Note on budget estimates for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and related meetings

Updated as of 11 September 2025

This note outlines projected budget estimates and funding gap for the seventh session of the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)** taking place from 8 to 12 December 2025, the **seventh meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-7)** taking place from 1 to 5 December 2025, the **Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum (GMGSF)** taking place on 6 to 7 December 2025 and the **Youth Environment Assembly (YEA)** taking place on 29 and 30 November 2025.

The estimated budget has been included in the budget summary and breakdown below.

Budget summary

The total estimated budget for UNEA-7, OECPR-7 and GMGSF is approximately USD **4,225,720**[1] and it covers the following core expenses:

i. Conference servicing, including costs for meeting rooms; processing and issuance of pre-session, in-session and post-session documentation; and interpretation costs.
ii. Travel support for two representatives from developing countries to UNEA-7 and OECPR-7.
iii. Organization of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum (GMGSF) and travel support for a limited number of participants from accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders to attend UNEA-7, OECPR-7 and GMGSF.
iv. Core UNEA communication activities, including branding, media coverage, translation, multimedia coverage, website content management and a dedicated UNEA event app for participants.
v. Organization of official UNEA side events and other associated events and exhibitions, including activities related to the dedicated “MEA Day”.
vi. Setting up several additional temporary infrastructures, event tents, delegates lounge area and exhibition areas etc.
vii. Additional audio-visual equipment and webcasting.
viii. An additional team of interpreters to be paid through extra budgetary resources due to austerity measures.

[1] The overall UNEA-7 budget estimate has been revised from USD 4,580,052 to USD 4,225,720 after the Secretariat identified cost savings of USD 354,333, including USD 169,500 through the use of existing UNON infrastructure for bilateral meetings and USD 184,833 from UNON postponing critical system upgrades in Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

The expenditure for the above activities and infrastructure are estimated as follows:
All figures are in USD

Items	YEA-3	GMGSF-22	OECPR-7	UNEA-7	Total (USD)
Conference Services costs (UNON Regular budget allocation)*	-	-	-	708,000	708,000[2]
Conference Services costs (UNEP Regular budget allocation)	-	-	96,255	367,045	463,300[3]
Travel support for two Member States representatives from developing countries for UNEA-7 and OECPR-7	-	-	-	1,600,083	1,600,083
Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum (travel support and meetings cost)	-	163,780	-	-	163,780
Youth Environment Assembly (travel support and meetings cost)	112,151	-	-	-	112,151
Communication activities	-	-	-	300,000	300,000
Additional conference costs, webcasting, and reporting services	-	-	-	156,383	156,383
Additional temporary infrastructure for exhibitions, delegates tents and related associated activities.	-	-	-	600,728	600,728
Additional team of interpreters				121,295	121,295
Grand Total	**112,151**	**163,780**	**96,255**	**3,853,534**	**4,225,720**

***** In view of the austerity measures implemented by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) necessitated by the liquidity challenges, the Division for Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi has informed that all meeting bodies with a session of 10 meetings or more are to reduce their number of meetings by at least 10% and adjust their programmes of work accordingly. Additionally, no parallel formal meetings of the same calendar meeting body, with or without interpretation services, can be accommodated under Regular Budget, regardless of entitlement. This will, therefore, impact UNEA-7 meetings with interpretation, namely (i) either the number of meetings with interpretation would have to be reduced to 9 meetings only; or (ii) an additional team of interpreters would need to be recruited through other funding sources to provide interpretation for all the meetings of UNEA-7 which will cost approximately additional USD 125,000 to 135,000 increasing the budget funding gap.

2 Allocation will be reduced to be confirmed in due cause by UNON.
3 Allocated to UNEP reduced to USD 200,538 from USD 463,300.

Funding sources

The total costs for the Environment Assembly have been financed through three main sources of funding as follows:

1. *UN Regular Budget*

   As an official calendar meeting of the UN, the UN regular budget provides financial resources to cover core conference services costs. For UNEA-7, the regular budget consists of (i) **USD 708,000**[1] through UNON Conference Services, and (ii) **USD 200,538**[2] directly to UNEP as approved by the UN General Assembly.

2. *UNEP funding*
   The regular budget does not cover all costs related to UNEA. Therefore, approximately 1/3 of the UNEA budget has previously been funded from UNEP's core budget. For UNEA-7, UNEP has made available **USD 1,480,929.**

3. *Member States direct contributions (extrabudgetary resources)*
   Traditionally, about a third of the total costs for UNEA have been covered through generous contributions from individual Member States. Most of these funds have been used for travel support for delegates from developing countries (which is not covered by any of the above-mentioned funding sources). Based on the experience from previous UNEA sessions and travels costs adjusted to 2025 prices, travel support for UNEA-7, OECPR-7, GMGSF and YEA is estimated at **USD 1,832,804** (USD 1,600,083 for Member states, USD 153,160 for Major groups and stakeholders and USD 79,562 for Youth environment assembly).

   These funds are usually earmarked to support the participation of delegates from developing countries, as well as representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders and the Youth Environment Assembly. UNEA-6 resource mobilization strategy resulted in raising USD 1,300,093.

Funding gap summary

Total budget estimate (USD)	**4,225,720**
Secured funding	
Regular budget (with reduced UNEP allocation)	908,538
UNEP contribution	1,480,929
Total secured funding	**2,389,467**
Total funding gap	**1,836,253**
Extrabudgetary contribution received/pledged	
Australia	20,000
Denmark (Pledged)	155,200
European Commission	600,000
European Investment Bank	14,019
Finland	22,936
Germany	52,680
Hungary	11,210
Monaco (pledged)	46,750
Oman	100,000
Philippines	10,000
Sweden (pledged)	73,855
Total extrabudgetary contribution received/pledged	**1,106,650**
Remaining funding gap	**729,603**

As of 11 September 2025, and against the estimated revised total budget of **USD 4,225,720** for UNEA-7 core and associated activities, the remaining funding gap amounts to about **USD 729,603, which includes the cost of an additional team of interpreters amounting to USD 121,295 and USD 262,762 to offset the Regular Budget cuts.**

To bridge the funding gap for travel support and other costs, such as an extra team of interpreters, temporary infrastructure and communication activities and taking into account the level of contributions made to support previous UNEA sessions, Member States in a position to do so are encouraged to provide extrabudgetary support for the organization of UNEA-7, with the aim of mobilizing **USD 729,603**. While non-earmarked contributions to UNEA-7 are particularly welcome, Member States may also indicate what type of activities they wish to support, such as travel support to participants from developing countries, youth participation, communication activities, or Major Groups and Stakeholders events.

As of September 2025, USD 20,000 has been received from the Government of Australia, USD 155,200 has been pledged by the Government of Denmark, USD 22,936 has been received from the Government of Finland, USD 52,680 has been received from the Government of Germany, USD 11,210 has been received from the Government of Hungary, USD 46,750 has been pledged by the Government of Monaco, USD 100,000 has been received from the Government of Oman, USD 10,000 has been received from the Government of the Philippines, USD 73,855 has been pledged by the Government of Sweden, USD 600,000 has been received by the European Commission and USD 14,019 has been received by European Investment Bank towards UNEA-7.

UNEP expresses its deep appreciation to the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Monaco, Oman, Philippines and Sweden as well as the European Commission and European Investment Bank and hope that other Member States will follow suit.

Conclusion

To bridge the remaining funding gap of approximately USD 729,603, all Member States in a position to do so are invited, in accordance with their specific circumstances and capacity, to contribute financially to the organization of UNEA-7 and its related preparatory meetings, to ensure an inclusive, participatory and successful session.

Every contribution counts – large and small.