

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Medium-Term Strategy for UNEP?

UNEP's **Medium-Term Strategy (MTS)** outlines the organization's vision for addressing critical global environmental challenges. Central to this strategy is addressing the three planetary environmental crises - the crisis of climate change, the crisis of land degradation neutrality and nature loss, and the crisis of pollution - which pose significant threats to both the planet and humanity.

UNEP's MTS is updated every four years, and the development of the MTS 2026-2029 was approved by the Member States as a resolution by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6). The new MTS will cover the period from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2029.

2. What is the Programme of Work and Budget for UNEP?

The **Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget** sets out the UNEP results framework for the specified period, focused on the strategic objectives outlined in the UNEP MTS. UNEP formulates a budget to accompany each POW, receiving guidance from the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

UNEP's PoW and Budget is updated every two years, and the development of the PoW and Budget 2026-2027 was also approved by UNEA. The development of the new POW and Budget will cover the period from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

3. What is the timeframe for the preparation of the new UNEP MTS 2026-2029 and POW 2026-2027?

The timeline for UNEP's new MTS involves an 18-month development process, culminating in approval at the seventh session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in December 2025. The planning and formulation phase will run from June 2024 through December 2025, with implementation beginning in January 2026.

In terms of the latest documents, [the annotated outline of the next MTS and PoW](#) and [the second synthesis report of the Informal Dialogue Session with Major Groups, Private Sectors and MEA Secretariat](#) is to be presented at the 169th CPR on 20 March 2025.

4. How will the new MTS help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

UNEP is uniquely positioned to support the entities of the UN development system to adopt and mainstream a more climate- and environment-responsive approach into their programmes and strategic plans and their policy advice to programme countries, in accordance with national development policies, plans, priorities and needs.¹ As part of the UN Country Teams and in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinators' system, UNEP shall increase its effort to mainstream environmental outcomes as part of the UN Cooperation Frameworks,

¹ Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/79/L.60). UN General Assembly, Seventy-ninth session, Second Committee.

substantiated by science-based and data-rich information in the Common Country Assessments.

5. Will UNEP and the new MTS/PoW address land degradation, drought and desertification?

Yes. UNEP is already working on these issues under the current MTS to further demonstrate UNEP's commitment and ongoing work in this area. UNEP will add "land degradation neutrality" into the nature loss strategic objective. UNEP also held a briefing on its land degradation, droughts, desertification and sustainable use of water initiatives during the CPR Subcommittee Meeting on 20 February, gathering additional input from Member States to further strengthen its approach (Please refer to the [pre-session documents](#) for the presentation and [the Chair's summary](#) for more details).

6. How will UNEP ensure the development of the new strategy involves stakeholders?

[UNEA Decision 6/7](#) requested "the Executive Director, through inclusive and regular consultation with Member States and, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, to prepare a draft PoW and budget for the period 2026–2027 and a draft MTS for the period 2026-2029, fully taking into account the views of Member States and making every effort to reflect consensual views". In this context, UNEP has facilitated a series of informal dialogues with Member States, Major Groups and Stakeholders including youth and the private sector, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and UN agencies. Please refer [to the first Synthesis report of the Informal Member States Dialogue on the Development of UNEPs MTS 2026-2029](#) presented at the 168th CPR meeting and [the second synthesis report of the Informal Dialogue Session with Major Groups, Private Sectors and MEA Secretariat](#) presented at the 169th CPR on 20 March for more details.

7. How will the new MTS enhance synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)?

UNEA resolutions [6/4](#) and [6/6](#), adopted at UNEA-6, explicitly addressed the importance of cooperation with MEAs and outlined specific actions for enhancing collaboration. The new MTS will enhance synergies with MEAs by fostering more coordinated and integrated approaches to environmental challenges. The strategy will focus on promoting collaboration between different environmental agreements, supporting Member States in their efforts to meet their environmental commitments, and developing tools that facilitate better governance, reporting, and policy development.

8. Where can I find the latest information on the development of UNEP's 2026-2029 MTS and the 2026-2027 PoW process?

You can find the latest information on the development of the 2026-2029 MTS and PoW by clicking [here](#).

9. Where can I find information on the draft budget envelope options paper for UNEPs 2026-2027 PoW?

The draft budget envelope options paper for UNEP's 2026-2027 PoW was first presented during the Subcommittee meeting of the CPR on 3 December. You can find the draft options budget envelope options paper [here](#).