Meeting of the UNEA Bureau
10 December 2025,
09:00 – 10:00 (GMT+3)
In-person – Conference Room 10

Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. His Excellency Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) and President of the Environment Authority of Oman, welcomed the members of the Bureau and the co-chairs facilitating the draft resolutions and decisions, and declared open the meeting. The President also welcomed the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, His Excellency Sultan Hajiyev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan, who joined the Bureau meeting as an ex officio Bureau member.
2. The Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen, delivered her opening remarks.
3. The meeting agenda was adopted

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

Update on draft resolutions and decisions

4. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole (CoW), Ms. Joyelle Clarke of Saint Kitts and Nevis, reported on the progress of the Committee. She noted resistance among delegations to extending meetings beyond 10:00 p.m., as well as opposition to a "take it or leave it" approach to the non-papers during the stocktaking plenary.
5. The Co-chairs of Cluster A reported that the draft resolution entitled *"Accelerating global action to promote the climate resilience of coral reefs"* had been agreed *ad referendum*. The Co-Chairs of Cluster B indicated that additional time was required to finalize their draft resolutions. The Co-chairs of Cluster D highlighted progress on the draft decision entitled "*Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly*", while noting that further time was needed to finalize outstanding operative paragraphs.
6. In light of the limited time remaining to finalize draft resolutions and decisions, a Co-Chair requested Bureau members to engage with regional groups to encourage delegations to lift reservations on the text, with a view to producing clean drafts.

7. A Co-Chair requested clarification from the Secretariat on the role of the Co-Chairs following the closure of the Committee of the Whole, particularly with regard to outstanding draft resolutions and decisions.
8. The Secretariat reiterated that the closing plenary of the Committee would begin at 9 p.m. and will continue until midnight. The Committee would transmit draft resolutions and decisions *agreed ad referendum* to UNEA for adoption at its closing plenary. The Secretariat further clarified that the mandate of the co-chairs would conclude with the closure of the Committee.
9. The Legal Advisor provided further guidance, recalling that under Rule 63, the mandate of the Committee of the Whole is to finalize all pending draft resolutions and decisions, which must be clean and without brackets by the start of its closing plenary on Wednesday, 10 December, for transmission to UNEA for adoption. Drafts agreed *ad referendum* would then be edited and translated into all official UN languages before their adoption at the closing plenary of UNEA. For draft resolutions where informal negotiations continue after the closure of the Committee, depending on the timing of finalization, the text will not be translated. In such cases, delegations may raise a point of order regarding the lack of translation, to which the President would explain that, in the interest of achieving consensus, negotiations continued after the closure of the Committee and would propose adoption of the texts in English.

Presentation of the draft report on the credentials of representatives

10. The Legal Advisor reported to the Bureau on the draft report on credentials and recalled that pursuant to rules 16 and 17 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, credentials must be submitted by every Member State participating in the Assembly. As of 9 December 2025, at 16.54 (EAT), formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs have been submitted to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), by 64 Member States. As of the same date and time, information concerning the appointment of representatives had been communicated to the Executive Director of UNE by 89 Member States, through scanned copies of formal credentials or by letters, notes verbales, or other official communications, including from Permanent Missions.

11. The UNEA Bureau endorsed the report on credentials for consideration by the Environment Assembly.

Agenda item 3: Other matters

12. The secretariat reminded the UNEA Bureau members of the opening of the High-Level segment of UNEA scheduled for Thursday, 11 December, from 10.00 a.m. in conference room 2, to be preceded by a cultural opening scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting

13. The meeting closed at 9.40 am.

Annex: List of Participants

United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau Members:

1. H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of UNEA and President of the Environment Authority of Oman.
2. H. E. 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, **represented by** Mr. Demeke Atnafu, Deputy Head of Mission of Ethiopia in Kenya.
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. Miguel Ángel Espichán Mariñas, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Peru, **represented by** H. E. Ms. Romy Tincopa, Vice Chair of the CPR and Ambassador of Peru and Permanent Representative 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, **represented by** Mr. Exnobert Zulu, Charge d'Affaires, High Commissioner of Zambia to Kenya
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.

Ex-officio member of the UNEA Bureau:

1. H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyev, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya, and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director.
3. Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
4. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
5. Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor.

Co-chairs as observers:
From the African States Group:
Mr. Ontumetse Ontumetse of Botswana;
Ms. Sara Elkhouly of Egypt; and
Mr. Tobias Ogweno of Kenya.

From the Asia-Pacific States Group:
Mr. Nader Al-Tarawneh of Jordan; and
Ms. Kanako Okano of Japan.

From the Eastern European States Group:
Mr. Michal Novotny of Czechia.

From the Western European and other States group:
Mr. Martin Röw of Germany; and
Ms. Marie Haraldstad of Norway.