



Distr.: General
5 October 2022

English only



United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Ninth meeting

Nairobi, 24 – 28 October 2022

10:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)

Hybrid meeting

Conference Room 2

Agenda item 5: Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the context of the Programme of work.

This background document has been prepared by the Secretariat to supplement the information provided through the [UNEA Monitoring and Reporting Portal](#), which reflects detailed updates on the implementation of UNEA resolutions as of June 2022, including resolutions and decisions adopted by UNEA at its fifth session.

This document, therefore, aims to capture additional progress made on each resolution and decision since June 2022.

For a more exhaustive update, kindly refer to the UNEA [monitoring portal](#).

Member States are invited to consider the progress made so far and to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the further implementation of these resolutions and decisions.

Resolution 5/1 entitled “Animal welfare-environment-sustainable development nexus”

- A Group of Friends for the resolution was proposed at a meeting hosted by the representative of Ghana and attended by UNEP in September 2022, with the participation of the representatives of Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana and Senegal.
- Due to a lack of additional resources to support this work, no progress has been made on implementing the nexus assessment. UNEP has held discussions with various groups to explore how resources may be mobilized, but to date none have been forthcoming. UNEP has held a discussion with the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health, and those partners remain ready to assist with the implementation of the resolution pending availability of resources.

Resolution 5/2 entitled “Sustainable nitrogen management”

- A briefing on the implementation of the resolution was held for 29 September 2022 during the [159th meeting of the CPR](#).
- The Executive Director, in a letter dated 30 August 2022, addressed to the Ministers of Environment, invited Member States to nominate by 15 September 2022 focal points to join the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen established pursuant to UNEA resolution 4/14.
- In the same letter the Executive Director invited nominations by 15 September 2022 from Member States to serve as Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Nitrogen, while ensuring geographical balance and gender parity and informed that the appointment of the two Co-Chairs will be coordinated by the Chair of the CPR, under the leadership of the UNEA-6 President. The letter also annexed draft terms of references for the Co-Chairs. The deadline for nomination was subsequently extended to 27 September 2022 at the request of the Chair.
- Additional information is available [here](#).

Resolution 5/3 entitled “Future of the Global Environment Outlook”

- A briefing on the implementation of the resolution was held on [16 June 2022 meeting](#) of the Subcommittee of the CPR.
- Another briefing on the implementation of the resolution was held on 29 September 2022 during the [159th meeting of the CPR](#).
- A background note on the overall progress made in the implementation of the resolution is available [here](#), including detailed information on the following aspects of the GEO-7 process:
 - Status update on establishing the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (IMAG), meant to advise the ED on the GEO-7 process.
 - Status update on convening of the first open ended expert meeting on GEO-7 (19-22 September 2022, online), which focused on procedural matters.
 - Status update on convening of the second open ended expert meeting on GEO-7 (17-20 October 2022, in person), which will focus on scoping of GEO-7, and the related first meeting of the IMAG.

- Outline of a roadmap and planned next steps after the September and October meetings.

Resolution 5/4 entitled “Sustainable lake management”

- UNEP, together with Indonesia, has developed an action plan to advance the implementation of the resolution. It will focus on (1) crafting a Global Call to Action for Sustainable Lake Management and (2) establishing the world’s very first Lake Innovation Hub. In addition, through the World Water Quality Alliance, a global review of lake restoration needs in order to identify priority lakes has commenced. UNEP has created a pilot version of a global platform mapping the ecological status of major lakes in real time. Two stories related to the resolution have been published on the UNEP website to raise awareness: [First story](#), [second story](#)

Resolution 5/5 entitled “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development”

- An informational webinar to present and discuss the options for intergovernmental consultations was held on 18 July 2022.
- A briefing on the implementation of the resolution was held on 29 September 2022 during the [159th meeting of the CPR](#).
- The Executive Director, in a letter dated 7 July 2022, addressed to the Ministers of Environment, invited expressions of interest from Member States with the intention of appointing two Co-Chairs, one from a developing and one from a developed country, noting that the Co-Chairs will need to have a good understanding of nature-based solutions; invited governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide extra-budgetary resources to support the implementation of the process as well as requesting for resources to be received without any specific focus area and should earmarking to necessary asking Member States for maximum flexibility.
- The Executive Director, in a subsequent letter dated [31 August 2022](#), addressed to the Ministers of Environment, informed of the revised process for the appointment of the two Co-Chairs, i.e. that the process will be coordinated by the Chair of the CPR, under the leadership of the UNEA-6 President, taking into account the need for geographical balance and gender parity. Member States were invited to submit the nominations for potential Co-Chairs no later than 15 September 2022. The letter also annexed draft terms of references for the Co-Chairs. The deadline was later extended to 27 September 2022 at the request of the Chair of the CPR.
- A background note on the overall progress made in the implementation of the resolution is available [here](#).

Resolution 5/6 entitled “Biodiversity and health”

- For the resolution on biodiversity and health the two main ‘vehicles’ for the implementation are UNEP’s contribution to the One Health quadripartite alliance and the Nature for Health multi donor trust fund. There is progress on both fronts:
 - i. The joint plan of action for the quadripartite One Health alliance has been finalized and is undergoing reviews.
 - ii. Under the Nature for health multi donor trust fund a call for expression of interest has been launched in order to identify regional priorities.

Resolution 5/7 entitled “Sound management of chemicals and waste”

- The [fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 \(IP4\)](#) took place in Bucharest, Romania from 29 August to 2 September 2022. The meeting was adjourned on 2 September 2022 and will be resumed in early 2023 at a date and location to be determined by the Bureau in consultation with stakeholders in order to conclude the consideration of its agenda. The outcome of the meeting was [a single consolidated document](#). At the meeting, the Government of Germany announced that the fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management (ICCM5) will take place from 25 to 29 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany.
- The Special Programme was extended for five years and is conducting its 6th round of applications to support capacity building on chemicals and waste. Results of successful projects will be announced following 8th meeting of the Executive Board, in 1st quarter of 2023.
- UNEP is preparing short technical briefings on issues of concern, outlined in the [UNEP assessment report on chemicals and waste issues of concern posing risks to human health and the environment](#), to raise awareness and facilitate the further gathering of stakeholders views on potential work and future international action.
- An intersessional meeting of the Special Programme Executive Board will soon be convened to further discuss matters related to paragraph 10 of the resolution

Resolution 5/8 entitled “Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution”

- The Executive Director, in a letter dated 19 April 2022, addressed to the Ministers of Environment, informed that the first session of the open-ended working group (OEWG) was expected to take place in October 2022 at a location to be confirmed; invited Member States to nominate, through their respective regional groups the candidates for the Bureau of the OEWG; also invited Member States in a position to do so to provide extra-budgetary resources to support the implementation of the resolution; provided an overview of the estimated costs related to establishment of a Secretariat to the OEWG and expected operational costs provided in an Annex; and requested Member States to nominate a national focal point; all with a deadline of 30 June.
- A briefing on the implementation of the resolution was held on [7 July meeting of the Subcommittee of the CPR](#).
- The Executive Director, in a letter dated 21 July 2022, addressed to the Ministers of Environment, extended the deadline to 15 August 2022 for the Chairs of the regional groups to communicate candidatures for the 10-member Bureau, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation as well as gender balance, and for the nominations of national focal points; informed that following the guidance received during the 7 July 2022 meeting of the subcommittee, the first session of the open-ended working group will be held in two parts – the first part to be held on 6 October in Nairobi in a hybrid format and the second part, which will be the resumed first session, is expected to be held in the first quarter of 2023; extended her appreciation to the Governments of Thailand and Brazil for their offers to host one of the OEWG meetings; provided a detailed revised

overview of the areas for funding support in annex I to the letter; and requested for resources for the implementation of the resolution to be received without specific area of support and should an earmarking within the process be necessary, she asked for maximum flexibility.

- At its [first meeting](#), the OEWG will be invited to consider important procedural matters, including the election of a Chair and other members of the Bureau of the OEWG, as well as adopt its rules of procedure. The meeting will allow Governments and regional economic integration organizations as well as observers the opportunity to deliver general statements on the establishment of a science-policy panel.
- At the resumed first session, to be held in Bangkok, the OEWG will be invited to engage in substantive discussion on various aspects of the establishment of the science-policy panel, options for the timeline to prepare proposals and the identification of a date and venue for the second session, tentatively scheduled for late 2023.
- Additional information is available on the website of the [OEWG-1](#).

Resolution 5/9 entitled “Sustainable and resilient infrastructure”

- Implementation has focused on continued promotion of existing knowledge and best practices, development of new tools and knowledge, and provision of country-level technical assistance, and capacity building at the global, regional, and national levels.
- Highlights include supporting UNECE and Member States in the planning and preparation for the EfE Ministerial Conference, where sustainable infrastructure is one of the two conference themes; launch of a national infrastructure resilience roadmap with the Government of Ghana; a sustainable infrastructure barrier analysis in Chile; development of a pilot version of a measurement framework for measuring national progress on sustainable infrastructure, and delivery of capacity building and training to more than 700 policymakers and practitioners worldwide, including private sector participants.

Resolution 5/10 entitled “The environmental dimension of a sustainable, resilient and inclusive post COVID-19 recovery”

- UNEP is mobilizing and scaling up targeted support across multiple fronts to Member States and UN country teams for enhancing the resilience and design of green recoveries, through targeted knowledge products and technical assistance at global, regional and national level.
- A recent milestone was the explicit mention of the Sustainable Budgeting Approach, a technical tools UNEP in cooperation with the University of Oxford has developed to support countries’ efforts for efficient public spending for sustainable recovery, in the statement by the African Ministers of finance, economy and environment for climate COP27 at the Egypt International Cooperation Forum.

Resolution 5/11 entitled “Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production”

- A briefing on the implementation of the resolution took place during the [22 September meeting](#) of the Subcommittee of the CPR.
- The implementation of this resolution has advanced in three directions: (i) UNEP is developing the first report, to be published in 2023, on Used Vehicles and the Environment that details the global flow of used heavy duty vehicles (HDVs) from the three main developed markets to developing countries, and the regulatory framework in recipient countries; (ii) UNEP is facilitating global conversations on natural resources and materials in the context of the circular economy through the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). Background knowledge and evidence-based recommendations to these global conversations is being provided through the preparation of various reports, including among others, the International Resource Panel’s Global Resources Outlook; and (iii) UNEP’s support through the GO4SDGs initiative to the African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA), and to the coordination of the Latin America and Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition (LACCEC) is creating opportunities, to promote innovative pathways to sustainable consumption and production at regional level in multiple sectors.

Resolution 5/12 entitled “Environmental aspects of minerals and metals management”

- A briefing on the implementation of the resolution is scheduled for the [13 October meeting](#) of the Subcommittee of the CPR.
- The Executive Director, in a letter dated 29 September 2022, addressed to the Ministers of Environment, informed that the intergovernmental regional consultations, to be convened pursuant to UNEA resolution 5/12, are tentatively planned to be held in-person in all six regions from January to April 2023; informed of the funding gap of 36.5% of the total estimated costs to conduct the consultations and to enable the full implementation of the resolution, providing the budget summary in an annex to the letter, requesting resources to be received without any specific focus area and asking for maximum flexibility should earmarking be necessary.
- In the same letter, the Executive Director invited Member States to (i) nominate a national focal point to be engaged in the intergovernmental regional consultations and global meeting; (ii) submit expressions of interest for the role of the Co-Chairs; (iii) indicate an interest to host any of the intergovernmental regional consultations; and (iv) pledge additional resources towards the convening of the intergovernmental regional consultations. Member States are requested to provide the information no later than 31 October 2022.

Resolution 5/13 entitled “Due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations”

- In line with the Executive Director’s 4-point plan contained in [UNEP/EA.5/26](#), para. 29, UNEP is working on increasing internal direction, messaging, guidance and monitoring and awareness campaigns targeting top management and operations, strengthening accountability mechanisms. As of June 2022, UNEP has embarked on various outreach events with different partners, internal and external to the organization, reaching a total direct and indirect engagement of nearly 6000 potential candidates. UNEP also advanced the design of a Young Talent Pipeline initiative for entry level professional positions that will focus on improving geographical representation in the organization.
- The Pipeline will aim to attract young talent from less represented regional groups and un- and underrepresented Member States, who are young graduates or have entry level work experience to gain work experience in UNEP. UNEP has established a strategic partnership with the OneUN Talent Outreach working group (including 20+ UN entities, agencies, funds and programmes) to increase the competitiveness and visibility of UNEP as an employer of choice for young talent from un- and underrepresented Member States and less represented regional groups.

Resolution 5/14 entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”

- A briefing on the implementation of the resolution was held on [5 May 2022 meeting](#) of the Subcommittee of the CPR.
- The open-ended working group met in Dakar from 29 May to 1 June 2022. Additional information on the work of the open-ended working group is available [here](#).
- A second briefing on the implementation of the resolution was held on [7 July 2022 meeting](#) of the Subcommittee of the CPR.
- The [first session of the INC](#) is scheduled to be held in Uruguay at the Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Centre from 28 November to 2 December 2022. Additional information is available [here](#).
- A multi-stakeholder forum requested by the resolution to be organized in conjunction with INC-1 will be held on 26 November 2022 with details to be made available on the [meeting portal](#).

Decision 5/2 entitled “Medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023”

- Implementation of the MTS 2022-2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023 is on track. The first update on the progress of the implementation will be done through the first Programme Performance Report for the MTS 2022-25 and Programme of Work in January 2023. UNEA decision 5/4 decided to extend the programme of work for the period 2022–2023 by two years, to the end of 2025, with the budget and targets being pro-rated accordingly.

Decision 5/3 entitled “Adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

- The [resumed fifth session of UNEA](#) was held from 28 February to 2 March 2022 in accordance with UNEA decision 5/3. UNEA adopted 14 resolutions and one decision as well as a Ministerial Declaration during the resumed fifth session.
- A [special session](#) of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme, was held in Nairobi for two days, on 3 and 4 March 2022, in conjunction with the resumed fifth session of the Environment Assembly, under the leadership of the Presidency and the Bureau of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly. The special session adopted a [political declaration](#) to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Decision 5/4 entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”

- The UNEA 6 bureau at its [meeting](#) on 1 July 2022 agreed to apply the [guidelines and the roadmap](#) suggested by the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper with proposed themes for discussions at the joint bureau meeting to be held on 17 October 2022.
- The Secretariat prepared options for the theme of UNEA 6 will be made available in advance of the [Joint Bureau meeting](#) of UNEA and the CPR to be held on 17 October 2022 for consideration by the joint bureaus.
- The President of UNEA will provide a briefing on options for a theme for the sixth session of UNEA during the annual subcommittee meeting, followed by an exchange of views with Member States and Stakeholders.