

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 19 March 2026
09:00 – 12:00 and 13:00 – 16:00 (*if needed*) (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda item 3: Assessment of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

This background document has been prepared by the Secretariat for consideration under agenda item 3, entitled “*Assessment of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly*”. It reflects the summary of the discussion held during the Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 12 March 2026.

Summary of the discussion in the meeting of the Subcommittee of the CPR held on 12 March 2026

Agenda item 3: Assessment of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

1. The Secretariat presented the [background document](#) on the preparations for and outcomes of the [seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#) (UNEA-7), the [feedback from the post-session survey](#) of participants, and the [preliminary findings of the Assembly's communications performance](#) across media and digital channels.
2. One of the co-facilitators of UNEA-7 [presented a summary of the discussion](#) held during the CPR Bureau meeting on 19 February 2026 and proposed two questions for delegations' consideration, namely, how can delegations better prepare in advance for UNEA and how can resolutions be more impactful.
3. A representative of the Children and Youth major group presented the [results of the Youth Environment Assembly survey](#).
4. A representative of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee presented the outcomes of the surveys on Major Groups-led events and engagements during UNEA-7, including the [Global Major Groups Stakeholders Forum](#) and the Indigenous Peoples Special Dialogue.
5. Delegations¹ welcomed the presentations and provided the following comments in summary:

General assessment

- a. Commended the Presidency of UNEA-7, the co-facilitators and the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing and delivering a well-organized Assembly.
- b. Noted that lessons learned from previous sessions, [particularly UNEA-6](#), contributed to improvements in the organization and conduct of UNEA-7 and encouraged that such lessons continue to be consolidated and built upon in preparation for UNEA-8.
- c. Welcomed the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2026–2029, the programme of work and budget for 2026–2027, as well as several resolutions and decisions, demonstrating continued commitment to environmental multilateralism.
- d. Noted that the [outcomes of UNEA-7](#) could have been more ambitious and expressed concern that some important environmental issues could not be addressed during the session.
- e. Underlined the importance of strengthening the implementation of UNEA outcomes and ensuring adequate resources to support the implementation of adopted resolutions and decisions.
- f. Emphasized the importance of Member States exercising restraint when submitting draft resolutions bearing in mind the capacity constraints faced of smaller delegations.
- g. Emphasized the importance of respecting the established deadline for the submission of draft resolutions.
- h. Proposed that draft resolutions should be kept concise, for example, limited to two pages.
- i. Highlighted the importance of ensuring that draft resolutions remain within UNEA's mandate and that proponents are prepared to provide the rationale and added value of proposed drafts, including their relevance for addressing emerging environmental challenges.
- j. Encouraged proponents to consult the Secretariat in advance of submitting draft resolutions and to collaborate with other proponents, as appropriate, to merge proposals.
- k. One delegation proposed that co-facilitators for draft resolutions and decisions should not be limited to Nairobi-based delegates but could also include focal points from capitals.
- l. Highlighted the value of practices and tools that supported the preparations for and negotiations at the Assembly, including:
 - the [guidance to Member States on the submission of draft resolutions and decisions](#);
 - the concept notes provided by the proponents;
 - the Secretariat technical notes;
 - the non-papers prepared by the co-facilitators;
 - the designation of Secretariat focal points throughout the process;
 - the negotiations skills training for delegates and other capacity building workshops for the

¹ Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Japan, Peru, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, European Union, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Türkiye, Uganda, Australia, France, Russian Federation, Indigenous Peoples major group, Women major group, Scientific and Technological Community major group.

- co-facilitators;
 - the use of the [e-Proposals platform](#);
 - the UNEA app, noting that improvements in readability could be helpful; and
 - the UNEA [website](#).
- m. Emphasized the role of the CPR Bureau in representing their respective regions and highlighted the importance of clarity regarding the respective role of the CPR Bureau and that of the CPR, noting that the CPR remains the intersessional body mandated to support and oversee preparations for the Assembly.
- n. Stressed the importance of adequate funding to support the participation of developing countries, while one delegation proposed that travel support to delegations could take into account factors such as delegation size and gender balance.

Intersessional period

- o. Welcomed the intersessional consultations, which helped facilitate discussions ahead of the Assembly, including the merging of drafts where appropriate.
- p. Encouraged continued early engagement on draft resolutions and decisions during the intersessional period to facilitate more efficient negotiations during the Open-ended CPR (OECPR) and UNEA.
- q. Proposed maintaining the current structure for intersessional work, while one delegation noted that paragraph-by-paragraph consideration of drafts with textual proposals during the intersessional period did not fully meet the intended objective and suggested that the intersessional period remain lean and focused.
- r. Welcomed the informal consultations on the draft Ministerial Declaration convened by the co-facilitators appointed by the President of UNEA and suggested that such consultations could begin earlier in the preparatory process.
- s. Highlighted the importance of exploring ways to better engage capital-based focal points during the intersessional period.

OECPR and UNEA

- t. Underlined the importance of negotiations remaining grounded in science and expressed concern about instances where previously agreed language or scientific findings were questioned.
- u. Stressed the importance of Member States to engage constructively and in the spirit of cooperation during negotiations.
- v. Highlighted the importance of limiting the number of draft resolutions, parallel meetings and negotiation times, in order to allow smaller delegations with limited capacity to participate effectively.
- w. Highlighted the importance of avoiding the introduction of new language proposals at the final stages of negotiations.
- x. Suggested possible improvements to the negotiations process, including:
 - maintaining attribution of textual proposals in the drafts transmitted to the OECPR;
 - assigning facilitators to individual draft resolutions rather than clusters where feasible; and
 - allocating equal negotiation time to draft resolutions and decisions.
- y. Suggested devoting time during the OECPR on the first reading of the preambular paragraphs (PPs) and welcomed the suggestion in the Guidance on the submission of drafts to limit the number of PPs ideally to four paragraphs.
- z. Emphasized the importance of empowering co-facilitators to streamline draft text, including the preambular paragraphs.
- aa. Reaffirmed that consensus should remain the guiding principle for decision-making in UNEA while noting that the rules of procedure of UNEA provide for other modalities should consensus not be achievable.
- bb. Suggested exploring different approaches for addressing cross-cutting issues.

Participation of major groups and other stakeholders

- cc. Welcomed the opportunities for major groups and other stakeholders to engage in the Assembly and highlighted the importance of inclusive participation.

- dd. Emphasized the importance of focused and concise stakeholder interventions and contributions.
 - ee. One delegation proposed a follow-up meeting on the [Youth Environment Assembly](#).
 - ff. Welcomed the first '[Women's Environment Assembly](#)' held during UNEA and recommended continued support for its convening.
6. The Chair thanked delegations for the rich discussion and invited them to consult among themselves ahead of the [Subcommittee meeting scheduled for Thursday, 19 March 2026](#), during which the Committee will be invited to continue its discussion on this matter and provide additional comments, as appropriate.