

Signed, Sealed, Delivered? - Turbocharging MEA implementation through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches

MEAs Day High-Level Dialogue 1
Wednesday, 10 December 2025, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 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 1.

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](#)

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](#).

and [6/6](#). By highlighting national experiences and good practices to facilitate synergies in the 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 play a pivotal role in advancing the global environmental agenda, by addressing some of the most pressing environmental issues, by advancing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and by connecting to other globally agreed environmental frameworks, such as the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (KM-GBF) and the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#) (GFC).

Implementing the MEAs with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach can support effective and inclusive environmental governance.² Recognizing that successful implementation depends on commitment and cooperation at all levels of government, sectors and actors of society through sustained and inclusive dialogue and action, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are instrumental in driving collective progress in the implementation of MEAs, both at global and national levels. Furthermore, globally agreed environmental frameworks such as the KM-GBF and the GFC have also recognized that wide participatory approaches are key enabling conditions to spur collective implementation to achieve their objectives.³

The dialogue will recognize that whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches should be nationally determined and fiscally coherent. Their effective implementation hinges on national circumstances including national priorities, coherent legal and institutional frameworks, interagency and interministerial coordination mechanisms, national data governance and integrated financing systems and resources available.

Dialogue 1 will provide a key opportunity to reflect and exchange good practices on how whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches can be effectively embedded in national strategies, policies, implementation plans and legislative frameworks, highlighting the role they can play in the national implementation of MEAs.

By providing a platform for Member States to share their own experiences with the national implementation of MEAs, Dialogue 1 will provide avenues for exploring good practices, spur innovative thinking and reflecting on the enabling conditions to drive integrated approaches and strengthen synergies and cooperation for national MEA implementation. The Dialogue will also explore cross-national common denominators, including strengthening coordination across the different levels of decision-making, as well as reflect on the meaning of effective multi-stakeholder engagement and inclusive participation of civil society in environmental decision-making.

² Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches have been reflected across several workings of the MEAs, including but not limited to: [UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.21](#); [UNFCCC Decision 4/CMA.1](#); [UNFCCC Decision 1/CMA.5](#) on the outcome of the first global stocktake; [CBD COP 15, Decision 15/4](#); [CBD COP 15, Decision 15/8](#), [CBD COP 16, Decision 16/32](#); [CBD COP 16, Decision 16/33](#); [UNCCD COP 16, Decision 11](#); [UNCCD COP 16, Decision 24](#); [Basel Convention decision BC-17/23](#); [Rotterdam Convention decision RC-12/10](#); [Stockholm Convention decision SC-12/24](#), [Minamata Convention on Mercury, COP 6, Working Document 6/20](#).

³ [Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties, Decision 15/4, Adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), para (c); and [Global Framework on Chemicals - For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste](#), section D, paras. 36-46.

C. Expected Outcomes

The Dialogue will provide an opportunity, *inter alia*, to: discuss opportunities and challenges in the national implementation of MEAs, with particular focus on the role of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches; through strengthening policy and legal frameworks and institutional coherence in public finance, identifying new strategies, innovative solutions and partnerships to inform future cooperation and collaboration across stakeholders, the MEAs and UNEP, in support of national MEA implementation.

A summary of the discussions, including the key messages for action from Dialogue 1, 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 exchange. 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 1 will be invited by the moderator to reflect on the following questions, to create an interactive discussion:

1. Based on your experience, what concrete tools and best practice can really drive a “whole of government” approach to MEAs implementation, bridging the gap between national priorities and global commitments?
2. A “whole of society” approach has become in itself a buzzword. But what does it take for different groups to meaningfully participate in decision-making on the environment? Can you share some examples of your success, and what lessons we might draw from them?

Contact Details

For inquiries, please email **Mr Andrea Rizzo** (andrea.rizzo@un.org) and **Ms Chiara Magrelli** (chiara.magrelli@un.org) from the Law Division, United Nations Environment Programme.