

Seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Agenda item 10 on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Summary report

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Executive summary

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 multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in UNEA and made the item entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements” a standing agenda item. Building on the success of UNEA-6, MEAs Day was convened on Wednesday, 10 December 2025 under agenda item 10. MEAs Day provided a dedicated platform for Member States and observers, including MEA Secretariats (the UNEP administered global and regional MEA Secretariats and other UNEP-hosted global entities including the Science-Policy Panels, as well as non-UNEP administered global and regional MEAs), intergovernmental/international organizations, relevant UN entities and specialized agencies and related organizations, as well as accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders participating to UNEA-7, to share success stories, ideas and innovative solutions on integrated approaches that promote synergies, collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of MEAs. To further support the engagements during MEAs Day, UNEP prepared an Information Document collecting national case studies on synergistic implementation of MEAs ([UNEP/EA.7/INF/6](#)). The consideration of agenda item 10 was further complemented by a programme of MEAs side events and exhibitions, held in the dedicated MEAs Pavilion and running throughout the week of UNEA-7.

The opening segment, two interactive high-level dialogues and a concluding segment of MEAs Day related to the theme of UNEA-7 on “[Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet](#)”. MEAs Day focused on the pivotal role of MEAs 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). Substantively, the interactive dialogues converged on the need to move from coordination in principle to coordination in practice. Participants emphasized that fragmentation across mandates, reporting, data systems and institutional arrangements continues to constrain effective delivery, and that integrated, system-level approaches are essential to address the triple planetary crisis and advance progress towards MEAs and SDGs. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, anchored in national governance systems and informed by science, were identified as critical enablers of effective implementation of MEAs and the achievement of the SDGs, alongside inclusive governance and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

MEAs Day underscored the importance of harmonized reporting and interoperable digital tools, coherent monitoring frameworks, strengthened science-policy interfaces and aligned financing mechanisms in translating commitments into results, while respecting the autonomy of each MEA governing body.

UNEA-7 confirmed that integrated action across the MEA landscape is both feasible and already delivering results, and that sustained engagement through UNEA can help translate shared ambition into effective implementation. Participants recognized UNEA’s convening power as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange and mutually reinforcing action. Reflecting this, [Resolution 7/5](#) recognized MEAs Day as a key platform for enhancing cooperation and mandated its further enhancement.

1. Introduction

Agenda item 10 on “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements” was included in the UNEA-7 agenda, formally adopted during the opening of UNEA-7 on 8 December 2025. Consideration of the agenda item included the organization of an “MEAs Day” (10th of December) and a week-long programme of MEAs side events and exhibitions (8th to 12th of December). In addition, UNEA-7 adopted several [resolutions](#) relevant to the work of the MEAs, including [UNEA Resolution 7/5](#) on “promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments.”

2. Multilateral Environmental Agreements Day

A dedicated [Multilateral Environmental Agreements Day](#) (MEAs Day) was convened on Wednesday, 10 December 2025. The day featured an opening plenary session followed by two consecutive high-level dialogues and a high-level discussion on the conclusions. A summary of the key messages from MEAs Day is provided in section 3.

Preparations for MEAs Day were undertaken in continuous consultation and collaboration with MEA Secretariats, both administered and non-administered by UNEP and the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. For the UNEP-administered MEAs, the key channel for engagement and coordination was the MEAs Focal Points network, facilitated by the UNEP Law Division. Additional outreach was also conducted with an extended network of non-UNEP administered MEAs. In total, around 30 MEA Secretariats, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) were engaged in the process.¹

¹ Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; Minamata Convention on Mercury; Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone layer; Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, Abidjan Convention, Barcelona Convention, Cartagena Convention, Nairobi Convention; Tehran Convention; Kuwait Convention; Northwest Pacific Action Plan; Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Convention on Climate Change, International Plant Protection Convention; International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; International Whaling Commission; Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; UNESCO World Heritage Convention; UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas in the South-East Pacific; Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic; International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

This was the second time that the Assembly hosted an MEAs Day, building on the success of [MEAs Day at UNEA-6](#).

Advance preparation of background documentation included the development of an MEAs Day concept note with the titles of the high-level dialogues, which was presented and approved by the joint [UNEA-7 and Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureaux Meeting](#) in July 2025. The concept notes and guiding questions for the two high-level dialogues and concluding segment were subsequently developed in consultation with the MEA Secretariats and later posted online on the [official webpage of UNEA-7 dedicated to MEAs Day](#).

To further support ministers' engagement in the high-level dialogues, UNEP in partnership with the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) prepared an Information Document ([UNEP-EA.7/INF/6](#)) collecting 20 national case studies, which showcased concrete examples of how synergies, cooperation and collaboration can lead to more coherent and effective implementation of MEAs. The compilation of case studies was mandated by UNEA in its resolutions [6/4](#) and [6/6](#). The Information Document was prepared in consultation with MEA Secretariats, and the case studies were validated by the MEA Secretariats and/or the focus countries.

The MEAs Day events were open to all participants accredited to UNEA-7 and were webcasted on the dedicated [UNEP YouTube](#) Channels in English.

2.1. Opening segment of MEAs Day

MEAs Day was formally opened by His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman and President of UNEA-7, who emphasized that unified, collective action is the key to addressing common global environmental challenges. In a following statement, Ms. Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director, expressed the value of MEAs Day as a platform derived from Member States' specific recommendation to strengthen the active participation of MEAs in UNEA. Ms. Andersen asked delegates to consider solutions to address the fragmentation of the environmental governance, financing, and monitoring and reporting landscape as well as ways to mature the dedicated UNEA agenda item on MEA cooperation into the designated space for Member States, MEA Conference of the Parties (COP) Presidents and MEA Secretariats, UN system entities, groups and stakeholders to identify common priorities, solutions and tools. She also underlined the importance of promoting coherence between UNEA resolutions and decisions taken by MEA governing bodies, while respecting the autonomy of those MEA.

Other introductory remarks were provided by:

- H.E. Mr Bojan Kumer, Minister of Environment, Climate and Energy of Slovenia, on behalf of the President of the 23rd meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention).

- H.E. Mr Mansour Hilal Almushaiti Alanazi, Vice Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP 16 Presidency.
- H.E. Mr André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, Vice-Minister for Climate, Energy, and Environment of Brazil and President of the 30th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (video message).
- Mr Joswa Aoudou, Director of Standards and Compliance, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development of Cameroon, and President of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, delivering a statement of the Presidents of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- Ms Daniela Durán González, Head of the Office of International Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia on behalf of the Convention on Biological Diversity COP 16 Presidency.
- Ms Jeanne-Marie Huddleston, Director General, Multilateral Affairs and Climate Change at the Environment and Climate Change Canada, on behalf of the Executive Body of the Air Convention of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

A full summary of the MEAs Day opening segment is available in the [UNEA-7 proceedings report](#) and the livestream recording is available on [the UNEA-7 website](#).

2.2. High-level Dialogues

After the opening, two high-level dialogues were held from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm and from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, followed by a high-level concluding segment from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. The high-level dialogues were interactive and held fully in person. To ensure maximum participation, there was no pre-established list of speakers from the floor and participants were invited to raise their name plates to indicate their wish to speak, once the floor was open for interventions. In determining the order of speakers, priority was given to speakers at the level of Head of State or Government or the ministerial level, followed by high-level representatives and observers. Efforts were made to ensure that participation was interactive and balanced among speakers from participating Member States and observers, including intergovernmental organizations, secretariats of MEAs, relevant United Nations (UN) entities and specialized agencies, as well as accredited major groups and stakeholders.

2.2.1 Dialogue 1: “Signed, Sealed, Delivered?” - Turbocharging MEAs implementation through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches

The dialogue was moderated by Dr. David Obura, Chair of the IPBES and Founding Director of Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa. In his keynote address, Dr Obura spoke of the need to strike a balance among nature, economy and

society, noting that the objectives of the MEAs and the present MEAs Day dialogues centred on nature as the foundation of sustainable development.

Understanding the local and economic dependence of people on nature is crucial to take decisions at national level to implement MEAs. The IPBES focuses on understanding the drivers of change, the flows of benefits, whilst recognizing the plurality of views of nature and the deep knowledges of Indigenous Peoples and local communities developed over millennia. The effort towards integration is backed by evidence: The [IPBES Nexus Assessment](#) identified interlinkages between biodiversity, climate change, water and food systems. The [IPBES Transformative Change Assessment](#) shed light on possible transitions towards sustainable practices, working with nature, and prioritizing long-term returns. The forthcoming IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment will also help businesses identify dependencies and impacts on biodiversity while contributing to enhanced cooperation among sectors. IPBES is further working on integration through its collaboration with the IPPC and the newly established Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISPCWP).

Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are essential to achieve real impact on the ground, but to be achieved they require cooperation among and within governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. A modernized, coherent environmental governance across MEAs, UNEA, and the UN system is needed to respond to today's realities. The measures identified for exploration and investment going forward include harmonized reporting, coherent and interoperable data systems, coordinated frameworks and strengthened institutional arrangements, including intersectoral coordination. Joint planning and coordinated support from MEA secretariats and UNEP was requested by some speakers.

Effective and synergistic MEAs implementation must be anchored in national governance systems benefitting from cross-ministerial coordination, integrated policies and budgets, and science-based decision-making, to turn global commitments into domestic action. Integrated planning and policy coherence are essential to drive cross-ministry action and intersectoral coordination. Financing and capacity gaps, particularly for developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), remain major obstacles. Countries called for more predictable finance, simplified reporting burdens, and stronger South–South and triangular cooperation to accelerate implementation. At the same time, effective implementation hinges on collective political will and commitment. Country size is no barrier to ambition when implementation is consistent and grounded in whole-of-society engagement.

Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, local authorities, workers, private sector and communities must be meaningfully included, moving from consultation to shared decision-making. Digital tools, community involvement processes and platforms that integrate customary law and indigenous science strengthen ownership and make whole-of-society approaches more meaningful.

The dialogue showcased how best available techniques guide diverse sectors, including mining, oil, gas and nuclear industries, towards compliance with MEAs, with measurable

results such as reduced pollution. The KM-GBF and the GFC remain catalytic global frameworks that can bolster synergies among MEAs. Several UN bodies, MEA Secretariats and countries advocated for and demonstrated examples of whole-of-society approaches linked to MEA objectives. Cross-cutting considerations, such as gender equality, were seen as relevant across MEAs and at every stage of MEAs implementation.

Outcomes from recent COPs and other intergovernmental processes highlight the ongoing actions for synergies and the need for stronger MEA coherence, reinforced scientific collaboration and political courage to overcome institutional barriers. Regional cooperation and science-policy interfaces remain effective tools, with examples of regional seas programmes, air conventions and scientific panels demonstrating the value of evidence-based, transboundary collaboration.

The concept note and livestream recording for Dialogue 1 are available on [the UNEA-7 website](#).

2.2.2. Dialogue 2: “Keeping the Promise” - Boosting SDGs implementation through the MEAs

The dialogue was moderated by Dr. Izabella Teixeira, Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel (IRP) and former Minister of the Environment of Brazil (2010-2016). Dr Teixeira argued there is a need to move beyond established practices amid a triple planetary crisis caused by climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and alongside a triple political crisis of mistrust, misinformation, and populism. Future changes in multilateral approaches could be an opportunity, with new paths requiring creativity and political spaces for dialogue. She urged attendees to value cooperation as the way to address global, transnational, and international challenges. Synergies among MEAs are more important than ever and must be based on regional, national, and local realities, enabling coherent, system-level responses.

Dr. Jim Skea, Chair of the IPCC, opened the dialogue with a keynote address underlining that near-term adaptation and mitigation actions have more synergies than trade-offs with the SDGs, based on a systematic exploration between climate action and the SDGs. Based on efforts under the UNFCCC, greater synergies can be achieved through integrated national strategies that are aligned across sectors. Such evidence is essential for decision-making, and there is a continued need for support for the expert communities generating evidence. Cooperation is critical given that the science-policy panels have different mandates but overlapping scientific communities, e.g. among IPCC, IPBES and the newly established Intergovernmental ISP-CWP.

MEAs and globally agreed frameworks, such as the KM-GBF and the GFC, play a catalytic role towards sustainable development, with their objectives and obligations being mutually

supportive of many SDGs and their targets.² Their effective implementation provides significant impetus in accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

The environment and the economy are inseparable. Sectoral policies generate multiple co-benefits for climate, biodiversity, livelihoods and the implementation of national development plans. Several countries showcased concrete national initiatives demonstrating how national action drives MEAs implementation and achievement of the SDGs, themselves interlinked, and supports resilience, jobs and local communities. Specific examples included, among others, wetland/peatland protection, blue carbon initiatives in coastal and marine systems, circular economy strategies, land restoration, clean mobility and sustainable energy.

Nevertheless, persistent contradictions remain, such as continued support for harmful activities amid the commitments to SDGs and MEAs. There is an urgent need to phase out harmful subsidies, realign finance and strengthen regulatory frameworks that guide investment toward sustainability. Transparency frameworks, supply-chain monitoring and shared scientific assessments were presented as concrete ways to strengthen cooperation and accelerate progress.

The concept note and livestream recording for Dialogue 2 are available on [the UNEA-7 website](#).

2.3. High-level Discussion on the Conclusions of MEAs Day

The discussion was moderated by Ms Ligia Noronha, UN Assistant Secretary-General, and Head of the UNEP New York Office. The following were the panellists for the discussion:

- H.E. Mr Batbaatar Bat, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia.
- H.E. Mr Hambardzum Matevosyan, Minister of Environment, Armenia.
- Dr. Izabella Teixeira, Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel of the UN Environment, Former Minister of the Environment of Brazil.
- Dr. David Obura, Chair of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
- Mr Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- Ms Chizuru Aoki, Head of Division of MEAs, Global Environment Facility (GEF).

All panellists shared their views on the values of synergies and systemic thinking. Such 'nexus thinking' enables integration of the consideration of the environment into sectoral policy; makes risk and opportunities more visible and involves different ministries in taking responsibility; and can strengthen science-policy interfaces.

Synergies are a shared responsibility for all, involving the whole of government and whole of society in approaches to achieve the SDGs and MEA aims. The promotion of synergies and

² [UNEP/EA.6/INF/6](#) - Background note to support the discussions on agenda item " Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements" - Note by the Secretariat.

spaces for dialogue remain positive avenues to influence international cooperation, within and beyond the UN system.

The subsequent discussion focused on two main topics: (1) what is needed of Member States, MEA Secretariats, stakeholders and the entire UN system to achieve greater coherence, synergies and collaboration in the implementation of MEAs going forward, and (2) how UNEA can integrate “Cooperation with MEAs” into the tapestry of environmental governance to help strengthen impact and efficiencies.

MEA Day remains a compelling platform to highlight the roles of different actors in implementing MEAs, celebrating successes and integrated solutions. Additional support is required by the entire UN system to advance synergies and cooperation in MEAs implementation. The key messages and a call to action from the whole MEAs Day are reported in the section below.

The concept note and livestream recording for the High-level discussion on the conclusions are available on [the UNEA-7 website](#).

3. Key Messages and Call to Action from MEAs Day

A strong call was made to move to real-world coordination in implementation, strengthening cooperation across MEAs, including through national focal points, encouraging harmonized digital and reporting tools, aligning mandates, avoiding duplication of efforts, and using UNEA’s convening power to drive coherent, mutually reinforcing implementation. Democratic engagement, participatory processes, and evidence-based decision-making were repeatedly cited as essential conditions for effective and coherent MEAs implementation. The structural inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, local governments, women, youth and local communities in evidence-building, decision-making and implementation remains a crucial condition for a whole-of-society approach. Concrete national initiatives demonstrate how synergistic national action drives the implementation of MEAs and achievement of the SDGs and supports resilience, jobs, and local communities.

The key messages emerging from MEAs Day include the following:

- 1) Promoting MEA synergies in national implementation is essential to address the three planetary environmental crises and deliver on the SDGs.**
 - i) **Only coordinated, system-level action can overcome fragmentation and deliver real SDGs progress. Integrated approaches create the strongest environmental, social and economic co-benefits.** MEAs provide the cooperation, monitoring and accountability frameworks that make global progress possible. Impact is strengthened when synergies are identified and harnessed through interministerial coordination, integrated planning and financing, unified data and reporting frameworks, and budget decisions that reflect international obligations.

- ii) **Strengthening environmental governance through a nexus approach can help improve SDG achievements.** Considering interlinkages between the ongoing environmental crises and between the objectives of the SDGs and MEAs makes risks and opportunities more visible to national decision-makers.
- 2) **Strengthened coherence, cooperation and collaboration across MEAs is needed to boost global impact.**
- i) **MEAs are pillars of global environmental governance – “the most powerful tool we have for our shared future”**—with strong calls made for deeper synergies across MEAs to match the speed and scale required to address the triple planetary crisis.
 - ii) **Continued dialogue and exchange, building on existing initiatives like the [Bern Process](#) are important** to inform and stimulate action and for illustrating opportunities for joint implementation, a concrete example of which is nature-based solutions.
- 3) **The ambitions set by MEAs can underpin national and sectoral strategies for greater impact.**
- i) **National policies, planning tools and whole-of-government approaches drive the mutual achievement of MEAs and SDGs outcomes.** There exists substantive evidence of national-level success stories of scalable sectoral solutions delivering co-benefits for climate, biodiversity, health, and sustainable development.
 - ii) **Synergies can be harnessed through interministerial coordination, integrated planning, unified data and reporting frameworks, and budget decisions** that reflect linkages across international obligations.
- 4) **Mobilizing diverse sectors and stakeholders boosts MEA action and unlocks synergies for effective implementation.**
- i) **Inclusive whole-of-society engagement and participatory mechanisms** improve policy design, legitimacy and implementation on the ground.
 - ii) **Sustainable consumption and production (SCP)** remains an important foundation to deliver real progress across sectors and agendas, highlighting the need to create more coordinated and interconnected governance systems that connect MEA and SCP focal points at the national level.
 - iii) **Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, local authorities, workers, and the private sector can be meaningful delivery allies**, provided they are supported by meaningful platforms for engagement, shared accountability, and strong national-to-local systems for data and knowledge.

- iv) **Environmental democracy, participation, and trust-building through science and knowledge exchange** are underpinning conditions for effective MEAs implementation, rooted in the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- 5) **Transparency, coherent monitoring, and regular scientific assessments accelerate progress while strengthening accountability and cooperation.**
- i) **Robust data and data-sharing mechanisms, inclusive reporting, and coherent and accessible digital systems** are central to turning commitments into results at the national level.
 - ii) **Globally, there is also a need for information and systems that communicate across MEAs**; this is of paramount importance to help national stakeholders respond to overlapping and interconnected reporting obligations.
 - iii) **Knowledge sharing, regional cooperation, and strengthened science-policy interfaces** support the spread of effective practices for cross-MEA delivery. Innovative and context-specific approaches for the implementation of MEAs are emerging across different regions. Size does not determine ambition: Small states are recognized among the consistent innovators.
- 6) **Progress accelerates when commitments are linked to spending decisions, providing resources to deliver on international commitments.**
- i) **Political will, institutional coherence, and adequate financing are essential to close implementation gaps**, supported by tools such as green budgeting, intersectoral mechanisms, and integrated data systems that enable consistency, accountability, and the effective use of financial resources. Successful approaches in green investment could be mimicked across MEAs implementation.
 - ii) **Financial systems must embed nature-positive criteria in investment decisions**, providing incentives for regenerative practices while reversing antagonistic financial flows harming people and nature.
 - iii) **Addressing the USD 3 trillion SDG financing gap requires political will, institutional coherence, aligned investments, private-sector mobilization, sustainable financing mechanisms, and collaboration among existing funds.** The integrated trust funds approach taken by the GEF, for instance, allows countries to be flexible in using GEF resources to address their national/regional challenges holistically.
 - iv) **Strengthening access to relevant technologies and capacity**, including of technical experts at sub-national levels, and facilitating knowledge exchange of best practices are central to realistic and efficient implementation. Delegates

called for unity on pressing issues such as financing, capacity strengthening, and technology transfer, and highlighted the collective responsibility to scale these efforts so that ambition is matched by implementation.

7) UNEA can illuminate shared ambition and foster collective action: Modernized, inclusive and future-oriented cooperation can help transform today's crises into opportunities. UNEA could serve as a platform for, among others:

- i) **Ensuring follow-up** - where countries could present voluntarily national reviews of progress on synergies with a view to accelerating the implementation of the MEAs; sharing innovation and best practice – similarly to the High-Level Political Forum.
- ii) **Highlighting cross-MEA cooperation and promoting the uptake of MEA science, guidance and standards across UN processes.**
- iii) **Enabling other UN bodies and intergovernmental organizations to share their environmental work**, strengthening the foundation for system-wide environmental cooperation in line with shared values.

4. MEAs side events and exhibitions

A total of 12 MEAs related side events and seven exhibitions were held in a dedicated MEAs Pavilion from 8th to 12th December 2025, to showcase cooperation, knowledge sharing, and advancing collective action between UNEP and MEA Secretariats, other UN entities and MEA Secretariats as well as among MEA Secretariats themselves on cross-cutting topics of interest relevant to the theme of UNEA-7. For the selection of the side events and exhibitions, a call for proposals was opened in June 2025 for approximately six weeks. To assess the proposals, an internal selection committee was established within the UNEP Law Division. The proposals were reviewed against the criteria previously communicated to the MEA Secretariats and relevant partners, including their relevance to the spirit of the UNEA-7 agenda item 10, alignment with the UNEA-7 theme and considerations of regional, gender and stakeholder diversity. An overview is presented in tables 1 and 2 below.

The MEAs Pavilion was inaugurated by the President of UNEA-7, His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, and the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, on Monday, 8th December 2025.

MEAs side events were open to all participants accredited to UNEA-7 and were live webcasted in English on the dedicated UNEP YouTube Channels. The tables below provide information on the side events and exhibitions. More information is also available on the [UNEA-7 website](#).

Table 1 – Overview of MEAs Side Events

MEAs Side Events	
Title of the Side Event	Organizers
<u>Joining Forces: How MEAs Drive Compliance and Enforcement Against Illegal Traffic</u>	Secretariat of the BRS Conventions, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol (Ozone Secretariat), and the Green Customs Initiative Secretariat.
<u>From Regions to the High Seas: Mobilizing the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans for an effective BBNJ Implementation</u>	The Secretariats of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas in the South-East Pacific (Lima Convention), the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the Federal Government of Belgium.
<u>Connectivity: Vital for Ecosystems, Migratory Species, and a Resilient Planet</u>	The Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and the Federal Government of Brazil.
<u>Strengthening and Harmonizing Ocean Governance for a Resilient Future by 2030</u>	Secretariats of the CBD, CITES, CMS, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and UNEP.
<u>The Road to COP17 - The Official Unveiling of the UN 2026 Biodiversity Conference Logo and Slogan</u>	Secretariat of the CBD and the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
<u>Leveraging AI for better cooperation, collaboration and impact for MEAs</u>	Secretariats of the BRS Conventions, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, CBD, CITES, CMS, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Ozone Secretariat.
<u>GEF-MEA Exchange on Financing: From Synergies to Solutions-Achieving a Resilient, Nature-positive, Pollution-free Future through GEF-9</u>	Secretariats of the BRS and CBD Conventions and the GEF.

<u>Managing Environmental, Industrial and Social Risks of Critical Energy Transition Minerals: Policies and Solutions for a Resilient Planet</u>	Secretariats of the BRS Conventions, the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, UNEP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
<u>MEA Synergies: Advancing Global Environmental Goals through National Actions</u>	CBD Secretariat and UNEP.
<u>Atmospheric monitoring of substances under Multilateral Environmental Agreements: Opportunities for synergistic action</u>	Secretariats of the BRS Conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Ozone Secretariat, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
<u>Integrated Actions for a Resilient Planet - ACP-MEAs III Achievements and Pathways Forward</u>	Secretariats of the BRS Conventions, the Cartagena Convention, CBD, CMS, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the European Union, and UNEP.
<u>Youth leadership for biodiversity: Supporting MEA collaboration for a resilient planet</u>	Secretariats of the CBD, CITES, the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG), and UNEP.

Table 2 – Overview of MEAs Exhibitions

MEAs Exhibitions		
Booth title	Organizers and partners	Description
'Oceans Corner'	UNEP Regional Seas Programme CBD, CMS, CITES and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	The joint exhibition booth highlighted how the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), in collaboration with the MEAs, advances synergistic, regionally driven approaches to implement global environmental agendas, and their impacts at the regional and national level. It featured regionally developed best practices, tools, and policy innovations by the RSCAPs that support biodiversity-related MEAs implementation and contribute to integrated ocean governance and sustainable development.
Nairobi Convention		The Nairobi Convention's exhibition booth showcased how 40 years of regional

		cooperation, collaboration and strategic partnerships, besides actions at local level, have synergized in an intricate way and continue to contribute to improved health and management of the marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean.
Chemicals and Waste synergies	Minamata Convention on Mercury, BRS Conventions, Global Framework on Chemicals Secretariat	The joint exhibition booth highlighted how the chemicals and waste agenda, across legally binding agreements and the newly adopted GFC, are delivering real solutions to pollution and protecting people and the planet. The booth showcased dynamic visual materials, including infographics and explainer videos on mercury, plastic waste, illegal trade, and chemicals in products. A “life-cycle wall” visually mapped the journey of chemicals and waste from source to solution, with the GFC plan to guide countries and stakeholders in jointly addressing the lifecycle of chemicals, including products and waste.
UNCCD	UNCCD	The UNCCD exhibition booth showcased collaboration and synergies on issues related to land restoration and drought resilience, including through UNCCD-hosted G20 Global Land Initiative and International Drought Resilience Alliance, as well as integrated solutions to address the interlinked challenges of land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss through the work of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions.
African Elephant Fund	African Elephant Fund Secretariat, CITES, UNEP	The African Elephant Fund exhibition booth aimed to enhance the visibility of the Fund's mandate as one of the key financial mechanisms for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan. It further aimed to increase awareness of the impacts and achievements of the Fund's projects and activities in supporting the conservation and management of African elephants. The booth provided a platform to engage current and potential partners and promote opportunities for collaboration.

MEA Synergies: Bern Process and InforMEA	UNEP	The joint MEA Synergies exhibition booth showcased UNEP's work in advancing coherent implementation across MEAs and highlighted different entry points for strengthening synergies among them. It was supported by practical examples drawn from case studies, including those prepared for the MEAs Day background document. The booth also presented tools supporting MEA synergies in practice, in particular InforMEA, and provided information on the Bern Process and the Bern III Conference as hands-on forums for developing and feeding synergies-related outputs back into intergovernmental processes.
ACP MEAs III	CBD, CMS, BRS, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Regional Seas Conventions (Nairobi, Abidjan, Cartagena, Noumea)	The exhibition booth illustrated how ACP-MEAs III strengthened cross-MEA coordination to avoid fragmentation and enhance resource efficiency, developed guidance and tools for national governments to integrate obligations under multiple MEAs into coherent policy frameworks, fostered regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, and peer learning through networks and platforms and supported capacity-building that empowers national stakeholders to implement MEAs synergistically.

5. Reporting on MEAs Day

Formal consideration of agenda item 10 resumed on 12th December 2025 in the afternoon, with a presentation of summaries from the MEAs Day delivered to the UNEA-7 closing plenary by Ms Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Director, UNEP Law Division. The Assembly was invited to take note of the outcomes, to be included in the proceedings report of UNEA-7. The outcomes of the agenda item on cooperation with MEAs are expected to be brought to the attention of the governing bodies of the MEAs as appropriate.

6. Resolutions and decisions adopted at UNEA-7 related to cooperation among MEAs

During UNEA-7, Member States adopted one resolution that relates to synergies and cooperation among MEAs, namely:

- [UNEP/EA.7/Res.5](#) - Resolution on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments.

The resolution requests the UNEP Executive Director to:

- Support interested Member States, including through improved tools to assist them in efficiently preparing national reports to relevant MEAs;
- Enhance the value of the MEAs Day as a forum for enhancing cooperation by exchanging best practices, tools, success stories and lessons learned;
- Continue providing support to the Bern Process, to strengthen synergies, cooperation or collaboration for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Furthermore, other relevant resolutions include [UNEP EA.7/Res.8](#) on sound management of chemicals and waste, which requests the Executive Director of UNEP to support cooperation or collaboration with relevant science-policy bodies as well as other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental bodies related to chemicals and waste.

UNEA-7 also adopted a decision on the provisional agenda of UNEA-8 ([UNEA-7 decision 7/7](#)), which includes agenda item 10 on “cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements.”