

Joint Bureaus of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
30 January, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (GMT+3)
Online

Agenda item 2: Consideration of a theme of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly

This further revised paper has been prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Presidency to support the consultation on the theme for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Based on the discussion at the UNEA Bureau meeting on 9 December 2022 and the subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 13 December 2022, the revised proposed theme is as follows:

“Effective and inclusive multilateral solutions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”

The note outlines a brief rationale for the revised proposed theme for your consideration.

In accordance with paragraph 9 of [UNEA decision 5/4](#), the UNEA-6 Bureau is requested to define a theme for the sixth session of the Environment Assembly no later than twelve months in advance of the sixth session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives. After the consultations held on 19 January 2023, the secretariat will support the Presidency towards a final consideration of this matter at the joint meeting of the UNEA and CPR Bureaus to be held online on 30 January 2023.

Revised proposed theme

“Effective and inclusive multilateral solutions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”

The Secretary General’s [Our Common Agenda Report](#) and the [Stockholm+50 international meeting](#) have launched a global call to reinvigorate the multilateral system to overcome the multiple social, economic and environmental crises that threaten life on our planet. Three major interconnected environmental crises - climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – are jeopardizing at unprecedented scales our collective economic and social well-being and profoundly undermining opportunities to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods and quality of life. Yet, we still have a narrow window of opportunity to reverse them.

Effective and inclusive solutions to tackle these multiple crises call for a transformative, inter-generational approach [rooted in science](#) that can manage present, and anticipate emerging risks with global solidarity while advancing the realization of the [human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment](#) for all. This approach is an indispensable precondition to restoring trust in global and national governance systems, strengthening equitable societal participation in environmental decision-making, and leveraging the environmental rule of law as a means to promote peace and achieve sustainable development. To achieve these goals and move towards a climate-stable, nature-positive, and pollution-free future where no one is left behind, this transformative approach must concomitantly harness the actions and contributions of all State and non-State actors and accelerate and scale up the implementation of existing commitments toward sustainable patterns of consumption and production for all sectors underpinning our economies and societies.

As the center stage of environmental multilateralism, UNEA-6 can provide reinvigorated leadership with timely, effective and inclusive solutions commensurate with the scale and speed of response needed to strengthen the resilience to global risks and turbocharge the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To enable an effective multilateral response fueled by increased confidence and collective representation, these solutions must be tangible and science-based, promote peace and scale up efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, reverse inequalities, and account for the interests of present and future generations. Amongst these, digital transformations offer an important opportunity to bridge existing divides and strengthen equal access to information and emerging technologies to achieve common goals in a truly networked and inclusive manner.

UNEA-6 can further build on and scale up past achievements while maintaining a focused look to the future that identifies key risks, enhances anticipatory action and preparedness, and mobilizes the necessary political resolve toward effective and inclusive solutions with increased trust and transparency. Possible focus areas under this theme could include: advancing solidarity-based responses (e.g. generation and provision of timely and predictable public and private finance, capacity building and technology transfer) to help countries implement internationally agreed global and environmental goals, emphasizing South-South and triangular cooperation for increased resilience and social protection; improving access to relevant data to stimulate technological innovations and enable evidence-based and inclusive policymaking; enhancing societal participation, access to information and access to justice and effective remedies for environment-related matters, with emphasis on women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities and persons in vulnerable situations; re-shaping economic governance models to account for the environment in measuring progress beyond GDP; accelerating system-wide transformations of high impact sectors (e.g. food, energy, water, buildings and construction, manufacturing, and mobility), promoting circularity, resource efficiency, regenerative production approaches and nature-based solutions in value

chains; enhancing strategic foresight and horizon scanning capacities at all levels to encourage long-term, anticipatory environmental decision-making; investing in environmental education and unlocking meaningful youth engagement to increase the recognition of inter-generational equity in national and international justice systems and help shape the social norms and values that can ensure the handover of a healthy legacy to future generations.

Several key international processes taking place throughout 2023 would contribute to defining the scope of a theme for UNEA-6. These include: the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Secretary General's Climate Summit and SDG Summit, the G20 Leaders' Summit, the Climate COP28, the Biodiversity COP16, and the continuing negotiations towards a Post-2020 Chemicals and Waste Framework. UNEA-6, including through the power of its theme, can make meaningful contributions to the SG's Summit of the Future that will take place in 2024. Furthermore, this theme would provide a platform to draw on the indispensable capacities of civil society and the youth, local and regional authorities, businesses and the private sector, and academic and scientific institutions, amongst others, to achieve truly impactful, inclusive, and tangible results.
