UN 80 INITIATIVE.
Work Package # 27. ENVIRONMENT

Briefing to 13th Annual Subcommittee Meeting
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

9 September 2026

Task and action under the UN80 Initiative

Para 47

"Environmental issues are growing in importance, and environmental responsibilities are dispersed across UN entities. We will undertake a thorough assessment of current arrangements and make proposals on possible structural changes and programme realignments on environmental issues" (UN80 WS3 page 22)

Action 35

Undertake a thorough assessment of current arrangements and make proposals on possible structural changes and programme realignments on environmental issues.

Reviewed four Issue Areas

With the engagement of over 27 UN entities

Science

Governance

Coordination

Implementation

Goal A: Elevate the environment in the multilateral system

Recommendation 1: Recognize that a healthy environment undergirds all three UN Charter pillars— peace and security, human rights and development

Action 1.1
Consolidate the recognition that a healthy environment underpins the three UN Charter pillars and is fundamental to prosperity, peace and security, and human rights.

Recommendation 2: : Enable UNEA to achieve its potential as the UN universal body serving as the convening platform for coherent, system-wide environmental action

Action 2.1
Institutionalize a periodic science–policy dialogue anchored in UNEP's science function that informs UNEA, as well as MEAs and other UN entities governing-bodies, as appropriate.

Action 2.2
Strengthen UNEA's institutional links with intergovernmental processes, including with UNGA and ECOSOC, so UNEA outcomes inform these processes and are systematically reflected in broader UN follow-up and guidance.

Action 2.3
Enhance UNEA's high-level segment, as a strategic and outcome-driven platform for policy review, peer learning and political guidance.

Action 2.4
Convene a Global Environment Leaders' Summit every four years (Heads of State level) to review progress, set priorities and accelerate implementation of the environmental global agenda, as well as identify emerging issues.

Action 2.5
Enhance Member States diplomatic presence in Nairobi, including through resident missions where appropriate.

Recommendation 3: Reposition Environmental Science as a Shared UN Asset

Action 3.1
Promote structured coordination and collaboration among chairs of MEA scientific and technical bodies and other science-policy interfaces, using existing mechanisms while respecting mandates.

Action 3.2
Build a user-driven, modern knowledge ecosystem and repository of environmental science and knowledge as a shared UN asset, linking country-to-global data and existing science platforms through shared standards and interoperable search.

Recommendation 4: Elevate the environmental coordination function: EMG 2.0

Action 4.1
Develop and roll-out a new EMG strategy and operating model.

Action 4.2
Adopt a common UN system-wide results framework for environmental mainstreaming

Action 4.3
Establish effective linkages with the UN Secretary-General and key governing bodies (e.g., UNEA, World Health Assembly, Human Rights Council, World Meteorological Congress, etc.).

Action 4.4
Deepen linkages with the UN System CEB, the UNSDG, the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the Human Rights Group, and build structured collaboration with UN-Water, UN-Oceans, UN-Energy, the IOMC and other relevant coordination bodies, through shared initiatives.

Goal B: Strengthen multilateral environmental governance

Recommendation 5: Explore consolidation options across the landscape of MEAs

Action 5.1

Establish a time-limited, independent and regionally representative Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level representatives of UN Member States to evaluate benefits, feasibility and possible options for MEA consolidation.[1]

1. The focus of consideration will be in the biodiversity cluster, where the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has created a unifying umbrella for action, and in the domain of mercury given its linkages with other chemicals conventions.

Recommendation 6: Strengthen Programmatic Synergies Across MEAs

Action 6.1
Strengthen and expand existing synergies mechanisms within and beyond current clusters.

Action 6.2
Develop joint work programmes and associated resource-mobilization strategies.

Action 6.3
Commission an options study to explore how MEA monitoring and reporting could be better harmonized to reduce burdens and improve alignment.

Recommendation 7: Advance Administrative Synergies Across UNEP-administered MEAs

Action 7.1
Institutionalize across MEA/UNEP community of practice for peer learning and continuous professional development.

Action 7.2
Streamline common functions where feasible (e.g., registration, credentialing, NGO accreditation where rules allow) and develop pooled meeting support and surge capacity.

Goal C. Scale implementation of country commitments and priorities

Recommendation 8: Leverage coordination mechanisms for greater UN system wide policy and programme coherence and delivery

Action 8.1
Consolidate an inter-agency and multi-level (global-regional-national) offer to Member States on integrated and issue-specific environmental action, as part of the UN system's broader sustainable development efforts.

Action 8.2
Build clear guidance to translate global environmental decisions into practical implementation (playbooks, tools and feedback loops).

Action 8.3. Promote funding models that actively reward joint delivery and collaboration among UN agencies, aligned with the funding review carried out under Work Package 18.

Recommendation 9: Create Support Centers to provide member states with a One Stop Shop" function to access knowledge, advice and from across the UN system

Action 9.1
Carry out mapping and concept building for a support center on climate, also informed by lessons from existing initiatives, and aligned with relevant outcomes under UN80, including WP7 "Joint Knowledge Hubs" and WP8 "Expertise on Demand". Based on the concept, conduct a pilot with limited scope, to inform future scaling and replication of this and other support centres, as appropriate.

Action 9.2
In alignment with recommendations from WP5 (UNCT reconfiguration), invest in capacity building for UNCTs on environmental commitments, including on climate, to support MEAs implementation.

Recommendation 10: Institutionalize direct engagement with real economy actors to accelerate implementation and shift private capital toward sustainable outcomes

Action 10.1
Engage the real economy through: MEA hosted implementation forums; and support to early government - private sector dialogues on MEA implementation plans.

Action 10.2
Convene targeted public-private sector pathways and UN facilitated sectoral partnerships that link policy signals to bankable implementation opportunities.

Action 10.3
Enable faster, clearer modalities to broker private sector partnerships, with fit for purpose safeguards.

Action 10.4
Identify and mobilize scalable innovations and implementation solutions by connecting innovators, governments, investors and delivery partners.