

Meeting of the UNEA Bureau
Bureau meeting
9 December 2025
08:00 – 09:00 (GMT +3)
Conference Room 9 (in person)

Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. His Excellency 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, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Bureau and the co-chairs facilitating the draft resolutions and decisions.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), delivered her opening remarks.
3. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

4. The co-chairs briefed the Bureau on progress made on Monday, 8 December 2025. They highlighted challenges arising from time constraints, cross-cutting terminology, and entrenched positions on certain draft resolutions and decisions. They also noted that some capital-based delegates who arrived over the weekend have tried to reopen the text that had been *agreed ad referendum* during the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR).
5. The co-chairs emphasised the limited time remaining and requested the Bureau's agreement to allow more than two parallel informal consultations and the possibility of holding meetings beyond 10 p.m. They further requested Bureau members to encourage flexibility among delegations through their respective regional groups.
6. Bureau members discouraged reopening the agreed text for re-negotiations, noting that this was delaying progress achieved during the OECPR.
7. One Bureau member recalled that some delegations are small and underlined the need for flexibility in cases where delegations may be absent for health-related reasons.
8. Another Bureau member supported consultations extending beyond 10 p.m. and reiterated that consensus must be achieved through consultations.

9. One Bureau member reiterated that the extension beyond 10 p.m. should be clearly defined as a means to resolve outstanding issues, and that such consultations should involve only delegations that consider further discussion necessary.
10. Another Bureau member proposed the establishment of focused informal consultations to help bridge differences and develop flexible, balanced, or solution-oriented proposals.
11. The President asked the co-chairs to identify specific obstacles impeding progress so that the Bureau could use its good offices to support the negotiations more effectively.
12. Bureau members supported the extension of the consultations beyond 10 p.m. to complete negotiations and suggested engaging informally with delegations strongly opposed to late-night sessions to find a compromise that would allow negotiations to move forward.
13. The Legal Advisor clarified that during the OECPR, there had been considerable resistance to working beyond 10 p.m. and suggested raising the issue of extending working hours at the stock-taking plenary meeting scheduled in the evening, at 19.00. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole would make a decision based on the discussion in the room.
14. The Secretariat suggested that the Chair of the Committee attend regional group meetings and propose extending sessions beyond 10:00 p.m. and holding at least one informal consultation in parallel with contact groups. The Secretariat also proposed that the Chair of the Committee and the Rapporteur gather views from regional groups and identify key delegations for possible shuttle diplomacy by the Presidency and Bureau members in advance of the stocktake plenary.
15. The Bureau agreed to reschedule the closing plenary meeting to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, 10 December, to allow the contact groups more time.
16. The Bureau agreed to cancel the Bureau meeting on Wednesday evening

Agenda item 3: Other matters

17. No matters were raised under this agenda item.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting

18. The meeting closed at 9.15 am.

Annex: List of Participants

United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau Members:

H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of UNEA and President of the Environment Authority of Oman.

H. E. Mr. Peter Maddens, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador of Belgium and Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP.

H. E. Ms. Fitsum Assefa Adela, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Planning and Development of Ethiopia, **represented by** Mr. Demeke Atnafu, Deputy Head of Mission of Ethiopia in Kenya.

H. E. Ms. Anikó Raisz, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of State for Environmental Policy and Circular Economy of Hungary.

H. E. Mr. Ali Gholampour, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP.

H. E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Espichán Mariñas, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Peru, **represented by** H. E. Ms. Romy Tincopa, Vice Chair of the CPR and Ambassador of Peru and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

H. E. Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Vice President of UNEA and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Government Offices of Sweden.

H. E. Mr. Mike Mposha, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Green Economy and Environment of Zambia, **represented by** Mr. Exnobert Zulu, Charge d’Affaires, High Commissioner of Zambia to Kenya

H. E. Ms. Joyelle Clarke, Rapporteur of UNEA and Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action, and Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director.

Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.

Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.

Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor.

Co-chairs as observers:

From the African States Group:

Mr. Ontumetse Ontumetse of Botswana;

Ms. Sara Elkhoully of Egypt; and

Mr. Tobias Ogweno of Kenya.

From the Asia-Pacific States Group:

Mr. Nader Al-Tarawneh of Jordan; and

Ms. Kanako Okano of Japan.

From the Eastern European States Group:

Mr. Michal Novotny of Czechia.

From the Western European and other States group:

Mr. Martin Röw of Germany; and

Ms. Marie Haraldstad of Norway.