



SIXTH FORUM OF
MINISTERS & ENVIRONMENT
AUTHORITIES OF ASIA PACIFIC

26-29 AUGUST 2025, FIJI



(UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/8)
Distr.: General
28 August 2025
English Only

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

Discussion Document for Agenda Item 12:

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

Ministerial 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 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-7), "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet". The Forum was attended by the following countries served by the United Nations Environment Programme 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, 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 United Nations Environment Programme'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 Stakeholders 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 United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme; and
 - Regional priorities for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet".

II. Opening of the session

4. Agenda item 7 (a) the Opening of the session, Mr. Epi Rawalai, Head of Communications, Fiji Higher Education Commission performed the role of Master of Ceremony and introduced the cultural welcome ceremony performed by the traditional landowners and custodians of the land. The traditional ceremony to welcome participants of the 6th Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific was conducted by the Vanua Navatulevu. The traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting was held "I werelevu I Sawaieke – Yavusa Naua- Na Vibulou Na Taukei Naua" was also acknowledged.

5. His Excellency, Honourable Manoa Kamikamica, Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications of the Republic of Fiji delivered a welcome address. He noted the Asia-Pacific is home to most of the world's population and biodiversity, is also one of the most climate-vulnerable regions. With new international legal rulings affirming states' obligations to act, environmental stewardship is now both a moral and legal duty — and the Pacific calls for ambition, alignment, and collective regional action. The Deputy Prime Minister outlined its integrated national approach, linking climate action to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), digitalization, trade, and global justice. He also highlighted pressing global issues: adequate financing for Loss and Damage, stronger ambition in the Plastics Treaty process, and advancing climate justice as a human right. The closing message called for a coherent regional input into UNEA-7, a clear position on circular economy and environmental governance and support for integrated planning.

6. H.E. Dr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) delivered a welcome address. He noted that Fiji's leadership in promoting

sustainable practices and resilience was inspiring. The last year had seen a dramatic increase in extreme weather events across the region. The Forum was a critical platform to shape regional messages for the UNEA-7. Four priority areas were highlighted including: harnessing science for action; ensuring inclusive collaboration reflecting the voices of all; mobilising resources and partnerships; and building circular and resilient systems.

7. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for the United Nations Environment Programme gave a welcome address. She noted the importance of effective and inclusive environmental governance, and on the full respect of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. She highlighted UNEP's consultations with member states on its new Medium-Term Strategy and reforms to strengthen UNEP's science function, as well as the creation of a new Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, that will help guide responses to the triple planetary environmental crisis. Member states were urged to support the Environment Fund.

8. His Excellency Dr. Dammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka, and Chair Representative of the fifth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific gave a welcome address. He noted that the Forum was a space for Asia Pacific nations to come together to address the most pressing environmental challenge recognizing that the environment underpinned the well-being of people as well as the economy. He urged all to keep building on progress made and be ambitious in commitments, policies and partnerships and focus on tangible outcomes at the Forum.

9. Mr. Eparama Qerewaqa, Representative of Asia Pacific Major Group for Children and Youth gave a welcome address. The Asia Pacific Youth Manifesto 2025 called for 1.5 degree centigrade target to be met and noted that women, girls, Indigenous People and marginalised communities bear the heaviest burden of environmental harm and called for gender just action. The Manifesto also called for Indigenous knowledge to be recognised, called on leaders to deliver justice and climate action and for full grant-based operationalisation of the loss and damage fund. He called for the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment to be upheld and enshrined in domestic law and for intergenerational leadership.

10. Under agenda item 7(b) on the Election of Officers, the Forum elected the following Bureau members:

- a. Chair: H.E. Mr. Mosese Bulitavu, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Fiji
- b. Vice-Chair: H.E. Mr. Rasio Ridho Sani, Deputy Minister for Environmental Pollution and Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment/Environmental Protection Agency, Indonesia
- c. Vice-Chair: H.E. Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister, Ministry of Tourism and Environment Maldives

11. Under agenda item 7(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
- Leadership dialogue: Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet in Asia and the Pacific (Ministerial Statements).
- Multistakeholder's dialogue: Partnership to promote sustainable solutions in Asia and the Pacific.

- Role of Subregional Organizations and Bodies in accelerating sustainable solutions in the region.
- Submission of draft Senior Officials Meeting Report and draft Outcome of the sixth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific.
- Adoption of the Senior Officials Meeting Report and Outcome 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).
- Any other business
- Closing session

III. Ministerial dialogue on advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet in Asia and the Pacific (Ministerial Statements)

12. Under agenda item 8 Ministerial dialogue on advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet in Asia and the Pacific, the meeting benefited from a background document (UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/7).

13. Following an introduction by the Secretariat, participants raised the following:
- Maldives noted that they have completed their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0 and are working on the first National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Maldives is working to double their biosphere reserves across the country and designate protected areas across the country. Maldives emphasised the need for strong coordination and global action especially in knowledge sharing and capacity building.
 - Nepal emphasised the climate vulnerability of mountain countries including the impacts to glaciers and mountain ecosystems. Nepal is developing a mountain strategy for Nepal to integrate climate, biodiversity and pollution aspects.
 - Pakistan promoted ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions. Pakistan noted the need for stronger international cooperation to enhance climate finance and technology transfer. Pakistan called for scaled-up effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral action.
 - Sri Lanka called for establishment of regional collaboration centres including harmonised data sharing, capacity building and early warning systems and regional partnerships on marine plastic pollution to strengthen knowledge platforms among countries of the region. They called for inclusive participation for sustainable solutions, in particular with children and youth focusing on environmental education, skill building and green jobs.
 - Solomon Islands called for countries to reduce emissions. It was noted that the country's survival depended on marine and coastal resources and called for regional marine protection initiatives such as the coral triangle initiative. It emphasised that biodiversity conservation was a priority, including through community-based conservation. There was an urgent need to strengthen adaptation policy including early warning systems, invest in climate resilience, forestry and energy, and promote gender equality and ensure access to climate finance.
 - Thailand reaffirmed its commitment to environmental sustainability, low carbon development and a just transition, nature-based solutions and zero pollution. Thailand committed to conserve biodiversity in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and noted the importance of digital innovation for environmental monitoring. Thailand called on the international community to cooperate on technology transfer and capacity building.

- Tuvalu expressed deep disappointment with the outcomes of the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5.2) 2nd noted that INC 5.3 could be held in conjunction with UNEA-7. Tuvalu welcomed the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice which obligates states to take action whether they are a party or not to the Paris Agreement. UNEP was called on to support the implementation of the advisory opinion including through building capacity in the Pacific among stakeholders. Tuvalu noted that there was not a legal framework to address climate displacement and called on UNEP support in this regard. Tuvalu was opposed to deep sea mining and requested UNEP support to understand the impacts of Deep-Sea Mining (DSM).
- Vanuatu called on countries to support the implementation of the Pacific Island Forum declaration on statehood in the face of sea level rise and called on all states to take urgent action to take steps to ensure that the landmark International Court of Justice opinion informs climate policy and action.
- Cook Islands called for solidarity in the region for climate action, climate finance and a just transition. Cook Islands called for a whole of society approach and encouraged countries to ratify the Agreement on Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) and meet global biodiversity targets. On pollution action, the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) was welcomed. Cook Islands called on the region to support a plastics agreement that supported the means of implementation.
- Mongolia provided an update on its efforts to update its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and reducing emissions from heating and transport. Mongolia deeply regretted that the INC-5.2 ended without consensus. Mongolia called on countries to work towards an ambitious treaty that takes into consideration the whole lifecycle of plastics. Mongolia called on countries to work together to support and conclude the treaty. Mongolia also noted the upcoming hosting of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.
- Philippines noted the need to promote sustainable consumption patterns. The Philippines supports a full lifecycle approach to plastic pollution and had adopted a national plastics action partnership launched focused on a circular economy that promotes green job creation, equity and resilience. The importance of sharing best practices was emphasised.
- Kiribati emphasised the need for urgency, fairness and solidarity in actions to address the triple planetary crisis. Kiribati called for the full and effective implementation of shared environmental goals and regional cooperation, technology transfer and capacity building and recognition of circular economy. Kiribati noted that MEAs should reflect the circumstances and vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States. Actions should be inclusive and reflective of traditional knowledge. Kiribati also urged donor countries, especially wealthy and oil producing countries, to provide the resources desperately needed by communities to address the impacts of climate change they feel daily.
- Indonesia noted that the right to clean and healthy environment was in its constitution. As a rich biodiversity and archipelagic country, Indonesia promotes a tandem approach both ecosystem-based approach and adopted nature-based solutions. Indonesia also warned about the negative cross border effects of exporting “environmental technologies” and asked for stronger technological assessment to avoid shifting pollution to countries with weaker governance. Indonesia called for more environmentally-sound AI implementation and committed to support the increased role of children and youth in addressing environmental challenges and work with other countries to develop sustainable solutions.

- Australia noted the importance of hosting COP31 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in genuine partnership with the Pacific as an opportunity to bring global attention to regional issues and to reflect a continued belief in the multilateral system. Australia noted commitment to the sustainable management of ocean and to ratification of the BBNJ Agreement and partnerships for implementation. Australia noted continued need to take a comprehensive approach to full lifecycle management of plastic. Australia recognised and applauded UNEP for important regional work. They noted commitment to working with all countries for an impactful UNEA-7 and to strengthen multilateralism.
- Bhutan emphasised that mountain ecosystems were under severe threat, and their explicit recognition and protection must be a regional and global priority. Bhutan's NDC 3.0 would integrate social sectors. Bhutan noted that it was necessary to ensure access to finance and UNEP was called upon to include action on Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) in the medium-term strategy. Bhutan also emphasized the need for increased south-south cooperation and technology transfer.
- Cambodia recognised the urgency to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and acknowledged challenges from political, economic and social factors. Cambodia noted a focus on community-based tourism and protection, and a commitment to inclusive climate resilient development. Cambodia underscored the importance of knowledge sharing, technology transfer, assessed climate finance and multistakeholder partnerships for sustainable development. Cambodia called for access to finance and technology be a focus of UNEA-7.
- China noted that global sustainable development was facing challenges, and that China was actively participating in global climate governance. South-south cooperation and common but differentiated responsibility were key principles in addressing climate change. China called for scaled up action on green development in the region including through deeper regional partnerships and China was actively carrying out south-south cooperation to support other developing countries in this regard. China also called for increased financial and technical support as a corner stone of international cooperation.
- India aligned with priorities and collective ambition to address climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Noted the importance of finance, technology transfer and capacity building for success and that Indigenous People and local knowledge should be at the heart of solutions. India noted that actions must be guided by equity, justice and solidarity and called for scaled up and predictable climate finance. India is also driving the Mission LiFE, a mass movement aimed at promoting sustainable lifestyles through behavioural change for sustainable resource use.
- Japan called for the region to work together including by maximising synergies between policies and Japan welcomed the inclusion of the issue in the UNEA-7 Ministerial Declaration and noted that Japan would submit a follow up resolution on synergies at UNEA-7. Japan welcomed the adoption of the Jaipur Declaration 2025-2035 at the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific in India. Japan expressed disappointment over the lack of agreement at INC-5.2 but noted UNEA-7 Ministerial Declaration provided an opportunity to move forward on the plastic negotiations.
- Lao PDR noted commitment to sustainable development and biodiversity protection and a top national priority to increase forest cover and protection of biodiversity. Noted the revised legal frameworks including the law on environmental protection to provide more robust and comprehensive framework for sustainable development. Lao PDR called for enhanced investment in green and climate smart agriculture.
- Republic of Korea committed to renewable energy and net zero and noted it is extending solar power and is incentivizing renewable energy use. Korea is supporting action in the region through Green Official Development Assistance and capacity building support to developing countries. Korea noted they pledged to host the 4th session of UN ocean conference in 2028. Korea urged for the swift operationalisation of the

intergovernmental science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution. Korea called for plastic pollution treaty discussions to be continued at UNEA 7. Korea would submit a resolution on enhancing international environmental cooperation for country specific strategies to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

- Singapore noted its commitment towards addressing the triple planetary crisis, including through their efforts under the Singapore Green Plan 2030, a whole-of-nation roadmap to transition towards a low carbon and climate-resilient society. The country was among the first countries to submit its 2035 NDC, which will guide efforts towards reaching net-zero by 2050. The country's initiatives that support Small Island Developing States were also highlighted.
- Bangladesh as one of the most climate vulnerable country called for equal level of importance for both adaptation and NDCs (mitigation). It noted that finance, technology and capacity-building are essential to meet its national and international climate goals. Bangladesh also committed to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the restoration of biodiversity, and circular economy including sound waste management.
- Fiji noted the landmark International Court of Justice ruling released on 23rd July 2025 strengthened the human right to a healthy environment. In regard to 5/14 resolution on plastic pollution it was noted that countries had a mandate to negotiate in good faith and Fiji urged for a time bound pathway to INC 5.3 and a treaty that addressed the full life cycle of plastics, included upstream measures and chemical of concerns, and transparency along the value chain.

IV. Multistakeholder dialogue: Partnerships to promote sustainable solutions in Asia and the Pacific (challenges and opportunities)

14. Under agenda item 9 Multistakeholder dialogue: Partnership to promote sustainable solutions in Asia and the Pacific, the meeting benefited from an Information Note (UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/INF/3).

15. Dr. Ladislaus Chang'a, IPCC Vice Chair delivered a keynote address. He shared the IPCC's perspectives on responses to climate change impacts, including climate extremes seen in the Asia-Pacific, including through partnerships. He highlighted solutions such as climate smart agriculture and carbon pricing which are known to be effective in avoiding and reducing emissions. He noted with appreciation the representatives from local communities and wetland experts in Fiji for sharing their experience at the Forum. Outline of the sixth assessment has been approved earlier this year, including chapters on response to loss and damage, finance, etc. He called for a sense of urgency and unity, backed by science and strengthened by partnership.

16. The Forum benefited from a panel discussion on Partnerships to promote sustainable solutions in Asia and the Pacific (challenges and opportunities). The panellists were: Dr. Dindo Campilan, Regional Director, IUCN; Mr. Dirk Wagener, UN Resident Coordinator, Fiji Multi-country Office; Ms. Hanna Helsing, Director, WWF Pacific Office; Mr. Sangmin Nam, Director, UN ESCAP; Mr. Ajay K Jha, Regional Facilitator, Asia Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders.

17. At the session's dialogue, panellists raised the following points:

- Ms. Hanna Helsing spoke of how the Pacific's local conservation models are addressing biodiversity loss and climate change. Protecting Blue Corridors initiative, for example, connects over 50 institutions globally through satellite imagery to protecting

whales' migration paths. It was noted that a multi-stakeholder approach contributes to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Ms. Helsing concluded by stating that WWF looks forward to COP31 potentially to be held in Australia.

- Dr. Dindo Campilan noted the importance of the convening of partnerships with examples of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction High Ambition Partnership already with 54 countries and the Asia Protected Area Partnership with 17 countries.
- Mr. Ajay K Jha noted that, while there are successful multistakeholder partnership examples in the region, he cautioned about the 'multi-stakeholderism' that benefits the private sector more. He explained how private wealth has grown by 8 times, while the public wealth growth remained low globally.
- Mr. Dirk Wagener noted the sustainable development goals could not be achieved by any single government or stakeholder. The threat of sea level rise in the Pacific was immediate and existential, and work with the UN and Pacific countries was highlighted including the UN's work with Tuvalu on advancing a landmark land reclamation initiative. It was noted that Asia faced enormous environmental challenges, but partnerships provided opportunities. The International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion amplified the Pacific's moral voice on climate action. A One UN approach was being adopted within the UN system to better support countries. He emphasized the need for courage to commit to partnerships and to ask difficult questions.
- Mr. Sangmin Nam noted that the Ocean Based Climate Action Initiative and regional air pollution programme were examples of cooperation through the UN Economic and Social Commission and there was a call for further scaling up of regional partnerships. The UN Economic and Social Commission's commitment to supporting partnerships was highlighted.

18. Under agenda item 9 participants raised the following points:

- Japan spoke of the importance of experience-sharing among countries from different cultures, giving examples of partnerships that enhance cooperation and synergies such as Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, 3R Forum, East Asia Acid Deposition Network, and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research.
- Bhutan emphasized partnerships must be built on the bedrock of equity and climate justice and must result in the accelerated transfer of technology and be focused on building capacity.
- Kiribati noted that the region is facing multiple challenges - such as climate change intensifying disasters, biodiversity under severe strain, population increases, economic slowdown – and that no one country can tackle these alone and called for more partnership, innovation and development financing. They noted that regional cooperation, financing for technology and sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and nature-based solutions, and empowering communities and education are some of the partnership opportunities.
- Nepal noted the challenge of high mountain plastic pollution. There was a need for an inclusive approach to biodiversity and climate action including Indigenous People, women, and vulnerable communities. Nepal had a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and a mountain framework to integrate environmental action.
- Fiji said they championed the spirit of multilateralism because partnerships are essential for the survival in the Pacific. Co-design and co-implementation of sustainable solutions, integration of traditional and Indigenous knowledge, promotion of free, prior and

informed consent in trade are among those measures that promote blue and green economies.

- India highlighted coalitions it had launched and supported including the International Solar Alliance; Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI); International Big Cat Alliance, and Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS).
- Bangladesh emphasized that political parties should be brought into partnerships for environmental action.
- The foundational contribution of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report in informing climate action, including its contribution to the establishment of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its Paris agreement, and its input into the first global stock take, was noted with appreciation. The progress made with the seventh assessment cycle of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was noted. The findings of the latest World Meteorological Organization (WMO) state of the global climate 2024 and the WMO State of Climate of Asia 2024, the 2024 United Nations Environmental Programme emission gap report were noted in terms of the negative outlook for the region. It was welcomed that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the World Meteorological Organization would continue providing timely and relevant information to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change parties with the view to inform climate action and the second global stock take.
- The Indigenous People of Philippines called for sustainability and equity as these are at the core of its mission. They noted that environmental defenders demand and deserve justice and accountability.
- Major groups and stakeholder (children and youth) highlighted four priorities: institutionalize children and youth engagement including in national delegations; ensure finance for capacity building and jobs, strengthen the science policy interface, and increase synergies in MEAs and ensure Indigenous and youth engagement. Overfishing, deep-sea mining, critical minerals and illegal fishing were highlighted as key environmental challenges. Member states were urged to support the proposed UNEA-7 resolution on enhancing the role of children and youth in environmental and climate action.
- Major groups and stakeholder (Pacific islanders for climate change) noted the utility of citizen science to achieve SDGs, especially water and climate related targets. Women and youth in the region called for decision-makers to commit and act on biodiversity and climate justice.

V. Role of Subregional Organizations and Bodies in accelerating sustainable solutions in the region

19. Under agenda item 10, Role of Subregional Organizations and Bodies in accelerating sustainable solutions in the region, participants benefited from the background document (UNEP/APEnvForum (6)/INF/4) and from a panel discussion on the role of subregional organizations in accelerating sustainable solutions in the region. The panellists were: His Excellency Mr. Baron Waqa, Secretary-General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; His Excellency Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary-General, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC); Dr. Jerome Montemayor, Executive Director, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Biodiversity; Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD); Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General, The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

20. At the session dialogue, panellists raised the following points:
- Mr. Baron Waqa noted that, in the Pacific region, the subregional organizations were the bridge between the global aspiration and local realities. He noted that the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy enabled the region to meet their national obligations to, for example, the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda, and UN resolutions. By focusing on efficiency and effectiveness and building lasting capacities and partnership the region could more effectively address its challenges. UN agencies are to amplify voices that support the regions and their priorities.
 - Mr. Indra Mani Pandey highlighted how BIMSTEC supported enhanced regional cooperation, through sectoral cooperation mechanisms, guided by sectoral master plans agreed among member states and other mechanisms, in the field of disaster management, environment and climate and energy and mountain economy. In view of the transboundary nature of many of pressing environmental challenges, he highlighted the need for enhanced cooperation and coordinated action at the regional and global levels.
 - Dr. Pema Gyamtsho noted that the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) supported member states to adopt an integrated approach to development that included supporting collection and dissemination of good practices, pilot testing innovations and technologies, engaging and capacitating communities and partnering and fostering cooperation. Expressed willingness to strengthen cooperation with SACEP, BIMSTEC and subregional organizations.
 - Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra noted the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme aimed to amplify the Pacific voice at global fora including through the coordination of delegations at Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and meetings of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), through facilitating access to finance for member states, and supporting national implementation, and regional programmes. The UN system and partners were urged to utilise existing networks and programmes in the Pacific.
 - Dr. Jerome Montemayor noted that over the last 25 years, environmental concerns have already been part of ASEAN's agenda, as reflected in the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in 2005. As a technical and scientific cooperation support centre by the Secretariat of the Convention for Biological Diversity, the Centre assists Member Countries by providing biodiversity data, resources, expertise, technologies, and capacity-building opportunities. The ASEAN Biodiversity Plan helps the region work towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework while it fits each country's plans and connects global biodiversity goals to ASEAN's shared priorities for action. Beyond ASEAN, the Centre has also partnered with India, Mongolia and Timor Leste and other sub-regional support centres.
21. Under agenda item 10 participants raised the following points:
- Sri Lanka noted that South Asian countries faced degradation of ecosystems, plastic pollution and climate impacts. Sri Lanka proposed that the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) take a leadership role to identify new pathways for funding and technological support and promote learning across borders. It welcomed SACEP's commitment to take on new initiatives including addressing transboundary air pollution. An empowered and forward-looking SACEP could foster genuine cooperation.
 - Bhutan noted that subregional organisations often have a deep understanding of the regional context. Bhutan noted three benefits of subregional organisations which include, the pooling of resources for transboundary challenges, harmonizing standards among neighbouring countries, and mobilising targeted finance and technology.

- Singapore noted the importance of subregional organisations to galvanize political commitment for transboundary challenges such as transboundary haze pollution. Singapore noted that donors have provided resources to regional organisations which have helped strengthen ASEAN regional responses to shared challenges. Sub-regional organisations can amplify regional positions in global arenas, for example the joint ASEAN statements to the Conferences of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Bangladesh noted that SACEP and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) both play a vital role in supporting member states to address environmental degradation. Subregional organisations can add value in environmental actions.
- Fiji emphasized that empowered subregional organizations was the most cost effective and efficient way to support environmental action in the region and therefore called for UNEP and partners to: shift from national to regionally focused projects on mobilising finance and capacity development; to formalise subregional bodies as MEA implementation hubs with support provided from UNEP and partners; and invest in regional knowledge systems through existing platforms.
- Australia noted its support for strong and effective regional cooperation for a healthy environment, which is integral to a stable and prosperous region. It also noted its participation in many regional organisations (including Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Pacific Community, ASEAN, Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action, the Coral Triangle Initiative, and the Noumea Convention) that support environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes.
- Major groups and stakeholders (Pacific Feminists) recommended: UNEP provide support to all subregional organizations; that decisions of UNEA 7 reflect the daily lived reality of Pacific people; urged subregional Organizations to support rights of vulnerable communities; noted that water cannot be treated as a commodity, but is a basic human need. There was also a need to build, resource and implement the Fifth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands (COP15) in order to align wetland action closely with UNEA7 priority work on the triple planetary crises of global biodiversity, plastics pollution and the climate emergency, enabling national, regional and global priorities. Calling for stronger collaboration across sectors, clearer reporting, and more inclusive, collaborative approaches that involve youth, Indigenous Peoples, women, and local communities in citizen science and linking local wetlands scientific expertise with Indigenous, women's and local knowledge. This reflects that inland and marine wetlands are indispensable for the countless benefits, or ecosystem services, that they provide to all societies, including those across Asia and the Pacific. These range from biocultural markers and totems, freshwater supply, food and building materials, and medicine to biodiversity, flood control, groundwater recharge, and climate change mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage response.
- Major groups and stakeholders (Asia Pacific major group and stakeholders) noted that subregional organisations are often better placed to reach consensus amongst a smaller membership and to translate international commitments into regional contexts, they are essential actors to amplify women, and other grassroots voices. Subregional organisations can also access finance to scale up local solutions and strengthen policy harmonisation across borders. They called on subregional organisations to expand their work to include ocean protection and protection of environmental human rights defenders.
- Major groups and stakeholders (Children and youth) recognised the important role of subregional organizations but called for: convening of consultative mechanism for

dialogue with non-governmental stakeholders, engagement with youth, establish institutional partnerships with the UN grounded in MEAs, centralise youth engagement processes, stronger accountability for addressing transboundary challenges, strengthening the work of subregional organization and ensure that the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development delivers concrete impact in the subregion.

VI. Submission of the Senior Officials report and outcomes of the sixth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific

22. Under agenda item 11, Dr. Sivendra Michael, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Fiji presented the report of the Senior Officials Segment of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific. The presentation on the report on the senior official's noted key points raised at Asia Pacific Science Policy Business Dialogue on the Environment and the Asia Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum held on 26 August and from the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum held on 27 August. The Chair opened the floor for interventions. No requests for interventions were noted.

VII. Adoption of the outcome of the sixth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific

23. Under agenda item 12, 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(6)/6) and this chair's summary of the Sixth United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (UNEP/APEnvForum(6)/8).

VIII. Closing session

24. Under agenda item 13, the United Nations Environment Programme made closing remarks noted that the fifth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific had reviewed progress in the implementation of resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly and identified regional inputs to the outcomes of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

25. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for the United Nations Environment Programme delivered closing remarks.

26. His Excellency Mr. Mosese Bulitavu, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Fiji, and Chair Representative of the sixth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific delivered closing remarks.

27. The Chair's summary of the Ministerial Segment and the report of the Senior Officials Segment of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific would be communicated to the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its preparatory processes and other relevant forums, including the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

28. The Forum expressed appreciation to the Government of Fiji for their hospitality and support to the meeting.