

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 12 March 2026
09:00 – 12:00 (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 meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with the co-facilitators of the draft resolutions and decisions of UNEA-7, on 19 February 2026.

Summary of the discussion in the meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives with the co-facilitators of the UNEA-7 draft resolutions and decisions.

The co-facilitators who took the floor provided the following comments in summary:

General comments

- a. Commended the overall success of UNEA-7, noting that all resolutions and decisions were adopted by consensus.
- b. Noted that lessons learned from UNEA-6 were effectively applied, although the recommendation to reduce the number of draft resolutions was not fully respected.
- c. Highlighted that some draft resolutions were submitted after the deadline and stressed the need for Member States to respect the deadline.

Intersessional period

- d. Acknowledged the well-organized intersessional preparatory phase, which worked very well.
- e. Emphasized the usefulness of the technical notes prepared by the Secretariat, noting that they helped the co-facilitators in consulting with proponents and delegations.
- f. Noted that the practice of having proponents introduce their draft, followed by the presentation of technical notes by the Secretariat and Q&A sessions, assisted the work of the facilitators and proponents in developing revised drafts.
- g. Highlighted that holding consultations on the operative paragraphs (OPs) with textual proposals (first reading) during the intersessional period and the CPR subcommittee tasking the co-facilitators to develop streamlined preambular paragraphs (PPs), which were shared as non-papers before the OECPR, were helpful in advancing negotiations during the OECPR and should be maintained, while acknowledging that negotiations are ultimately held during the OECPR and UNEA.
- h. One facilitator suggested keeping attributions in the drafts transmitted to the OECPR to avoid delegations repeating their comments during the OECPR.
- i. Acknowledged capacity constraints among some Member States, including limited engagement of delegations during the first reading, and stressed the importance of engagement of capital-based focal points.

Training for co-facilitators

- j. Highlighted that training and briefings for the co-facilitations organized by the Secretariat were critical and that well-networked Nairobi-based facilitators were considered an asset.

OECPR and UNEA

- k. Emphasized the importance of technical expertise of the Secretariat, including legal, and support of the technical focal points throughout the process.
- l. Highlighted that daily meetings of the co-facilitators with the Secretariat during the OECPR and UNEA were helpful allowing for flexibility and transparency.
- m. Noted that the processes, procedures and guidance put in place by the Secretariat prior to and during the OECPR and UNEA were clear and helpful.
- n. While noting that starting negotiations on the OPs was helpful, it was suggested that some space should be given during OECPR for discussion on the PPs. It was also noted, however, that it was best to finalize the PPs once the negotiations on the OPs had concluded to better utilize the limited negotiation time.
- o. Stressed the importance of in-person participation of the proponents in the negotiations.
- p. Noted that while the Bureau had provided guidance on the timings of the working groups during the OECPR but Member States decided otherwise and taking into account the

recommendation in UNEA decision 7/7 that, unless otherwise agreed, preferably no session be scheduled beyond 13 hours from the start of the first open-ended meeting of each day, negotiations might continue till Thursday or Friday of UNEA, to which delegations would need to adapt.

- q. Highlighted that the approach taken on cross-cutting issues, allowing delegations time to discuss among themselves, worked well.

e-Proposals portal

- r. Praised the digital tools provided and suggested improvements to the e-Proposals portal, including tailored notifications and a system to filter updates by resolution(s) of interest, which could save time for delegations.

Looking ahead

- s. Recommended a follow-up meeting on the Youth Environment Assembly and MEA Day with donors, participants, and speakers to assess impact, identify lessons learned, and explore ways to strengthen future engagement.
- t. Acknowledged the importance of the report of the Executive Director containing suggestions, for consideration by Member States, for possible areas in which resolutions might be developed (UNEP/EA.7/2(I) but suggested the need for better socialization. Similarly, suggested that part II of the report focusing more broadly on UNEA and reflecting on lessons learned after a decade of existence, should be discussed by the Bureau of UNEA-8.
- u. Suggested having facilitators assigned to individual drafts rather than having co-facilitators working in clusters.

Bureau members who took the floor thanked the co-facilitators and provided the following comments in summary:

- a. Recognised the importance of technical notes and the Secretariat support during negotiations; maintaining careful reading of both preambular and operative paragraphs; ensuring transparent consultation and engagement, including keeping proponents closely involved to reach compromises; and the value of discussions on cross-cutting issues.
- b. Emphasized that UNEA-7 was well organized and the preparation phase was thorough. Noted that, despite careful planning, a gap between capital-based and Nairobi-based delegations remains,
- c. Acknowledged that the Secretariat provided strong support to facilitate the process.
- d. Suggested creating space through a subcommittee meeting for Member States discussion on UNEA-7 lessons learned.

13. The President of UNEA-8 acknowledged the work of the Secretariat and the Bureau, which contributed to UNEA-7's success.

14. The Bureau agreed that UNEA-7 lessons learned be discussed at a subcommittee meeting in advance of the 173rd quarterly meeting of the CPR.