

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 4: Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

This note, entitled “Note on the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly“, has been developed by the Secretariat for the consideration and possible decision by the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly under agenda item 4 – Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly – at the joint meeting of the Bureaus of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

The note outlines the background for a recommendation to add a supplementary item to the UNEA-6 agenda and recommended steps forward.

The Bureaus are invited to provide further guidance to the President of UNEA 6 and to the Secretariat on how to implement the recommendation.

Note on the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

I. Background

1. In its [decision 5/4](#) of 2 March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) endorsed the [outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the consensual process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#) (CPR) of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies (“outcome of the CPR-based review”), as agreed at the eighth meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 October 2021.

2. In paragraph 6 of the outcome of the CPR-based review, it is recommended that under the guidance of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and with the support from the Secretariat and in close cooperation with the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the contributions and active participation of the MEAs to the Environment Assembly be strengthened to promote coherence between the resolutions of the Environment Assembly and the decisions of the governing bodies of the MEAs, while fully respecting the autonomy of those MEAs and without introducing new and additional requirements for the contracting parties to the MEAs.

3. In this regard, in paragraph 6 (b) of the outcome of the CPR-based review, it is recommended that the Environment Assembly consider establishing an agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements” in its sessions.

4. Upon further consideration at the [9th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR](#), the recommendation was reiterated in the [Chair’s Summary](#) of the meeting (paragraph 41 (f)).

II. Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

5. The Environment Assembly, in its [decision 5/4](#) of 2 March 2022, approved the provisional agenda for the sixth session which reads as follows:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Credentials of representatives
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
5. International environmental policy and governance issues
6. Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues
7. Stakeholder engagement
8. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
9. High-level segment
10. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly

11. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session
12. Election of officers
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of the report
15. Closure of the session

III. Relevant rules of procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly pertaining to the agenda

6. The following rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, namely rules 9 and 11, pertain to the agenda, including supplementary items.

Drawing up of the provisional agenda for a regular session

Rule 9

1. *The Executive Director shall submit to the United Nations Environment Assembly at each regular session the provisional agenda for the following regular session. The provisional agenda shall include all items proposed by:*

- (a) The United Nations Environment Assembly;*
- (b) A State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency;*
- (c) The General Assembly;*
- (d) The Economic and Social Council;*
- (e) The Executive Director.*

2. *Items proposed under (b) above shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents which shall be submitted to the Executive Director at least forty-nine days prior to the opening of the session.*

Supplementary items

Rule 11

The inclusion of supplementary items in the provisional agenda considered by the United Nations Environment Assembly may be proposed by any authority entitled to propose items under paragraph 1 of rule 9. The request for inclusion of a supplementary item shall be supported by a statement from the authority proposing it, except in the case of the General Assembly, regarding the urgency of the consideration of the item. The Executive Director shall communicate to the United Nations Environment Assembly any requests for the inclusion of supplementary items received before the commencement of the regular session, together with such observations as the Executive Director may wish to make.

IV. Proposal for a possible decision by the UNEA Bureau to revise the UNEA-6 provisional agenda

7. The UNEA Bureau may wish to implement the recommendation from the outcome of the CPR-based review by inviting the President of UNEA-6, in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, to write to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme:

- requesting the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly, entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements”.
- providing a supporting statement; and
- requesting that the letter be issued as a document of the Environment Assembly.

A draft letter from the President of UNEA is outlined in annex I to this note.

8. Upon issuance of such a letter from UNEA President, the Secretariat would revise the provisional agenda of the sixth session to include the supplementary item as **item 10** and renumber the subsequent items. The revised provisional agenda will then be considered for adoption by the Environment Assembly at its first meeting of the sixth session, as per normal practice.

9. The UNEA Bureau may wish to defer consideration of specific details regarding the supplementary agenda item, such as format and timing for how the item should be considered at UNEA to a later date, when a full draft structure for the sixth session will be made available for review and decision by the Bureau.

V. Revised provisional agenda for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

12. Pursuant to the proposal outlined in paragraph 8 above, the revised provisional agenda would read as follows:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Credentials of representatives
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
5. International environmental policy and governance issues
6. Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues
7. Stakeholder engagement
8. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
9. High-level segment

10. Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements¹

11. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly
12. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session
13. Election of officers
14. Other matters
15. Adoption of the report
16. Closure of the session

¹ See UNEP/EA.6/xxx

Annex I – draft letter the President of the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly, addressed to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements

On behalf of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly of a supplementary item, entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements”.

In accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, a supporting statement is attached to the present letter (see addendum).

I also have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Environment Assembly.

(Signed) Leila Benali
Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco
President of the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly

Addendum

Supporting statement

1. In its decision 5/4 of 2 March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly endorsed the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, as agreed at the eighth meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 October 2021.

2. In paragraph 6 of the outcome of the CPR-based review, it is recommended that under the guidance of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and with the support from the Secretariat and in close cooperation with the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the contributions and active participation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Environment Assembly be strengthened to promote coherence between the resolutions of the Environment Assembly and the decisions of the governing bodies of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, while fully respecting the autonomy of those Multilateral Environmental Agreements and without introducing new and additional requirements for the contracting parties to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The proposed agenda item is to facilitate such contributions and participation by Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Environment Assembly while providing an opportunity for dialogue amongst themselves and with Member States with a view to enhancing effective environmental governance.

3. In this regard, in paragraph 6 (b) of the outcome of the CPR-based review, it is recommended that the Environment Assembly consider establishing an agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements” in its sessions.

4. Subsequently, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, at its ninth annual subcommittee meeting held from 24 to 28 October 2022 recommended that the Bureau of the Environment Assembly propose an amendment to the provisional agenda to the sixth session of the Environment Assembly to include a new agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements”.

5. At its joint meeting on 30 January 2023, the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives decided to propose the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements”; and invited the President of the Environment Assembly, on behalf of the Bureau, to write to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to request, in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, the inclusion of the supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session.
