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MINISTERS & ENVIRONMENT
AUTHORITIES OF ASIA PACIFIC

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Sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, Nadi, Fiji, 26-29 August 2025 (hybrid)

Discussion Document for Agenda Item 6:

Chair's summary of the sixth United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific

Senior Officials segment

*The geographical coverage of the UN Environment Programme's Asia-Pacific office includes 41 Member States: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (the Republic of), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

I. Overview

1. The Government of Fiji's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly organized the sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific from 26-29 August 2025 in Nadi, Fiji. The Forum focused on the theme of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet". The Forum was attended by the following countries served by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam. Participants included High-Level Representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations organizations, development partner organizations, and representatives of civil society groups.

2. The sixth session of UNEP's Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific comprised of a Senior Officials Segment on 28 August and a Ministerial segment on 29 August. The Asia Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum and the Asia Pacific Science Policy Business Dialogue on the Environment were held on 26 August. The Asia Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholder's Forum was held on 27 August.

3. The objectives of the Forum were to discuss:
- Progress in the region in implementing resolutions and decisions of the UNEA; and identification of regional priorities for the seventh session of the UNEA.
 - "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet".

II. Opening of the session

4. Agenda item 1 (a) the Opening of the session, was presided over by Ms. Wasantha Geethanjali Kumaramagama, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka and Chair of the Senior Officials Meeting Bureau, fifth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific.

5. Dr. Sivendra Michael, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Fiji and Chair of the sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific delivered welcome remarks. He noted that the triple planetary crisis was the lived daily reality of the people including the need to move communities due to the erosion of the land. There was a need to recognise that the solutions for continental Asia will be different from the island nations. He noted Fiji was offering a new standard of leadership based on conviction and moral clarity grounded on lived reality and science.

6. Ms. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative, UNEP, Asia and the Pacific delivered welcome remarks. She expressed gratitude to Fiji for hosting the Forum and noted that 33 of UNEP's 41 member states in the Asia-Pacific region were attending the Forum. She called for increased ambition in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and stronger transboundary cooperation to address pollution. She highlighted urgent and emerging issues including water resource management, tackling nutrient pollution, critical mineral governance, stratospheric protection and the environmental footprint of artificial intelligence. She noted that the Forum aims to strengthen regional cooperation and ensure Asia-Pacific's voice is reflected at UNEA-7.

7. His Excellency, Mosese Bulitavu, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Fiji gave an inaugural address. He stated that for a different future, our policies and financing need to change and that the International Court of Justice made clear that states have legal obligations to prevent climate harm and support those most affected including small island developing states. The Minister identified a series of priorities for UNEA and UNEA resolutions. These included a need to review the delivery of existing UNEA resolutions, identify a list of action accelerators with focal points and action plans and ways to track progress. Discussions on the Medium-Term Strategy should focus on funding and delivery, resilient cities, coastal protection and livelihoods, circular economy for jobs, nature positive infrastructure, early warning systems, advancing ocean protection, investing in communities, and data and capacity to measure progress.

8. Under agenda item 1 (b) on the Election of Officers, the Forum elected the following Bureau members:

- a. Chair: Dr. Sivendra Michael, Permanent Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, Fiji
- b. Vice-Chair: Dr. Monyneath Vann, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
- c. Vice-Chair: Ms. Masako Ogawa, Deputy Director-General, Global Environment Bureau, Japan

9. Under agenda item 1 (c) Adoption of the agenda, the Forum adopted the following agenda:

- Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses
 - (b) Election of officers
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda
- Review of the implementation of resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Asia and the Pacific
- Contribution of the regional Forums of Ministers of the Environment and Environment Authorities to the United Nations Environment Programme's Medium-Term Strategy and the Programme of Work
 - (a) United Nations Environment Programme's Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work 2026-2027.
 - (b) Role of the Environment Fund for delivery of the United Nations Environment Programme's Programme of Work.
- Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (8-12 December 2025)
 - (a) Draft Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session
 - (b) Guidelines for submission of draft resolutions for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
- Multilateral Environmental Cooperation to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, and pollution
- Endorsement of the report of the Senior Officials of the sixth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (*Member States primarily served by the United Nations Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific Office)

III. Review of the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Asia and the Pacific

10. Under agenda item 2, the meeting benefited from a background document (UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/1). The session reviewed progress on the implementation of the resolutions and

decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the region. Regional priorities and issues for UNEA were discussed. They included the following:

11. The participants noted the following points and actions regarding the implementation of UNEA resolutions in the region:

Resolution 2/6 – Supporting the Paris Agreement

- Republic of Korea noted that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0 requires greater ambition globally. Further technical and financial support is needed for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Republic of Korea is mobilizing funding for climate change adaptation in the region.
- Fiji welcomed UNEP support on resolutions on sustainable mobility, and the Paris Agreement.
- Bhutan completed its first biennial report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2024 and expressed its commitment to carbon neutrality.
- Japan welcomed knowledge sharing in the region including through the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) the largest regional meeting focused on adaptation. The APAN meeting scheduled for October 2025 will be in Bangkok featuring a Ministerial roundtable.
- India's climate action is guided by the NDC, a net zero strategy, and a national action plan on climate change.
- Tuvalu acknowledged its support to ecosystems-based adaptation (EbA) in local communities, and climate information and early warning support. Tuvalu also expressed concern on the lack of knowledge about corresponding adjustments and non-permanent and leakage in reference to article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
- Bangladesh noted that they developed both NAP and NDC and there is a huge gap for finance to implement both. It is suggested that equal emphasis should be given to NAP and NDC implementation. There is an urgent need for finance and technology transfer to ensure a just transition.
- Kiribati highlighted the challenges of climate change, sea level rise, and degradation and welcomed support on early warning and ecosystem-based adaptation.
- Indonesia mentioned the carbon market was established within the stock exchange and invites member states to participate in this carbon market.
- China noted putting in place instruments to support carbon emission reduction, pollution abatement, afforestation, and green growth.

Resolution 4/11 Protection of Marine Environment from Land based Activities

- Indonesia noted its commitment to the Coordinating body for the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) for the protection of marine areas. Indonesia had established a Regional Capacity Center for Clean Seas as a COBSEA regional activity centre in Bali.

Resolution 6/8 Promoting sustainable Lifestyles

- India shared its action on promotion of sustainable lifestyles highlighting its national initiative 'Mission LiFE' - lifestyle for environment.

Resolution 4/1 Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production

Resolution 5/1 Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production (SCP)

- In support of the resolution on SCP, Indonesia had mainstreamed SCP in policy and circular economy integrated into the national development plan
- Thailand noted that extended producer responsibility legislation was also being developed and electronic waste being addressed

Resolution 4/3 – Sustainable Mobility

- Republic of Korea noted that e-mobility needed increased support in the region, and a life cycle assessment of e-vehicles should be undertaken to increase circularity of the e- mobility.
- Fiji welcomed UNEP support on sustainable mobility.

Resolution 5/14 – End Plastic Pollution

- Thailand noted that reduced plastic waste and launched 2018-2030 plastic waste management roadmap.
- Sri Lanka stated that plastic pollution management was a priority for action including through a Deposit Refund System (DRS) for plastic waste.
- Fiji expressed disappointment on the recent INC 5.2 outcomes and indicated that the mandate set by UNEA 5/14 should not be undermined. They also called for global rules that cover full lifecycle of plastics.
- Bhutan called for increased regional cooperation on plastic pollution and highlighted the need for holistic action on chemicals and waste management.
- Nauru noted that resolution on 5/14 plastic pollution had failed. There was a need to address the full life cycle approach in any agreement and clarity was called from UNEP on the way forward.
- Cook Islands noted that the failure of INC 5.2 was a disappointment but there was a need to uphold the UNEA 5/14 resolution on a full life cycle approach on plastics.
- Lao PDR highlighted that it had supported the UNEA resolution on plastic.
- India shared that plastic waste management rules encompass various sectors including municipal, industrial, residential and commercial enterprises. Certain single use plastic categories had been banned in 2022.
- Tuvalu expressed disappointment that the resolution 5/14 plastics had failed with the ending of INC 5.2 with no agreement. It was noted that a political process would be needed including through a potential INC 5.3. at UNEA 7.
- Kiribati noted plastic pollution was a transboundary issue requiring regional cooperation.
- Lao PDR highlighted that it had supported the science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution. The national waste management system has been enhanced and public awareness campaigns launched with the public and private sector. Further support was needed for waste management infrastructure.

Resolution 5/2 – Sustainable Nitrogen Management

- Sri Lanka had demonstrated global leadership in nitrogen management and supported adoption of the UNEA resolution on this topic. An Interagency nitrogen committee was established as the first of any nation. A National action plan on sustainable nitrogen management was initiated in 2024 with UNEP support, and the goals of this plan would be integrated into the NDC. The Columbo Declaration, a global UN commitment to halve nitrogen waste by 2030 was highlighted.

Resolution 6/13 – Effective and Inclusive Solutions for Strengthening Water Policies

- Sri Lanka developed an integrated water resources management plan covering 2022-2030 and would also support relevant resolution implementation.
- Singapore and the World Bank launched the Singapore Water Center to support capacity development and knowledge exchange, evidence-based decision making and investments in water infrastructure.

Resolution 6/10 – Promoting Regional Cooperation on Air Pollution

Resolution 3/8 – Air Quality

- Thailand noted it had continued actions to reduce pm2.5 and reduce transboundary haze pollution including by working with ASEAN neighbours. Thailand is also an active member of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
- Lao PDR had focused on measuring air quality through an expanded network and supporting ASEAN transboundary agreement on haze pollution, national strategy for clear skies and air pollution was also being developed.

Resolution 6/4 – Promoting Synergies, Cooperation or Collaboration for MEA Implementation

- Japan noted that the resolution on synergies was being translated into concrete action including through the preparation of an Asia Pacific Synergies Report prepared by UNEP, ADB, UNESCAP and a team of experts by 2026. Japan highlighted its side event on synergies organized during this Forum.

Resolution 5/5 – Nature-based Solutions; Resolution 6/14 – Strengthening International Efforts to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation; Resolution 4/12 – Sustainable Management for Global Health of Mangrove, Resolution 4/16 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands

- India has planned to rejuvenate major rivers. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. BSAP has been updated in 2024. Major initiative for the restoration of mangroves is being undertaken. India launched Aravalli Green Wall project to combat desertification.
- Indonesia noted that extensive rehabilitation and restoration of peatlands, peat dome vegetation, and mangroves.
- Bhutan called for increased support for mountain ecosystems in the region.

Resolution 5/4 – Sustainable Lake Management

- Indonesia noted it was home to over 1,500 lakes, which are critical for agriculture, fisheries, and hydropower. The World Lake Day would be observed on 27 August, with the first observance in 2025, and delegates were invited to join celebrations in Indonesia.

Cross-cutting

- Cook Island highlighted the importance of the UNEA resolutions on food systems, climate resilience, and Minamata Convention.
- China emphasized its commitment and engagement in the global consensus for action regarding the Baku Climate Unity Pact, Montreal Protocol, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS), Minamata conventions, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Republic of Korea welcomed UNEP platforms that support climate action and noted the need for knowledge sharing that are implementation orientated.
- Lao PDR noted that there was a need for increased capacity development and technologies to support environmental action.

- Bhutan supported action on science-policy capacity.
- Sri Lanka welcomed the 2022 UN General Assembly decision to establish 1 March as World Seagrass Day
- Fiji emphasized the unique support needs of Small Island Developing States, calling for full funding for the implementation of UNEA resolutions.

Secretarial Functions for Regional Forums and Flagship Events

12. It was noted the United Nations Environment Programme provided secretariat functions to: Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (AP Forum); Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE); The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET); Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP); Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN); Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA); Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP).

IV. Contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work

13. Under agenda item 3(a) UNEP's Draft Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work 2026-2027, the meeting benefited from the following document 'Draft Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work 2026-2027 (UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/2).

14. Participants raised the following points:

- Republic of Korea welcomed that the triple planetary crisis and land degradation are reflected in the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy. Korea expressed concern that no agreement was reached during the recent plastic treaty negotiations. They noted a need to expand regional cooperation and country tailored support to strengthen circular economy. They noted that further support was needed on integrated water management to address water scarcity, disasters, early warning systems and increased international cooperation around river basins.
- China noted the need for greater resources and called upon all parties to uphold the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as set out under the Paris Agreement and other MEAs. They called for developed countries to provide increased support of financial assistance, technology transfer and capacity development to developing countries.
- Maldives welcomed the Medium-Term Strategy alignment to the sustainable development goals and MEAs and also requested that the strategy reflects the needs of Small Island Developing States. They noted that the Medium-Term Strategy is the last chance to address the needs and make recommendations before 2030.
- Cambodia welcomed the draft Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work. Cambodia reaffirmed commitment to work with international partners and communities to deliver practical, people-centred outcomes.
- Fiji welcomed the opportunity to shape the Medium-Term Strategy, stressing severe financing constraints. Fiji called for: (i) a dedicated programmatic focus on the environmental security of states; (ii) elevating the centrality of the ocean (and associated sustainable economies) as a cross-cutting priority; and (iii) streamlined, direct access to finance and technology. Fiji emphasized that the strategy's success should be judged by tangible impact on the Pacific's survival and urged tailored support for Small Island Developing States.
- Nauru urged that the Medium-Term Strategy should address the climate–waste–health nexus, warning of more frequent and severe vector-borne disease outbreaks driven by rising temperatures and poor waste management. While noting national

steps, Nauru called these “band-aid” measures and requested that UNEP integrate climate-waste-driven health crises into its programmes, develop tools/guidance for countries, and support assessments of disease impacts—framing these as a form of loss and damage that must be recognized.

- Australia welcomed the emphasis in the strategy on the role of partnerships and multilateral cooperation, effective implementation of MEAs, and alignment with the 2030 Agenda. It called for continued focus on climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste, but expressed concern that reframing a strategic objective as “land and nature” could unintentionally elevate land over the ocean. Australia welcomed collaboration with implementing entities and relevant partners, including the GEF and relevant climate funds; called for sustained attention to the needs of Small Island Developing States; and emphasized Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and disproportionate impacts. Australia recommended that the Medium-Term Strategy be guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and cautioned against using new language not agreed under international law.
- Japan welcomed the Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work. Japan expressed that UNEP should not operate in silos but be well integrated. Japan welcomed the mention of synergies and recognized the importance that the Environmental Management Group provided in strengthening synergies work and called on UNEP to complement and coordinate its efforts with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.
- Bhutan would like to emphasize on three critical points, namely, Programme of Work implementation should include clear actionable regional programmes that translate on shared priorities such as glacial lake outburst flood risk reduction, sustainable hydropower and human wildlife conflict that is context specific to address unique vulnerabilities of mountainous countries. Requests support in facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation particularly for technology transfer and capacity-building in areas such as digital tools for disaster risk reduction and green finance. Calls for the Programme of Work to prioritize direct access to tailored financing mechanisms including green bonds and technical assistance to build relevant capacity in green transition.
- Tuvalu welcomed the draft Medium-Term Strategy calling for tailored support to small island developing states. It was stressed that climate change displacement was critical and urged UNEP to help Pacific Small Island Developing States develop a regional legal framework to protect people displaced across borders, distinct from disaster response. Tuvalu highlighted the need to develop guidance to protect people displaced within and beyond national borders.
- Indonesia appreciated the draft Medium-Term Strategy and asked that it fully recognizes countries with specific geographic and security conditions vulnerable to illegal waste movements and related activities. Indonesia called for clearer implementation modalities so that UNEA resolutions translate into impact. Indonesia sought transparency on how UNEP prioritizes country requests for NDC implementation support and related work. Indonesia warned about negative cross-border effects of exporting “environmental” technologies and asked for stronger technology assessment to avoid shifting pollution to countries with weaker governance. When a country phases out environmentally detrimental technologies there is a danger that they are transferred to other countries, and this should be addressed in the Medium-Term Strategy.
- India welcomed support to scale up solutions for NDCs and joint mitigation-adaptation outcomes and emphasized that climate finance is needed to move beyond pledges

and align with the evolving global finance architecture, including the Loss and Damage Fund. India called for practical implementation toolkits to enable national, sub-national, and international action. India emphasized land-degradation neutrality and drought measures, alongside biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and asked UNEP to provide technical assistance for countries to prepare and upgrade national plans and strengthen monitoring and reporting under global biodiversity and desertification-related frameworks. India supported a focus on circular economy, zero waste, and pollution-free value chains, highlighting industry–government partnerships and green-chemistry and innovation across plastics, textiles, construction, and electronics.

- Solomon Islands thanked Fiji’s leadership and the region’s efforts and welcomed the Medium-Term Strategy alignment with regional priorities. They urged explicit inclusion of “ocean” in the “land and nature” subprogramme title and framing, citing the ocean’s role for food, transport, climate regulation, and habitat. Supported integrated ocean management, sustainable fisheries, marine biodiversity protection, and actions such as Marine Protected Areas, sustainable practices, and stronger international cooperation, and expressed commitment to advance national-level implementation.
- Cook Islands thanked the Chair and supported the draft Medium-Term Strategy (2026–2029) and Programme of Work, endorsing the vision and strategic objectives on climate, nature and land, and a pollution-free planet. Aligned with interventions by Fiji and other Small Island Developing States; highlighted the need to prioritize Small Island Developing States and the needs of Least Developing Countries, including attention to high-emitting sectors and stronger digital capacity in the Secretariat and in developing countries. Urged clear modalities of work and dedicated financial mechanisms tied to the Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work, noting Small Island Developing States’ disproportionate climate vulnerability and custodianship of nature.
- Kiribati thanked the Secretariat for a comprehensive presentation and underscored the value of Pacific regional cooperation for climate action through knowledge, technical support, and convening. Called for mechanisms to ensure outputs translate into actionable solutions at national and local levels and stressed enhanced global collaboration to leave no country behind. Welcomed an integrated approach in the Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work, supported focus on adaptation, restoration, and pollution reduction, and sought predictable core funding and standardized modalities to deliver on targets. Requested accelerated fund disbursement, technical support for sustainable and cost-effective design, and operational measurement, reporting and verification systems tailored to national contexts and urged that finance-mobilization targets be matched with concrete, accessible climate-finance mechanisms for small states.
- United Nations Development Coordination Office reaffirmed strong support for UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy, framing it as the last strategy before 2030 and a chance to confront the triple planetary environmental crisis with multilateralism, equity and science. It noted the Pacific region’s priorities, such as ocean health, plastics and energy transition, cited gaps in accessible environmental data and noted that smaller administrations struggled to access complex global funds. It recommended increasing UNEP’s programmatic presence in the Pacific.
- The Children and Youth Major Group provided a summary of key outcomes from the Asia Pacific Youth Environment Forum that included: a call for UNEP to expand opportunities for youth leadership, operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund,

strengthen extended producer responsibility, not rely on untested technologies, integrate indigenous people's knowledge and ban deep sea mining.

- A representative from the Major Group and Stakeholders outlined priorities from the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum: Application of the polluter-pays principle; a legally binding Plastics Treaty; Global Framework on Chemicals implementation; regional action plans on transboundary pollution; implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; assessment of environmental impacts of trade; inclusive consultations on nature-based solutions including to uphold Indigenous Peoples' rights; rejection of unproven geo-engineering and solar radiation modification technologies; recognition of the environmental footprints of AI and digital infrastructure; participatory governance on critical minerals; urgent banning of deep-sea mining and marine geoengineering; strengthened protection of environmental defenders. There was a call to adopt inclusive, rights-based approaches across biodiversity, climate and development agendas; urged resourcing for community-led conservation; full implementation of the Gender Action Plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets; importance of youth participation; and phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies and redirecting public finance.
- The outcomes from the Science Policy Business Dialogue for environment in Asia Pacific were delivered by Fiji and included the following key actions: accelerate deployment of green technologies; strengthen policy and governance frameworks by embedding circular economy principles, adopting life-cycle approaches for new technologies, and aligning procurement and trade policies with sustainability standards; expand sustainable finance by scaling regulatory frameworks, harmonizing green taxonomies, improving disclosure standards; leverage science and digital innovation to inform policy and action; ensure accountability and follow-up through a shortlist of scalable solutions, a partnership roster with clear responsibilities and timelines, and mechanisms to track progress and transparency across the region.
- Major groups and stakeholders (Pacific Conference of Churches) noted that there be no carbon trading, need for grants not loans for action, funding for feminist groups, importance of 1.5 degree centigrade target, and need for ecological justice. They noted the need to reduce carbon emissions and end subsidies to fossil fuel. They iterated staying within 1.5 degree centigrade is a Pacific guard rail for survival.

15. Under agenda item 3(b) Role of the Environment Fund for delivering the United Nations Environment Programme's Programme of Work, the meeting benefited from the following document UNEP's Environment Fund (UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/3).

16. Participants raised the following points:

- China noted the need to be realistic given the current global fiscal context. Focus should be on UNEP's core areas of work such as science, coordination and capacity building. A way forward could include starting with small-scale demonstration projects, with shorter time frames, followed by the review, assessment and scaling-up those efforts.
- Sri Lanka has contributed to the Environment Fund (EF) since 1981 often at its full share recognizing that UNEP needs to implement its mandate including capacity development and assessments across regions. The value of UNEP's convening power was also noted. All member states were encouraged to contribute to the EF.

- Fiji recognised the EF as the financial backbone of UNEP but noted that while membership is universal less than half of member states contributed. Fiji was proud to have contributed at its full share. Called for dedicated funding for Small Island Developing States and for UNEP to strategically invest in regional bodies such as Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Community (SPC).
- Bhutan noted that the EF is a vital lifeline for vulnerable nations such as Bhutan especially in supporting innovative solutions and science to directly support evidence-based policy making. UNEP's convening power allows Bhutan to share innovative concepts and approaches. All member states were urged to enhance their contribution to the EF.
- Major groups and stakeholders (Feminst Network), the network represents 22 islands and states and supports rights of vulnerable communities, aims to overcome patriarchy, war, militarism and power imbalances and called for ensuring rights and civil space including for workers, women in all their diversity, youth, children and indigenous peoples. The Network also called for robust social protection systems, better climate financing and access to technology, protection of critical ecosystems, including inland and marine wetlands, free prior and informed consent for all decision making, support community led EbA. They also called for the principles of intergenerational equity to be included throughout the ministerial outcomes of the sixth forum of ministers and environment authorities of Asia Pacific and the ministerial declaration.
- Major groups and stakeholders (Children and youth) stated that member states were encouraged to increase funding especially for activities that mobilise children and youth, support the global youth environment assembly and sponsor children and youth delegates to UNEA 7.

V. Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (8-12 December 2025)

17. Under agenda item 4(a), Draft Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session, participants benefited from the background document Draft Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session (UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/4). It was noted that a consultation on the Declaration would be held on 17 September 2025 during the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi and that 30 September 2025 was the deadline for submission of inputs into the draft Ministerial Declaration.

18. Participants raised the following points:

- Thailand welcomed the progress made and alignment with Sustainable Development goals and MEAs and the emphasis on regional and international cooperation on transboundary environmental challenges. Need to emphasise the urgency for all countries to fulfil their MEA commitments and to promote greater synergies among MEAs that is inclusive coordinated and effective. Emphasized the importance of sustainable support to implementing UNEA resolution including through capacity building and technology transfer from developed countries in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) finance commitments.
- Fiji noted the draft needed to be translated into decisive action and the need to recognise the ocean-climate nexus. It was noted that the means of implementation language was weak and should include a political commitment to scale up biodiversity

and climate finance and there was a need to strengthen commitment to the most vulnerable by mentioning the specific vulnerability of Pacific Island nations.

- Sri Lanka emphasised the need to strengthen regional cooperation, effective monitoring and financing and sustainable mechanisms to manage diverse species, reducing plastic waste, and transboundary marine plastic and air pollution. Sri Lanka also called for strengthened language on water resource management, use of traditional models, and adaptation for vulnerable communities. They noted that UNEA 7 should empower future generations.
- Japan highlighted circular economy and the significant roles played by the private sector and the need to measure progress throughout the value chain to provide a framework to decouple economic growth from resource depletion. It was suggested that reference be made to UNEA 7 ministerial declaration as the best place to move forward the INC process.
- Australia welcomed references on synergies for MEAs implementation, support for Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developed Countries, reference to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction agreement, Indigenous Peoples, One Health and the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals. However, the declaration should also include reference to the disproportionate impact on people in vulnerable situations and strengthen reference to oceans and coasts. It should include the outcome of 2025 UN Ocean Conference by reaffirming the declaration and reaffirming support for implementation. Australia recognises our region is at the frontline of the climate emergency, which is why they want to deliver COP31 in partnership with the region. Australia noted the need for plastic pollution action to address the full life cycle of plastics. The UNEA7 Ministerial Declaration should be action orientated and ambitious.
- New Zealand welcomed acknowledgement of the interconnected nature of environmental challenges and noted the need to also reflect slow onset events, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) nexus assessment, freshwater quality and quantity, oceans and the ocean conference outcome, as well the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction agreement. New Zealand also called for support to focus on enhanced capacity for Land Locked developing Countries, Small Island Developing States and Least Developing Countries and synergies across MEAs.
- China noted the necessity to ensure that environmental goals in the declaration were aligned to MEAs and progress should be regularly reviewed. Environmental goals should not only be integrated with equity to ensure vulnerable groups are engaged and supported but also aligned with just transition in the international context to provide developing countries with increased support. China noted a need to strengthen financial support from developed to developing countries and Least Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in particular. China called for multilateralism with UNEP at the core and UNEA as the main platform. The Declaration should also be aligned with relevant processes such as regional seas programmes and be an important instrument to accelerate global environmental action.
- The Maldives noted that UNEA was the highest-level body on the environment and that the declaration should reflect the needs of Small Island Developing States.
- Bhutan emphasised the critical role of mountain ecosystems and noted that these ecosystems were under threat and called for a dedicated clause on mountains. Bhutan called for the highlighting of evidence-based monitoring and science driven approaches that underscore the importance of just transition that decouples economic growth for emissions and ensuring no one was left behind. Bhutan called

for an explicit recognition of mountain ecosystems in the declaration given its role in stabilising global temperature and supporting water supply.

- Tuvalu expressed disappointment with INC 5.2 and called on UNEP to facilitate a ministerial consultation for action prior to UNEA 7. Tuvalu called for the inclusion of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion in the declaration as well as the issue of sea level rise.
- Indonesia submitted text to the Secretariat on the declaration which was noted and covered “pollution,” into “manage transboundary pollution”; adding “By promoting a just and equal financing, a thoroughly assessed technology transfer, and equitable access to resources, particularly for developing countries, in alignment with national circumstances, priorities, and global sustainability goals”; proposed to add the term “ecosystem-based approach,” as a tandem approach to natural based solutions. On AI applications, Indonesia proposed the following language “while ensuring national safety and security, upholding human oversight and control over AI systems, address the AI divide between developed and developing countries, and ensure cooperation to deepen knowledge and the scientific assessment of the environmental impacts of AI.” On the topic of environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflict, it was noted that any environmental action should also put the victims of armed conflict at the forefront of any decisions. Environmental recovery in conflict areas should not become the narrative to displace local communities and give leverage to oppressors.
- India noted the need to adhere to the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and equity and called for circular economy and extended producer responsibility frameworks, sustainable water management. India noted the need to mobilize resources and share knowledge. India called for ecosystem-based adaptation to address sustainable water and biodiversity management as well as land degradation, and nature-based solutions should be incorporated. India sought inclusion of a paragraph in the declaration on promoting sustainable lifestyles.
- Vanuatu called for inclusion within the UNEA-7 Ministerial Declaration of reference to the landmark International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion under Action 4 in particular; “We welcome the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 23 July 2025 on the obligations of States in respect of climate change, requested by General Assembly resolution 77/276, and commit to implementing its guidance in our policymaking and cooperation. We call on Member States and relevant stakeholders to take urgent steps to ensure that the Opinion’s clarifications of international law inform all areas of climate action and cooperation, with particular attention to the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.”
- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity welcomed recognition of evidence-based policy making, environmental resilience and local communities and stewardship. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity promoted the One Health approach, implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and strengthening inclusive means of implementation.
- Major groups and stakeholders (Te Ipykarea Society) called for the declaration to address deep sea mining by calling for moratorium on this mining and emphasised the importance of free prior and informed consent.
- Major groups and stakeholders (Indigenous peoples) called for inclusion of the following points: recognition of indigenous knowledge, free prior and informed consent guaranteed, human rights violations addressed, and direct access to finance. They noted the importance of integrating indigenous peoples in community led conservation efforts.

- Major groups and stakeholders (women) recommend that the declaration recognise inter alia: Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, adaptation finance scaled up, stronger rights-based approach, free prior and informed consent.
- WWF called for strengthened language on oceans, indigenous people and youth, oceans action and biodiversity and enhancing NDCs, sustainable solutions that are locally and culturally relevant, full implementation of the gender action plan.

19. Under agenda item 4(b), Draft resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session, participants benefited from the document Guidelines for submission of draft resolutions for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/5).

20. It was noted member states may consider submitting relevant draft concept(s)/resolution(s) at the sixth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific for review and further submission to the Committee of Permanent Representatives process. As indicated in the guidance, the deadline for submission of draft resolutions and draft decisions is Monday, 29 September 2025. This deadline is 10 weeks in advance of seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, pursuant to UNEA decision 6/7 and as indicated in the CPR based review.

21. It was noted that five resolutions were currently being proposed by member states in the region.

22. Participants raised the following points:

- Regarding the draft resolution introduced by the Republic of Korea on *International Environmental Cooperation for Country-specific Strategies to Accelerate the Transition to a Circular Economy*, it was noted that the resolution would accelerate action on Sustainable Development Goal 12. Implementation conditions differed by country so there was a need for a more tailored approach to address whole life cycle including production, distribution, consumption and recycling. It promoted a cooperation model with support from international organisations and partners to develop customised solutions.
- Regarding the draft resolution introduced by the Republic of Fiji on *Accelerating global action to promote the climate resilience of coral reefs*, it was noted that the resolution was transformational and was supported by Palau. Resolution aimed to mobilise 12 billion USD by 2030 for coral reef protection, stronger cooperation, enhanced science based and traditional knowledge application, integration of coral reef resilience into NDCs, National Adaptation Plans and National Biodiversity and Action Plans and called on other member states for support from Global Fund for Coral Reefs, the international coral reef initiative, UNEP and other partners to support member states.
- Regarding the draft resolution introduced by Sri Lanka on *Enhancing the meaningful participation of children and youth in environment and climate change action*, it was noted that children and youth are among most vulnerable to climate impacts but are underrepresented in decision making. The resolution proposes a framework to institutionalise youth participation in national and international decision making and strengthen environmental education, and the development of guidance for engaging with youth.
- Regarding the draft resolution introduced by Japan on *promoting synergies cooperation and coordination for national implementation of MEAs*, it was noted that the focus is 'on the ground' implementation to maximise synergies to achieve MEA and Sustainable Development Goal progress. The resolution included elements to encourage member states, international organizations, private sector and other

partners to promote synergies and requested UNEP to provide technical support in developing activities.

- Regarding the draft resolution introduced by India on *Strengthening the global response to the management of wildfires*, it was noted that the incidence of wildfires is rising dramatically (estimated 50% globally by end of the century). The resolution supported Sustainable Development Goals 3,13,15 and called for collective action, sharing of information on wildfire patterns, developing cost effective measures including early warning and monitoring and supported innovative financing including payments for ecosystems services.
- Tuvalu indicated its intention to submit two resolutions on regional legal frameworks to provide rights-based protection to people displaced due to climate change, and another on sea level rise and the need to take urgent action in line with Sustainable Development Goal 14.
- Indonesia noted that it supported the resolution proposed by Sri Lanka on children and youth, and the resolution proposed by Fiji on coral reefs.
- Major groups and stakeholders (Children and youth) called for support to youth delegates to UNEA, a youth education facility, and invited governments to appoint youth focal points on the path to UNEA 7.

VI. Multilateral Environmental Cooperation to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, and pollution

23. Under agenda item 5 the participants benefited from an Information Note (UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/INF/2).

24. A keynote address by Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UNEP was delivered. She noted that rapid economic development and urban expansion in the region, while creating opportunities, have brought about significant negative impacts on environment, including biodiversity loss, growing impacts of climate change, land degradation and pollution that affect people's livelihoods and wellbeing. Multilateral cooperation is essential in addressing these interconnected problems that are often transboundary in nature. She highlighted the importance of creating an enabling environment, aligning policies and strategies, sharing knowledge, accelerated implementation and collaboration in practice, promoting synergies among multilateral environmental agreements, inclusive governance and a whole-of-society approach. She expressed UNEP's strong commitment to supporting member states' efforts in this regard, guided by its Medium-Term Strategy, which has been developed in close coordination with MEA secretariats. She also highlighted UNEP support to member states provided under the Montevideo Programme in strengthening environmental laws, integrating human rights, gender equality and other priority areas.

25. The Forum benefited from a panel discussion on Multilateral environmental cooperation to tackle change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The panellists were: Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; Mr. Youssef Nassef, Director, Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and Ms. Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

26. At the panel discussion, Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions highlighted how BRS has successfully implemented synergies across three conventions, which could serve as a model for synergies. The transition towards more synergistic arrangements took time, as siloed approach and mindset had to be addressed with changes in institutional arrangements. The transition process required consolidating procedures related to the

organization of COPs, development of documents, decision making processes and others. He noted that the secretariat conducted a study to highlight benefits of synergies, which indicated that synergies has resulted in increased ratification of certain Conventions, and mainstreaming of a life cycle approach across Conventions. Reports have been prepared that highlight interlinkages between BRS and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm and Convention on Biodiversity, as well as the interrelationship between BRS and the Montreal Protocol. Interlinkages between BRS and UNCCD is also being explored. He also provided an example of a project that looks at climate change and pollution linkages, covering issues related to renewable energy, chemicals and waste management, hence addressing priorities of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and BRS. He concluded by stating that increased synergies across conventions could result in enhanced impacts on-the-ground.

27. Mr. Youssef Nassef, Director, Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, noted the fragmentation of MEAs as a key issue to be addressed, as MEAs have different governing bodies, institutional structures, reporting requirements, and communities of practice. Fragmentation also exists within some of the MEAs. Recognizing that MEAs deal with interconnected planetary environmental crisis and address common elements, increased cooperation and synergies is essential. He noted that the operationalization of synergies is needed, by focusing on improved institutional structures. In this regard, he referred to the Joint Liaison Group (JLG), set up among the Rio Conventions. An enhanced role for JLG in dealing with joint funding, joint scientific assessments and other coordinated efforts could be explored. He noted that the JLG could be tasked with providing recommendations across conventions to further operationalize synergies, and UNEP can act as a catalyst for this expanded work of the JLG. To move further on the synergy's agenda, it is important to convene and engage across all relevant secretariats of MEAs and identify specific operational aspects that can be further targeted for enhanced synergies. Integrated data, indicators and finance were mentioned as examples.

28. Ms. Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in her recorded intervention, noted that the Asia-Pacific role plays a pivotal role in ensuring the progress in the implementation of globally agreed goals and targets, including those of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. She emphasized the importance of the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that is central to the framework and underpins the much-needed synergies in implementing relevant MEAs. She highlighted that accelerated action is needed to be able to achieve goals and targets set under the framework as well as those under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the next five years and emphasized the importance of boosting multilateral environmental cooperation. The global stocktaking of the progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which will take place at COP17 in Armenia in 2026 offers opportunity to correct course and accelerate action, including mobilizing biodiversity finance.

29. At the session's dialogue, participants raised the following points:

- Sri Lanka noted its NAP would be updated for 2025-2034 and was committed to phase out HCFCs including through gender inclusive outreach. Biodiversity and sustainable land management action was highlighted such as updating the National Red List, declaring new protected areas, a National Drought Plan on sustainable land management, GCF knuckles project among other action with a goal of being a restoration champion.
- Bangladesh underscored urgency of strengthening inclusive fair and effective multilateral environmental cooperation and called for enhanced finance and technology transfers and stressed the importance of synergies among MEAs and to address cross border and regional ecosystem challenges and pollution control.
- Bhutan noted that the climate crisis creates glacial melt eroding rich biodiversity and degrading limited arable land and threatens hydropower generation. Effective

multilateral cooperation is critical to close the missions act by strengthening environmental rule of law and strengthening synergies among MEAs as well as closing the finance gap including debt for nature swaps, blended finance and green bonds. Finance must support local communities. Need a fair multilateral system focused on action.

- Fiji noted need to translate synergies into concrete action, called on UNEP and other secretariats in developing integrated national strategies that address all MEAs. There was a need to ensure the central role of traditional knowledge and empower indigenous peoples. The vital role of regional organizations was emphasised for supporting environmental action. The vital role of regional institutions such as PIF and SPREP was also highlighted.
- New Zealand noted that the Rio conventions were overlapping to some extent, but this created an opportunity for enhanced synergies. The following action was highlighted: promoting efficiency and cost-effective implementation and reduce duplication where possible, upscaling the implementation of integrated nature-based solutions that are multifunctional, need to improve synergy between climate biodiversity and land degradation finance, increased green investment. The agriculture sector for example allowed for climate and biodiversity action.
- Tuvalu called for collaborative action in finalising a plastic treaty, and supported the 2024 coral reef initiative, ensure free prior and informed consent for coral reef action, it was noted that multilateral cooperation should include indigenous peoples and communities and youth.
- Greenpeace endorsed action to protect forests, coral reefs in including through NDCs and National Biodiversity and Action Plans. The race for critical minerals should not negatively impact indigenous peoples. Urge member states to designate no-go zones for mining. Communities and youth received less than 1% of climate finance, more was needed. Environmental restoration also needed to be integrated into armed conflict.
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) submitted a video to highlight its work, and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub submitted a video highlighting key outcomes of the 2nd UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) held from July 27–29, 2025, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) made a submission highlighting its role as the ASEAN Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity and support to ASEAN member states in strengthening synergies across MEAs and bridging science and policy through ASEAN platforms.

VII. Endorsement of the report of the Senior Officials Meeting of the sixth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (member States primarily served by the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific).

30. Under Agenda item 6, the Forum endorsed the report of the senior officials of the sixth United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (UNEP/APEnvForum(5)/6).