

Joint Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
3 July 2025, 14:00 - 19:00 (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 Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting, followed by opening remarks by H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyevev, 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.
3. The members of the UNEA Bureau congratulated the newly elected Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Agenda item 2 (a): Draft ministerial declaration of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

4. The President of UNEA updated the joint Bureaux on the preparation of the revised first draft of the ministerial declaration, following the second intergovernmental consultation held on 16 June 2025, and based on the [written inputs received by 30 June 2025](#), summarizing as follows:
 - a. Many Member States reaffirmed their strong support for multilateralism, the Paris Agreement, and the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR).
 - There was strong support for language referencing climate mitigation and adaptation.
 - Delegations called for the restatement of references to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and recognition of climate adaptation as a pillar of environmental action.
 - b. There was broad consensus on the need to strengthen implementation support for developing countries.
 - Key areas highlighted included the provision of scaled up and predictable climate finance, capacity building, and technology transfer.
 - Delegates recognized existing implementation barriers, such as legal and infrastructural challenges in developing countries.
 - There were calls for the integration of measurable targets, clear timelines, and robust accountability mechanisms.
 - c. Support was expressed for ensuring equitable benefit-sharing among all developing countries.
 - d. Delegations called for the reintroduction of language on sustainable food systems and restoration of forests and land; they emphasized alignment with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and urged for stronger references to marine ecosystems, the bioeconomy, and BBNJ Agreement.
 - e. Delegations requested for more explicit references to gender equality, youth engagement, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

- f. The inclusion of artificial intelligence was welcomed with emphasis on the need for its ethical and inclusive deployment.
 - g. Delegations highlighted the importance of a rights-based approach to just transition and environmental governance.
5. The President also informed that he intends to engage in informal dialogues on the draft Ministerial Declaration with Ministers of Environment in the margins of key regional forums, including the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Nairobi in July, the Sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific in Fiji in August, and the XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in Peru in September. He further noted that, in line with suggestions made at the joint Bureaux meeting held on 28 May 2025, his team is working in coordination with the Embassy of Oman in Nairobi to facilitate a meeting with the G77 and China, as well as the European Union and its Member States. The President reaffirmed his commitment to concluding these consultations in a timely manner, with a view to supporting a constructive discussion at the seventh meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-7).
6. Upon the invitation of the President of UNEA for the two Bureaux to provide further guidance to ensure an ambitious and balanced final document based on an inclusive and transparent consultation process, the following comments were provided, noting that written inputs have been provided as well as comments during the second informal consultations:
 - a. Welcomed the timely circulation of the first draft of the ministerial declaration and commended the transparent and inclusive approach taken in its development. The draft was generally viewed as a solid foundation for further consultation and well-aligned with the session's theme.
 - b. Supported the President to continue leading the discussions and holding the pen for the draft ministerial declaration, which was widely accepted as a way forward.
 - c. Encouraged continued open and inclusive consultations and proposed targeted topic-based discussions to build consensus on areas such as UNEP's mandate, means of implementation, references to Rio Principles, and the potential reassessment of developed and developing country classifications.
 - d. Welcomed early engagement with environment ministers through the regional forums, suggested hosting virtual consultations for capitals without Nairobi representation and concluding the consultations on the draft ministerial declaration by November to allow time for negotiations on draft resolutions during the Open-ended CPR and UNEA.
 - e. Voiced a stronger emphasis on the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), with requests for its consistent inclusion across all relevant paragraphs. Support was also voiced for maintaining references to the Rio Principles, though some raised the need to avoid selectively referencing individual principles.
 - f. Expressed concern about the omission of the Paris Agreement, especially under Action Point 2, with suggestions to explicitly reference it as a central multilateral environmental agreement.
 - g. Highlighted the need to avoid introducing new or non-agreed categorizations or subdivisions of developing countries, as referenced in paragraph (h), and urged the use of agreed and action-oriented language to prevent delays in negotiations.
 - h. Emphasized the need to guarantee scaled-up support for developing countries, particularly in the areas of climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building, and encouraged language that promotes cooperation on sustainable solutions, economic diversification, sustainable development and poverty eradication.
 - i. Supported enhancing coherence among MEAs, with recognition of the value of an MEAs day to foster institutional linkages and national-level implementation.
7. The President summarized the discussion and presented the way forward as follows:
 - a. Comments, including those provided at the second informal consultation and the written inputs,

would be taken on board to prepare the revised first draft of the ministerial declaration, to be circulated to Member States and Stakeholders by end of August.

- b. The third informal consultations will be convened by the Permanent Representative of Oman in Nairobi, Her Excellency Nasra Salim Mohamed Al Hashmi, on the revised first draft on 17 September 2025.
- c. The deadline for submission of comments and inputs on the revised first draft would be the end of September and the final draft will be circulated by the third week of October, however, the timelines might be adjusted as the process moves forward.

Agenda item 2 (b): Process for the submission of draft resolutions and decisions to the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

8. The UNEA and CPR Bureaux members were invited to consider the [draft guidance to Member States on the submission of draft resolutions and decisions to UNEA-7](#), which includes: i) Key deadlines for submitting draft resolutions, ii) Procedure for the announcement and/or submission of a draft resolution/decision, iii) Support from the UNEP Secretariat, iv) [Roadmap for the intersessional period, including the proposed conduct of work under the auspices of the CPR, and guidelines for the organization of work of the seventh meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and during UNEA-7](#), v) [Nomination and appointment of the co-facilitators to lead the negotiations, and the main responsibilities of the co-facilitators, bearing in mind the lessons learned from UNEA-6](#), and vi) Template for draft resolutions.
9. The Executive Director briefed that the Secretariat has developed draft guidance based on the UNEA rules of procedure (in particular rule 44), the guidance provided by UNEA in its decision 6/7 (paragraph 6), the outcome of the CPR-based review as endorsed by UNEA in decision 5/4, lessons learned from UNEA-6 contained in the CPR decision 167/1, as well as previous guidance issued by the UNEA Bureau, and best practices. She informed that the guidance outlines specific recommendations for the submission of the drafts, including the request for the main sponsor to provide a concept note with information on the relationship to the SDGs, the theme for UNEA-7, UNEP's programme of work, previously adopted UNEA and Governing Council resolutions and decisions; rationale for the initiative to address an emerging issue or urgent matter, definition of a new global concept, new commitments of Member States or new guidance to UNEP or the UN system that may have an impact on the environment; and possible financial requirements and implications if the draft is adopted and main stakeholders for the implementation if the draft is adopted. She also informed that the Secretariat will provide a technical note for each draft resolution with information on relevant existing mandates, resolutions and UNEP activities; impact of the proposed draft resolution and how to measure such impact; alignment with UNEP's MTS and PoW; an initial legal assessment; and best estimate of additional costs required to implement the proposed draft resolution. The Secretariat then presented the draft guidance in detail, including the deadline for submission of drafts, the roadmap for the intersessional period and the responsibilities of the co-facilitators.
10. The Bureaux members provided the following comments:
 - a. Expressed strong support for respecting the timeline for submission of draft resolutions, as this contributes to a more effective and cost-efficient negotiation process. Early submission enables better preparation, reduces duplication and improves the quality of proposals.
 - b. Recalled that the criteria contained in paragraph 11 of CPR [decision 167/1](#) on lessons learned from UNEA-6, was an encouragement and it offered a useful framework for enhancing the relevance and coherence of draft resolutions, while reaffirming the right of a Member State to submit draft resolutions in accordance with the rules of procedure.
 - c. Emphasized the importance of intersessional work and early appointment and engagement of co-facilitators, including aligning the nomination of co-facilitators with the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions; early interactions between the proponents and co-facilitators; and use of informal consultations, including informal meetings, to build momentum ahead of

the Open-ended CPR.

- d. Encouraged the Secretariat to continue its supportive role, particularly by providing technical and legal advice to proponents early in the process; assisting in refining draft language; and facilitating early consultations and thematic clustering of draft resolutions.
 - e. Called for open and inclusive participation, including through hybrid formats for subcommittee meetings to allow engagement from both Nairobi-based delegations and capitals.
11. The Executive Director acknowledged the views expressed and reaffirmed Member States sovereign right to submit draft resolutions. She clarified that the Secretariat's guidance is non-binding and aims to facilitate and streamline the process.
12. The Chair of the CPR summarized the discussion as follows:
- a. The [draft guidance to Member States on the submission of draft resolutions and decisions to UNEA-7](#) is endorsed, in particular:
 - The deadline for the submission of draft resolutions and decisions is 29 September 2025.
 - The procedure to be followed by delegations for the announcement and submission of draft resolutions and decisions, bearing in mind the focus of the drafts as outlined in paragraph 12 of the document and the format of draft resolutions as provided in Annex 3.
 - Noted that the Secretariat will provide negotiation skills training to delegates, prepare technical notes on submitted drafts, and as needed, provide procedural, technical and legal advice throughout the process.
 - b. The [roadmap for the intersessional period](#) is endorsed, noting that:
 - The Secretariat will circulate in July 2025 a letter on behalf of the President of UNEA and the Chair of the CPR, inviting the Chairs of the regional groups in Nairobi to consult to identify at least two delegates from each Group to act as facilitators for the informal consultations on draft resolutions and decisions.
 - Following the submission of the draft resolutions and decisions, the President of UNEA and the Chair of the CRP, in consultation with the regional groups, will appoint the co-facilitators.
 - On the proposal of the Secretariat, the Bureaux of UNEA and CPR will consider possible clustering of similar or related drafts.
 - Following the introduction of draft resolutions and decisions, and in advance of the seventh meeting of the OECPR, the appointed co-facilitators will convene open, inclusive, and transparent informal consultations under the auspices of the CPR.
 - The intersessional consultations led by the co-facilitators will be informal in nature and held under the auspices of the CPR, in a hybrid format and open to all Member States.
 - During the intersessional consultations paragraph-by-paragraph reading of the drafts will be held with screen editing and textual proposals reflected in the drafts without attributions.
 - c. Acknowledged the work of the Secretariat to make available unedited English versions of the progress reports of the Executive Director in advance of the 12th annual subcommittee meeting to facilitate the work of Member States in their consideration of possible draft resolutions and decisions to be submitted to UNEA.
 - d. Acknowledged the importance of the active engagement of environmental focal points based in capitals, in particular, those who would lead or participate in the negotiations of UNEA-7 draft resolutions and decisions as well as those not represented in Nairobi, during the consultations taking place over the intersessional period which would all be held in a hybrid format; and agreed that efforts will be made through their respective regional groups to encourage and facilitate virtual engagement of delegations during the intersessional period.
 - e. Acknowledged that final negotiations on the draft resolutions and decisions will be held during the seventh meeting of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives meeting to be held from 1 to 5 December and may continue during the week of UNEA through the Committee of the Whole.
 - f. Requested the Secretariat to share the guidance with Member States as soon as possible.

Agenda item 2 (c): Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs day)

13. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the organization of the “MEAs day” scheduled for Wednesday, 10 December 2025, under item 10 entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environment agreements” of the provisional agenda of UNEA, including on the proposed themes for the two high-level dialogues to be held under this agenda item.
14. The Bureaux members provided the following comments:
 - a. Underscored the importance of retaining MEAs day as a standing feature of UNEA, with broad recognition of its potential to foster better environmental decision-making, enhance implementation and promote synergies among MEAs and between MEAs and UNEP. It was noted that MEAs day can help avoid duplication, improve coordination, and optimize the use of limited financial and human resources.
 - b. Emphasized that the MEAs day should align closely with the UNEA-7 theme and priorities, and serve as a platform for strategic discussions, including on the outcomes of the UN80 reform initiative, which could help attract higher-level participation and enhance ministerial engagement.
 - c. Welcomed the proposed themes for MEAs day, with calls to explicitly emphasize best practices and further strengthen relevant concepts in the background document.
 - d. Emphasized the importance of more active engagement of Member States, not just secretariats; inviting countries with successful implementation experiences to share best practices; providing a platform for countries facing implementation challenges to exchange solutions; and ensuring that discussions are action-oriented and result in concrete recommendations.
 - e. Expressed interest in learning from the success of the previous MEAs days, particularly in engaging ministers, and in ensuring balanced cross-sectoral representation in future discussions.
 - f. Suggested including the newly established Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, alongside the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
15. The Executive Director, noting the comments made, responded as follows:
 - a. Reiterated the importance of enhancing synergies between UNEP and MEAs through the MEAs day.
 - b. Reminded that the MEAs Pavilion at UNEA-6 saw strong ministerial engagement, with the dialogue featuring active participation from ministers.
 - c. Emphasized that the focus of the MEAs day must remain on Member States, which is why the Presidents of the Conferences of the Parties were invited to the MEAs day at UNEA-6—and the same approach will be taken for UNEA-7.
 - d. Pointed out the challenge of including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution which is not yet operational, however, assured that all three science-panels will be reflected in the political discussion.
 - e. Noted that to maximize impact, it was essential to address the burdens experienced at the national level—including overlapping reporting requirements, duplication of efforts, and fragmented funding streams. These concerns closely aligned with the objectives of the UN80 reform discussions, reinforcing the importance of streamlining and coherence across the multilateral environmental system.
16. The President summarized the discussion as follows:
 - a. The Bureaux endorsed the [draft concept note](#) on the organization of the MEAs day scheduled for Wednesday, 10 December 2025, and the proposed themes of the two high-level dialogues.
 - b. The Bureaux requested the Executive Director to encourage ministers attending UNEA to take part in the high-level dialogues on 10 December 2025.
 - c. The Bureaux requested the Secretariat to develop further, in consultation with the MEAs, the

concept notes for the two high-level dialogues, and proceed with the preparation of the MEAs day.

Agenda item 2 (d): Leadership and multistakeholder dialogues

17. The Secretariat provided a [briefing](#) on the organizational arrangements and proposed themes for the [three leadership](#) dialogues and the [multistakeholder dialogue](#) scheduled for Thursday, 11 December and Friday, 12 December 2025.
18. The Bureaux members provided the following comments:
 - a. Expressed appreciation for the alignment of the dialogues with the UNEA-7 theme to deliver practical, action-oriented outcomes.
 - b. Welcomed the proposed themes, highlighting their relevance and importance: Leadership Dialogue 1 was commended for addressing pollution, with strong emphasis on the impact of water, air and nano plastic pollution on human health, adding that prevention was more effective and cost-efficient than remediation; Leadership Dialogue 2 on circularity and high-impact sectors was supported, with encouragement to draw lessons from a broader range of sectors beyond plastics, textiles, electronics and mining and the work of the International Resource Panel (IRP) and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) was noted as valuable and deserved greater recognition; Leadership Dialogue 3 was acknowledged as relevant and overarching, with potential for broad impact.
 - c. Encouraged integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a cross-cutting issue within the dialogues and recommended that this is clearly reflected in the concept notes.
 - d. Suggested revising the format of the dialogues to facilitate greater ministerial engagement.
 - e. Welcomed actionable recommendations, including how to scale-up and catalyze solutions, as outcomes of the dialogues and requested clarification on how these recommendations would be reflected in the UNEA outcome and how the Secretariat would utilize them moving forward.
 - f. Requested clarification on the process for identifying and inviting panelists for the dialogues.
 - g. Supported the proposed theme of the multistakeholder dialogue recognizing that solutions require cooperation of all actors however Member States bear primary responsibility for environmental stewardship. Noted that the multistakeholder dialogue was a key element of UNEA's high-level segment and emphasized that the dialogue should not be impacted due to financial constraints.
19. The Executive Director, noting the comments made, informed that:
 - a. On the outcomes of the Leadership Dialogues:
 - Confirmed that the summaries of the dialogues will be reflected in the official proceedings report of UNEA; and
 - Stated that the outcomes will inform the implementation of both the 2026-2029 Medium-Term Strategy and the 2026-2027 Programme of Work.
 - b. Explained that panelists for the dialogues will be proposed by the Secretariat based on thematic focus, bearing in mind regional and gender balance, and that names would be provided to the Bureaux at a later stage, following confirmation on the availability of the panelist.
20. The Chair of the CPR summarized the discussion as follows:
 - a. The Bureaux endorsed the [draft concept note](#) on the organizational arrangements and proposed themes for the three leadership dialogues and the [draft concept note](#) on the multistakeholder dialogue scheduled for Thursday, 11 December and Friday, 12 December 2025.
 - b. The Bureaux requested the Secretariat to proceed with the preparation of the leadership and multistakeholder dialogues.

Agenda item 2 (e): Draft communication strategy for the seventh session of the United Nations

Environment Assembly.

21. The UNEA and CPR Bureaux members were invited to consider a [draft communication strategy for UNEA-7](#) prepared by the Secretariat.
22. The Executive Director in introducing the item stated that the draft communication strategy is intended to raise awareness about UNEA and is informed by UNEP's extensive experience on how to lead global communication and advocacy. The Secretariat then presented the draft communication strategy.
23. The Bureaux members provided the following comments:
 - a. Requested further information on the communications strategy budget, including current allocations, comparisons with previous UNEA sessions, and clarification on any activities reduced or cut due to resource constraints.
 - b. Requested clarification on the timeframes of the communication strategy, including whether it covers only UNEA-7 or also preparatory activities, and emphasized the need to provide communication assets in advance for the use of Member States.
 - c. Requested clarification on the use of influencers, asking whether UNEP plans to engage them, and requested justification and cost details if such engagement is planned.
 - d. Suggested that the strategy be developed through an interactive and adaptive process, with regular updates and multiple implementation scenarios to account for evolving information and financial constraints.
24. The Secretariat, noting the comments made, responded as follows:
 - a. Noted that the communications team is working with about half the budget of UNEA-6, leading to cuts in sponsored journalists participation, reduced content production, and more modest branding across the campus and conference rooms.
 - b. Noted that implementation of the communications strategy has already begun, with a media advisory issued and assets to be gradually released across UNEP and UN channels through UNEA-7 and beyond, covering both preparatory and outcome phases.
 - c. Clarified that UNEP does not pay influencers, relying instead on voluntary support from Goodwill Ambassadors who are vetted and approved by the Executive Director and cleared by the UN Secretary-General's designated authority to ensure integrity.
 - d. Noted that the communications strategy is dynamic and iterative, allowing for updates based on emerging developments and media opportunities, with flexibility for refinement and scaling depending on available resources.
 - e. Emphasized the importance of multilingual outreach to reach broader audiences, suggesting greater use of UNEP regional offices for local language content, while noting that broader multilingual communications beyond plenary interpretation require additional resources.
25. The President summarized the discussion as follows:
 - a. Invited the Secretariat to implement the communication strategy, taking into account comments provided, to raise awareness on the environmental challenges being deliberated at UNEA-7 and rally public support.

Agenda item 3: Other matters.

26. One Bureaux member raised concerns about the UNEA-7 budget shortfall, urged transparency on the budget structure, and proposed potential cost-saving measures such as reducing UNEA from five to four days, limiting funded delegation sizes, and developing a performance report on past expenditures, while requesting clarity on the timeline for making final decisions on possible reductions.
27. One Bureaux member inquired about the expected practical roles of Bureau members during UNEA-7.

28. The Executive Director acknowledged the financial constraints affecting UNEP and Member States, emphasizing that ensuring broad and inclusive participation, especially of developing countries, should remain a priority to safeguard the integrity of negotiations and outcomes. She noted efforts to mobilize additional donor support, and clarified that temporary infrastructure is necessary due to capacity limitations of the UNON campus, pending long-term facility upgrades. She proposed that decisions on potential cost-cutting measures, such as reducing session length or participant sponsorships, should be discussed at the Joint UNEA and CPR Bureaux meeting scheduled for 10 September 2025, depending on available funds.
29. The Executive Director outlined that Bureau members' responsibilities during UNEA-7 will include supporting resolution negotiations, and chairing key sessions including the Committee of the Whole.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.

30. The Executive Director thanked the Bureaux members and noted the rich discussion of important topics related to the preparation of UNEA-7.
31. The meeting closed at 17:30 (GMT+3).

Annex 1: List of participants

UNEA Bureau members

1. H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of UNEA and Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman.
2. H. E. Ms. 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.
4. H. E. Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Vice President of UNEA and First Deputy Minister 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. Mr. Juan Carlos Castro Vargas, Vice President of UNEA and and Minister of Environment of Peru, **represented by** H.E. Ms. Romy Tincopa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Peru 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.
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.

CPR Bureau members.

1. H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyeve, Chair and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to UNEP.
2. H. E. Mr. Anouar Ben Youssef, Vice Chair and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to UNEP.
3. H. E. Ms. Marie Charlotte G. Tang, Vice Chair and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Philippines to UNEP.
4. H.E. Ms. Jenny Isabella Da Rin, Rapporteur and High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Australia to UNEP.

UNEP Secretariat was represented by:

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director.
3. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
4. Mr. Nicholas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
5. Mr. Daniel Cooney, Director of the Communication Division.
6. Mr. Ebrahim Gora, Deputy Director of Policy and Programme Division.