

UN Environment Assembly Bureau Meeting
23 October 2023
Online

Agenda Item 3: Update on the thematic focus of the high-level dialogues under the supplementary item “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements”.

This note, entitled “*Supplementary agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements,*” presents a revised thematic focus of the second high-level dialogue, following Bureau members' requests at the Joint Bureaux retreat held in July in Morocco and additional feedback provided through the silence procedure conducted in August.

The note also provides details on the consideration of the supplementary agenda item during the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.

Supplementary agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements”

Concept note in preparation of UNEA-6

1. Background

At the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) held in early 2022, Member States, in [decision 5/4](#), endorsed the [outcomes of the review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#) (CPR) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of UNEP governing and 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.

In follow up to the UNEA decision, the President of UNEA-6, on behalf of UNEA Bureau, has requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, the inclusion of a supplementary agenda item entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements” in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Assembly (26 February – 1st March 2024 in Nairobi) (see document [UNEP/EA.6/15](#)).

2. Overall objective of the supplementary agenda item

In light of UNEP’s MTS, the overall goal of strengthening the engagement of MEAs in UNEA-6 to promote coherence between the resolutions of the Assembly and the decisions of the governing bodies of the MEAs, while fully respecting the autonomy of the MEAs and without introducing new and additional requirements for the contracting parties to the MEAs, can be seen as *supporting the Environment Assembly in enhancing its relationship with the MEAs and its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, by strengthening convergence of action and dialogue on common strategies and sharing of experiences while also providing increased visibility to the decisions of the governing bodies of the MEAs.*

The UNEA-6 theme “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution” is well aligned with MEAs objectives and the UNEA-6 supplementary agenda item provides a structured entry point to highlight the importance of cooperation with MEAs under this theme. In addition to possible draft resolutions tabled by Member State(s) relevant for the supplementary item, the high-level discussions focusing on specific thematic areas of cooperation will provide further substantive inputs to the Assembly. Furthermore, a concept note for each high-level dialogue will be prepared in advance of the meeting to support consideration of this agenda item. UNEP will consult MEA Secretariats on the preparation of the two concept notes. The concept notes will include guiding questions to direct the discussions at the MEA high-level dialogues referred to below and possible key messages for action.

The consideration of the supplementary item is expected to result in tangible outcomes reflected, as appropriate, in decisions, resolutions and conclusions of the meeting.

3. Consideration of the MEA agenda item at UNEA-6

The supplementary agenda item will be presented as part of the UNEA-6 agenda to be formally adopted during the opening of UNEA-6 on 26 February 2024. This will be followed by the organization of an “MEA Day” on Wednesday, 28 February, in parallel with the Committee of the Whole.

It is foreseen that the MEA day will be formally opened by the UNEA President, followed by a statement by the Executive Director and possible brief introductory remarks from a selection of ministers who hold the role as MEA COP Presidents and a limited number of MEA Executive Secretaries. The President will then conclude this stage of the consideration of the item and adjourn the formal meeting. Immediately thereafter, two 3-hour moderated high-level MEA dialogues will begin.

Formal consideration of the agenda item would resume on 1st March 2024 in the afternoon, with a presentation of summaries from the two dialogues by the moderators. The Assembly would be invited to take note of the outcomes, to be included in the proceedings report of UNEA-6, and then close the item. The sequence of consideration of the agenda item is illustrated in figure 1. The meeting(s) which will form part of the 5-day UNEA session will be interpreted and webcast.

It is also expected that the outcomes of the item on MEA cooperation would be brought to the attention of the governing bodies of the MEAs as appropriate.

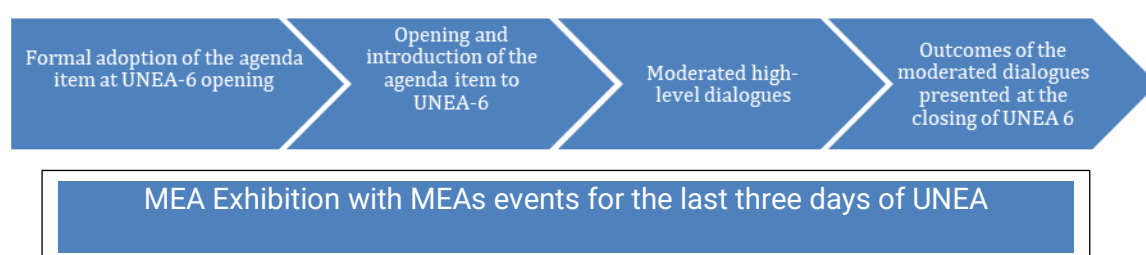


Figure 1: Sequence of consideration of the supplementary agenda item

4. MEA high-level dialogues

It is proposed that the MEA high-level dialogues will be held on 28 February from 10:00 am -1 pm and from 3 - 6 pm.

It is proposed that the two high-level dialogues will focus on two broad programmatic areas:

- Strengthening science policy interface for effective implementation of environmental commitments
- Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation.

5. Participation in the MEA Day

The participation in the MEA Day will be open to all UNEA participants.

In addition to UNEP administered global and regional MEA Secretariats¹, the invitation to effectively participate in UNEA-6 including the MEA Day will be extended to the two other Rio Conventions (UNFCCC and UNCCD) and the five non-UNEP administered MEA Secretariats of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity related Conventions² and others as appropriate.

Similar to the UNEA high-level dialogues (leadership dialogues) planned for the UNEA high level segment on 29 February and 1 March, participation is open to all Member States, Heads of MEA Secretariats and relevant UN entities and Specialized Agencies and intergovernmental/international organizations, as well as accredited major groups and stakeholders. The panelists and introductory speakers in the high-level dialogues will be determined at a later stage but it is envisaged that a number of ministers who also serve as COP Presidents will play a role in them.

6. MEAs Exhibition

MEAs exhibitions will be organized during the full week of UNEA-6, to showcase cooperation between UNEP and MEAs, the other UN entities and MEAs as well as among the MEAs on cross-cutting topics of interest which are relevant to the theme of UNEA-6.

The exhibition is open to all UNEA participants providing space for networking and knowledge sharing.

7. MEAs side events

MEAs related events will be held in two dedicated tents from 28 February to 1st March 2024. The call for expression of interest for events is currently open. A decision on the number of events that can be held per day will be made once the call is closed. The call for expression of interest has been sent to all UNEP-administered MEAs and is extended

¹ UNEP-Administered MEA Secretariats: Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone layer, Bamako Convention, Carpathian Convention, Abidjan Convention, Barcelona Convention, Cartagena Convention, Nairobi Convention and Tehran Convention.

² In addition to CBD, CITES and CMS, the BLG includes the International Plant Protection Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Whaling Commission, the Ramsar Convention and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

to the Rio Conventions and the five non-UNEP administered MEA Secretariats of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity related Conventions as well as the UNECE environmental conventions.