

Joint Bureaux 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 2: Consideration of a theme for the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly

In accordance with paragraph 9 of [decision 5/4](#) of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in which the Environment Assembly requested its Bureau, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to define a theme for the sixth session of the Environment Assembly no later than twelve months in advance of the sixth session, the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, at a joint Bureaux meeting of the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 30 January 2023, decided that the theme for UNEA-6 will be defined as follows:

“Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”

This final paper, dated 2 February 2023, has been prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Presidency, to reflect the views expressed by the members of the Bureaux of the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at the joint Bureaux meeting.

Theme for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

“Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”

The Secretary General’s landmark report [Our Common Agenda](#) and the [Stockholm+50 international meeting](#) have launched a global call to reinvigorate the multilateral system to overcome the multiple social, economic and environmental crises that threaten life on our planet. Three major interconnected environmental crises - climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – are jeopardizing at unprecedented scales our collective economic and social well-being and profoundly undermining opportunities to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods and quality of life. Yet, we still have a narrow window of opportunity to take action to reverse them.

Effective, inclusive and sustainable actions to tackle these multiple crises call for a transformative, inter-generational and [science-based approach](#) that can manage present, and anticipate emerging risks with global solidarity while advancing the realization of the [human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment](#) for all. This approach builds on the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 of the United Nations Environment Programme which identifies solutions for climate action, nature action and chemicals and pollution action.

Effective and inclusive actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are indispensable to restore trust in global and national governance systems, strengthen equitable societal participation in environmental decision-making, and leverage the environmental rule of law to achieve sustainable development. Achieving these goals and moving towards a climate-stable, in harmony with nature, and pollution-free future where no one is left behind requires a transformative approach that synergistically harnesses the actions and contributions of all States, major groups and stakeholders and accelerates and scales up the implementation of existing commitments toward sustainable patterns of consumption and production for all sectors underpinning our economies and societies.

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya, provides a center stage of environmental multilateralism and reinvigorated leadership that can deliver timely, effective and inclusive actions commensurate with the scale and speed of response needed to strengthen the resilience to global risks, and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To enable an effective multilateral response fueled by increased confidence and collective representation, these actions must be solution-oriented, tangible and science-based, and scale up efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, reverse inequalities, and account for the interests of present and future generations. Amongst these, digital transformations offer an important opportunity to bridge existing divides and strengthen equal access to information and emerging technologies to achieve common goals in a truly networked and inclusive manner.

UNEA-6 can further build on and scale up past achievements while maintaining a focused outlook to the future and identify risks, enhance anticipatory action and preparedness, and mobilize the necessary political resolve toward effective and inclusive actions with increased trust and transparency.

Means of implementation and focus areas under this theme should include:

- Advancing solidarity-based responses such as generation and provision of timely and predictable public and private finance, capacity building and technology transfer to help countries implement internationally agreed global and environmental goals;
- Promoting South-South and triangular cooperation for increased resilience and social protection; improving

access to relevant data to stimulate technological innovations and enable evidence-based and inclusive policymaking;

- Enhancing societal participation, access to information and access to justice and effective remedies for environment-related matters;
- Re-shaping economic governance models to account for the environment in measuring progress beyond GDP;
- A clear and focused involvement of business community to participate to the global effort in fighting climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution;
- Accelerating system-wide transformations of high impact sectors (e.g. food, energy, water, buildings and construction, manufacturing, and mobility), promoting circularity, resource efficiency, regenerative production approaches, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation in value chains;
- Enhancing strategic foresight and horizon scanning capacities at all levels to encourage long-term, anticipatory environmental decision-making; and
- Investing in environmental education and unlocking meaningful youth engagement to increase the recognition of inter-generational equity in national and international justice systems, and inform norms and values of each country to ensure the handover of a healthy legacy to future generations.
- Enhancing collaboration with, and synergies and complementarities across the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), while respecting their individual mandates, to increase their impact and deliver enhanced results across the 2030 Agenda.

Several key international processes taking place throughout 2023 would contribute towards the theme for UNEA-6. These include: the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit and SDG Summit, the G20 Leaders’ Summit, the Climate COP28, the Biodiversity COP16, and the continuing negotiations towards a Post-2020 Chemicals and Waste Framework.

UNEA-6, including through the power of its theme, can make meaningful contributions to the SG’s Summit of the Future that will take place in 2024. Furthermore, this theme would provide a platform to draw on the indispensable capacities of youth, local and regional authorities, businesses and the private sector, and academic and scientific institutions, amongst others, to promote effective, inclusive and sustainable civil society actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
