
Joint Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
28 October 2025, 16:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Summary

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

1. H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) and President of the Environment Authority of Oman, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting, followed by opening remarks by H. E. Mr. Sultan Hajiyeve, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, and Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy 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. A list of participants is provided in Annex 1.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Update on the draft ministerial declaration

3. The President of UNEA informed the meeting that he circulated the [final draft of the ministerial declaration](#) on 18 October 2025, which took into account statements and comments received at the third intergovernmental consultation held on 17 September and written inputs submitted by 8 October. He recalled that no further written inputs would be accepted on the final version. Member States would, however, have an opportunity to share their views during the fourth intergovernmental consultation on the final draft, scheduled for 5 November 2025. The President also informed the Bureaux that informal consultations on the draft ministerial declaration would be convened under the leadership of the co-facilitators, H. E. Mr. Peter Maddens, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP, and H. E. Mrs. Romy Tincopa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Peru to UNEP, on 10 and 13 November 2025, to discuss any outstanding or contentious issues.
4. The Bureaux members provided the following comments:
 - a. Welcomed the final draft of the ministerial declaration, acknowledging progress toward a consensual and action-oriented text. Appreciated the new references to environmental education and skills development (paragraph E), the United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation (paragraph F), and voluntary and mutually agreed terms (paragraph R). Stressed the need to reaffirm UNEP's authority by inclusion of the Medium-Term Strategy 2026–2029 and the need to further highlight the social and economic benefits of the circular economy.

- b. Suggested incorporating language recognizing recent developments in Africa, including Ethiopia's successful hosting of the Second African Climate Summit in September 2025 and the adoption of the related declaration, and encouraged all stakeholders to support the implementation of its commitments.
 - c. Stressed that the Paris Agreement should be explicitly referenced in the draft and proposed including language highlighting the role of developed countries in providing financial, technical, and capacity-building support to developing countries.
 - d. Suggested strengthening the declaration by referencing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and emphasized the importance of deliberate investments to enhance the resilience of women, youth, and local communities.
 - e. Inquired about the possibility of holding the informal informal consultations in a hybrid format and asked for clarification whether the time allocated for consultations on the ministerial declaration during the seventh session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-7) would be sufficient, noting concerns expressed by members of one regional group that one hour may be insufficient.
 - f. Emphasized the importance of adhering to previously agreed language on similar issues and encouraged Member States holding strong positions on critical elements to propose ways to facilitate a consensual outcome.
5. H. E. Mr. Peter Maddens, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP, in his capacity as co-facilitator, noted that holding the consultations in a hybrid format could give the appearance of a more formal process. He indicated that one hour could be sufficient for discussions during OECPR-7, if the informal informal consultations resulted in positive progress.
 6. The President of UNEA encouraged members of the two Bureaux to continue collaborating on the ministerial declaration, including through the informal informal consultations.

Agenda item 3: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-7)

7. The Deputy Executive Director updated the Bureaux members on preparations for UNEA-7.
8. The President of UNEA informed the Bureaux members about his ongoing discussion with H. E. Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Vice-President of UNEA and Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise of Sweden, to explore her role in supporting the organization of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Day.

a) Update on consultations on the draft resolutions and decisions

9. The Chair of the CPR updated the Bureaux members on the progress of the draft resolutions and decisions:
 - a. The Chair recalled that since the previous joint Bureaux meeting on 10 September, following the introduction of the three draft decisions during the subcommittee meeting held on 18 September, three rounds of paragraph-by-paragraph readings were held on the draft decisions on 30 September, 2 October, and 9 October; and that following requests from Member States, the CPR Bureau, at its meeting held on 7 October, agreed that textual proposals during the intersessional consultations would be displayed on the screen with attribution to enhance

transparency and trust, while the version without attribution would be transmitted to the OECPR-7 for negotiations.

- b. He reported that **15 draft resolutions, three concept notes, and three draft decisions had been received** by the 29 September deadline.
 - c. The Chair announced that out of the 15 draft resolutions submitted by the deadline, one draft resolution has been withdrawn, and the remaining 14 draft resolutions had been introduced by 24 October. The introduction of the late submitted draft resolutions is planned for 6 and 11 November 2025, pending further guidance from the joint Bureaux. A paragraph-by-paragraph reading of the 14 draft resolutions that have been introduced is expected between 6 and 14 November. Following the paragraph-by-paragraph readings, the draft resolutions will be transmitted to the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) by 14 November for editing in preparation for OECPR-7.
 - d. He further noted that, due to time constraints, the four late-submitted draft resolutions will not undergo paragraph-by-paragraph reading before the OECPR-7. However, the Secretariat will consult with the proponents on possible next steps. The Chair invited the Bureaux members to provide guidance on the treatment of the late-submitted draft resolutions and on whether any further drafts should be accepted beyond **31 October 2025**, given the limited time ahead of the OECPR.
10. The Bureaux members provided the following comments:
- a. Reiterated that Member States retain the right to submit draft resolutions at any time, in accordance with the rules of procedure.
 - b. Welcomed the use of the intersessional period for in-depth discussions on draft resolutions and decisions, while acknowledging the challenges posed by late submissions in terms of consultation time, and encouraged the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to enable consideration of such drafts during the intersessional period.
 - c. Inquired about the circulation of the organization of work for the intersessional period.
 - d. Noted that Cluster B seemed particularly complex and may require additional time for discussion; suggested establishing an additional cluster and offered to provide an additional facilitator from one regional group, provided that another facilitator was nominated from a different regional group; encouraged Member States to remain mindful of unfunded requests in the draft resolution, while inquiring whether the Secretariat anticipated further submission of draft resolutions.
 - e. Expressed concern regarding the implementation and follow-up of adopted resolutions and emphasized the importance of their effective integration into UNEP's Programme of Work.
11. The Secretariat provided the following clarification:
- a. The Secretariat informed the Bureaux members that the [revised clustering document](#) and the [organization of work for the meetings of the subcommittee of the CPR to be held from 6 to 11 November 2025](#) would be circulated after the joint Bureaux meeting, with the understanding that adjustments may be made depending on the time required for paragraph-by-paragraph reading of each draft resolution.

- b. Indicated that the draft resolutions from Peru and Kenya, and from Switzerland, were scheduled for introduction on 6 November, while those from Mexico and Panama were planned for 11 November.
 - c. Highlighted that draft resolutions submitted by the 29 September deadline were currently allocated two hours each for paragraph-by-paragraph reading but noted that the organization of work could be revised from 6 November onward, depending on progress made.
 - d. Noted that, given the 14 November deadline for submission of the draft resolutions to UNON for editing ahead of the OECPR-7, the drafts from Panama, Peru, and Kenya, Mexico, and Switzerland might not undergo paragraph-by-paragraph reading and could instead be transmitted as zero drafts. However, if proponents were able to submit revised versions ahead of the OECPR, these would be transmitted to the OECPR accordingly. Delegations would be informed that 14 November marked the end of the intersessional consultations, after which all drafts would be submitted to UNON to ensure edited English versions are available for negotiations during OECPR-7.
 - e. Regarding additional late submission, the Secretariat informed that a concept note had been received from Oman for a possible draft resolution on mine tailings, though it remained uncertain whether a full draft would be submitted or merged with the draft from Colombia. The Secretariat also informed that, although Saudi Arabia had indicated plans to submit a draft by 10 October, it had not yet been received, and no other submissions were currently expected.
12. The two Bureaux members agreed that:
- a. The CPR Subcommittee should consider the four draft resolutions submitted after the 29 September deadline.
 - b. It was noted that, given the limited time before the OECPR-7, paragraph-by-paragraph readings of the draft resolutions submitted after 29 September might not be feasible.
 - c. The Secretariat will revise the clustering document to reflect the inclusion of the draft resolution submitted by Panama under Cluster B and the one submitted by Mexico under Cluster D.
- b) Update on preparation for OECPR-7**
- 13. The Secretariat updated the Bureaux members on preparations for OECPR-7, including the [provisional agenda](#), [annotated provisional agenda](#), and [structure](#), which the CPR Bureau had reviewed at its [meeting on 7 October 2025](#).
 - 14. A Bureaux member noted that the Committee was to consider 17 progress reports of the Executive Director and inquired about the organization of the discussion during OECPR-7, expressing concern that the time allocated for these reports might be insufficient.
 - 15. The Secretariat clarified that, in line with the draft structure of OECPR-7, Member States would have three sessions that is roughly 6–7 hours in total to consider the progress reports.

Agenda item 4: Organisation of work

16. The Secretariat briefed the Bureaux members on the upcoming Bureaux meetings leading up to UNEA and during UNEA as outlined in the [roadmap](#) for UNEP Governing Bodies.
17. A Bureau member recalled the earlier discussion on the communication strategy for UNEA-7 and inquired about recent developments and how the Bureaux could support its implementation.
18. Another Bureau member expressed readiness to support the chairing of the Committee of the Whole, if established.
19. The Secretariat informed the Bureaux members that an updated version of the communication strategy, which includes press briefings, news articles, social media engagement, and a communication toolkit containing key messages, is available and will be circulated to Bureaux members for their information.
20. The President invited the Vice Presidents to indicate their availability to assist him in chairing the meetings of UNEA and requested the Secretariat to liaise with the Vice Presidents to ascertain their availability for the President's consideration.

Agenda item 5: Other matters

21. No matters were raised.

Agenda item 6: Closing of the meeting

22. The meeting closed at 17:50 (GMT+3).

Annex: List of Participants

United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau Members:

1. H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of UNEA and President of the Environment Authority of Oman.
2. H. E. Mr. Peter Maddens, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador of Belgium and Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP.
3. H. E. Ms. Fitsum Assefa Adela, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Planning and Development of Ethiopia, **represented by** H. E. Mr. Demeke Atnafu Ambulo, Ambassador and Deputy Head of Mission.
4. H. E. Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Vice President of UNEA and First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.
5. H. E. Ms. Anikó Raisz, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of State for Environmental Policy and Circular Economy of Hungary.
6. H. E. Mr. Ali Gholampour, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP.
7. H. E. Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Vice President of UNEA and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Government Offices of Sweden.
8. H. E. Mr. Mike Mposha, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Green Economy and Environment of Zambia, **represented by** H. E. Mr. Exnobert **Zulu**, Deputy High Commissioner of Zambia to Kenya
9. H. E. Ms. Joyelle Clarke, Rapporteur of UNEA and Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action, and Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

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 S. 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, **represented by** Mr. Sofiene Dridi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Tunisia 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. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director.
2. Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
3. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
4. Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor.