United Nations Environment Assembly
Bureau Meeting
Tuesday, 25 March 2025
15:00 - 17:00 (GMT+3)
Online - Microsoft Teams

Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. His Excellency 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, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Bureau. The President also welcomed the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), His Excellency Firas Khouri, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, who joined the meeting as an ex-officio Bureau member.
2. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), delivered her opening remarks.
3. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Presentation of the zero draft ministerial declaration for UNEA-7.

4. The President presented a summary of the zero draft ministerial declaration for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7).
5. Bureau members supported the President as the penholder for the ministerial declaration and emphasized that the practice of no line-by-line negotiation should be respected and that the final declaration should serve as a clear and ambitious signal to accelerate the implementation of environmental goals.
6. Bureau members highlighted the importance of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and their role in addressing current global environmental challenges, emphasizing the need to promote greater synergy in the implementation of MEAs especially at national level.
7. One Bureau member proposed the inclusion of water-related issues as an additional dimension in the zero draft ministerial declaration.
8. Some Bureau members welcomed the inclusion of circular economy; human rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; and artificial intelligence while noting that further review of the text is needed.
9. Some Bureau members highlighted the importance of addressing the means of implementation. Some Bureau members underscored the need to focus on implementation strategies, especially through international cooperation mechanisms and increased financial support, to help countries meet their environmental commitments and specifically stressed the significance of supporting developing countries, advocating for technology transfer, capacity-building support, and the sharing of best practices as essential components for effectively implementing environmental policies and programmes.

Agenda item 3: Draft annotated agenda and structure for UNEA-7.

10. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the draft provisional agenda of UNEA-7, the draft annotated provisional agenda of UNEA-7, the draft structure of UNEA-7, the participation modalities for UNEA-7 and the arrangements for the national statements.
11. One Bureau member suggested a reassessment of the organization of the leadership dialogues, drawing

on lessons learned from UNEA-6 to enhance their relevance, attractiveness, and effectiveness for ministerial engagement, and emphasized the need for better alignment with the UNEA theme and stronger contribution to its outcomes.

12. The Bureau members endorsed the draft provisional agenda, the draft annotated provisional agenda and the draft structure of UNEA-7 as presented by the Secretariat; agreed that UNEA-7 and the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives would be held fully in-person; and agreed to establish a time limit of 4 minutes for statements by individual delegations, 5 minutes for statements made on behalf of groups of States and 3 minutes for statements by observers on the understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts and when a representative exceeds her or his allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay, which will be done by means of automatic microphone cut-off.

Agenda item 4: Organization of work.

13. The Secretariat provided an update on the upcoming Bureau meetings for the remainder of 2025, based on the draft roadmap.
14. One Bureau member raised a technical question regarding the selection process and timeline for appointing panelists and moderators for the leadership dialogues.
15. The Secretariat confirmed that lessons learned from UNEA-6 will guide preparations for UNEA-7, noting that concept notes on the MEA-Day dialogues and the Leadership Dialogues will be presented at the joint retreat of the UNEA-7 and CPR Bureaux on 2 and 3 July 2025; clarified that the selection of moderators and panelists will depend on the topics of the dialogues and their availability; and the additional information will be shared with the Bureau members closer to UNEA-7.

Agenda item 5: Other matters.

16. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting.

17. The meeting closed at 16:20 (GMT+3).

Annex 1: List of participants of the UNEA Bureau

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. Nino Tandilashvili, Vice President of UNEA and First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.
3. H. E. Ms. Anikó Raisz, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of State for Environmental Policy and Circular Economy of Hungary.
4. H. E. Mr. Ali Gholampour, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP.
5. H. E. Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Vice President of UNEA and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Government Offices of Sweden.
6. H. E. Mr. Mike Mposha, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Green Economy and Environment of Zambia
7. H. E. Ms. Joyelle Clarke, Rapporteur of UNEA and Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Representation of UNEA Bureau members.

8. H. E. Ms. Zakia Khattabi, Vice President of UNEA and Federal Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal of Belgium, **represented by** H. E. Mr. Peter Maddens, Ambassador of Belgium and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
9. H. E. Ms. Fitsum Assefa Adela, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Planning and Development of Ethiopia, **represented by** Mr. Yohannes Jeylu, Senior Environment and Climate Change Agreements and Partnership Expert, Ministry of Planning and Development of Peru.
10. H. E. Mr. Juan Carlos Castro Vargas, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Peru, **represented by** Mrs. Raquel Soto Vice Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources of Peru.

CPR Bureau member participating in an ex-officio capacity.

H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to UNEP.

UNEP Secretariat

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma 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 Officer.