

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of UNEA and the CPR
28 May 2025 16:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online meeting

Agenda item 3: Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

This background document has been prepared by the Secretariat for the consideration and possible guidance by the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

The note outlines revised proposal for the arrangement for national statements and a revised proposed structure for the session, taking into account the recently announced austerity measures related to the conference services.

Preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

A. Background

1. In accordance with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) [decision 6/7](#), the seventh session will be held in Nairobi from **8 to 12 December 2025**, and the seventh meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) will be held from **1 to 5 December 2025**.
2. Pursuant to Governing Council [decision 27/2](#) and established practice of past UNEA sessions, the following components have formed the structure of the UNEA sessions:
 - Opening plenary meeting;
 - Closing plenary meeting with action on draft proposals;
 - An MEA day;
 - A 2-day high-level segment, which includes national statements, 3 leadership dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue; and
 - A committee of the whole to negotiate any outstanding draft resolutions/decisions, as needed.
3. In addition, UNEA also hosts several other associated events, including pre-session events (such as the self-organized Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum), and in-session events (lunchtime and evening official side events selected by UNEP, flagship events to launch publications, media events, activities organized by stakeholders and receptions).
4. The UNEA Bureau, at its meeting of 25 March 2025, approved the [provisional agenda](#), the [annotated provisional agenda](#) and [the structure of UNEA-7](#), which has been made publicly available in the UNEA-7 website under "[Meeting documents](#)".
5. The UNEA Bureau, at its meeting held on 25 March 2025, also established the time limit of 4 minutes for statements by individual delegations and 5 minutes for statements made on behalf of groups of States¹, on the understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts. Observers, major groups and stakeholders to be given a time limit of 3 minutes, unless for the major groups the statement is on behalf of all nine major groups, in which case the time limit may be 5 minutes. A countdown timer will operate in the conference room to guide speakers. When a representative exceeds her or his allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay, which will be done by means of automatic microphone cut-off.

¹ In the past UNEAs, the time limit for statements was 3 minutes for statements by individual delegations and 5 minutes for statements made on behalf of groups of States.

B. Austerity measures by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) / Division for Conference Services (DCS) of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) on the organization of work and budget for UNEA-7

6. Further to the [letter from the President of the General Assembly](#), His Excellency Philemon Yang, dated 25 February 2025 circulating the [letter dated 21 February 2025, from the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General](#), Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray, and its annex regarding restrictive measures to be taken in the context of the ongoing liquidity crisis, the members of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR) were briefed on the implications of the austerity measures to UNEA-7 during the briefing on the preparations of UNEA-7 held at the [subcommittee](#) meeting of the CPR on [22 April 2025](#).
7. The spending restrictions will have an impact on the delivery of services with **a 10% cap reduction in both documentation and the number of formal meetings** that the DCS will support. Regarding interpretation the restrictive measures are as follows:
 - a. DSC will service a limit of up to 9 meetings a week with interpretation.
 - b. No parallel formal meetings of the same calendar meeting body, with or without interpretation services, can be accommodated under the Regular Budget, regardless of the entitlement.
 - c. One team of interpreters can handle two meetings per day with 90 minutes of break between each meeting.
 - d. Sessions cannot be held beyond 6 pm or over the weekend unless they are covered through extra budgetary (XB) funding. XB cost estimates will account for any additional requests beyond what is approved.
8. These austerity measures **do not impact on the meetings of the OECPR-7** as the meetings of the OECPR requiring interpretation are less than 10.
9. However, **as per the current structure of the meetings of UNEA-7 as approved by the UNEA Bureau on 25 March 2025, a second team of interpreters is needed to be covered entirely through XB funding.**
10. During the briefing on the preparations of UNEA-7 held at the [subcommittee](#) meeting of the CPR on [22 April 2025](#), delegations emphasized the importance of providing Ministers the political space to express their national views.

C. National statements

11. Considering the austerity measures and to ensure the availability of interpretation for the closing plenary meeting on 12 December 2025 in the event that the meeting needs to be extended beyond 6 p.m., **the Secretariat proposes to revert to the time limit of 3 minutes for statements by individual delegations and 5 minutes for statements made on behalf of groups of States, on the understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts.** Observers, major groups and stakeholders also be given a time limit of 3 minutes, unless for the major groups the statement is on behalf of all nine major groups, in which case the time limit may be 5 minutes. A countdown timer will operate in the conference room to guide speakers. When a representative exceeds her or his allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay, which will be done by means of automatic microphone cut-off.

D. Structure

12. With the proposed reduction on time limit for national statements, the number of meetings devoted to national statements has been reduced and the meeting devoted to national statements on Friday morning has been adjusted to 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (see the Annex).

E. Cost implications

13. To accommodate the revised structure with national statements an **extra team of interpreters at an estimated extra budgetary cost of approximately USD125,000 to 135,000 would need to be covered through Member States contribution.**
14. To ensure the effective preparation of UNEA-7, the recruitment of the team of interpreters will need to start in the first week of September 2025.
15. If funding to bridge the current gap of USD 1,497,107 has not been secured or pledged by Member States by early September, the UNEA Bureau will need to revisit and revise the structure outlined in the Annex, with a view to scaling back the meetings to align with the available resources.

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Annex: Revised proposed schematic structure for UNEA-7

	Monday, 8 Dec	Tuesday, 9 Dec	Wednesday, 10 Dec	Thursday, 11 Dec	High-level segment		Friday, 12 Dec
8.00 – 9.00	Reg/Pol groups/MG meetings [Restricted]		Reg/Pol groups/MG meetings [Restricted]	Reg/Pol groups/MG meetings [Restricted]	African Ministerial breakfast	Bureau meeting [restricted]	EU hosted Ministerial Breakfast
9.00 – 10.00		Reg/Pol groups/MG meetings [Restricted]	Bureau meeting [restricted]		High-level segment cultural opening		
10.00 – 13.00	[1st plenary meeting] Opening plenary of UNEA ACEFRS [CR2] - Opening of the session [item 1] - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work [item 2] <i>Adoption of the agenda, establishment of a committee of the whole, election of the chair and the rapporteur of the committee [TBC], allocation of agenda items, organization of work</i> - Opening of the session [item 1] (continued) - Opening statements - Stakeholder engagement [item 7] - Credentials of representatives [item 3] - Report of the CPR [item 4] - Contributions of UNEA to the HLPF [item 8]	Committee of the Whole/ Contact groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] [CR2]	Committee of the Whole/Contact groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] [CR2]	[2nd plenary meeting] Cooperation with MEAs [item 10] ACEFRS [CR1]	[3rd plenary meeting] Opening of the High-level segment [item 9] “Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet” ACEFRS [CR2]	[6th plenary meeting] National statements (List of speakers) [item 9] ACEFRS [CR 2]	Leadership dialogue ACEFRS [CR1]
	Committee of the Whole Opening plenary [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] ACEFRS [CR2]			High-Level dialogue on Cooperation with MEAs ACEFRS [CR1]	[3rd plenary meeting - continuation] National statements (List of speakers) [item 9] ACEFRS [CR2]		Leadership dialogue ACEFRS [CR1]
13.15 – 14.45	Side events	Side events	Side events	Side events	UNEP hosted “Women leaders luncheon”	Side events	
15.00 – 18.00	Committee of the Whole/ Contact groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] [CR2]	Committee of the Whole/ Contact groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] [CR2]	Committee of the Whole Closing plenary [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] ACEFRS [CR2]	High-Level dialogue on Cooperation with MEAs ACEFRS [CR1]	[4th plenary meeting] - Credentials of representatives [item 3] (resumed) - National statements (List of speakers) [item 9] ACEFRS [CR 2]	Leadership dialogue ACEFRS [CR1]	[7th plenary meeting] Closing plenary of UNEA ACEFRS [CR2] - High-level segment [item 9]: <i>Presentation of summaries</i> - Action on the draft Ministerial Declaration [item 12] - Cooperation with MEAs [item 10]: <i>Presentation of summaries</i> - Consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole [items 5 and 6] - Election of officers [item 13] - Stakeholder engagement [item 7]: <i>Closing statements</i> - Provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA-8 [item 11] - Other matters [item 14] - Adoption of the report [item 15] - Closure of the session [item 16]
				Moderated discussion on the conclusions ACEFRS [CR1]		Multistakeholder dialogue ACEFRS [CR1]	
18.15 – 19.45	Side events	Side events	Side events	Side events			
				[5th plenary meeting] National statements (List of speakers) [item 9] ACEFRS [CR 2] 19.30 – 22.30	Host Country Reception		

MEAs side events [pavilion tent] from MON-FRI – TBA