups of stakeholders.

70. Expressing thanks to those Member States that had engaged with and supported the positions of Indigenous Peoples at the current session, she noted that, if all Member States had honoured their obligations to Indigenous Peoples, the decisions and resolutions adopted would have been informed and strengthened by Indigenous knowledge systems, sciences and practices. The transformative change needed for a truly thriving planet could not be achieved by continuing to rely solely on the dominant systems of knowledge and power that had created the planetary crises in the first place.

71. A representative speaking on behalf of the children and youth major group warmly welcomed the adoption of the resolution on enhancing the meaningful participation of youth in environmental processes and enhancing environmental education, and expressed his gratitude to all Member States for their constructive engagement throughout the negotiation process. The adoption of the resolution constituted a critical step towards institutionalizing full, effective and inclusive youth participation in UNEP and the Environment Assembly. Translating the commitments made by the Environment Assembly into concrete action was a matter of urgency. Accelerated and inclusive action were needed to safeguard the planet for current and future generations and to uphold the principle of intergenerational equity. Moreover, the decisions taken must reflect a sense of responsibility and justice in the long term, as they would shape the environmental realities inherited by young people and future generations. The children and youth major group stood ready to work constructively with Member States, UNEP and all relevant major groups and stakeholders to support the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted.

VIII. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 8)

72. At the 1st plenary meeting, the President recalled that the Environment Assembly, in its resolution 3/3 on contributions of the Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, had decided to provide timely substantive input to the annual meetings of the high-level political forum, held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, including during the intersessional period between sessions of the Assembly. It had also decided that the input into the meetings of the forum would be prepared by the Executive Director or the UNEP secretariat, under the guidance of the President of the Environment Assembly, in consultation with and for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives. No further action was therefore required by the Assembly.

IX. High-level segment (agenda item 9)

73. The high-level segment was opened at 10.25 a.m. on Thursday, 11 December 2025, at the 3rd plenary meeting of the Assembly, followed by opening statements by high-level speakers. The opening was preceded by performances by the Kenya Boys Choir and Frida Amani, the newly designated UNEP Advocate for Ecosystem Restoration.

A. Opening statements

74. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Al-Amri, President of the Environment Assembly; Annalena Baerbock, President of the General Assembly, via video message; Lok Bahadur Thapa, President of the Economic and Social Council; António Guterres, Secretary-General of the

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United Nations, via video message; Ms. Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP; and William Samoei Ruto, President of Kenya.

75. Mr. Al-Amri, in his remarks, said that the solutions for a resilient planet were within reach; what was needed now was the political will that would translate into action on the ground.

76. In its work, the Environment Assembly should be guided by four priorities: resilience, by advancing solutions that strengthened resilience across systems and created synergies for climate stability, biodiversity recovery and a pollution-free planet; coherence among multilateral environmental agreements, to create an environmental system that could not be fragmented; inclusion, by making youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, the private sector and the scientific community partners in implementation rather than merely observers; and political and financial investment in the next UNEP medium-term strategy, to empower Member States in achieving their national and international goals. It was also important to implement previously agreed resolutions, including the resolution on ending plastic pollution.

77. In its efforts to embolden collective action, the Oman presidency had met with delegations to ensure that the representatives of the international community could contribute to and benefit from the seventh session's outcome. He expressed the hope that the Assembly would renew trust in multilateralism, focus on the environment as the cornerstone of sustainable development and advance the success achieved by the Moroccan presidency of the sixth session of the Assembly and by the conferences of the parties to the various conventions. An ambitious declaration and resolutions, and renewed cooperation, would further emphasize the importance of the Assembly and of UNEP and rejuvenate international environmental governance. He therefore urged delegations to foster solidarity and a system based on justice, in order to shape a more resilient future for the planet and give the environment a new window of opportunity, away from politicization and economic profit.

78. In her statement, Ms. Baerbock said that she had left the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with a feeling of optimism and a sense of urgency. On the one hand, despite geopolitical headwinds and global gridlock, a positive tipping point had been reached, with science and technology providing needed tools, from rapidly scalable renewables to precision biodiversity mapping; on the other, the world was still doing far too little, window-shopping and admiring the solutions without making adequate investment.

79. She noted that 2024 had been the hottest year on record; climate disasters were costing $200 billion every year; a million species were at risk of extinction; and over 2 billion tonnes of municipal waste were being produced annually. It was time for action that matched convictions to confront the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution with a seriousness that was equal to the scale of the threat. Resources, skills and cooperation were required. The frameworks to deliver were already in place. They included the Paris Agreement and its 1.5 degrees Celsius imperative, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 30 by 30 target and the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. Progress was rarely linear: it ebbed and flowed. The task now was to push hardest when progress slowed, to hold the line when momentum faded and to remember that the next breakthrough, the next surge in renewables, the next turning point, might be just over the horizon.

80. In his remarks, Mr. Thapa said that the world was facing a web of interconnected crises, with growing conflicts, intensifying geopolitical competition and increasing economic uncertainty threatening the very foundations of sustainable development. At the same time, the triple planetary crisis was growing faster than the collective response, eroding development gains, widening inequalities and placing the most vulnerable communities at disproportionate risk. However, the dramatic fall in the cost of renewable energy, the unprecedented expansion of protected marine and land areas under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the adoption of the historic Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction showed that progress was achievable with political will, science and collective action.

81. The Economic and Social Council complemented the Environment Assembly's role by fostering collaboration on sustainable development across the United Nations system and ensuring that global policy commitments were translated into concrete and coordinated action. Work was needed to continue strengthening the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements, reduce fragmentation and deliver more integrated support to Member States in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and pollution. Under the guiding principle of "delivering better", the presidency of the Council sought to reinforce multilateralism and trust, drive progress and strengthen system-wide coherence. The Environment Assembly session's outcomes would provide important inputs to the work of the Council and the 2026 annual meeting of the high-level political

forum on sustainable development with a view to ensuring healthy and prosperous lives for present and future generations.

82. Mr. Guterres, in his statement, said that while the planet was under more strain than ever before, the Assembly offered hope. With just five years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the current session was a moment to invest in resilience, commit to justice and remember what was at stake. Sustainability was the bedrock on which all other ambitions rested: peace, prosperity and equality could not exist without the planet. The time had come for courage, creativity and rapidly scaled solutions to a range of challenges, from water management and climate resilience to mining, metals and the environmental footprint of artificial intelligence. Africa was leading the way, with young minds that were inventing a sustainable future, sun and wind that promised a green revolution and critical minerals that could power clean economies if harnessed fairly.

83. In the current turbulent times, conflict and inequality made meaningful progress for the environment more difficult, but with the tide turning in favour of renewables and with the help of the next generation, transformation was within reach. The Assembly was urged to remind the world of the power of multilateralism, fulfil the promises made at the climate summit in Brazil and close the remaining gaps, by transforming broken systems, uniting policy with science and sharing solutions with all – in short, to dare to set humanity on a path that would protect the planet for generations to come.

84. In her remarks, Ms. Andersen said that the Environment Assembly must build on its long history of unity to drive forward the sustainable solutions needed for a resilient planet. A safe climate, thriving biodiversity and a pollution-free planet would benefit every Member State, city, business and individual. The environment was the foundation on which peace, prosperity, economic growth and stability rested. When that foundation was undermined, so, too, was humanity's future. Human health, the economy and the stability of the financial system were inseparable from planetary health. An economy that degraded its natural capital eroded its own balance sheet. As reported in the seventh edition of the *Global Environment Outlook*, environmental challenges had claimed millions of lives and cost trillions of dollars. The damages would quickly mount if the world continued to rely solely on fossil fuels, extract virgin resources without restraint, destroy nature and cause pollution. When ambitious, science-backed decisions were postponed, the cost of inaction and the toll of catastrophe only grew. Global gross domestic product would be slashed, more lives would be lost and the natural resources keeping societies afloat would be exhausted.

85. By investing in a stable climate, healthy nature and a pollution-free planet, the world could make significant economic gains, avoid millions of premature deaths and lift millions out of poverty. Such investment was a growth strategy and a climate justice imperative. The Environment Assembly must make decisions that bettered everyone's lives, advance today's national interests while safeguarding those of future generations, and prove that multilateralism still worked. It was a delicate balance to leverage the advantages of development and technology while avoiding the increasingly frequent and intense side effects – extreme weather events, degraded nature, toxic air – that threatened to reverse human development gains. No country could tackle those impacts alone; a shared response was required, with all stakeholders working together to spark faster, more joined-up action. The global community must look beyond the storm towards a climate-stable, clean, sustainable and pollution-free future for all. The world expected the international community to protect the most vulnerable from floods, droughts and heatwaves, and to align words with action. The Assembly must act at the scale needed to address the environmental crises that the world faced.

86. In his statement, Mr. Ruto said that, against a background of geopolitical tensions, the task of the Environment Assembly was to use multilateralism to produce specific, actionable outcomes that addressed the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and that reflected the fact that the green transition was irreversible. In Africa, climate change was not the subject of an abstract debate but a daily experience for the region's populations, who were paying the price for a crisis they had not created. Extreme weather events were becoming the "new normal" across the globe, and the annual cost of property losses from natural disasters was estimated at $150 billion. For Africa, such losses added to existing burdens of debt, infrastructure deficits and limited fiscal space. It was also important to remember that behind each statistic was a farmer, a small business or a community uprooted.

87. It was critical for the Environment Assembly to define the environmental guardrails for the current profound transformation of the global economy resulting from artificial intelligence, digital technologies and electrification, so that it was aligned with environmental protection, equity and human dignity rather than the old foundations of extraction, exclusion and pollution. Africa had already demonstrated leadership in climate ambition, with the Africa Climate Summits of 2023 and

2025, held in Nairobi and Addis Ababa, respectively, reframing the continent's role as a co-architect of global solutions to the climate crisis rather than simply a victim of the same. Contributions from Kenya to that leadership role included supporting biodiversity, such as by establishing the world's largest rhinoceros sanctuary, and serving as a convening ground for global environmental governance, such as by hosting the upcoming eleventh Our Ocean Conference and an international summit on clean cooking. His country was also strengthening its engagement with initiatives in the Congo Basin, partnering with Central African countries to safeguard one of the world's most important carbon and biodiversity reservoirs.

88. Kenya remained fully committed to the establishment of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, that would cover the full life cycle of plastics, and stood ready to host a resumed session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee at UNEP headquarters, the birthplace of the process. His country also fully supported the consolidation of UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi, in line with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", as a stronger UNEP, working closely with the broader United Nations system, would deliver more coherent, cost-effective and inclusive global environmental governance. In that regard, he called upon Member States to match their high-level presence at the Environment Assembly with financial and political support for UNEP and for implementation on the ground in every part of the world.

89. Environmental action and economic transformation needed to move together, decoupling growth from emissions and pollution and creating new jobs, industries and markets. That could only be achieved if the economic transformation was fair, accessible and affordable, and not if the countries of the global South were asked to protect the planet while their people sank deeper into hardship. He therefore called upon the Environment Assembly to take decisions that would have a direct, positive effect on people's lives and on the natural world.

B. Other statements

90. At the 3rd to 6th plenary meetings, ministers and other high-level representatives of countries, and representatives of United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and observers, delivered statements addressing the theme of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly: "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet". A number of representatives expressed appreciation to all those who had worked hard to prepare for and organize the current session, including the secretariat of UNEP, and to the Government and people of Kenya for hosting the session.

91. Many representatives highlighted the timeliness and relevance of the theme of the session, given the pressing need to take affirmative action to address the three planetary environmental crises of climate change, nature, land and biodiversity loss and pollution and waste, which threatened global stability and human and environmental well-being, and compromised the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined within the 2030 Agenda. The current session was being held against a backdrop of global conflict and insecurity, high cost of living, widespread hunger and disease, water shortages and the negative effects of environmental degradation. At the same time, digital technology offered hope for innovative solutions to global problems, although the positive and negative impacts of artificial intelligence remained uncertain.

92. There was a shared concern that time was running out, and the lack of convergence on a number of key issues was increasingly alarming. A stage in human history had been reached where current modes of production and consumption had almost exceeded the natural limits of the planet's sustainability. One representative said that the multiple crises faced by humanity were currently being augmented by further negative processes, such as climate negationism, disinformation and attacks on science, that distorted the reality of the risks being faced, increasing humankind's vulnerability. Collaborative science-based efforts, creativity and leadership were therefore needed to deliver sustainable solutions that helped to promote resilience, along with inclusive economic growth and social development. In that regard, the leadership of UNEP, as the primary intergovernmental entity responsible for the environment, was crucial, while the Environment Assembly must continue to act as the overarching global forum for enabling humanity to deal with pressing and emerging global environmental issues. In so doing, it should adopt a coherent, system-wide approach, complementing and reinforcing existing international commitments. Several representatives expressed support for strengthening UNEP as the global hub for environmental governance.

93. Representatives expressed the hope that the resolutions adopted at the current session of the Environment Assembly would add real value to the work programme of UNEP, including the actions set out in the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029. Political will, strong governance and a

spirit of multilateralism were essential to achieving environmental targets. The international community needed to implement a coherent and commonly accepted operating model that would enable humanity to live and prosper within the limits of the environment and available natural resources. Robust, comprehensive and manageable indicators would help to track progress in building resilience.

94. Several representatives expressed their national commitment to identifying solutions to environmental challenges and working closely and constructively with all Member States to ensure effective implementation of the outcomes of the current session. It was essential that those outcomes were grounded in sound science, were inclusive, and could be practically implemented, while taking account of national circumstances. Greater focus on human rights, including justice and equity, was an essential component of strong environmental governance. One representative highlighted that the negative impacts of disregard for the environment fell disproportionately on those least responsible for the global ecological crisis, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other marginalized groups, and asserted that developed countries needed to take action commensurate with their historical responsibilities for current environmental damage.

95. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said that for environmental action to work, it must be guided by human rights. All around the world, environmental crises, including climate change, pollution and ecosystem damage, were causing harm to individuals and communities and eroding their rights to justice, information and a healthy environment. Science must inform decision-making as a prerequisite for the realization of human rights. The Environment Assembly must do more to incorporate in its decision-making processes human rights, gender equality, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the participation of young people. Rights-based, participatory and inclusive approaches to environmental action led to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

96. Climate change, in particular global warming, was highlighted as one of the great challenges facing the planet. Many other challenges followed in its wake – sea-level rise and flooding of coastal ecosystems and communities, saltwater intrusion, desertification, glacier melting, ocean acidification and coral bleaching, and increased incidence of extreme weather events such as hurricanes and droughts. Certain countries were far more vulnerable to the impact of such events, including least developed countries, small island developing States and those with mountainous terrains. The global response to the climate crisis remained below expectations, with climate finance pledges unfulfilled and limited technology transfer, while the international environmental architecture remained fragmented and difficult for least developed countries to access.

97. On the positive side, regional action included the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, hosted by Brunei Darussalam. The representative of Monaco said that her country would double its funding for early response to extreme climate events by 2028, contributing in particular to the “early warnings for all” objective. The representative of Luxembourg said that his country had committed €320 million for international climate finance over the period 2026–2030 to support the world’s most vulnerable countries in combating climate change.

98. On the second aspect of the three planetary environmental crises – biodiversity loss – representatives alluded to many habitats and ecosystems where considerable impacts were being felt, including forests, wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs and marine environments. Environmental degradation was a growing source of instability as a consequence of water scarcity, food insecurity and displacement of peoples.

99. Several representatives expressed their commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which provided an opportunity to stimulate change grounded in science, respect for communities and shared global responsibility, while promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and fair and equitable sharing of its benefits. Biodiversity acted as a safety net that supported climate stability, food security and human health; to ensure the continued operability of that safety net, it was necessary to expand the quantity and quality of protected areas and restore degraded ecosystems. The Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction was also seen as an instrument that offered great promise as a means of protecting biodiversity, particularly in the marine environment. One representative welcomed the proposal to impose a deep-sea mining moratorium as an example of proper application of the precautionary principle pending further scientific evidence on potential consequences.

100. A number of representatives outlined the practical measures taken in their countries to fulfil global biodiversity objectives, including those encapsulated in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. A wide range of activities were mentioned, including reforestation, afforestation and mangrove recovery; restoration of wetlands; improving soil health and water

balance; extending high-value biodiversity zones; mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors; conducting baseline studies for national targets; developing a national monitoring system to track progress; establishing a centre of excellence for biodiversity; strengthening protected area management; and reinforcing transboundary cooperation in the conservation of freshwater ecosystems. With regard to the marine environment, activities included strengthening coastal and island community surveillance to deter illegal activities; restoring coral reefs, mangroves and coastal vegetation as natural climate buffers; and advancing a sustainable blue economy strategy to safeguard marine resources while supporting local livelihoods.

101. However, there was an urgent need for developed countries to fully honour their commitments on resource mobilization in order to bridge the global biodiversity finance gap and ensure the effective implementation of target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which aimed to mobilize $200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources.

102. The representative of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions said that those conventions provided the governance backbone to global biodiversity-related challenges. The conventions complemented each other and added value through cooperative actions. To achieve the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, integration at the national implementation level must become the norm. The Liaison Group welcomed practical steps that would ease the burden on countries, such as harmonized reporting, aligned planning cycles and digital platforms.

103. The representative of IUCN said that the current session of the Assembly had convened at a pivotal moment, with accelerating threats to climate, nature and the environment demanding urgent, integrated and inclusive action. The 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress, held in Abu Dhabi in October, had called for increased ambition and collective action to scale up and implement solutions that addressed the needs of both nature and people. A transformative and radical change in thinking was needed to ensure that all sectors of society were strategically aligned to promote cooperation globally and regionally. A nature-positive approach was required, including the repurposing of environmentally harmful subsidies. IUCN stood ready to support Member States with science-based knowledge, policy tools and capacity-building to translate ambition into action.

104. The representative of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) said that the recently concluded twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, had adopted decisions to protect additional threatened species and to combat wildlife crime. Biodiversity was not a niche issue – it was embedded in global trade, culture and economies. Cooperation, collaboration and complementarity were essential to protect biodiversity. CITES brought unique value to that nexus, standing at the crossroads of wildlife conservation, trade and sustainable development, and navigating challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change and illegal trafficking to ensure that trade supported, not harmed, nature. Sustainability, legality and collaboration were indispensable to achieving global biodiversity targets.

105. The representative of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity said that the Centre was encouraged to see several of its earlier submissions reflected in the current draft of the ministerial declaration of the Environment Assembly at its seventh session, particularly the emphasis on evidence-based and science-driven actions, and the recognition of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as essential partners in governance and stewardship. The recently adopted ASEAN Biodiversity Plan reflected the region's resolve to conserve and restore biodiversity in line with the ASEAN Vision 2025. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity supported that process through its wide mandate, including regional biodiversity assessment and its role as a technical and scientific cooperation and support centre for implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Centre looked forward to continuing to collaborate closely with its regional partners to protect biodiversity.

106. The representative of the World Organization for Animal Health underscored the critical importance of animal health to environmental protection and human well-being. Animal health, environmental integrity and biodiversity were deeply interdependent. The World Organization for Animal Health adopted a One Health approach in supporting countries to design and implement integrated policies that addressed the shared drivers of environmental degradation, health threats and emerging diseases. Climate change was accelerating the emergence and spread of animal, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, putting both wildlife and livestock under increasing pressure. The Organization was supporting its member countries to build integrated early warning system, surveillance and preparedness capacities to mitigate that risk. It had recently assumed the secretariat of the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade, which aimed to scale up primary prevention of those risks.

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107. The representative of the CGIAR System Organization said that targeted investments in sustainable food systems, water management and use efficiency, ecosystem health, soil health and community-driven innovations were not only essential for the well-being of the planet but also made economic sense. The theme of the present Environment Assembly aligned closely with the mission of the CGIAR System Organization to deliver actionable science that helped governments and communities strengthen resilience from the ground up. Smallholder farmers, herders, pastoralists, Indigenous people, women and young people were central partners in the transition to nature-based and climate-resilient agricultural innovations that enhanced ecosystem health, carbon sequestration, water regulation and sustainable livelihoods. Noting that 2026 had been declared the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, he highlighted the importance of rangelands as a widespread, vulnerable and often overlooked ecosystem, the sustainable management of which would produce global benefits.

108. The representative of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs said that the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, adopted in 2023, had proved to be a major victory for the ocean and for the planet. With the threshold of 60 ratifications attained, the Agreement would enter into force on 17 January 2026. That rapid pace underscored the continued commitment of States to multilateral efforts to face global challenges. The Agreement had the potential to lead towards more integrated, holistic approaches to the management of ocean activities, and could make crucial contributions to achieving ocean-related goals and targets, including those under the 2030 Agenda and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

109. Pollution – the third element of the three planetary environmental crises – increasingly blighted the planet, posing a systemic threat to ecosystems, human health and sustainable development. Chemicals and wastes, including plastics, were viewed as particularly problematic and difficult to combat. A balanced approach was needed, whereby chemicals contributed to development without harming people or the planet.

110. The health of the oceans was of global significance and was particularly pertinent for those countries whose economies had a strong marine base, for example through fisheries or tourism. Evidence-based management of marine pollution, including plastics and abandoned fishing gear, was essential to the long-term prosperity of those countries.

111. Plastics pollution was an environmental threat of pressing urgency. The presence of microplastics in marine organisms in arctic and subarctic ecosystems was of particular concern. Several representatives expressed support for the development of a global legally binding instrument that addressed the full life cycle of plastics, in line with Environment Assembly resolution 5/14. Support was expressed for strong global rules, clear obligations and strong implementation mechanisms that ensured accountability and measurable progress in control of plastics pollution. Several representatives expressed regret at the slow progress being made by the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, pursuant to resolution 5/14. On the other hand, taking measures that would lead to a decrease in production without giving due consideration to market demands could hinder investment and stifle innovation; the proposed treaty should therefore be country-driven and cognizant of national circumstances.

112. In the meantime, a number of global initiatives to control chemicals pollution, including plastic pollution, were taking shape. The High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution was committed to the development of a legally binding instrument on plastics. The first international conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals, to be held in Geneva in November 2026, promised to contribute to the knowledge base on chemicals. The Third International Symposium on Marine Plastic Pollution: Arctic to the Antarctic would be held in Iceland in October 2026.

113. National measures cited to control pollution, including in the marine environment, included enhancing governance systems for chemical wastes; improved oversight of mining and industrial activities; integrated waste management; and the adoption of a circular economy to reduce waste generation.

114. Other aspects of the global environmental challenge were highlighted. In several locations around the world, conflict and insecurity were causing lasting transboundary damage across air, water and ecological systems, undermining efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and negatively impacting health, livelihoods, biodiversity and infrastructure. The assistance of UNEP and other actors was needed to assess the environmental impacts of conflict and support countries in their recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

115. Unsustainable consumption and production was also threatening sustainability. Improving energy efficiency was an important step in strengthening the security of energy supplies and reducing dependence on imported energy resources. In addition, a transition to a low-carbon economy was necessary to conserve natural resources and mitigate climate change, though it would inevitably require a shift in production and consumption patterns towards greater circularity.

116. A constant theme of the ministerial statements was the need for financing systems that were properly targeted, effective and based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. Facing the three planetary environmental crises required the recognition of historical responsibilities and climate justice; the establishment of predictable, measurable, accessible, flexible and adequate financial mechanisms; and clear and fair goals and objectives according to respective capacities and human rights. Technology transfer, capacity-building and green manufacturing partnerships were necessary to build national capabilities and enable developing countries to become producers, not just consumers, of renewable energy and circular economy technologies, thus building their resilience.

117. However, there remained a lack of scaled-up and predictable climate and biodiversity finance, especially for ecosystem restoration and pollution control. Harmful economic incentives that negatively impacted biodiversity needed to be rectified. Ambition must be matched with appropriate financing, accessible technologies, capacity-building and a blend of public, private and international funding tailored to the needs of developing countries. A radical shift in environmental finance – to one that was flexible, predictable and accessible directly to local actors – was required, blending concessional finance with derisking instruments to unlock private investment for nature-based solutions and green infrastructure.

118. Various innovative financing mechanisms were becoming available. The Friends of the Cali Fund had been created to support implementation of the Cali Fund under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which provided a means by which businesses that benefited from biodiversity could fund its conservation. The Blue Economy and Finance Forum, held in Monaco in June 2025 as a prelude to the third United Nations Ocean Conference, had demonstrated that financial flows towards a sustainable economy were significant and continued to grow. The UNEP Planetary Funds for climate, nature and pollution offered the potential to help vulnerable countries, including small island developing States, address the three planetary environmental crises.

119. The representative of Denmark said that his Government planned to commit around $31 million to the UNEP Environment Fund for the period 2026–2029.

120. The representative of the United Nations Office for Project Services said that the current session was very relevant to the focus of the Office, namely to offer practical solutions for a resilient, sustainable and inclusive world. Funding, however, remained a real challenge – the current international financial architecture was too fragmented and inequitable to enable effective action on climate and development. As the only United Nations entity fully dedicated to implementation with a mandate in infrastructure, procurement and project management, the Office helped to bridge the implementation gap by ensuring that investment in infrastructure delivered maximum impact, and was dedicated to supporting a just, inclusive and equitable transition away from fossil fuels to achieve energy access for all.

121. The representative of the International Chamber of Commerce said that the theme of advancing solutions for a resilient planet resonated strongly with the global business community. Companies around the world were well aware that environmental resilience and economic resilience were inseparable. Investing in low-carbon technologies, resource efficiency and circular models was central to innovation, risk management and long-term value creation, and businesses were already deploying those solutions at scale across global value chains. Elements needed to support that ambition included coherent, streamlined policy frameworks, clear implementation pathways, and stronger opportunities for co-creation between governments, business and civil society. The Chamber stood ready to support the design of practical, economically sound and scalable policies that accelerated environmental resilience, and would continue to mobilize business expertise, share global best practices and promote the uptake of solutions across markets.

122. The representative of the African Development Bank said that the current session of the Environment Assembly provided an important opportunity to align science, policy and finance to build a more resilient and sustainable future. While Africa was vulnerable to the impacts of climate shocks, biodiversity decline and pollution, it was well endowed with the natural resources and capital that could underpin green solutions for sustainable food, water and energy systems. The Bank was committed to unlocking that potential and looked forward to being at the forefront of efforts to

actualize decisions adopted by the Environment Assembly at its seventh session, generating investments that created jobs, strengthened resilience and protected ecosystems.

123. Many representatives described actions being taken in their countries to combat myriad environmental threats and to fulfil their commitments and responsibilities under multilateral environmental agreements. Those included mainstreaming environmental issues in national strategies, strategic plans, policies and programmes; integrated planning to promote sustainability, strengthen climate resilience and ensure the sustainable stewardship of natural resources; balancing economic growth with environmental protection; ensuring sustainable management of waste, supported by public awareness campaigns, promotion of recycling and the circular economy, and implementation of a public-private partnership model for waste management; ensuring education of children on environmental matters; reducing food waste and promoting the recycling of waste food, including through publishing guidelines on sorting and composting; legislation to control plastic waste, including the prohibition of single-use plastic bags; encouraging the active participation of young people in soil and water conservation and ecosystem recovery; the expansion of protected areas and restoration of degraded forests; strengthened enforcement of laws against wildlife trafficking; the submission of updated nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement; economic diversification through activation of the green economy; developing national climate vulnerability indicators; the application of artificial intelligence-based solutions to monitor the state of the environment and optimize solutions; and the establishment of air quality monitoring stations.

124. Examples indicated that ambitious environmental policies could be combined with sustainable economic development through innovative models, for instance, nature-positive action supported by the introduction of a voluntary ecological offsetting system using science-based criteria; advancing circular and bioeconomy solutions through forward-thinking municipalities and green deal commitments; engagement of the private sector in the clean energy transition, bolstered by investments in research, innovation and clean technology; launch of a climate competitiveness strategy that mobilized public and private capital through investment tax credits; and derisking investments to accelerate the transition to net-zero emissions by providing regulatory clarity and boosting the clean economy. In another approach, constitutional reform had been undertaken to enshrine environmental rights and the rights of nature in the national Constitution. Several representatives alluded to the alignment of their countries' development agenda with the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and other multilateral environmental agreements. In another example, one representative said that her country had used the new European Union Nature Restoration Regulation as the basis for the restoration of degraded ecosystems within the wider framework of a green, people-centred economy. Another representative cited projects in his country to create a modern processing centre for rare earth raw materials from ethical sources for the production of electronic goods, and to recycle used batteries as part of the circular economy in the electrochemical sector.

125. Many representatives highlighted the value, and indeed the necessity, of multilateral cooperation and action in resolving global environmental challenges at the national, regional and international levels. Many current global problems were complex and transboundary in nature, requiring the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders with different skills and areas of expertise. Strengthening synergy between multilateral environmental agreements was key to accelerating collective action, sharing knowledge and avoiding duplication of activities, while respecting the legal mandate and independent competencies of each agreement. Yet multilateralism was increasingly facing a range of challenges, including global conflicts, polarization and changing geopolitical priorities. Political will and commitment were needed to overcome those challenges.

126. Representatives alluded to their countries' involvement in, or hosting of, a wide range of environment-related meetings, forums and initiatives.

127. Regional initiatives were also viewed as valuable for supporting national action. Among the wide variety of regional measures, representatives alluded to the Middle East Green Initiative; the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, linking a group of Eastern and Central European countries with common environmental aims; the Caribbean Regional Seas Programme; the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region; the West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project; the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative under the African Union; the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, which supported sustainable and resilient environmental governance throughout the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions; the Permanent

Commission of the South Pacific, which allied South American Pacific coastal nations in promoting marine conservation and the health and sustainability of the ocean habitat; and the sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific, held in Fiji in August 2025, which had cemented regional unity in dealing with environmental matters of mutual concern to the countries of the region.

128. Several representatives stressed the importance of scientific knowledge and innovation as the basis for environmental action. The upcoming twelfth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, to be held in Manchester, United Kingdom, in February 2026, offered a further opportunity to strengthen science-based action for nature. Several representatives welcomed the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution as a valuable stimulus to action in those areas. In addition, several representatives referred to the seventh edition of the *Global Environment Outlook* as a valuable source of information on the state of the planet and an indication of what needed to be done.

129. The representative of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions said that a resilient planet needed multilateralism, sustainable approaches, and a whole-of-United Nations, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. For decades, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had worked hand in hand, supporting parties by promoting a life-cycle approach, including early warning and risk assessment of hazardous chemicals and policy solutions for environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes. Those conventions were legally binding, ensuring that all parties honoured their commitments regardless of their differences and capacities. Impactful global change required investment in circular solutions, safe alternatives to hazardous chemicals, the adoption of cleaner technologies, and sustainable infrastructure, thus driving innovation, creating healthy jobs and stimulating economic growth.

130. Regarding the way forward as the world continued to struggle with the three planetary environmental crises, representatives saw cause for optimism if certain conditions could be fulfilled. Advancing scientific knowledge, political resolve, and inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions were all essential to achieving an improved environmental future. It was essential to bridge divides, resist misinformation and advance a just transition that drew on the full talents and perspectives of society, ensuring that gender equality was embedded in the collective response so that all people were empowered to contribute to a liveable planet. Humankind’s responsibility lay not only in protecting what remained, but in restoring what had been damaged. Learning from past lessons, sharing knowledge (including diverse traditional knowledge), ensuring inclusivity, leveraging the necessary resources, and building capacity at all levels of society could all contribute to collective progress. The current session of the Environment Assembly could, through its outcomes, assist in building continued collaboration and effective multilateralism for the well-being of the planet.

131. At the 5th plenary meeting, two representatives spoke in exercise of the right of reply.

132. The representative of the Russian Federation, speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the national statements made by the representatives of Estonia, Lithuania and Ukraine, said that the situation in Ukraine and the allegations made against his country were unrelated to the agenda of the current session. The duties of the President included ensuring that statements delivered were in line with the topic of the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly. The President had not prevented such statements from being made and the Russian Federation had not initially been afforded the opportunity to exercise the right of reply, which constituted a violation of the rules of procedure of United Nations meetings.

133. His delegation categorically refuted the accusations of environmental damage levelled against his country in relation to its special military operation. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, a large portion of Russian land had been devolved to Ukrainian nationalists, leading to violations of the rights of the Russian-speaking population. The so-called democratic press, Western countries and United Nations secretariats had turned a blind eye to such crimes. Having exhausted all efforts to resolve the conflict by peaceful means, the Russian Federation had been forced to initiate its special military operation. The statement by the representative of Ukraine had included accusations of environmental crimes by Russia; however, it was the powers in Kiev that had wrought significant environmental damage in the region, including to forests, soils, dams and marine biodiversity. Moreover, Ukraine regularly shelled the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plants, thereby creating a risk of nuclear disaster. Those crimes clearly infringed on the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. All countries should avoid politicization in their discourse and instead strive to protect the planet.

134. The representative of Ukraine, speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by the representative of the Russian Federation, said that he was deeply distressed at the false version

of Ukrainian history recounted by that delegation. There were no words to respond to the notion that the war of aggression, or so-called "special operation", of the Russian Federation had led to an improvement of the environment in Ukraine. His delegation expressed its gratitude to all those who had joined the Ukrainian delegation in leaving the room in response to the false narratives pronounced during the intervention of the Russian Federation.

C. Summaries of dialogues

135. At the 7th plenary meeting, in the afternoon of Friday, 12 December, the Assembly heard summaries of the key messages of the leadership dialogues from their moderators and of the multi-stakeholder dialogue from one of its co-moderators. Antoinette Taus, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, presented a summary of the leadership dialogue on the theme "An ounce of prevention beats a tonne of cure: why addressing environmental crises is essential for human health". Jocelyn Blériot, Executive Lead for Policy and Institutions at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, presented a summary of the leadership dialogue on the theme "Round and round: why circularity and sustainability are critical to the future of global industry". Attiya Waris, the United Nations Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, presented a summary of the leadership dialogue on the theme "The bottom line: why tackling environmental degradation is critical to the future of the global financial system". Lastly, Joost van den Broek (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and the Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Major Groups and Stakeholders presented a summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme "Partnering for the environment: inclusive multilateralism fit for purpose". Summaries of the presentations are set out in annex IV to the present proceedings, without formal editing.

136. The Assembly took note of the summaries.

X. Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (agenda item 10)

137. At the 2nd plenary meeting, in the morning of Wednesday, 10 December, the President introduced the item. Consideration of the item consisted of a formal opening, at which opening statements were delivered by several high-level speakers, followed by two high-level dialogues and a high-level discussion on the conclusions on the matter, supported by a note by the secretariat (UNEP/EA.7/INF/6). The first dialogue, entitled "Signed, sealed, delivered? Turbocharging MEA implementation through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches", was held in the morning of Wednesday, 10 December, and the second, entitled "Keeping the promise: boosting SDG implementation through the MEAs" was held in the afternoon of the same day. The high-level discussion on the conclusions followed the second dialogue and concluded the day.

138. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Al-Amri, President of the Environment Assembly; Ms. Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP; Bojan Kumer (Slovenia), on behalf of the President of the twenty-third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention); Mansour Hilal Almushaiti Alanazi (Saudi Arabia), on behalf of the President of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; André Aranha Corrêa do Lago (Brazil), President of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, via video message; Joswa Aoudou (Cameroon), President of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, on behalf of the presidents of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Daniela Durán González (Colombia), on behalf of the President of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and Jeanne-Marie Huddleston (Canada), on behalf of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

139. In his opening remarks, Mr. Al-Amri said that the current session was taking place at a defining moment in the decade of action, with less than five years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Governments, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations, civil society and the private sector had a clear responsibility to translate their commitments into concrete and tangible action that respected each country's specific circumstances and capacities, and to shape a better future for the environment. It was incumbent upon them to build on previous achievements of the Environment Assembly and the multilateral environmental agreements to advance the global environment agenda. Sound governance and enhanced integration were essential to confront the escalating environmental crises.

140. Cooperation with the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements presented an important opportunity to engage in dialogue, exchange views, share experiences, reinforce partnerships and explore ways to fully harness the potential of those agreements, and to ensure more effective implementation at the regional, subregional and national levels. It also allowed reflection on the role that the entire United Nations system, including UNEP, could play in enhancing synergies through harmonized reporting and monitoring systems, joint capacity-building initiatives and the alignment of frameworks and policies. Stressing the importance of considering updates to the cooperation arrangements between the agreements' governing bodies and the Environment Assembly to ensure effective and modernized governance, he encouraged representatives to engage actively in the discussions, guided by the principles of mutual respect, inclusivity and equity, and an unwavering spirit of multilateralism, in order to advance multilateral environmental action, accelerate responses to the rapidly evolving environmental challenges and ensure real impact on the ground.

141. In her statement, Ms. Andersen said that the current session was intended to strengthen the active participation of the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements in the Environment Assembly; promote coherence between the Assembly's resolutions and the governing bodies' decisions, while respecting and maintaining their autonomy; and, ultimately, drive stronger, faster and better-coordinated action to address the three planetary crises. The attendance of representatives of more than 170 countries, almost 30 multilateral environmental agreement bodies and the three international science-policy panels was testament to the importance of enhancing synergies across the multilateral environmental agreements.

142. Under the agreements, remarkable successes had been achieved in slowing the rate of climate change, protecting biodiversity across vast areas of land and sea, raising the profile of desertification and land degradation, phasing out harmful chemicals and combating pollution. Each agreement helped to foster transboundary cooperation and uphold collective environmental rights. However, progress had been insufficient to adequately address the growing environmental challenges, which required genuine policy coherence, integrated approaches, enhanced national coordination and cooperation, and optimized funding. Within the context of the broader UN80 Initiative, UNEP was working to enhance efficiencies across the environmental governance system. United action that reflected the indivisible nature of the three planetary crises would make the United Nations system stronger and more efficient, and accelerate progress towards ensuring a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all.

143. In his statement, Mr. Kumer, recalling that regional cooperation provided an important basis for global cooperation, outlined the achievements of the Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention at its twenty-third meeting, including the decision to establish the new Climate Change Regional Activity Centre to support countries in planning climate adaptation and resilience measures, and the introduction of a sulfur emission control area in the Mediterranean Sea to improve the health and quality of life of coastal populations. He underscored the importance of a source-to-sea approach and strong interregional cooperation for enhancing the climate resilience of river basins, coasts and the marine environment, and for ensuring the water, food and energy security of future generations.

144. Mr. Almushaiti Alanazi said that Saudi Arabia was unwavering in its commitment to strengthening multilateral environmental agreements, including through international cooperation, in order to strike a balance between a resilient environment and development for prosperity. During its presidency of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, Saudi Arabia had worked in collaboration with other States towards halting land degradation, which had a significant effect on food and water security, biodiversity and social welfare. Cooperation had also enabled the building of scientific knowledge and enhancement of the roles of communities, women and youth, civil society organizations and funding mechanisms. Thus, the meeting had led to several outcomes with a significant impact in terms of bolstering international action. One important initiative was the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, which served to increase capacities in countering droughts, particularly in the countries that were most susceptible. The success of multilateral environmental agreements depended on enhanced integration, including through the adoption of adequate funding mechanisms that facilitated access to necessary resources to achieve the objectives of each agreement. In that regard, the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements should be integrated into national plans and linked to development plans. Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building for developing States should also be strengthened, together with enhanced coordination between multilateral environmental agreement secretariats. In that way, the benefits resulting from implementation could be maximized, thus supporting the sustainability of the planet for upcoming generations.

145. In his statement, Mr. Aranha Corrêa do Lago began by recalling that President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil had recently announced the preparation of a road map to transition away from fossil fuels, which reflected the unity of his Government in bringing to fruition the ideas put forward at

the thirtieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. That meeting had reaffirmed both the importance and the potential of strengthened multilateralism, particularly against a backdrop of global tensions. Several key discussions had been held, together with the launch of important initiatives, including the Tropical Forest Forever Facility. Progress had also been made in terms of adaptation and ensuring a just transition, and in discussions related to gender and Indigenous Peoples. The enhanced implementation of the "COP30 Action Agenda" had been met with enthusiasm from actors outside of the negotiations, including those at the local and regional levels, and from the private sector and civil society. The achievements thus far were a result of the conviction that cooperation was the solution and multilateralism must be strengthened.

146. Mr. Aoudou said that the theme of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly resonated deeply with the work of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, serving as a reminder that environmental challenges were interconnected and that responses must be integrated, mutually reinforcing and forward-looking. Pollution continued to pose a threat to human health, biodiversity and climate stability. Hazardous chemicals and pesticides were present in soils, water and the food chain. Waste generation was also increasing at an unmanageable pace for many countries, with profound impacts on human health and ecosystems. Against the backdrop of those challenges, the current session of the Environment Assembly aimed to accelerate action and demonstrate the potential of a united multilateral environmental system.

147. Multilateral environmental agreements were the backbone of international environmental governance, providing the legally binding frameworks that drove and supported collective efforts. Accordingly, cooperation was being intensified across the chemicals and waste cluster, and parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were at the forefront of enhancing synergies among the multilateral environmental agreements. Cooperation with UNEP was vital in that regard, as was working with other multilateral environmental agreements and with United Nations country teams, among others, to maximize impact and avoid duplication of efforts. However, in the light of accelerating environmental crises, intensified efforts were needed through cohesive, inclusive action to deliver the innovation, investments and policy shifts required for a safer and more resilient planet. The Environment Assembly remained a unique platform for drawing communities closer and reaffirming the importance of multilateralism in securing the future of billions worldwide.

148. In her remarks, Ms. Durán González said that the multilateral environmental agreements were facing a pivotal moment, characterized by a complex geopolitical landscape and procedural and political obstacles to negotiations that were essential to protecting the planet and humanity. Consequently, a renewed commitment to cooperation was crucial to safeguarding the future of multilateralism. The presidency of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was firmly committed to advancing the urgent action needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, which was intrinsically linked to the crises of climate change, desertification and pollution. Accordingly, responses to those crises must be synergized, while preserving the institutional integrity of each multilateral environmental agreement. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had thus adopted a decision on biodiversity and climate change that enhanced scientific collaboration and aligned national planning instruments, while also calling for enhanced policy coherence.

149. Reflection on how to improve cooperation and enhance multilateralism through adequate reforms, decisions and actions was crucial, particularly in the lead-up to the global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Accelerating progress on work to combat biodiversity loss was a matter of urgency in order to effectively counter the collapse of ecosystems. Safeguarding the planet required political courage, in order to overcome the obstacles to multilateralism. The opportunity to unlock the full potential of cooperation across all multilateral environmental agreements must be seized.

150. Ms. Huddleston said that the visibility and synergies of multilateral environmental agreements should be reinforced and cooperation should be enhanced among the agreements and with UNEP. As one of the most significant environmental risks to human health, air pollution was responsible for approximately 7 million premature deaths per year. By its very nature, air pollution was a transboundary issue that called for international cooperation. The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution had a strong history of cooperation with UNEP, for which air quality improvement was a well-established priority. Thanks to significant reduction efforts by parties to the Convention, tremendous progress had been made in addressing transboundary air pollution in Europe and across most of the northern hemisphere.

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151. The structure of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution supported ongoing evidence-based actions. For example, as the impacts of air pollution continued to increase, parties had recently launched negotiations to revise the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, in order to strengthen national emission reduction commitments and to discuss the inclusion of methane in the Protocol. The Convention and its protocols constituted a key pillar in combating the triple planetary crisis, generating climate co-benefits and reducing pollution stressors on ecosystems and species. Thus, an integrated approach was needed to address interlinked environmental issues. Multilateral environmental agreements were a cornerstone of environmental governance, and strong, cross-cutting collaboration should be upheld by all.

152. At the 7th plenary meeting, in the afternoon of Friday, 12 December, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Director of the UNEP Law Division, provided a summary of the high-level dialogues on the multilateral environmental agreements. The summary is set out in annex IV to the present proceedings.

153. The Assembly took note of the summary.

XI. Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Environment Assembly (agenda item 11)

154. Agenda item 11 and the draft decision related to it were considered by the Committee of the Whole. The Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the work of the Committee on the matter and of the informal discussions that had continued after the adjournment of the closing plenary meeting of the Committee with a view to reaching consensus on the draft decision and submitting it directly to the Assembly. The report on the work of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

155. At the 7th plenary meeting, in the afternoon of Friday, 12 December, the Environment Assembly adopted decision 7/7 on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of its eighth session.

XII. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session (agenda item 12)

156. At the 7th plenary meeting, on Friday, 12 December 2025, the Environment Assembly adopted the ministerial declaration entitled “Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet” (UNEP/EA.7/HLS.1).

157. The Environment Assembly then adopted, by consensus, the resolutions and decisions listed below. The individual resolutions are available in documents UNEP/EA.7/Res.1– UNEP/EA.7/Res.11 and the decisions are set out in annex II to the present proceedings. The resolutions and the decisions are also available on the website of the Environment Assembly (www.unep.org/environmentassembly).

Resolution	*Title*
7/1	Accelerating global actions to promote the climate resilience of coral reefs
7/2	Promoting sustainable solutions through sport for a resilient planet
7/3	Strengthening international cooperation on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals
7/4	Strengthening the global response to the massive influx of sargassum seaweed blooms
7/5	Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments
7/6	Enhancing the meaningful participation of youth in environmental processes, and enhancing environmental education
7/7	Strengthening the global management of wildfires
7/8	Sound management of chemicals and waste
7/9	Environmental sustainability of artificial intelligence systems
7/10	Preservation of glaciers and the broader cryosphere, in particular in mountain regions
7/11	Environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance

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Decision	*Title*
7/1	Adoption of the agenda
7/2	Organization of work
7/3	Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to the United Nations Environment Assembly
7/4	Credentials of representatives
7/5	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
7/6	Medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027
7/7	Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
7/8	Election of the Bureau of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

158. Prior to the adoption of decision 7/6 on the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027, the Principal Legal Officer of UNEP drew attention to technical edits made by the Executive Director to the first sentence of paragraph 17 of the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027. The technical changes had been made on the basis of advice received from legal counsel, and the programme of work had been reissued accordingly.

A. Statements in explanation of position

159. Following the adoption of the ministerial declaration, resolutions and decisions, a number of representatives delivered statements in explanation of position.

160. The representative of the Congo, speaking in explanation of position, lauded the role of the Global Environment Facility in assisting developing countries to meet their environmental priorities over the previous 30 years. She said that she was hopeful regarding the forthcoming ninth replenishment of the Facility and the contribution of resources to a special fund on climate change and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for the benefit of the least developed countries. She further expressed her gratitude to the Facility for its response to environmental crises and its promotion of sustainable development for the entire planet, and she stressed the need to strengthen processes to make funding more equitable and more accessible.

161. The representative of the United States of America, speaking in explanation of position, described the United States Government's considered decision to not participate in the negotiation of the draft resolutions, decisions and ministerial declaration at the current session, saying that it was due to Member States repeatedly raising contentious and irrelevant issues in Environment Assembly sessions instead of remaining focused on the Assembly's core environmental mandate. The United States therefore dissociated itself from all the resolutions, decisions and the ministerial declaration, as they contained principles and language it did not support. It was also concerned about the overall direction and effectiveness of the Environment Assembly and did not support efforts to expand the mandate of UNEP or endorse new initiatives without a clear funded basis. Finally, in the view of the United States, the resolutions adopted by the Environment Assembly were non-binding and did not create any new rights or obligations under international law, nor did they modify or alter existing ones.

162. The representative of Singapore, making a statement in explanation of position, expressed a reservation regarding the omission in the ministerial declaration of a clear affirmation of the primacy of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas were to be carried out. Given that omission, his delegation did not view the relevant sentence as constituting agreed language to be used as a precedent for future processes under the Environment Assembly or elsewhere.

163. The representative of Ecuador, speaking in explanation of position, declared a reservation regarding references in the ministerial declaration to "mutually agreed terms" in connection with technology transfer, which he noted were not consistent with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

164. The representative of Argentina made a statement in explanation of position in which he expressed regret that the outcomes of the session did not include references to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which he reaffirmed as a fundamental pillar of environmental multilateralism. In addition, he said that his country dissociated itself from all the paragraphs of the outcome documents that made reference to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. Argentina did not adhere to the Pact for the Future and considered the 2030

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Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, although well-intentioned, to be legally non-binding aspirations that each State, in the exercise of its sovereignty, had the right to implement and pursue freely. Finally, regarding the references to "gender" and "gender equality", he said that his delegation understood the term "gender" as agreed in article 7.3 of the Rome Statute.

165. The representative of Indonesia made a statement in explanation of position on the term "Indigenous Peoples and local communities", saying that his Government was of the view that its application should fully respect national legal and constitutional frameworks and Member States' diverse sociocultural contexts.

166. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also speaking in explanation of position, stated that all reservations expressed and positions taken by her delegation during the seventh session of the Environment Assembly and in other intergovernmental forums on matters related to the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, the Pact for the Future, the One Health approach and references to crimes that affected the environment remained valid and that her country would continue to be guided by its national circumstances and priorities.

B. General statements

167. Many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, took the floor to welcome the outcomes of the session or to express reservations or give their views on the ministerial declaration or specific resolutions. Many took the opportunity to thank the presidency and the co-facilitators of the formal and informal discussions for the successful negotiation of the ministerial declaration and the adopted resolutions and decisions, which several, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, described as demonstrating a shared commitment to multilateralism and advancing concrete action. Several of those who spoke stressed the importance of translating the outcomes into action on the ground.

168. Several representatives, while supporting the ministerial declaration, nevertheless highlighted elements that they would have liked to see included. One said that his delegation would have preferred more ambition in the declaration as well as in the resolutions. Individual representatives expressed regret concerning the lack of a reference to common but differentiated responsibilities; significant relevant references to the rights of Indigenous Peoples given the major role they played in addressing environmental crises; more assertive references to the entry into force of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the proposed agreement to address plastic pollution over its entire life cycle; and recognition of the adverse environmental impact of unilateral coercive measures imposed on certain countries.

169. One representative said that, while the declaration could not contain everything Member States wanted to see, what it did contain mattered, as it sent important political signals to the wider international community about Member States' commitments to global environmental action.

170. One representative said that he deplored the fact that countries like his had to fight for the inclusion in the ministerial declaration of language regarding the circumstances that affected them, such as recognition of small island developing States as a special group with special circumstances or of sargassum as a major crisis. Similarly, another representative said that the negotiations at the seventh session had tested multilateralism more than in previous years, with the politicization of science and growing contention around long-standing agreements such as the special circumstances of small island developing States, equitable and accessible finance, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the right to a clean and healthy environment, signalling a concerning divergence from the fundamental principles that should guide the decisions of the Environment Assembly. He questioned whether the adopted resolutions were strong enough to drive real change, save the communities on the front lines and stop critical ecosystems from being eroded.

171. In welcoming the resolutions, some representatives expressed particular appreciation for the resolution on enhancing the meaningful participation of youth in environmental processes and enhancing environmental education and invited all Member States to work together to fully implement the resolution and engage the next generation in environmental stewardship. Another representative welcomed the adoption of the resolution aimed at addressing the massive influx of sargassum seaweed blooms. Other individual representatives highlighted the resolutions on environmental sustainability of artificial intelligence systems, strengthening global management of wildfires, promoting sustainable solutions through sport and the environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance as being of particular value to them.

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172. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries noted that the failure to mention climate in key resolutions prevented Member States from considering synergies across the Rio conventions and delivering under multilateral environmental agreements, despite the recognition that climate change contributed to the scale of environmental challenges and was interconnected with biodiversity loss and pollution.

173. A number of individual representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed regret that specific draft resolutions had been withdrawn from consideration owing to divergent views. One said that the inability to reach consensus on those resolutions highlighted the importance of submitting draft resolutions early, accompanied by a strong rationale and consultation with all Member States, as well as the need to improve working methods within UNEP. In that regard, he welcomed the decision on the provisional agenda, dates and the venue of the eighth session of the Environment Assembly, which included suggestions for increasing the efficiency of the Assembly's work. Another representative stressed the need to decide how the Assembly's working methods could be changed to enable it to keep pace with the crises, saying that events were currently outpacing multilateralism. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noting that late-night work during the seventh session had often precluded hearing the views of the major groups, underscored the need for the Environment Assembly to be inclusive and to ensure that global environmental solutions incorporated the views of those most affected. The same representative noted that the UN80 Initiative would pave the path to a more efficient and effective United Nations system that would also contribute to Member States' efforts to tackle the triple planetary crises together.

174. Several representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, underscored the importance of independent science. Several, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, specified that they valued the contributions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, as well as that of other scientific and technical bodies both within and outside the United Nations. The representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries also recognized the contribution of Indigenous knowledge. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries noted with regret the increasing instances in which scientific evidence and its uptake had been challenged or constrained in political processes, including during the preparation of the seventh *Global Environment Outlook* report and the finalization of its summary for policymakers. He called on all Member States and partners to strengthen inclusive, transparent and well-resourced science-policy interfaces, defend scientific integrity and ensure that environmental governance at all levels was guided by sound scientific evidence.

175. A number of representatives highlighted the importance of adequate means of implementation, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to ensure that no country was left behind. One said that developed countries' commitment to providing support, in particular affordable, adequate and predictable financing and technology transfer, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, played a crucial role in enabling developing countries to implement their environmental plans and programmes and was the main aspect of international cooperation and collective action on the environment. Another recalled that international cooperation was the basis of multilateralism and the foundation of the ability of the United Nations to effect change. The same representative echoed a concern raised earlier in the discussion regarding references in the ministerial declaration to "mutually agreed terms" in connection with technology transfer, noting that there was a historical responsibility associated with means of implementation. Several representatives expressed appreciation for the Global Environment Facility as the financial mechanism for many multilateral environmental agreements but called for financing to be increased and rendered more equitable and accessible.

176. Also at the 7th plenary meeting, the representative of Mexico presented a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme", explaining that it had been submitted in response to a frequently heard concern regarding increasing fragmentation of the environmental agenda and proliferation of parallel processes, which resulted in a waste of resources that could be used to tackle environmental challenges. The draft resolution built on the draft resolution withdrawn from consideration during the meeting of the Committee of the Whole, and reflected the progress made during the negotiations held since the seventh session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives. It contained consensus text and demonstrated her delegation's commitment to generating results. She underscored that the draft resolution had been submitted in accordance with the rules of procedure and the Environment Assembly's working methods and was thus legally valid and appropriate and should be accorded the same consideration as the other draft resolutions. The procedural situation that had made that impossible demonstrated yet again the urgent

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need to review the Environment Assembly's working methods. Her delegation recognized with regret a lack of flexibility and willingness to negotiate in good faith, attempts by some Member States to limit the mandate of UNEP, questioning of the concept of the global South, and significant concessions that represented a step backwards from previously agreed language. She then informed the Assembly that because Mexico was a country that respected international law and valued the spirit of Nairobi and for the other reasons mentioned, her delegation wished to withdraw the draft resolution from consideration by the Assembly at its seventh session while reserving the right to resubmit it in the future.

177. Another representative thanked the representative of Mexico for presenting the draft resolution. Recalling that her delegation had co-sponsored the original draft resolution on the matter, she expressed the view that the newly submitted version, like the original, had great merit and would have been adopted had sufficient time been allocated for a productive exchange of views. She urged Member States to keep the discussion alive and to enable the proponents and any other interested Member States to reintroduce the draft resolution for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its eighth session.

C. General statements by observers

178. The representative of the League of Arab States said that the seventh session of the Environment Assembly represented a pivotal moment for work on environmental protection. The success of the current session was a result of high-level diplomacy, which had effectively led to the adoption of decisions that aimed to strengthen international cooperation. The balanced programme of work had also served to ensure respect and cooperation in deliberations on environmental matters. The League of Arab States remained steadfast in its will to cooperate with all partners, in order to overcome challenges and achieve positive outcomes.

179. The representative of the European Union and its member States thanked the President and the co-facilitators of the informal consultations for their continued efforts to ensure the adoption of a consensual ministerial declaration and declared her delegation's readiness to support the declaration in its entirety. She said that the ministerial declaration reflected a delicate balance achieved through extensive negotiating effort and advised that it not be disturbed. The declaration included a targeted set of actions to which Member States had collectively and individually committed in order to tackle the three environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution while addressing important linkages between them. It also supported UNEP in its role as the United Nations focal point and the leading global authority on the environment and strengthened its mandate. She reaffirmed the essential role of science in decision-making to address global environmental challenges and crises and, in that regard, she welcomed with appreciation the seventh iteration of the *Global Environment Outlook* report.

XIII. Election of officers (agenda item 13)

180. At the 7th plenary meeting, in the afternoon of Friday, 12 December, in accordance with rule 18 of its rules of procedure, the Environment Assembly elected by acclamation the following officers to serve at its eighth session:

President:	Matthew Samuda (Jamaica)
Vice-Presidents:	Mosese Bulitavu (Fiji)
	Nino Tandilashvili (Georgia)
	Jochen Flasbarth (Germany)
	Anikó Raisz (Hungary)
	Ibrahim Alarabi Munir (Libya)
	Joyelle Clarke (Saint Kitts and Nevis)
	Dammika Patabendi (Sri Lanka)
	Hamad Yusuf Masauni (United Republic of Tanzania)
Rapporteur:	Felix Wertli (Switzerland)

181. Mr. Samuda, paying tribute to the outgoing President and thanking the Executive Director and all UNEP staff, said that he was grateful for the trust that had been placed in him as President-elect of the eighth session of the Assembly. The Assembly had a critical role to play as the global

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decision-making body on environmental matters and as a forum for collaboration, coordination and partnership. Environmental stewardship was no longer an isolated agenda item; it was the defining challenge of the century. The world was asking for solutions and for leadership rooted in courage, cooperation and conviction. The Assembly's decisions would shape economies, societies and the lives of unborn generations. He represented countries and communities whose lived experience underscored the urgency of protecting the natural world, who were on the front lines of climate impacts and who could ill afford delay or indifference. He pledged to foster an Assembly of inclusivity, transparency and practical action. The science-policy interface must be strengthened, adaptation and resilience financing must be scaled up and the transition to sustainable production and consumption must be accelerated – without any State, large or small, being excluded. While the environmental challenges were complex, the pathway was clear: greater ambition, deeper cooperation and unwavering commitment to implementation. The Assembly must rise to the occasion; show that multilateralism, when guided by equity and shared purpose, was the most powerful tool the world possessed; and ensure that the environment was a global priority and a global responsibility.

XIV. Other matters (agenda item 14)

182. No other matters were considered.

XV. Adoption of the report of the session (agenda item 15)

183. At the 7th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted the present proceedings on the basis of the draft proceedings that had been circulated, on the understanding that they would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

XVI. Closure of the session (agenda item 16)

184. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the seventh session of the Environment Assembly was declared closed at 7.25 p.m. on Friday, 12 December 2025.

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Annex I

Outcomes adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session

Resolution	*Title*
7/1	Accelerating global actions to promote the climate resilience of coral reefs
7/2	Promoting sustainable solutions through sport for a resilient planet
7/3	Strengthening international cooperation on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals
7/4	Strengthening the global response to the massive influx of sargassum seaweed blooms
7/5	Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments
7/6	Enhancing the meaningful participation of youth in environmental processes, and enhancing environmental education
7/7	Strengthening the global management of wildfires
7/8	Sound management of chemicals and waste
7/9	Environmental sustainability of artificial intelligence systems
7/10	Preservation of glaciers and the broader cryosphere, in particular in mountain regions
7/11	Environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance
Decision	*Title*
7/1	Adoption of the agenda
7/2	Organization of work
7/3	Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to the United Nations Environment Assembly
7/4	Credentials of representatives
7/5	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
7/6	Medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027
7/7	Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
7/8	Election of the Bureau of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Declaration

Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session: “Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet” (UNEP/EA.7/HLS.1)

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Annex II

Decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 12 December 2025

7/1. Adoption of the agenda

At the 1st plenary meeting, in the morning of Monday, 8 December 2025, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted the following agenda for the session, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.7/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. International environmental policy and governance issues.
6. Programme of work and budget and other administrative and budgetary issues.
7. Stakeholder engagement.
8. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. High-level segment.
10. Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements.
11. Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Environment Assembly.
12. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
13. Election of officers.
14. Other matters.
15. Adoption of the report of the session.
16. Closure of the session.

7/2. Organization of work

At the 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 8 December, in accordance with rule 63 of its rules of procedure, the United Nations Environment Assembly decided to establish a committee of the whole, open for participation to States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and the regional economic integration organizations, for the consideration of various items on its agenda. On the recommendation of the Bureau, the Assembly elected by acclamation Joyelle Clarke (Saint Kitts and Nevis) as Chair of the Committee of the Whole and also elected by acclamation Nino Tandilashvili (Georgia) as the Rapporteur. The Assembly decided that the Committee would consider item 5, international environmental policy and governance issues, item 6, programme of work and budget and other administrative and budgetary issues, and item 11, provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Environment Assembly. In accordance with rule 61 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, the Committee would establish contact groups as it deemed necessary.

The Environment Assembly also decided that a high-level dialogue on the theme “Signed, sealed, delivered? Turbocharging MEA implementation through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches” would be held in the morning of Wednesday, 10 December, that a second high-level dialogue, on the theme “Keeping the promise: boosting SDG implementation through the MEAs”, would be held in the afternoon of the same day, and that the dialogues would be followed by a one-hour moderated high-level discussion on the conclusions of the day’s discussions, providing an opportunity to reflect on the solutions and ideas presented during the high-level dialogues, as well as the suggested areas for further action.

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The Environment Assembly further decided that a leadership dialogue on the theme "An ounce of prevention beats a tonne of cure: why addressing environmental crises is essential for human health", followed by a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme "Partnering for the environment: inclusive multilateralism fit for purpose", would be held in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 December, and that two consecutive leadership dialogues on the themes "Round and round: why circularity and sustainability are critical to the future of global industry" and "The bottom line: why tackling environmental degradation is critical to the future of the global financial system" would be held in the morning of Friday, 12 December.

In addition, the Environment Assembly decided that the time limit for statements would be three minutes for statements by representatives of individual delegations, including statements by observers and representatives of major groups and stakeholders; five minutes for statements by representatives speaking on behalf of a group of States; and three minutes for statements in explanation of vote before action and after action on a proposal. The Assembly decided that the right of reply should be exercised at the end of the day whenever two or three meetings had been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings were devoted to the consideration of the same item, or before the conclusion of the consideration of the item, with the number of interventions in the exercise of the right being limited to two per item for any delegation at a given meeting, the first such intervention being limited to three minutes and the second to two minutes.

7/3. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to the United Nations Environment Assembly

At the 1st plenary meeting, on 8 December 2025, the United Nations Environment Assembly took note of the following newly accredited intergovernmental organizations that had been accredited to the Environment Assembly pursuant to rule 69 of the rules of procedure:

1. OSPAR Commission of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic;
2. Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers;
3. Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention;
4. West African Development Bank.

7/4. Credentials of representatives

At the 4th plenary meeting, in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 December, the United Nations Environment Assembly approved the report of the Bureau on credentials and accepted the credentials of Member States.

7/5. Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the note by the secretariat on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions,[1]

1. *Notes* that, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme carries out the function of administering trust funds on the basis of the principle of full cost recovery of administrative costs;

2. *Recalls* that, in accordance with its decision 6/6 of 1 March 2024, the extension of trust funds is an administrative matter that falls under the delegation of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and hence will, as of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly, no longer require a decision by Member States;

3. *Also recalls* that, in decision 3/3 of 6 December 2017, it requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant parties and/or donors, as appropriate and in accordance with the terms of the respective agreement or fund, to decide on reassigning the balances in inactive trust funds when the activities for which they were established had ended, with a view to supporting the implementation of appropriate subprogrammes of the agreed programme of work;

[1] UNEP/EA.7/INF/4.

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4. *Notes* the progress made in the implementation of decision 3/3 through the closure of the inactive trust funds and the reassignment of the balances to the relevant activities, and notes that the allocation of unspent balances is undertaken on a case-by-case basis and always in consultation with donors;

5. *Recalls and reiterates* Governing Council decision 18/44 B of 25 May 1995, in which the Governing Council requested donors to the trust funds to abide strictly by the terms of reference of the trust funds;

6. *Notes* that the establishment and management of trust funds is governed by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and emphasizes the importance of upholding the single audit principle across the United Nations system, as well as that of aligning funding conditionality with the United Nations principles of independence, impartiality and integrity, taking into account the need to reduce the administrative burden of receiving voluntary donor contributions;[2]

7. *Takes note* of the request to the Executive Director by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution to provide the interim secretariat supporting the operation of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to establish a relevant trust fund, at the request of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution;

9. *Approves* the establishment of a general trust fund to support the activities of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, financed by the Global Environment Facility, with no fixed expiry date;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to inform the Environment Assembly in a timely manner of the establishment and closure of trust funds and to brief the Committee of Permanent Representatives on matters related to the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, as appropriate;

11. *Approves* the closure of the following trust funds since the third session of the Environment Assembly:

(a) CIL – Technical cooperation trust fund to support the implementation of the strategic plan for remediation activities following the toxic waste incident in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, closed in 2019;

(b) CSL – Technical cooperation trust fund for the provision of a Senior Professional Officer to the United Nations Environment Programme (financed by the Government of Canada), closed in 2019;

(c) CWL – General trust fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water, closed in 2019;

(d) DNL – Technical cooperation trust fund in support of the Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and the Pacific (financed by the Government of Denmark), closed in 2022;

(e) EBL – General trust fund for implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, closed in 2022;

(f) EEL – General trust fund for environmental emergencies, closed in 2019;

(g) EGL – General trust fund to establish a secretariat for the Environment Management Group at the International Environment House, Geneva, closed in 2019;

(h) ELL – Technical cooperation trust fund to strengthen the institutional and regulatory capacity of developing countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands), closed in 2019;

(i) FEL – United Nations Environment Programme environment support budget (internal trust fund of the legacy system), closed in 2024;

(j) GAL – Technical cooperation trust fund for UNEP implementation of activities funded by the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, closed in 2019;

[2] See General Assembly resolution 73/254.

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(k) GIL – Technical cooperation trust fund to provide experts to the United Nations Environment Programme Global Resource Information Database (financed by the Government of the United States of America), closed in 2019;

(l) GWL – Technical cooperation trust fund for the provision of support to the Global International Waters Project (financed by the Government of Finland), closed in 2022;

(m) IPL – Technical cooperation trust fund to assist the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in developing countries (financed by the Government of Sweden), closed in 2019;

(n) JAL – Technical cooperation trust fund for the action plan of the Caribbean Environmental Programme in Jamaica, closed in 2019;

(o) LAL – General trust fund in support of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, closed in 2019;

(p) PUL – Technical cooperation trust fund to support the UNEP Executive Director's implementation of personnel reforms in the UNEP secretariat, closed in 2022;

(q) QSL – Technical cooperation trust fund in support of the African Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, closed in 2022;

(r) RCL – General trust fund in support of the implementation of Governing Council decisions in the North American region, closed in 2022;

(s) RUL – Technical cooperation trust fund in support of meetings of subcommittees or working groups on programmatic and administrative reform of the United Nations Environment Programme (financed by the Government of the United States of America), closed in 2022;

(t) SAL – Trust fund for the financing of the new international environment prize (Sasakawa Environment Prize), closed in 2019;

(u) TAL – Technical cooperation trust fund for the provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Government of Austria), closed in 2019;

(v) UCL – Technical cooperation trust fund for the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Compensation Commission in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (financed by the United Nations Compensation Commission), closed in 2019;

(w) VML – Technical cooperation trust fund to assist developing countries to take action for the protection of the ozone layer under the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland), closed in 2019.

7/6. Medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its commitment to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] and recognizing that the time frame of the proposed medium-term strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2026–2029 represents the final period for implementation before 2030,

1. *Recognizes* that the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the programme of work for the biennium 2026–2027 were prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, that some components, definitions and terminologies included therein have not been agreed intergovernmentally, and that therefore nothing in those documents should prejudge any future negotiations or agreements;

2. *Recalls* paragraph 9 of its decision 6/7 of 1 March 2024, and recognizes the efforts undertaken by the Executive Director, in particular through increased consultations with Member States, in seeking to take into account their views in the preparation of the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the programme of work for the biennium 2026–2027, emphasizing the

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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importance of enhanced efforts to reflect consensual views in the preparation of subsequent medium-term strategies and programmes of work;

3. *Approves* the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027;[4]

4. *Also approves* appropriations to the Environment Fund in the amount of 200 million United States dollars for the biennium for the purposes indicated in the following table:

Environment Fund for the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*Environment Fund*
A. Policymaking organs	5 363
B. Executive direction and management	12 693
Subtotal A + B	**18 056**
C. Programme of work	
1. Climate action	20 916
2. Digital transformations	15 911
3. Nature action: land, ocean and freshwater	25 922
4. Environmental law and governance	31 285
5. Chemicals and pollution action	21 631
6. Finance and economic transformations	22 346
7. Science-policy	17 698
Subtotal C	**155 709**
D. Fund programme reserve	8 000
Subtotal, programme of work and reserve (C + D)	**163 709**
E. Programme support	18 235
Total (A + B + C + D + E)	**200 000**

Note: The figures set out above are subject to further changes following the conclusion of the UN80 initiative, the functional review of the United Nations Environment Programme and other strategic initiatives.

5. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate resources between budget components and/or subprogrammes up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the appropriations and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereof, and in duly justified exceptional circumstances to reallocate resources in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of the appropriations from which resources are reallocated after prior consultation with the Committee;

6. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of Environment Fund allocations to budget components and/or subprogrammes, bringing them into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations, while taking into account expected income from other sources;

7. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities to implement the programme of work for the biennium 2026–2027;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to apply a prudent approach to the management of resources from all sources, including the Environment Fund, through the careful management of contractual arrangements;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to monitor and manage the share of the Environment Fund devoted, respectively, to post costs and non-post costs, while clearly prioritizing the application of the resources of the Environment Fund to programme activities;

10. *Emphasizes* the need for comprehensive information and full justification regarding proposed expenditures and contributions from all sources of funding, including staffing information, to be provided to the Committee of Permanent Representatives well in advance of its consideration of the proposed programme of work and budget;

[4] UNEP/EA.7/3; UNEP/EA.7/4.

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11. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to improve the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of oversight, review and independent evaluation;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States through the meetings of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including the annual subcommittee meeting, and to the Environment Assembly at its sessions, on the results of audits and evaluations, on the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its expected accomplishments, and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations or adjustments of allocations;

13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work, apart from those funds administered by the Programme on behalf of other intergovernmental bodies;

14. *Urges* all Member States and others in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, notably the Environment Fund, encouraged by the universal membership of the Environment Assembly, and in this regard requests the Executive Director, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to mobilize increased voluntary funding, including softly earmarked funding, to the Programme from all Member States and others in a position to do so, and to continue to broaden the contributor base;

15. *Notes* the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions to, and enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of, the Environment Fund, and in this regard requests the Executive Director to continue to adapt the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, *inter alia*, in accordance with Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 and any relevant subsequent decisions;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to develop a resource mobilization strategy that improves the adequacy and predictability of resources, and encourages the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Committee, to update and implement the strategy with a view to strengthening donor relations and addressing the priority of broadening the contributor base among Member States, as well as to catalyse resources from all relevant sources to implement the programme of work;

17. *Stresses* the importance of early, extensive and transparent consultations between the Executive Director, Member States and the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the preparation of the programme of work and budget;

18. *Also stresses* the need for the programme of work and budget to be based on results-based management;

19. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to submit for consideration and approval by the Environment Assembly at its eighth session a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work for the biennium 2028–2029.

7/7. Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, 67/213 of 21 December 2012, 67/251 of 13 March 2013, 68/215 of 20 December 2013, 69/223 of 19 December 2014, 71/231 of 21 December 2016, 73/260 of 22 December 2018, 74/222 of 19 December 2019, 76/208 of 17 December 2021, 77/168 of 14 December 2022 and 79/209 of 19 December 2024,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (para. 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 57/283 B (paras. 9–11 of section II) of 15 April 2003, 61/236 (para. 9 of section II.A) of 22 December 2006, 62/225 (para. 9 of section II.A) of 22 December 2007, 63/248 (para. 9 of section II.A) of 24 December 2008, 64/230 (para. 9 of section II.A) of 22 December 2009, 65/245 (para. 10 of section II.A) of 24 December 2010, 67/237 (para. 13 of section II.A) of 24 December 2012, 71/262 (paras. 27 and 102) of 23 December 2016, 73/270 (para. 29) of 22 December 2018, 74/252 (paras. 29 and 117) of 27 December 2019, 75/244 (paras. 31 and 121) of 31 December 2020, 76/237 (paras. 31 and 120) of 24 December 2021, 77/255

(paras. 30 and 118) of 30 December 2022, 77/263 (para. 4 of section VIII) of 30 December 2022, 78/245 (paras. 33 and 120) of 22 December 2023 and 79/248 (paras. 36 and 126) of 24 December 2024,

Taking into account Governing Council decisions 27/1 and 27/2 of 22 February 2013, as well as Environment Assembly resolutions 1/2 of 27 June 2014 and 2/22 of 27 May 2016 and decisions 3/2 of 6 December 2017, 4/2 of 15 March 2019, 5/3 of 23 February 2021 and 6/7 of 1 March 2024,

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[5] and welcoming the progress made, including the establishment of the Environment Assembly,

Recognizing also the political declaration of the special session of the Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme,[6] and stressing the importance of continued action,

Welcoming the progress made in the implementation of the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, as endorsed in paragraph 1 of Environment Assembly decision 5/4 of 2 March 2022, and welcoming also the guidance on the preparation and conduct of the meetings of the Committee[7] with a view to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme, as endorsed by the Committee at its resumed 162nd meeting, held on 31 October 2023,

Taking note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in the United Nations Environment Programme,[8] including the recommendations contained therein, in particular recommendation 1,

Recalling its decision 6/7 of 1 March 2024 on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 79/226 of 19 December 2024 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

1. *Decides*, in accordance with rules 1 and 4 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to hold the eighth session of the Assembly at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, in Nairobi, from 6 to 10 December 2027;

2. *Also decides,* in accordance with rules 1 and 4 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, and resolution 2/22 and decisions 3/2 and 5/4 of the Assembly, to hold the ninth and future regular sessions of the Assembly at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, in Nairobi, commencing on the last Monday in February in odd-numbered years, unless otherwise decided by the Assembly;

3. *Further decides* that, on an exceptional basis:

(a) Its ninth session will consist of a three-day meeting, without prejudice to the duration and functions of its high-level segment as set out in Governing Council decision 27/2;

(b) The ninth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will consist of a three-day meeting and be convened back to back with the ninth session of the Environment Assembly in order to minimize financial costs;

(c) In the light of the reduced duration of the ninth session of the Environment Assembly, Member States will be strongly encouraged to limit the number of draft resolutions submitted for consideration by the Assembly, without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in particular rule 44;

4. *Decides* that, pursuant to paragraph 10 of Governing Council decision 27/2, the eighth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will be held from 29 November to 3 December 2027, and requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to discuss, in consultation with the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, and decide on the format and agenda of the session;

[5] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[6] UNEP/EA.SS.1/4.

[7] See document UNEP/CPR/162/7/Rev.1.

[8] JIU/REP/2025/1.

5. *Approves* the provisional agenda for the eighth session as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. International environmental policy and governance issues.
6. Programme of work and budget and other administrative and budgetary issues.
7. Stakeholder engagement.
8. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. High-level segment.
10. Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements.
11. Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the ninth session of the Environment Assembly.
12. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
13. Election of officers.
14. Other matters.
15. Adoption of the report of the session.
16. Closure of the session.

6. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in consultation with the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, to contribute to the preparation of the annotations to the provisional agenda set out in paragraph 5 above;

7. *Also requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to consider recommendation 1 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to enhancing the oversight by Committee members of the management and administration of the United Nations Environment Programme, and to prepare a recommendation for consideration at the eighth session of the Environment Assembly, taking into account decision 171/1 of the Committee and the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, as endorsed in paragraph 1 of Assembly decision 5/4, and also taking into account decision 167/1 of the Committee;

8. *Decides*, on the basis of the preference expressed by Member States, that the eighth session of the Environment Assembly will not have a theme, and clarifies that the present decision precludes the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Bureau and the President of the Assembly from establishing or defining one on behalf of Member States;

9. *Invites* Member States to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its eighth session, and strongly urges them to do so at least 10 weeks in advance of the eighth session, taking into account the limited time and resources available for the negotiation of draft resolutions during the eighth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the eighth session of the Assembly, without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in particular rule 44;

10. *Recognizes* the need to limit evening negotiating sessions to reasonable hours to preserve the health of delegates attending intergovernmental meetings, in particular delegates of small delegations, and recommends that, unless otherwise agreed, preferably no session be scheduled beyond 13 hours from the start of the first open-ended meeting of each day;

11. *Encourages* Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of the offices of President and members of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly as well as those of the Chair and members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, where applicable, and to support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the sessions of the Environment

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Assembly, the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and other related intergovernmental meetings.

7/8. Election of the Bureau of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 12 December 2025, the United Nations Environment Assembly, in accordance with rule 18 of its rules of procedure, elected Matthew Samuda (Jamaica) as President of the Environment Assembly; Mosese Bulitavu (Fiji), Nino Tandilashvili (Georgia), Jochen Flasbarth (Germany), Anikó Raisz (Hungary), Ibrahim Alarabi Munir (Libya), Joyelle Clarke (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Dammika Patabendi (Sri Lanka) and Hamad Yusuf Masauni (United Republic of Tanzania) as Vice-Presidents; and Felix Wertli (Switzerland) as Rapporteur, all for a term beginning at the closure of the seventh session and expiring at the closure of the eighth session.

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Annex III

Report of the Committee of the Whole at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Rapporteur: Nino Tandilashvili (Georgia)

Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its seventh session, in the morning of Monday, 8 December 2025, the United Nations Environment Assembly established a committee of the whole to consider the draft resolutions and draft decisions prepared by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its seventh session under items 5, 6 and 11 that remained to be finalized for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

2. In accordance with the decision of the Environment Assembly, the Committee of the Whole held three meetings between Monday, 8 December, and Wednesday, 10 December 2025. The Committee was chaired by Joyelle Clark (Saint Kitts and Nevis), and Nino Tandilashvili (Georgia) served as Rapporteur; both had been elected by acclamation by the Environment Assembly.

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

3. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the meeting at 12.25 p.m. on Monday, 8 December 2025.

4. The Committee adopted its agenda on the basis of the draft provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.6/CW/1).

II. Organization of work

5. At its 1st plenary meeting, in the morning of Monday, 8 December 2025, the Committee agreed to establish two contact groups with a view to finalizing, by Wednesday, 10 December 2025, the outstanding draft resolutions and draft decisions for adoption by the Environment Assembly at its seventh session.

6. The Chair proposed a general approach to the Committee's work that was aimed at harmonizing and streamlining the negotiation process during the work of the Committee and maximizing the conditions for a successful outcome to its work. The Co-Chairs of the contact groups would lead negotiations on the draft resolutions and draft decisions, propose text to resolve deadlocks and advance discussions, manage schedules and time allocations, convene informal informal consultations, and manage the process of merging or withdrawing draft resolutions. The draft resolutions, draft decisions and non-papers transmitted by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Environment Assembly would form the basis for the negotiations. Negotiations on the draft resolutions and decisions would begin on the operative paragraphs, there would be no call for written submissions, and delegations should refrain from introducing new ideas or concepts.

7. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Canada, Colombia, the European Union, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Türkiye, Tuvalu, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

8. The Committee of the Whole agreed to conduct its work based on the approach proposed by the Chair, on the understanding that contact groups could continue their work beyond 10 p.m. on an exceptional basis with the agreement of all participants and that informal informal consultations would not be held in parallel with contact group meetings and with meetings of the regional and political groups.

9. It was agreed that the Co-Chairs and the work of the contact groups would be as follows:

(a) Contact group 1, to be co-chaired by Kanako Okano (Japan), Marie Haraldstad (Norway), Ontumetse Ontumetse (Botswana) and Michal Novotný (Czechia), would address the draft resolutions entitled "Strengthening global response on the management of fires"; "Strengthening the global response on the massive influx of sargassum seaweed blooms"; "Active protection of deep-sea

ecosystems"; "Accelerating global action to promote the climate resilience of coral reefs"; "Preservation of glaciers and the broader cryosphere"; "Karst ecosystem for global water, biodiversity, climate resilience and economic development"; "Environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance"; "Advancing options for international instruments on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals and guidance for mineral resources circularity"; and "Sound management of chemicals and waste".

(b) Contact group 2, to be co-chaired by Sara Elkhouly (Egypt), Martin Röw (Germany), Nader Al-Tarawneh (Jordan) and Tobias Ogweno (Kenya), would address the draft resolutions entitled "Safe, responsible and sustainable artificial intelligence systems"; "Enhancing meaningful participation of children and youth in environmental governance"; "Promoting sustainable solutions through sport for a resilient planet"; "Enhancing international response to address crimes that affect the environment"; "Maximizing existing resources through enhanced coherence and synergies in multilateral environmental agreements and implementation"; and "Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi to address environmental challenges and enhance multilateral cooperation to address effective multilateral governance".

10. The Committee also decided that the draft decision on the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027 and the draft decision on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Environment Assembly would be addressed by contact group 2.

11. At its 2nd plenary meeting, in the evening of Tuesday, 9 December 2025, the Committee considered a revised general approach for the conduct of its work proposed by the Chair, which took account of the limited time remaining to conclude negotiations. The Chair's proposals included providing additional time for the contact groups to finalize their work, including through possible continuation of contact group meetings until midnight; additional informal informal consultations in parallel with two contact groups; distribution of the outcomes of those consultations as non-papers; basing negotiations on previously agreed text; and modalities by which Co-Chairs could develop short non-papers with bridging proposals that would be tabled on a "take-it-or-leave-it" basis in instances where consensus could not be achieved.

12. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Bahrain, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, the European Union, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique (speaking on behalf of the African States), Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Türkiye, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

13. The Committee agreed to conduct its further work based on the approach proposed by the Chair, as revised to specify that each contact group could decide, by consensus, whether to continue discussions beyond 10 p.m. and no later than midnight; and could decide what approach it would adopt in the production and consideration of non-papers.

III. International environmental policy and governance issues

14. At the 2nd plenary meeting, the Co-Chairs of the contact groups provided short updates on the progress made in the negotiations under their respective clusters.

15. Ms. Okano and Ms. Haraldstad reported on the draft resolutions entitled "Strengthening global response on the management of fires", "Karst ecosystem for global water, biodiversity, climate resilience and economic development", "Preservation of glaciers and the broader cryosphere", "Strengthening the global response on the massive influx of sargassum seaweed blooms", "Accelerating global action to promote the climate resilience of coral reefs" and "Active protection of deep-sea ecosystems", being considered under cluster A.

16. Ms. Elkhouly and Mr. Röw reported on the draft resolutions entitled "Enhancing meaningful participation of children and youth in environmental governance", "Maximizing existing resources through enhanced coherence and synergies in multilateral environmental agreements and implementation", "Environmental sustainability of artificial intelligence systems", "Promoting sustainable solutions through sport for a resilient planet" and "Enhancing international response to address crimes that affect the environment", being considered under cluster B.

17. Mr. Ontumetse and Mr. Novotný reported on the draft resolutions entitled "Environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance", "Advancing options for international instruments on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals and guidance for mineral resources circularity" and "Sound management of chemicals and waste", being considered under cluster C.

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18. Mr. Ogweno reported on the draft decision on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Environment Assembly, the draft decision on the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027 and the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi to address environmental challenges and enhance multilateral cooperation to address effective multilateral governance", being considered under cluster D.

19. At the 3rd plenary meeting, in the evening of Wednesday, 10 December 2025, the Co-Chairs of the contact groups provided further updates on the progress made in the negotiations under their respective clusters.

20. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the European Union, Fiji, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Norway, Peru, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

21. The Committee took note of the withdrawal, by the respective proponents, of the draft resolutions entitled "Active protection of deep-sea ecosystems", "Karst ecosystem for global water, biodiversity, climate resilience and economic development", "Enhancing international response to address crimes that affect the environment" and "Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi to address environmental challenges and enhance multilateral cooperation to address effective multilateral governance".

22. The Principal Legal Officer of UNEP provided information on the rules applying to the submission of draft resolutions for consideration by the Environment Assembly.

23. The Committee approved and decided to transmit seven finalized draft resolutions, entitled "Accelerating global action to promote the climate resilience of coral reefs", "Promoting sustainable solutions through sport for a resilient planet", "Strengthening international cooperation on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals", "Strengthening the global response on the massive influx of sargassum seaweed blooms", "Enhancing the meaningful participation of youth in environmental education", "Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments", and "Strengthening the global management of wildfires", to the Environment Assembly for its consideration and possible adoption.

24. It was agreed that further consideration of the remaining draft resolutions should continue on an informal basis with a view to presenting consensual text to the Environment Assembly for consideration and possible adoption.

25. Statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, Fiji, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

26. It was agreed that the Chair should convey the concerns raised by representatives to the President of the Environment Assembly and that the President and the contact group Co-Chairs who had volunteered their support should prepare a draft schedule for the further consideration of the remaining draft resolutions and draft decisions.

IV. Programme of work and budget and other administrative issues

27. At its 1st plenary meeting, in the morning of Monday, 8 December, the Committee decided that the draft decision on the medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027 would be addressed by contact group 2.

28. At the 3rd plenary meeting, in the evening of Wednesday, 10 December, the Co-Chair of contact group 2 reported that consensus had not been reached on the draft decision. The Committee therefore agreed that no further action was required on the agenda item, as further consideration of the draft decision on the matter should continue on an informal basis with a view to presenting consensual text to the Environment Assembly for consideration and possible adoption.

V. Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Environment Assembly

29. At its 1st plenary meeting, in the morning of Monday, 8 December, the Committee decided that the draft decision on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly would be addressed by contact group 2.

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30. At its 3rd plenary meeting, in the evening of Wednesday, 10 December, the Co-Chair of contact group 2 reported that consensus had not been reached on the draft decision. The Committee agreed that no further action was required on the agenda item, as further consideration of the draft decision on the matter should continue on an informal basis with a view to presenting consensual text to the Environment Assembly for consideration and possible adoption.

VI. Adoption of the report

31. At the 3rd plenary meeting, in the evening of Wednesday, 10 December, the Committee adopted its draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur and the secretariat with its completion.

VII. Closure of the meeting

32. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.20 a.m. on 11 December 2025.

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Annex IV

Summaries of dialogues held during the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly*

A. Summary of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Day – High-Level Dialogues, held on Wednesday, 10 December 2025 at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Introduction

A dedicated Multilateral Environmental Agreements Day (MEAs Day), the second time such an event was organized, was convened on 10 December 2025 under the UNEA-7 agenda item 10 on "Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)".

MEAs Day featured an opening plenary session, opened by His Excellency Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman and President of UNEA-7, followed by two consecutive high-level dialogues related to the UNEA-7 theme of "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet" and a high-level discussion on the conclusions and key outcomes of MEAs Day, moderated by Ligia Noronha, UN Assistant Secretary-General, and Head, UNEP New York Office.

The first High-Level Dialogue, **"Signed, Sealed, Delivered? - Turbocharging MEAs implementation through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches"**, was held from 10:30 am to 1 pm and was moderated by Dr. David Obura, Chair of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, who also provided the keynote address.

The second dialogue titled **"Keeping the Promise - Boosting SDGs implementation through the MEAs"** was held from 3 pm to 5 pm and moderated by Dr. Izabella Teixeira, Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel, with a keynote address by Professor Jim Skea, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The high-level dialogues and high-level discussion on the conclusions brought together Member States and observers, including MEA Secretariats, intergovernmental/international organizations, relevant UN entities and specialized agencies and related organizations, as well as accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders participating to UNEA-7, in an open and honest exchange of views. This note provides key points from the full MEAs Day programme.

Across interventions, the call was made to move to coordination in practice, strengthen cooperation across MEAs, harmonize digital and reporting tools, align mandates, avoid duplication, and use UNEA's convening power to drive coherent, mutually reinforcing implementation. Democratic engagement, participatory processes, and evidence-based science were repeatedly cited as essential for effective MEA implementation. Several speakers encouraged the structural inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, local governments, women, youth and local communities in evidence-building, decision-making and implementation. Concrete national initiatives demonstrated how synergistic national action drives MEAs and SDGs implementation and supports resilience, jobs, and local communities.

The key messages emerging from MEAs Day included the following:

(a) Building MEA synergies is essential to address the three planetary environmental crises and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Countries and MEA Secretariats stressed that only coordinated, system-level action can overcome fragmentation and deliver real SDGs progress. Integrated approaches create the strongest environmental, social and economic co-benefits. MEAs provide the cooperation, monitoring and accountability frameworks that make global progress possible. Impact is strengthened when synergies are identified and harnessed through interministerial coordination, integrated planning, unified data and reporting frameworks, and budget decisions that reflect international obligations.

* The summaries of the dialogues are presented without formal editing.

(b) **Strengthened coherence, cooperation and collaboration across MEAs is needed to boost global impact.** Continued dialogue and exchange, building on existing initiatives like the Party-led Bern Process, are important to inform and stimulate action and for illustrating opportunities for joint implementation.

(c) **The ambitions set by MEAs can underpin national and sectoral strategies**. National policies, planning, and whole-of-government approaches drive MEAs and SDGs outcomes; national-level success stories were seen as scalable sectoral solutions delivering co-benefits for climate, biodiversity, health, and sustainable development.

(d) **Mobilizing diverse sectors and stakeholders boosts MEA action and unlocks synergies for effective implementation.** Inclusive whole-of-society engagement and participatory mechanisms have improved policy design, legitimacy and implementation on the ground. Sustainable consumption and production remain an important foundation to deliver real progress. Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, local authorities, workers, and the private sector can be meaningful delivery allies**,** supported by platforms for engagement, shared accountability, and strong national-to-local systems for data and knowledge.

(e) **Transparency, coherent monitoring, and regular scientific assessments accelerate progress while strengthening accountability and cooperation.** Data availability, together with interoperable information and systems across MEAs, will help capitalize on existing reporting. Robust data and data-sharing mechanisms, inclusive reporting, and coherent and accessible digital systems are central to translating MEA commitments into results.

(f) Environmental democracy, participation and trust-building through science and knowledge exchange were repeatedly cited as conditions for effective MEAs implementation, rooted in the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

(g) **Knowledge sharing, regional cooperation, and strengthened science-policy interfaces support the dissemination of effective practices for cross-MEA delivery.** Innovative and context-specific approaches for the implementation of MEAs are emerging across different regions. Strengthening access to relevant technologies and capacity, including of technical experts at sub-national levels, and facilitating knowledge exchange practices are central to realistic and efficient implementation.

(h) **Progress accelerates when commitments are linked to spending decisions**, providing resources to deliver on international commitments. Political will, institutional coherence, and adequate financing are essential to close implementation gaps, supported by tools such as green budgeting and green investment, which could be used across MEAs, intersectoral mechanisms, and integrated data systems that enable consistency, accountability, and the effective use of financial resources. Good practices such as embedding financial systems with nature-positive criteria in investment decisions and providing incentives for regenerative practices, while reversing antagonistic financial flows harming people and nature, were called for.

(i) **UNEA can illuminate shared ambition and foster collective action** serving, *inter alia*, as a platform for the presentation of national progress and lessons learned, good practices of cross-MEA cooperation; promotion of the uptake of MEA science, guidance and standards across United Nations processes; and supporting system-wide environmental cooperation between United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations in line with shared values.

B. Consolidated official summaries of the multi-stakeholder and the three leadership dialogues (1–3) at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

During the High-level segment of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), three Leadership Dialogues examined priority pathways to address interlinked environmental crises through prevention, systems transformation and financial reform. Collectively, the dialogues underscored that environmental degradation poses growing risks to human health, economic stability and development prospects, and that coordinated, science-based and inclusive policy responses are required.

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1. Leadership Dialogue 1

An Ounce of Prevention Beats a Tonne of Cure; Why addressing Environmental Crises is Essential for Human Health, held on Thursday, 11 December 2025, 15:00 to 16:30 EAT

Scene-setting remarks

In scene-setting remarks, Ms Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, emphasized that environmental, economic and human health are inseparable and should be understood as "chapters of one story." She stressed that reactive approaches to environmental harm are costly and insufficient, and called for decisions that restore ecosystems, shift production and consumption towards circularity, and redirect finance towards prevention and resilience. She underscored that addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution at source is fundamental to safeguarding health, reducing inequality and protecting development gains.

Her Majesty Queen Mary of Denmark, UNEP Patron of Biodiversity, highlighted the profound links between nature and human wellbeing, noting that environmental degradation and climate impacts disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, women and children. She emphasized the importance of grounding action in science, Indigenous knowledge, adaptation and nature-based solutions, and recalled the global response to ozone depletion as a powerful example of how collective, preventive action can deliver lasting benefits for health and the environment.

Leadership dialogue 1 was moderated by Ms Antoinette Taus, singer and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, who framed prevention as a unifying principle for policy coherence across environment, health, food, water and economic systems. The discussion underscored that preventing environmental harm is more effective and less costly than responding to crises after they occur, and that health outcomes must be integrated into environmental decision-making at all levels.

Mr Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment of Palau, highlighted how preventive action rooted in integrated governance can strengthen resilience, drawing on examples linking ocean health, food security, water management and community wellbeing. He stressed that aligning climate, biodiversity and pollution policies with health objectives enables countries to reduce risks while supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Ms Aluki Kotierk, Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, emphasized the deep interconnections between nature, culture and human health, and underscored the need to respect, protect and integrate Indigenous knowledge systems alongside scientific evidence. She highlighted that inclusive governance and recognition of Indigenous stewardship are essential for effective prevention and long-term resilience.

Mr David Obura, Chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), emphasized that biodiversity loss directly undermines ecosystem services that support health, food systems and livelihoods. He called for investment in knowledge systems, integrated governance and economic models that prioritize long-term resilience over short-term gains.

Messages from the floor converged around four themes. First, participants emphasized the need to reduce pollution at source and strengthen environmental governance to protect health, including through improved monitoring, enforcement and risk communication. Second, participants highlighted resilient water, sanitation and food systems as central public-health priorities, including through nature-based solutions, healthy diets and locally led innovation. Third, participants stressed the importance of early-warning systems, preparedness and climate-informed planning to reduce health impacts from extreme events and slow-onset environmental change. Fourth, participants underscored inclusive, whole-of-society approaches that protect vulnerable groups, empower communities and strengthen local resilience.

Overall, participants reaffirmed that safeguarding human health requires decisive, preventive action to address environmental degradation. They emphasized that science-based decision-making, inclusive governance and sustained investment in prevention are essential to reduce risks, strengthen resilience and deliver lasting health and environmental benefits for present and future generations.

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2. Multi-stakeholder dialogue:

"Resilience through inclusive partnerships: Catalyzing solutions across sectors", held on Thursday, 11 December 2025, 16:30 to 18:00 EAT

Introduction	The multi-stakeholder dialogue under the theme "Resilience through inclusive partnerships: Catalyzing solutions across sectors", brought together representatives from Major Groups and Stakeholders, Member States, the United Nations entities and international organizations to explore how inclusive partnerships can contribute towards addressing root causes of environmental challenges, foster innovative and equitable solutions, and help deliver transformative impact at scale to improve the well-being of people and communities. The multi-stakeholder dialogue was moderated by Mr. Felix Dodds, Adjunct Professor, Water Institute University, North Carolina, and Associate Fellow, Tellus Institute, Boston; and Mr. Joost van den Broek, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Nairobi.
Opening remarks	In her opening remarks, Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, highlighted the increasing number of accredited organizations and the collective power of diverse stakeholders to influence UNEP processes meaningfully; stressed that major groups and stakeholders are essential partners in shaping environmentally sound, socially meaningful and implementable solutions; noted that stakeholders bring rooted knowledge, lived experience, scientific research, and community-based action that inform decision-making and anchor policies in real-world practice; highlighted UNEP's mandate to deliver across sectors linking policy, science, data, and finance, alongside partnerships with governments, multilateral development banks, financial institutions, and the private sector; and emphasized that science remains the backbone of UNEP, providing the evidence base that informs policies and enables governments to transition toward sustainability.
Panel discussion	Ms. Heni Unwin (Indigenous Peoples) highlighted that Indigenous Peoples are rightsholders, not merely stakeholders, and must be recognized as such in UNEP-led processes. Knowledge cannot be separated from rights, and free, prior and informed consent is fundamental to genuine and effective partnerships. Environmental stewardship requires active responsibility and reciprocity with nature, informed by intergenerational knowledge systems. Mr. Magash Naidoo (Local Authorities) highlighted the critical role of local and regional governments. Local authorities function as living laboratories for innovation, where solutions are tested, adapted, and implemented. Local governments provide continuity, transparency, and accountability in implementation. A whole-of-society approach, integrating different levels of governance, was emphasized. Ms. Jennifer Hegewisch (Women and Science and Technology) highlighted the need to overcome siloed approaches through integrated governance structures and cross-sectoral partnerships, including One Health approaches linking human, animal, and environmental health. Citizen science was identified as a tool to bridge data gaps, track commitments, identify implementation gaps, and inform evidence-based policymaking. Ms. Amanda Ife (NGOs) indicated that many challenges are transboundary and nexus-based, requiring integrated approaches across the environment–human–animal interface. She highlighted the need for integrated government structures to enable coordinated action at regional and national levels as well as community-anchored design, recognizing communities as equal partners rather than beneficiaries.
Interventions by Member States and other organizations	The representative of Fiji underscored that resilient solutions must be locally grounded while remaining scalable, highlighting ecosystem-based approaches to resilience, such as sustainable fisheries, as effective models for integrating environmental protection with livelihoods and food security. Climate action must be co-designed with communities, rather than imposed through top-down approaches, in order to ensure ownership, relevance, and long-term sustainability. The representative of the United Kingdom emphasized that Major Groups and Stakeholders play a vital role in strengthening multilateralism and in supporting countries to achieve agreed environmental goals. It was noted that Major Groups serve as a constant reminder of what is at stake, help hold governments accountable to their commitments, and ensure that policies reflect realities and needs on the ground. The representative of Estonia emphasized the need for cooperation among diverse networks and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, recognizing that different approaches are required to effectively reach and involve people. The intervention highlighted the importance of integrated governance structures as a key enabler of coherent and coordinated action. She stressed that stakeholder engagement must begin

	at the earliest stages of policy development, including clearly communicating the nature of the challenge, the rationale for proposed changes, and the collective actions required, thereby enabling meaningful participation, particularly during implementation. The representative of the European Union underscored the urgent need to move toward collective and results-oriented action, noting that Major Groups and Stakeholders are uniquely positioned to drive this transition. The intervention highlighted a persistent implementation gap, emphasizing that while frameworks and agreements are in place, greater effort is required to scale up solutions. Major Groups were recognized for their unique role in fostering synergies across policy objectives, monitoring implementation from the ground up, and identifying instances where political will is insufficient.
Other interventions	The representative of UNOPS emphasized that inclusive partnerships form the foundation of a collective and resilient future and are essential to catalyzing effective solutions. It was highlighted that communities on the frontline of climate change possess critical expertise, often best placed to identify context-specific and appropriate responses. UNOPS reaffirmed its goal to translate high-level policies into measurable, actionable results, ensuring that global commitments are effectively implemented at the local level. A representative of the Business and Industry Major Group, highlighted the critical role of Business and Industry in addressing environmental crises, noting that these sectors often operate at the point where environmental impacts manifest. It was emphasized that sustainable restoration of the environment cannot occur in isolation from business and industrial actors, underlining the necessity of engaging these sectors as partners in solutions.
Summary	A participant highlighted the importance of mobilizing faith communities, noting that they represent some of the largest organized constituencies on the planet and can play a pivotal role in promoting environmental stewardship and behavior change through faith-based education. It was emphasized that humans have a responsibility to act as caretakers of the Earth, a principle that faith communities can effectively convey and reinforce. The moderators summarized key take-aways from the dialogue noting that partnerships and multistakeholder collaboration is no longer optional — it is essential. It is a prerequisite for outcomes that are effective, legitimate and implementable in the multilateral environmental arena. Participants emphasized that today's environmental challenges are complex, interconnected, and socially embedded. As such, solutions must be cross-sectoral, collaborative, and inclusive. No single institution or sector can tackle these challenges alone. What is required are integrated approaches, not siloed interventions. Participants underscored that resilience in the face of accelerating environmental crises can only be achieved through inclusive, cross-sectoral partnerships that meaningfully engage governments at all levels, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, youth, the private sector, academia, and local communities. The dialogue affirmed that environmental governance is strongest when it is inclusive, participatory, and grounded in the lived realities and solutions of people and communities across the world. Solutions that address our shared environmental challenges must be co-created, both bottom-up and top-down, ensuring they serve all who are affected by them. Speakers also highlighted persistent barriers: uneven progress on the ground, limited financing, weak institutional capacities, competing priorities, and insufficient coordination among sectors and governance levels. In summarizing the outcomes of the dialogue, one conclusion stood out: solutions for a resilient planet can only be resilient when they enjoy shared ownership — and shared ownership requires co-creation.

3. Leadership Dialogue 2

Round and Round: Why Circularity and Sustainability Are Critical to the Future of Global Industry, held on Friday, 12 December 2025, 10:00 to 11:30 EAT

The dialogue examined how circular economy approaches can reduce environmental pressures, enhance resilience and support sustainable livelihoods, while enabling industrial transformation linked to the energy and digital transitions. Participants emphasized that rapidly rising global material consumption and waste generation were major drivers of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, and that shifting away from linear production and consumption models was essential to sustain long-term development.

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The discussion was moderated by Mr Jocelyn Blériot, Executive Lead of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, who emphasized that circularity requires systemic change across entire value chains, supported by coherent policy signals and public–private collaboration. Dr Janez Potočnik, Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel, highlighted that material extraction and processing had increased sharply over recent decades and called for measures to decouple wellbeing and economic development from resource use through life-cycle approaches, product longevity, reuse, repair and increased use of secondary materials.

Guest speakers emphasized that circular economy transitions can strengthen resilience and create employment when supported by robust governance and social safeguards. Ms. Marie Nyange Ndambo, Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and New Climate Economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, stressed that circular transitions must ensure equitable benefit-sharing and protect workers and communities. Mr Mark Cutifani, Director and Executive Advisor and Chair of the Global Tailings Management Institute, highlighted that circularity in minerals and metals can reduce waste and environmental impacts when accompanied by responsible sourcing, transparency and strong environmental and social standards.

Messages from the floor were grouped around four themes. First, participants emphasized strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks, including extended producer responsibility, circular product design standards and public procurement. Second, they highlighted the need to scale investment in collection, recycling, repair and remanufacturing infrastructure, particularly in emerging markets and small and vulnerable economies. Third, participants underscored the role of innovation, skills development, digital tools and technology transfer—such as traceability systems and data platforms—to enable circular value chains. Fourth, participants stressed that circular transitions must be inclusive and just, addressing impacts on workers and communities and improving access to finance, markets and technology.

In closing reflections, participants emphasized that circularity must become systemic rather than incremental, supported by science-based targets, improved measurement and interoperable data. International cooperation, enabling finance and fair distribution of benefits were highlighted as essential to reducing environmental pressures, strengthening resilience and aligning industrial competitiveness with sustainability. In this context, participants called for the establishment of a global materials data hub for material flows and stocks to enable transparent, interoperable and decision-relevant data across value chains, supporting evidence-based policy, responsible business practices and sustainable resource management. Circularity was viewed as critical to enabling the deep collaboration required for successful transitions in critical minerals and key sectors, including energy, mobility, building and construction, textiles, electronics, plastics and agri-food.

4. Leadership Dialogue 3

The Bottom Line: Why Tackling Environmental Degradation Is Critical to the Future of the Global Financial System, held on Thursday, 12 December 2025, from 11:30 to 13:00 EAT

The dialogue focused on the implications of environmental and climate risks for financial stability, fiscal space and development pathways. Participants emphasized that environmental degradation was increasingly material to macroeconomic outcomes and that coherent, system-wide measures were needed to steer public and private finance towards sustainable economies aligned with environmental and social objectives.

The discussion was moderated by Ms. Attiya Waris, United Nations Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and other Related International Financial Obligations and Professor at the University of Nairobi, who emphasized that financial reform must support resilience and equity and that countries require policy space to invest in prevention, adaptation and nature. Ms. Pia Bernadette Roman Tayag, Assistant Governor and Chief Sustainability Officer of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, highlighted the role of central banks and regulators in integrating climate and nature-related risks into supervision, disclosure and incentives, and in supporting the scaling-up of sustainable finance. Ms. Cristina Reis, Secretary of Carbon Markets at the Ministry of Finance, Brazil, highlighted how governments can develop sustainable finance measures such as science-based taxonomies to address strategic environmental and social objectives through structural transformation across high-impact sectors.

Guest speakers highlighted how sustainable finance frameworks, including taxonomies and credible standards, can help channel finance towards mitigation, adaptation and nature-positive outcomes while strengthening transparency and reducing greenwashing risks. They also emphasized the urgency of scaling up accessible and affordable finance for adaptation and resilience, including through international cooperation to lower the cost of capital.

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Messages from the floor emphasized four priority areas. First, participants underscored integrating climate and nature-related risks into financial decision-making through improved data, metrics, disclosure and tools such as scenario analysis and stress testing. Second, participants emphasized clear, long-term policy signals to crowd in private capital and improve risk pricing. Third, they highlighted the need to scale finance for mitigation, adaptation and nature, including through blended finance and risk-sharing approaches, particularly for vulnerable contexts. Fourth, participants emphasized integrity, comparability and interoperability across frameworks to reduce greenwashing and support a just transition.

Overall, participants emphasized that addressing environmental degradation is integral to financial stability and sustainable development, and called for stronger coordination among finance ministries, central banks, regulators and line ministries, supported by international coherence and cooperation.

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