

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 7 July 2026
09:00 – 12:00 and 13:00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda item 5: Briefing on the Global Youth Environment Assembly 2025.

The Secretariat will provide a briefing on the outcomes and follow-up of the Global Youth Environment Assembly (YEA) 2025, held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi and online on 29 and 30 November and 7 December 2025, in preparation for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Following the presentation, the Committee will be invited to take note of the briefing and engage in an exchange of views with its members and the Secretariat.

Global Youth Environment Assembly 2025

I. Introduction

1. The Global Youth Environment Assembly (YEA) is convened by the Children and Youth Major Group (CYMG) accredited to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the support of interested Member States, UNEP and partner organizations, as a global platform for youth engagement in the lead-up to sessions of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). It brings together young environmental leaders, experts, advocates, and policy actors from all regions to participate in thematic discussions, information-sharing, capacity-building workshops, consultations, and the development of youth-led initiatives. It provides an inclusive space for articulating youth perspectives on global environmental governance and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
2. First held in person in 2022 ahead of UNEA-5.2, the YEA culminates in the development of the Global Youth Declaration on the Environment, which conveys youth priorities and recommendations for consideration by Member States, international organizations, and other stakeholders. Recognized by UNEA, in its [resolution 7/6](#), as the principal youth platform under the Environment Assembly, and accompanied by a request to the Executive Director to continue supporting its organization in partnership with the CYMG, the Youth Environment Assembly provides a structured mechanism for youth engagement in UNEP's intergovernmental processes and supports the implementation of resolution 7/6 through the promotion of meaningful youth participation in environmental decision-making processes.
3. The third session of the YEA took place on 29 and 30 November and 7 December 2025 ahead of UNEA-7, with approximately 1,600 participants (including 1,100 in person and over 500 online), and culminated in the adoption of the [Global Youth Declaration on the Environment 2025](#). UNEP provided travel support to 32 international youth delegates and 50 youth delegates based in Kenya. The organization of the YEA-3 was generously supported by the Governments of Germany, Monaco and Sweden, the European Union, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Additional information on the YEA is available through the CYMG website: www.cymgenvironment.net.

II. Previous sessions

4. The Youth Environment Assembly has convened two sessions:
 - (a) **First session (19-20 and 25-27 February 2022):** Held in advance of UNEA-5.2, the inaugural Youth Environment Assembly was organized alongside the first part of the Stockholm+50 Youth Assembly.
 - (b) **Second session (17-18 February 2024):** Convened ahead of UNEA-6, the second Youth Environment Assembly (YEA-2) facilitated the establishment of the [Ocean Science and Governance Youth Network](#) as an initiative to coordinate youth contributions to UNEP Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) and other relevant ocean-related policy processes. YEA-2 also expanded engagement with youth constituencies and mechanisms from other multilateral environmental processes, including YOUNGO under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Youth Caucus of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Youth Working Group of the Convention on Wetlands.

III. Recognition in intergovernmental outcomes

5. The Global Youth Environment Assembly and its outcomes have received increasing recognition within UNEA and other multilateral environmental processes. The ministerial declarations adopted at successive sessions from resumed fifth session to seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly have acknowledged the role of the Youth Environment Assembly in promoting youth engagement in environmental governance.
6. The policy recommendations emerging from the Youth Environment Assembly have also informed broader

multilateral environmental processes. Notably, [resolution XV.19](#) of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands referenced the 2024 Global Youth Declaration on the Environment, developed through the second Youth Environment Assembly (YEA-2) and presented at UNEA-6. The resolution applauded the Declaration and noted its call for the institutionalization of intergenerational equity in environmental governance, including through enhanced participation of children and youth in decision-making processes within UNEP, UNEA and multilateral environmental agreements.

The Youth Environment Assembly has evolved into a recurring component of UNEP's youth engagement architecture, providing a platform through which children and youth can contribute perspectives to UNEA deliberations, regional consultations and related environmental governance processes.

IV. Road to the YEA-3 ahead of UNEA-7

7. The intersessional period leading up to the YEA-3 and UNEA-7 included a range of youth engagement activities coordinated by the CYMG to facilitate youth participation in UNEP and UNEA-related processes.
8. To facilitate youth engagement in the preparations for UNEA-7, the CYMG convened consultations, capacity-building activities and briefings focused on draft resolutions, the Ministerial Declaration and the development of the Global Youth Declaration on the Environment 2025.
9. Regional engagement constituted another important component of the intersessional process. Youth days and youth forums were convened across all six UNEP regions and the Caribbean. The CYMG also participated in all Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) and meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), including quarterly and subcommittee meetings, providing youth perspectives on draft resolutions and other agenda items throughout the UNEA-7 preparatory process. Regional youth engagement activities included:
 - (a) **Africa:** A Youth Day was convened alongside the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting of the Major Groups and Stakeholders on 10 July 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya.
 - (b) **Asia-Pacific:** The Asia-Pacific Youth Environment Forum (APYEF) was held on 26 August 2025 in Nadi, Fiji, culminating in the adoption of a regional youth manifesto.
 - (c) **West Asia:** The Arab Youth Environment Forum (AYEF) was convened online on 8 September 2025 and produced a regional youth manifesto.
 - (d) **Latin America and the Caribbean:** The Caribbean Youth Environment and Climate Change Conference was organized online from 10 to 12 September 2025. The Latin America and Caribbean Youth Environment Forum (LACYEF) were held on 27 September 2025 in Lima, Peru, resulting in the adoption of a regional youth declaration.
 - (e) **North America:** A regional youth consultation was convened online on 26 September 2025.
 - (f) **Europe:** Youth Days were held online on 3-4 October 2025 in advance of the Regional Consultative Meeting, resulting in the adoption of the European Children and Youth Environment Manifesto 2025.
10. Collectively, these regional activities contributed to the consolidation of youth perspectives across regions and informed the development of global youth inputs to UNEA-7 and the “Global Youth Declaration on the Environment 2025”. Additional information on regional engagement is available on the UNEP website at: www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea7/regional-consultative-meetings.
11. In addition to preparations for the YEA-3, children and youth participated in a range of UNEA-mandated and other relevant international environmental processes during the intersessional period. These included activities related to the negotiations on the plastic pollution treaty, the establishment of the science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution, the Montreal Protocol process and capacity-building initiatives on multilateral environmental agreements.

V. Outcomes of the YEA-3

12. The programme comprised 16 sessions held on 29 and 30 November 2025, focusing on capacity-building, policy dialogue and consultations. The Assembly concluded with a high-level closing event on 7 December 2025, featuring the President of UNEA-7, the Executive Director of UNEP, the Chair of the CPR, and senior representatives of Member States and donor partners. During the closing segment, the *Global Youth Declaration on the Environment 2025* was formally presented, which sets out youth perspectives and recommendations across six priority areas. Further information is available at: www.cymgenvironment.net/gyd-2025.
13. The YEA-3 also served as a platform for the launch of the *Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 for Youth* and the #YouthToBeatPollution campaign. The Assembly further brought together representatives of the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and other international instruments related to chemicals, waste and pollution.
14. In preparation for UNEA-7, the CYMG developed position papers on all draft UNEA resolutions and decisions. These documents synthesized youth feedback from the consultation process and provided targeted recommendations on the draft resolutions and decisions.

VI. Connection with the Programme of Work (PoW) and Medium-Term Strategy (MTS)

15. The YEA and its related intersessional youth engagement activities contribute primarily to **SP5: Environmental law and governance** subprogramme. It also has supporting relevance to **SP4: Science-policy** subprogramme, including through the contribution of youth perspectives and knowledge inputs to science-policy interfaces and evidence-based decision-making processes. In addition, YEA and its associated activities provide opportunities for youth engagement across the thematic areas related to subprogrammes on Climate Action (SP1), Nature Action: Land, Ocean and Freshwater (SP2), and Chemicals and Pollution Action (SP3), including through consultations and capacity building segments related to draft UNEA resolutions, multilateral environmental processes and the development of the Global Youth Declaration on the Environment.
16. The YEA is also aligned with the Medium-Term Strategy 2026–2029, which emphasizes inclusive approaches that incorporate the views and knowledge of children and youth and promotes meaningful youth participation in environmental decision-making processes.
17. Beyond the subprogramme framework, the outcomes are also linked to non-subprogramme results under policymaking organs, specifically “**Outcome 1: driving global, regional and national actions on environmental issues by engaging key decision-makers and major groups and stakeholders and setting policy priorities through the Environment Assembly**”. In this context, it contributes to indicator “**NS4: engagement by key decision makers and major groups and stakeholders in the Environment Assembly and preparatory processes, including in the regions.**”

VII. Resource mobilization

18. In preparation for UNEA-7, UNEP provided financial and operational support for the organization of YEA-3 through the overall UNEA-7 budget. In addition, extrabudgetary financial contributions from the Governments of Germany, Monaco and Sweden, the European Union, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported costs associated with the organization of YEA-3, including travel support for youth delegates, venue arrangements and logistical requirements.
19. The remaining organizational and operational requirements were supported through voluntary and in-kind contributions provided by the CYMG and its representatives. These contributions included coordination and administrative support, as well as the provision and management of digital platform and services, including website, online meeting platforms, Google Workspace services and mailing lists. In addition, a significant number of youth delegates participated in YEA-3 and UNEA-7 through self-funded travel and logistical arrangements.
20. Looking ahead, the long-term sustainability of the Youth Environment Assembly and related youth engagement activities will depend on the availability of adequate and predictable resources. Early financial commitments and broader partnerships, would facilitate planning, enhance inclusivity, and support the

continued participation of children and youth in UNEP processes. Given the role of the CYMG in convening the Youth Environment Assembly and coordinating year-round youth engagement activities, consideration may also be given to supporting essential operational and coordination functions that underpin the effective delivery of these processes.

VIII. Next steps

21. Building on the experience and lessons learned from the YEA-3, preparations for the fourth session of the Global Youth Environment Assembly (YEA-4) ahead of UNEA-8 will seek to further strengthen youth engagement, coordination and participation throughout the intersessional period.
22. Future efforts may include capacity-building on multilateral environmental governance, negotiation processes and policy drafting, alongside greater opportunities for peer exchange, networking and interactive engagement. Continued consultations on UNEP policy processes, including draft resolutions, the programme of work and budget, and the medium-term strategy, may further support the provision of coordinated youth inputs.
23. The Global Youth Environment Assembly and related intersessional youth engagement activities may also contribute to the implementation of [UNEA resolution 7/6](#) entitled “*Enhancing the meaningful participation of youth in environmental processes and enhancing environmental education*” by providing a platform for consultation, coordination and engagement between children and youth, UNEP, Member States and other stakeholders.
24. Following YEA-3, the CYMG initiated the Youth Environmental Dialogues (YEDx) as a platform to localize discussions emerging from the YEA and outcomes adopted by UNEA as well as inform preparations for YEA-4, the next Global Youth Declaration on the Environment, and youth contributions to UNEA-8 deliberations. Further information on YEDx is available at: www.cymgenvironment.net/yedx.
25. Continued collaboration among UNEP, the Children and Youth Major Group, Member States and partners, together with timely and predictable financial support, including for core coordination and operational functions, will remain important considerations in the lead-up to YEA-4 and UNEA-8.

IX. Guiding questions for the CPR/relevance for the CPR

26. The CPR subcommittee may wish to:
 - (a) Take note of the outcomes of the YEA-3 and its associated youth engagement activities;
 - (b) Provide views on opportunities to further strengthen the fourth session of the Global Youth Environment Assembly (YEA-4) and youth engagement activities in the lead-up to UNEA-8;
 - (c) Provide guidance on how the Youth Environment Assembly and related youth engagement activities could further support the implementation of UNEA resolution 7/6;
 - (d) Consider opportunities for mobilizing resources to facilitate the organization of future sessions of the YEA and related intersessional youth engagement activities;
 - (e) Encourage continued collaboration among UNEP, the Children and Youth Major Group, Member States and other stakeholders to support inclusive and meaningful youth participation in UNEP processes.