

Keeping the Promise - Boosting SDGs implementation through the MEAs

MEAs Day High-Level Dialogue 2
Wednesday, 10 December 2025, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EAT
Conference Room 1

A. Introduction

The seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), to be held from 8 to 12 December 2025, will include a Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Day considered through an opening segment, two consecutive high-level dialogues, and a concluding segment related to the theme of UNEA-7 which reads "[Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet](#)". The two high-level dialogues and the concluding segment are as follows:

- High-Level Dialogue 1: "Signed, Sealed, Delivered? Turbocharging MEA implementation through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches"; Wednesday, 10 December 2025, from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm.
- High-Level Dialogue 2: "Keeping the Promise" - Boosting SDGs implementation through the MEAs"; Wednesday, 10 December 2025, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.
- High-Level Discussion on the conclusions of MEAs Day, Wednesday, 10 December 2025, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), in its [decision 6/7](#) on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of UNEA, recognized the importance of strengthening the contributions and active participation of MEAs in UNEA and made the item entitled "Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements" a standing agenda item. Building on the success of UNEA-6, this will be the second time that the Assembly hosts an MEAs Day.

This concept note intends to assist Member States and observers, including MEA Secretariats, intergovernmental/international organizations, relevant UN system entities and specialized agencies and related organizations, as well as accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders participating in UNEA-7 in their preparations for High-Level Dialogue 2.

To further support ministers' engagement in the High-Level Dialogues, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has prepared an Information Document collecting national case studies showcasing concrete examples of how synergies, cooperation and collaboration can lead to more coherent and effective implementation of MEAs.¹ This compilation of case studies was mandated by UNEA in its [resolutions 6/4](#) and [6/6](#). By highlighting national experiences and good practices to facilitate synergies in the

¹ The information document UNEP/EA.7/INF/6 will be issued in October 2025 as a supporting document to UNEA-7 and made available on the [dedicated page](#).

implementation of MEAs, this Information Document is expected to inspire interventions from ministers and other stakeholders in the High-Level Dialogues.

B. Scope

The Dialogue acknowledges that MEAs and globally agreed frameworks, such as [the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (KM-GBF) and the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#) (GFC), play a catalytic role towards sustainable development, with their objectives and obligations being mutually supportive of many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets.² Being complementary pieces in the landscape of environmental governance, their effective implementation provides significant impetus in accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Translating commitments into action and leveraging the mutually reinforcing nature of MEAs and SDGs requires national implementation across all three pillars of sustainable development, identifying synergies, mutual supportiveness and opportunities for cooperation. As MEAs and SDGs objectives and targets are inherently cross-cutting, their systematic integration into national sectoral analysis, planning and financing systems can help anticipate and mitigate potential divergences, with a 'multiplier effect' that can deliver co-benefits across environmental and socio-economic decision-making.

The dialogue will explore how MEAs and SDGs integration in national planning can support the alignment of policies and investments across sectors, including agriculture, health, transport, finance, trade, infrastructure and the extractive industries, to boost a transition towards sustainable development and move towards decarbonized, resource efficient and circular economic approaches. It will provide a key opportunity to explore how MEAs implementation can accelerate progress towards the SDGs, focusing on the enabling conditions needed to close gaps in addressing the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development.

The Dialogue will also offer the space to reflect on practical national pathways to strengthen synergies and identify mutually reinforcing cross-sectoral entry points, including through the integrated planning, financing and implementation of: National Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Land Degradation Neutrality Strategies, Pollution strategies and action plans; national sustainable development strategies and action plans; and how synergies in implementation can be supported by United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

C. Expected Outcomes

The Dialogue will facilitate an exchange of national experiences, actions, good practices and lessons learned, to maximize synergies and co-benefits in MEAs and SDGs implementation. It will be an opportunity, *inter alia*, to: explore how the implementation of MEAs can serve as a driver for boosting the national implementation of SDGs, including through their integration into national strategies, policies, financing frameworks and budgetary processes; identify practical pathways, innovative solutions, and cross-sectoral incentives, such as reforming subsidies and embedding nature-positive criteria in procurement and investment; as well as mutually reinforcing entry points to strengthen synergies for the national

² [UNEP/EA.6/INF/6](#) - Background note to support the discussions on agenda item "Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements" - Note by the Secretariat.

implementation of both MEAs and SDGs, building on opportunities offered by the synergistic implementation of MEAs, globally agreed frameworks and the SDGs.

A summary of the discussions, including the key messages for action from the Dialogue 2, will be presented at the High-Level Discussion on the conclusions of MEAs Day, held on Wednesday, 10 December 2025, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, as well as at the closing plenary of UNEA-7, held on Friday, 12 December 2025.

D. Format

Participation in Dialogue 1 is open to all Member States and observers, including MEA Secretariats, intergovernmental/international organizations, relevant UN system entities and specialized agencies and related organizations, as well as accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders participating in UNEA-7. The Dialogue will be a moderated session, structured around guiding questions, to facilitate an interactive and dynamic dialogue. The dialogue will also be webcast live on [UN Web TV](#) and interpretation will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

E. Guiding Questions

Participants in Dialogue 2 will be invited by the moderator to reflect on the following questions, to create an interactive discussion:

1. What sectoral solutions offer the potential for greater synergies and co-benefits in MEAs and SDGs implementation at the national level?
2. If we truly want environmental action to strengthen socioeconomic development, how could we reconcile the paradox of investing in environmentally harmful economic activities while seeking to implement MEAs and the SDGs?

Contact Details

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