
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 3: Preliminary discussion on the process and roadmap for consultation on the draft Ministerial Declaration of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly

This note, entitled “Draft roadmap for an inclusive, participatory and transparent consultation process on the draft ministerial declaration of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly” has been developed by the Presidency for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly with inputs from the Secretariat, for consideration by the Bureaus of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives under agenda item 3 – Preliminary discussion on the process and roadmap for consultation on the draft Ministerial Declaration of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

The note and attached roadmap outline the proposed milestones and key dates for the process for drafting and convening of the consultations leading up to the adoption of a draft ministerial declaration at the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), under the leadership of the UNEA President, building on established practice and experience gained for this process since UNEA-1. It proposes an open call for initial inputs to contribute to the development of a zero draft declaration, followed by open and transparent consultations on a zero draft, a first draft, a second draft, and a final draft to be tabled for adoption during the high-level segment of UNEA-6 in February/March 2024.

Members of the two Bureaus are invited to provide further guidance to the President of UNEA-6 on how to ensure the broadest possible ownership for the UNEA-6 ministerial declaration through an inclusive, participatory and transparent consultation process.

Draft roadmap for an inclusive, participatory and transparent consultation process on the draft ministerial declaration of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Following the established practice of the previous sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), it is expected that the UNEA-6 will consider for adoption by consensus a concise and an action-oriented draft ministerial declaration during its high-level segment in February/March 2024, providing high-level political guidance on the implementation of the UNEA-6 theme.

The UNEA Presidency provides a leadership role, as penholder and facilitator for consultations with Member States and UNEA-accredited Observers and Major Groups and Stakeholders in preparation for the adoption of the draft ministerial declaration, ensuring the broadest possible ownership through an open-ended, inclusive, participatory and transparent consultations.

Throughout the consultation process, the UNEA Presidency will be guided and supported by the Members of the UNEA and CPR Bureaus.

Traditionally, the consultation process has been initiated by the President soon after agreement on the theme for the session, through a letter addressed to all Member States, Observers and Major Groups and Stakeholders, whereby they are invited to submit inputs for possible key elements, followed by circulation of a zero draft and a request to provide further inputs based on the zero draft. A similar approach is proposed for the UNEA-6 consultation process on a ministerial declaration.

Taking into account the inputs received on the zero draft, a first draft ministerial declaration will then be circulated together with a timeline for open-ended informal consultations. On the basis of further inputs from these consultations, a second draft will be made available. Following further consultations, the Presidency will make available a final draft for consideration at the 6th meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and subsequent adoption by consensus during the high-level segment of UNEA.

In support of the consultation process, all written inputs will be made available on a dedicated website. As a reference, the inputs to the UNEA-5 ministerial declaration were made available [here](#).

To ensure a well-planned, inclusive and transparent preparatory process on the development of a draft ministerial declaration, the UNEA-6 Presidency has put forward the attached draft roadmap, outlining the key milestones and timelines for consultations with Member States, Observers and Major Groups and Stakeholders for the adoption of a draft ministerial declaration at UNEA-6.

Draft roadmap for the preparation of a draft ministerial declaration of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)

Time-frame	Action¹
30 January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on a theme for UNEA-6 and consideration of a draft roadmap at the joint Bureaus meeting to ensure an inclusive, participatory and transparent consultation process towards an agreement on a draft ministerial declaration.
March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the draft roadmap by the UNEA Presidency at the 161st meeting of the CPR. • Finalization of the roadmap by the UNEA Presidency based on the guidance provided by the UNEA and CPR Bureaus and taking into account feedback provided at the 161st CPR meeting. • Circulation of a letter from the UNEA President informing of the roadmap.
April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation of a letter from the UNEA President inviting Member States, observers and Stakeholders to provide written inputs for key elements for the draft ministerial declaration, with a deadline of the end of May 2023. • Inputs submitted in writing will be made available on a dedicated website.
3 May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary discussion at the UNEA Bureau meeting on the elements to be included in the draft ministerial declaration.
End of May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for the submission of inputs – to be upload on a dedicated website.
5 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with Major Groups and Stakeholders on the elements for the draft ministerial declaration, in advance of the joint Bureaus retreat.
6-7 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the inputs received at the joint Bureaus retreat in Morocco, with the objective to provide guidance to the Presidency in preparing a zero draft.
Mid-July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a zero draft ministerial declaration which will be made available on the dedicated website.
End of July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation of a letter from the President of UNEA transmitting the zero draft ministerial declaration and inviting Member States, observers and Stakeholders to provide written inputs and comments on the draft with a deadline of the end of August 2023.
End of Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for the submission of inputs – to be uploaded on a dedicated website.
Mid-Sept 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a first draft ministerial declaration. • Circulation of a letter from the President of UNEA transmitting the first draft ministerial declaration and inviting Member States, observers and Stakeholders to provide written inputs and comments with a deadline of mid-October 2023.
18 Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the UNEA Bureau to consider the first draft ministerial declaration.
End Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for the submission of inputs – to be uploaded on a dedicated website.
Early Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation of a letter from the President of UNEA transmitting the second draft ministerial declaration and inviting Member States, observers and Stakeholders to provide inputs and comments at the 10th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the CPR (ASC-10).
End of Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person consultation with Member States, observers and Stakeholders at ASC-10 under the leadership of the UNEA Presidency.
Jan 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation of a letter from the President of UNEA transmitting a final draft declaration for consideration at the 6th meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6).
19-23 Feb 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person consultation at the OECPR-6 led by the UNEA Presidency.
29 Feb / 1 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption by consensus of the draft ministerial declaration during the high-level segment of UNEA-6.

¹ Consultations also to be held by the President of UNEA through/in the margins of the regional ministerial environmental forums and in the margins of other intergovernmental meetings, as needed.