

## **Structure and participation modalities for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

*Endorsed by the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly and the Bureau of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives at the joint retreat held on 6 and 7 July 2023 in Morocco*

### **A. Background**

1. In accordance with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) decision 5/4, the sixth session will be held in Nairobi from **26 February to 1 March 2024**, and the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will be held from **19 to 23 February 2024**.
2. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2 and established practice of past UNEA sessions, the following components have formed the structure of the UNEA sessions:
  - Opening plenary meeting;
  - Closing plenary meeting with action on draft proposals;
  - A 2-day high-level segment with statements by Heads of State and Government, 2-3 leadership dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue;
  - National statements;
  - A committee of the whole to negotiate any outstanding draft resolutions/decisions.
3. In order to cater for special circumstances, some meetings of UNEA have started at 9:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. and/or continued beyond 6:00 p.m.
4. In addition, UNEA also hosts several other associated events, including pre-session events (such as the self-organized Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum or a Science, Policy and Business Forum), and in-session events (lunchtime and evening official side events selected by UNEP, flagship events to launch publications, media events, activities organized by Stakeholders, Expo, and receptions).

### **B. Structure**

5. The structure for UNEA-6 includes the following key components:
  - The opening of the session to be held in the morning of Monday, 26 February.
  - The Committee of the Whole will be established at the opening plenary meeting and will meet from Monday to Wednesday, 26-28 February. On 28 February, the Committee of the Whole will meet in parallel to the “MEA day” (see below).
  - Wednesday, 28 February, will be specifically devoted to consideration of the item on “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements”, in the form of a formal opening followed by two consecutive high-level panel discussions - the “MEA Day”. It is expected that the MEA Day will attract high-level participation.
  - The high-level segment will open on Thursday, 29 February (am), and close on Friday, 1 March (pm). The opening of the high-level segment will hear statements by Heads of State and Government, followed by national statements.

- The plenary session on Thursday, 29 February, will be extended into the evening, to ensure that all statements from all Member States and stakeholders can be accommodated. National statements are also expected to continue on Friday, 1 March.
- Three leadership dialogues, each for 90 minutes, will be held, as follows:
  - One in the afternoon of Thursday, 29 February, to focus on actions to tackle climate change.
  - Two in the morning of Friday, 1 March, to focus on actions to tackle biodiversity loss and actions to tackle pollution, respectively.
- The multistakeholder dialogue will take place in the afternoon of Thursday, 29 February for 90 minutes. As per established practice, the focus and format of this dialogue will be organized in close cooperation with the elected representatives from Major Groups and Stakeholders.
- The closing plenary, which will include taking action on the draft ministerial declaration, draft resolutions and decisions, and reports from the high-level and multistakeholder dialogues, will be held on Friday, 1 March, in the afternoon.

**C. Participation modalities for UNEA-6**

6. UNEA-6 will be held with the following participation modalities:

- All meetings, i.e. formal plenary meetings and informal meetings (high-level dialogues, leadership dialogues and multi-stakeholder dialogues), as well as the meetings of the Committee of the Whole, are to be held fully in-person.
- While not providing for online interventions, these meetings will nevertheless offer live web-streaming in all six UN languages to allow participants as well as the general public to follow the proceedings.
- All Member States will have to an opportunity to deliver one national statement during the high-level segment. National statements are expected to be delivered in person. However, exceptionally, pre-recorded video messages could be provided by Heads of State and Government who will not be able to attend in person. These pre-recorded video messages would be played in the plenary following its introduction by the President of the Environment Assembly or the presiding officer. Pre-recorded video messages at ministerial-level or below would be uploaded on the website but not played in the meeting room and not reflected in the meeting report.
- Informal consultations in the form of working groups/contact groups will be organized as hybrid meetings with a combination of in-person and online participation through an online platform.

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|  |   | HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| STRUCTURE OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF UNEA   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Theme: "Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution" |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Monday<br>26 February 2024  | Tuesday<br>27 February 2024   | Wednesday<br>28 February 2024  |  | Thursday<br>29 February 2024   | Friday<br>1 March 2024   |  |
| 8:00–9:00  | Reg/pol group meetings<br>Bureau meetings<br>Major Groups meetings  | Reg/pol group and<br>Bureau meetings<br>MGS meetings  | Reg/pol group and<br>Bureau meetings<br>MGS meetings   | Ministerial breakfast<br>(TBC)                             | Reg/pol group meetings<br>Bureau meetings<br>Major Groups meetings   | Reg/pol group meetings<br>Bureau meetings<br>Major Groups meetings   |  |
| 9:00–10:00   |   |   |  | Cooperation with<br>MEAs [item 10]<br>[CR 1]               |  |  |  |
| 10:00–13:00  | <b>UNEA-6 Opening Plenary [CR 2-3-4]</b><br>- Opening of the session [item 1]<br>- Adoption of the agenda [item 2]<br><i>Establishment of the COW</i><br>- Statements [item 1]<br>- Report from the CPR Chair [item 4]<br>- Credentials of representatives [item 3]<br>- Contributions to the HLPF [item 8] | <b>Committee of the Whole [CR 2-3-4]/ Working Groups</b><br>[Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] | <b>Committee of the Whole [CR 2-3-4]/ Working Groups</b><br>[Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11]  | <b>High-Level Dialogue on Cooperation with MEAs [CR1]</b>  | <b>UNEA-6 High-level segment [item 9] [CR 2-3-4] Opening Plenary</b><br><i>Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution</i> | <b>Plenary [CR 2-3-4] National Statements</b><br>[item 9]<br>(List of speakers)  | <b>Leadership Dialogue [CR 1]</b><br><i>focusing on actions to tackle biodiversity loss</i>  |
|  | <b>Committee of the Whole [CR 2,3,4] Opening Plenary</b><br>[Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11]   |   |  |  | <b>Plenary [CR 2-3-4] National Statements</b><br>[item 9]<br>(List of speakers)  |  |  |
| 13:30–14:45  | UNEA-6 side event(s)  | UNEA-6 side event(s)  | UNEA-6 side event(s)   |  | UNEA-6 side event(s)   | UNEA-6 side event(s)   |  |
| 15:00–18:00  | <b>Committee of the Whole [CR 2-3-4]/ Working Groups</b><br>[Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11]   | <b>Committee of the Whole [CR 2-3-4]/ Working Groups</b><br>[Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] | <b>Committee of the Whole [CR 2-3-4]/ Closing plenary</b><br>[Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11] | <b>High-Level Dialogue on Cooperation with MEAs [CR 1]</b> | <b>Plenary [CR 2-3-4] National Statements</b><br>[item 9]<br>(List of speakers)  | <b>Leadership Dialogue [CR 1]</b><br><i>focusing on actions to tackle climate change</i>                                       | <b>UNEA-6 Closing Plenary [CR 2-3-4]</b><br>- High-level segment [item 9] – <i>presentation of summaries</i><br>- Cooperation with MEAs [item 10] - <i>presentation of summaries</i><br>- Credentials of representatives [item 3]<br>- Action on draft Ministerial Declaration [item 12]<br>- Action on draft resolutions/decisions [items 5, 6 and 12]<br>- Stakeholder engagement [item 7] - <i>presentation of summary</i><br>- Provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA-7 [items 11 and 12]<br>- Election of officers [item 13]<br>- Other matters [item 14]<br>- Adoption of the report [item 15]<br>- Closure of the session [item 16] |
|  |   |   |  |  |  | <b>Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue [CR 1]</b><br><i>Inclusive actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution</i> |  |
| 18:30–19:45  | UNEA-6 side event(s)  | UNEA-6 side event(s)  | UNEA-6 side event(s)   |  | 19:30 p.m. [TBC]<br><b>Plenary [CR 2-3-4] National Statements</b><br>[item 9]<br>(List of speakers)  | Poss. high-level reception (TBC)   |  |