
Joint meeting of the Bureaux of UNEA and the CPR
Tuesday, 23 June 2026
14:00 - 15:00 (GMT+3)
Online Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Draft Summary

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

1. His Excellency Matthew Samuda, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting, followed by opening remarks by H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyevev, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The meeting was co-chaired by the President of UNEA and the Chair of the CPR.
2. A UNEA Bureau member recalled that the proposal to include an exchange of views on the UN80 reform initiative, in particular Work Package 27, had been raised at the first meeting of the UNEA Bureau and suggested that the item be considered at a future joint meeting, noting its relevance to strengthening multilateralism and global environmental governance.
3. The Executive Director of UNEP informed members of the two Bureaux that a briefing on the findings of the work undertaken under Work Package 27 of the UN80 initiative had been held on 23 April, chaired by the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP; a second briefing was provided by her on 19 June on the draft recommendations under Work Package 27, and a further briefing by her for Member States at UNHQ was scheduled for 29 June. The Secretariat also informed that briefings on the UN80 initiative, including work package 27, were planned during the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR. It was noted that any further discussion by the Bureaux would be considered in light of developments in the ongoing UN80 process.
4. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Briefing on the assessment of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

5. The Executive Director introduced the agenda item by thanking the CPR Bureau, the Committee of the Whole, the facilitators of the draft resolutions and decisions and the Secretariat for their contributions to the successful outcomes of UNEA-7. She briefed members on the execution of the UNEA-7 budget, noting that expenditure had been contained to USD 3.3 million against an approved budget of USD 4.2 million through prudent financial management. She thanked the 14

Member States¹, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank for their contribution to support UNEA-7. She highlighted that UNEP's innovative practices in supporting the development and negotiation of resolutions have been recognized by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mandate Implementation Review (part of the UN80 initiative), informing efforts to strengthen United Nations resolution processes.

6. The Chair of the CPR briefed the joint meeting on the assessment of UNEA-7, drawing on the discussions held at the [CPR Bureau meeting on 19 February 2026](#) and the CPR subcommittee meetings held on [12 March](#) and [19 March 2026](#). The Chair highlighted the following key observations emerging from the assessment:
 - a. Delegations welcomed the successful organization and conduct of UNEA-7 and acknowledged the leadership of the UNEA Presidency, the co-facilitators and the Secretariat;
 - b. Delegations noted the effective application of lessons learned from UNEA-6;
 - c. Delegations welcomed the consensus adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, the Medium-Term Strategy, the programme of work and budget, and a number of resolutions and decisions;
 - d. Delegations emphasized the importance of effective implementation of UNEA outcomes and the provision of adequate resources;
 - e. Delegations underscored the need for strengthened discipline in the preparation of resolutions, including adherence to deadlines, concise drafting and early consultations;
 - f. Delegations highlighted the value of the intersessional process and identified opportunities for further strengthening participation and inclusiveness;
 - g. Delegations stressed the importance of constructive negotiations, effective time management and support for smaller delegations;
 - h. Delegations reaffirmed the importance of consensus-based decision-making and stakeholder engagement.
7. The Bureaux members made the following comments:
 - a. Bureaux members welcomed the assessment and expressed appreciation for the successful conduct of UNEA-7 and the outcomes achieved. They acknowledged the leadership of the Presidency of UNEA-7, the Committee of the Whole, the co-facilitators of resolutions and decisions and the Secretariat throughout the preparatory process and during the Assembly and expressed support for the incoming Presidency of UNEA-8.
 - b. Bureaux members welcomed the procedural improvements introduced for UNEA-7, including the early commencement of consultations on the draft resolutions and decisions and the informal consultations on the Ministerial Declaration led by the Ambassadors of Belgium and Peru. They encouraged that these good practices and lessons learned be further reflected in the preparations for UNEA-8.

¹ Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Monaco, Oman, Portugal, the Philippines, Sweden and Switzerland.

- c. Bureaux members emphasized the importance of maintaining constructive, inclusive and science-based negotiations, preserving the Nairobi spirit and ensuring effective implementation of UNEA resolutions and decisions.
 - d. Bureaux members exchanged views on further strengthening the efficiency and strategic focus of the resolutions process, including through continued consideration of the number, scope and timing of draft resolutions, greater use of the Executive Director's reports to inform resolutions and adequate preparation and consultation on strategic documents. Members also expressed differing views regarding the timing and extent of consultations during the intersessional period.
 - e. Bureaux members welcomed the continued organization of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Day and highlighted its contribution to strengthening coherence and cooperation within the international environmental governance system.
 - f. Bureaux members welcomed the prudent financial management of UNEA-7 and discussed options to enhance cost-efficiency in the organization of future sessions of UNEA, including the use of digital technologies, broadening the donor base and ensuring that travel support was prioritized for countries with the greatest needs. Some Bureaux members suggested that the Bureaux may wish to revisit the question of travel support arrangement at a later stage in the preparations for UNEA-8.
 - g. Bureaux members welcomed the contribution of the Youth Environment Assembly to the broader UNEA process and encouraged continued efforts to ensure meaningful follow-up and youth engagement throughout the intersessional period leading up to UNEA-8. Members also expressed support for strengthening the Secretariat's back-office support to the Youth Environment Assembly, while recognizing that the Assembly is funded through voluntary contributions.
 - h. Bureaux members requested information on the roadmap for the preparation of UNEA-8, including opportunities for the CPR to contribute to the preparatory process.
8. In response to comments raised by the Bureaux members, the Executive Director clarified the financing arrangements for UNEA, explaining that funding was drawn from the United Nations regular budget, the Environment Fund and voluntary contributions from delegations. She noted that lower-than-budgeted expenditure for UNEA-7 reflected prudent financial management and austerity measures, rather than the existence of surplus funds, and indicated that these experiences would inform the preparation of the UNEA-8 budget. She also noted that the Youth Environment Assembly was supported through voluntary contributions and acknowledged Bureaux members observations regarding travel support and indicated that any changes to the current approach would require guidance from Member States.

Agenda item 3: Other matters

- 9. The President of UNEA informed members that consultations with the Secretariat and the UNEA Bureau would continue with a view to developing a roadmap for preparations towards UNEA-8. Members expressed support for continued engagement in the preparatory process.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting

10. The meeting closed at 15:05 (GMT+3).

Annex: List of Participants

United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau Members:

1. H. E. Mr. Matthew Samuda, President of UNEA and Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica.
2. H. E. Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Vice President of UNEA and First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.
3. H. E. Ms. Anikó Raisz, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of State for Environmental Policy of Hungary, **represented by** H. E. Ms. Katalin Nyirati, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Hungary to UNEP.
4. H. E. Mr. Dammika Patabendi, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Sri Lanka, **represented by** Ms. Ruvini De Silva, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to UNEP.
5. H. E. Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, Vice President of UNEA and State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany, **represented by** Mr. Martin Röw, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to UNEP.
6. H. E. Ms. Joyelle Clarke, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action, and Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis.
7. H. E. Mr. Felix Wertli, Rapporteur of UNEA and Ambassador for the Environment, Head of International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of Switzerland, **represented by** Mr. Michel Tschirren, Head of Global Affairs.

Committee of Permanent Representative Bureau Members:

1. H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyeve, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
2. H. E. Ms. Marie Charlotte G. Tang, Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of the Philippines to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, **represented by** Ms. Danna Paula Olaya, Third Secretary of the Embassy of the Philippines.
3. H. E. Mr. Anouar Ben Youssef, Vice Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of Tunisia to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
4. H. E. Mrs. Romy Sonia Tincopa Grados, Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ambassador of Peru to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
4. H. E. Ms. Jenny Da Rin, Rapporteur of the Committee and High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Australia to UNEP.

UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director.
3. Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
4. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
5. Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor.