
Joint Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
28 May 2025, 16:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. His Excellency Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, followed by opening remarks by His Excellency Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The President welcomed and congratulated His Excellency Peter Maddens, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP, on his election as a Vice President of UNEA-7 representing the Group of Western European and other States.
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Update on the consultations on the draft Ministerial Declaration of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

3. The President of UNEA presented the [first draft of the ministerial declaration of UNEA-7](#) to the two Bureaux.
4. The UNEA and CPR Bureaux members welcomed the first draft which was more structured, supported the ongoing consultations and encouraged the President to continue leading the discussions and holding the pen for the draft ministerial declaration.
5. One UNEA Bureau member welcomed the new paragraphs on sustainable water management, the One Health approach, and the global framework on chemicals and the BBNJ Agreement; suggested adding a separate paragraph on climate resilience, low carbon economy, reduced emissions and a reference to the Paris Agreement; also a separate paragraph on sustainability, circularity and security of rare earth elements and critical raw materials; further a separate paragraph on the cross-cutting role of science, promoting scientific research, reliable data, science-based standards and a science-based approach overall, informing policies through science-policy interfaces at all levels; requested references to the UNEP medium-term strategy, programme of work, and relevant scientific reports; recommended addressing specifically high-impact sectors, engaging stakeholders in circular economy, and emphasizing environmental education; urged highlighting forest degradation, afforestation, and marine, wetlands and other types of water-related ecosystems in biodiversity; stressed the importance of financing and capacity building based on voluntary and mutually agreed terms; and reaffirmed UNEP's role as the leading global environmental authority.
6. One CPR Bureau member highlighted the challenges faced by developing countries, especially smaller delegations, to participate in more than two parallel meetings during the Open-ended CPR and UNEA and requested the Secretariat to make available the proposed structure of the OECPR as soon as possible for the Bureaux consideration.
7. The Secretariat responded that a simple structure of the OECPR can be made available to the Bureaux at the joint retreat to be held in July; however, the structure with the clustering of drafts will be made available in early October following the deadline of submission of drafts on 29 September.

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

8. The Secretariat briefed the two Bureaux on the [implications of the austerity measures](#) on the structure of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), including meetings with interpretation within a week being limited to 9 meetings and additional meetings as well as meetings held beyond 6 pm or over the weekend would have to be covered through an additional team of interpretations funded through extra budgetary resources in the amount of approximately USD 125,000 to USD 135,000; and presented options for a [revised structure and arrangements for national statements](#).
9. One CPR Bureau member emphasized the importance of maintaining travel support for two representatives from developing countries.
10. One UNEA Bureau member requested detailed budgetary information, including a breakdown of expenditures for UNEA-6; inquired about the consequences of reducing travel support to one delegate per developing country and how funding priorities would be determined in the event of insufficient funds; emphasized the need for clarity on resource mobilization deadlines and the timeline and process for making changes to the meeting structure.
11. One Bureau member asked about the time allocated to observers for their statements during the high-level segment, suggesting that Member States should receive slightly more time than observers.
12. The Executive Director of UNEP in her response informed that UNEA-6 has provided travel support to 173 representatives from 100 Member States, 29 representatives of major groups, and 28 youth participants; emphasized the commitment to supporting two representatives per developing country depending on the availability of funds; highlighted that if the funding gap is not closed by early September, the UNEA Bureau would need to convene to revisit and revise the structure, to scale back the meetings to align with the available resources.
13. The Bureaux members endorsed the proposed revised arrangement for national statements as follows:
 - The time limit for national statements will be 3 minutes for statements by individual delegations and 5 minutes for statements made on behalf of group of States on the understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts; observers, major groups and stakeholders may 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.
 - The Bureaux members also endorsed [the revised structure of UNEA-7](#).

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

14. The President of UNEA informed Bureau members that a second revised final contribution of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2025 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) was placed under silence procedure until Friday, 30 May, and informed that if the final silence procedure is broken, there will be no UNEA contribution to the HLPF this year.

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting.

15. The Executive Director of UNEP and the President of UNEA expressed appreciation to the CPR Bureau members for their cooperation and collaboration during their two-year tenure, which is to conclude on 30 June 2025.
16. The meeting closed at 17:30 (GMT+3).

Annex: List of Participants

United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau Members:

1. H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of UNEA and Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman.
2. H. E. Ms. Mr. Peter Maddens, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador of Belgium and Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP.
3. H. E. Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Vice President of UNEA and First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, **represented by** Ms. Nino Gokhelashvili, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.
4. H. E. Ms. Anikó Raisz, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of State for Environmental Policy and Circular Economy of Hungary.
5. H. E. Mr. Ali Gholampour, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP.
6. H. E. Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Vice President of UNEA and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Government Offices of Sweden, **represented by** H. E. Ms. Caroline Vicini, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to UNEP.
7. H. E. Mr Mike Mposha, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Green Economy and Environment of Zambia.
8. H. E. Ms. Joyelle Clarke, Rapporteur of UNEA and Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Committee of Permanent Representative Bureau Members:

1. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
2. H. E. Mr. Wael Attiya, Vice Chair, Ambassador of Egypt to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
3. H.E. Ms. Nicol Adamcová, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czechia to UNEP
4. H. E. Mr. Arnaud Suquet, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to UNEP, **represented by** Mr. M. Leny Potavin, Embassy of France.
5. Mr. Jovan Bernard Reid, Rapporteur, Deputy Head of Mission of the Permanent Mission of Barbados to Kenya and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP.

UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.
2. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies, UNEP.
3. Mr. Gerhard Kreutzer, Legal Officer, UNEP.