



**UNITED
NATIONS**

UNEP/EA.7/CW/L.1



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: Limited
10 December 2025
English only

United Nations Environment Assembly
Seventh session
Nairobi, 8–12 December 2025

Draft 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 3 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, who were 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 decisions and draft resolutions 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 decisions and draft resolutions, propose text to resolve deadlocks and advance discussions, manage schedules and time allocations, convene informal consultations, and manage the process of merging or withdrawing draft resolutions. The draft decisions, draft resolutions and non-papers transmitted by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Environment Assembly would form the basis for the negotiations.

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 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 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 Elkhoully (Egypt), Martin Röh (Germany), Nader Al-Tarawneh (Jordan) and Tobias Ogwen (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 consultations in parallel with two contact groups while avoiding overlap of content; 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. Elkhoully and Mr. R  w 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. Novotn  y 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.

18. Mr. Ogwen   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. [to be completed]

IV. Programme of work and budget and other administrative issues

20. [to be completed]

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

21. [to be completed]

VI. Adoption of the report

22. [to be completed]

VII. Closure of the meeting

23. [to be completed]