Joint Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
10 September 2025, 16:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) and President of the Environment Authority of Oman, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting, followed by opening remarks by H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyev, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The meeting was co-chaired by the President of UNEA and the Chair of the CPR. A list of participants is provided in Annex 1.

2. The meeting agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Update on the draft Ministerial Declaration of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

3. The President of UNEA informed the Bureaux members that he circulated the revised first draft of the ministerial declaration on 29 August, which took into account statements and comments received at the second intergovernmental consultation held on 16 June and written comments received before 30 June. He added that the revised first draft also reflects the outcomes of the informal dialogues held with Ministers for the Environment in the margins of the AMCEN meeting in July in Nairobi, including exchanges with the Africa States Group, the European Union and its Member States, and the Group of 77 and China, as well as the discussions held during the Asia-Pacific Forum in August in Fiji. The President informed the UNEA and CPR Bureaux members of his intention to appoint His Excellency Peter Maddens, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP, and Her Excellency Romy Tincopa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Peru to UNEP, as co-facilitators to convene informal informal consultations with the aim of bridging divergent views and reaching agreed language for the final text. with the aim to work towards agreed language for inclusion in the final draft ministerial declaration, which he plans to circulate on 17 October. He indicated his plan to circulate the final draft on 17 October and proposed that no further written comments be solicited thereafter, with delegations invited to provide their inputs during the consultations on 5 November.
4. The Bureaux members provided the following comments:
    a. Welcomed the revised first draft; acknowledged progress toward a consensual, action-oriented text; expressed support for the ongoing consultations and encouraged the President to continue leading the discussions and holding the pen for the draft ministerial declaration; welcomed the President's proposal to convene informal informal consultations to identify common grounds; and stressed the use of agreed text in areas of divergence.
    b. Stressed the need to reiterate UNEP's authority and strengthen its global role, appreciated the economic benefits of sustainable approaches and the impact they have on job creation, noted that sustainable food systems are important, but stressed that all emerging issues with environmental implications should be considered, without prejudice to any sector.

c. Highlighted the importance of including crimes that affect the environment; requested clear acknowledgment of the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), taking into account historical contributions and national circumstances and capacities; requested the inclusion of the Paris Agreement in the action-oriented section.
d. Underscored the need to prioritize investments that strengthen the resilience of women, youth, and local communities.
e. Appreciated the focus on financing, capacity building, and technology transfer.
f. Emphasized that all UNEA resolutions must be implemented equally with no prioritization; requested the inclusion of references to sand and dust storms; called for explicit reference to UNEP's role in facilitating access to resources for developing countries to implement international commitments.

5. The President summarized the discussion and presented the way forward as follows:

i. The third intergovernmental consultations on the revised first draft will be held on 17 September 2025 and will be chaired by the Permanent Representative of Oman in Nairobi, Her Excellency Nasra Al Hashmi.
ii. A letter will be circulated to all delegations informing of the appointment of the Ambassadors of Belgium and Peru as co-facilitators.
iii. The Secretariat will circulate the revised roadmap to reflect (i) the informal informal consultations to be convened by the co-facilitators and (ii) the understanding that no further written comments will be invited after the circulation of the final draft on 17 October.

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

Update on the budget estimates and funding gap for UNEA-7

6. The Secretariat briefed the two Bureaux on the UNEA-7 budget and funding gap, including possible cost saving measures for Member States travel support, as requested at the 12th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR.
7. The Bureaux members welcomed the Secretariat's effective cost reduction measures and the additional pledges from Member States to ensure that UNEA-7 is inclusive and participatory; and emphasized the importance of providing travel support for two delegates from developing countries to enable their full and effective participation.
8. The Secretariat clarified that, based on the actual cost of travel support for developing countries at UNEA-6, it was reasonable to assume that all eligible countries would be funded for UNEA-7. At the same time, the Secretariat appealed to the Bureaux members to encourage developing countries in a position to self-fund to, as far as possible, refrain from availing themselves of travel support.
9. The Bureaux requested the Secretariat to intensify its resource mobilization efforts and urged the Bureaux members to encourage Member States in a position to self-fund their participation to do so, thereby enabling travel support to be allocated in the most effective manner.

Selection of official side events of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

10. The Secretariat briefed the two Bureaux on the recommended list of official side events, the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) side events, and the UNEP-led associated events to be held in the margins of UNEA- 7.
11. The Bureaux members provided the following comments:
    a. Endorsed the recommended list of official side events.
    b. Encouraged proponents of side events to consider merging or consolidating overlapping proposals and supported the consolidation of MEA-related side events under one pavilion.
    c. Requested clarification on the budgetary implications of side events led by UNEP.
    d. One Bureau member expressed reservations about the use of terminology such as "human rights" in proposal 139 and called for an adjustment to the title.

e. Another Bureau member noted that the recommended list of side events reflects the titles as submitted by the organizers.

12. The Secretariat clarified that UNEP-led associate events will focus on UNEA-7 theme and will be funded by UNEP through project funds.
13. The Bureaux members endorsed the recommended list of official side events of UNEA-7, which includes the launch of the seventh edition of Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) report, and requested the Secretariat to communicate to the organizers and upload the approved list on the UNEA-7 website.
14. The Bureaux members requested the Secretariat to make available the final list of MEAs-related side events and exhibitions on the UNEA-7 website, and advance preparations as much as possible.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

15. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting.

16. The meeting closed at 17:40 (GMT+3).

Annex: List of Participants

United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau Members:

1. H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of UNEA and President of the Environment Authority of Oman.
2. H. E. Mr. Peter Maddens, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador of Belgium and Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP.
3. H. E. Ms. Fitsum Assefa Adela, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Planning and Development of Ethiopia, **represented by** H. E. Mr. Demeke Atnafu Ambulo, Ambassador and Deputy Head of Mission.
4. H. E. Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Vice President of UNEA and First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, **represented by** Ms. Nino Gokhelashvili, Head of Sustainable Development Division, Department of Strategic Coordination and Analytics, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
5. H. E. Ms. Anikó Raisz, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of State for Environmental Policy and Circular Economy of Hungary.
6. H. E. Mr. Ali Gholampour, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP.
7. H. E. Mr. Juan Carlos Castro Vargas, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Peru, **represented by** H. E. Ms. Romy Tincopa, Ambassador of Peru and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
8. H. E. Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Vice President of UNEA and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Government Offices of Sweden.
9. H. E. Mr. Mike Mposha, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Green Economy and Environment of Zambia, **represented by** H.E. Mr. Alfred Musemuna, High Commissioner of Zambia to Kenya.
10. H. E. Ms. Joyelle Clarke, Rapporteur of UNEA and Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action, and Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Committee of Permanent Representative Bureau Members:

1. H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyev, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya, and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
2. H. E. Ms. Marie Charlotte G. Tang, Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of the Philippines to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
3. H. E. Mr. Anouar Ben Youssef, Vice Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of Tunisia to Kenya, and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
4. H.E. Ms. Jenny Da Rin, Rapporteur of the Committee and High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Australia to UNEP, **represented by** Mr. Christopher Ellinger, Charge d'Affaires at the High Commission of Australia.

UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director
2. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director.
3. Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
4. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
5. Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor.