

United Nations Environment Assembly
Bureau Meeting
Monday, 23 October 2023
16:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online - Microsoft Teams

Draft President's Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. Her Excellency Leila Benali, President of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, opened and chaired the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Update on the draft ministerial declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

3. The President briefed the Bureau on updates on the draft ministerial declaration for the [sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#), followed by an exchange of views with the Bureau members.
4. The President summarized the comments provided at the 26 September second informal consultation and the written inputs provided by the deadline of 29 September on the first draft of the ministerial consultation as follows:
 - Some delegations suggested addressing the issue of poverty, emphasizing that poverty exacerbates global challenges and requires enhanced international cooperation to promote sustainable development in a balanced manner. A milder reference to "poverty and inequality" was also proposed to address this concern.
 - Several inputs asked for adjustments of the wording regarding the Loss and Damage Fund, improvements in readability, and considerations related to the 2023 United Nations Water Conference and the BBNJ Agreement.
 - Proposals were made to encompass the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the 2026 UN Water Conference and to reference the outcomes of the 2023 meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions.
 - Some delegations asked for the introduction of new content, one addressing the reform of the global financial architecture, echoed at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meeting held in Marrakech a few weeks ago and another one dealing with support for the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Fund. Additionally, there were some suggestions to introduce a new paragraph on the impact of water on climate change, biodiversity, and pollution.
 - Suggestions have been provided for alternative formulations for some expressions used in the text of the first draft declaration.
 - Proposals were also put forward to modify some references with alternative phrasing, and additional suggestions were made regarding climate change, energy transition, and stakeholder cooperation.

5. The President informed of the following:
 - she intends to circulate the second draft of the ministerial declaration by 30 October.
 - the third informal consultations on the second draft of the ministerial declaration will be convened by His Excellency Abderrazzak Laassel, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco in Nairobi, on 8 November from 14:00-18:00 Nairobi time.
 - additional informal consultations will be organized in the margins of the annual subcommittee of the CPR and in December if needed.
 - requested the Bureau to inform their respective groups of this timeline and the need to participate in the informal consultation, which will be held in a hybrid format to facilitate the participation of delegates in Nairobi as well as capital-based delegates.
 - in order to move the process forward during the third informal consultation on 8 November, the Presidency will begin a focused discussion by inviting delegations to provide comments paragraph by paragraph.
 - her intention to circulate the final draft in early January 2024; and
 - reminded that as has been the past practice, the Presidency will hold the pen on drafting the ministerial declaration; there will not be any line-by-line negotiation of the draft ministerial declaration; the Presidency will aim towards a balanced and consensual text based on the comments provided by delegations; and if needed, smaller group negotiations will be held later in the process.

6. The Bureau members expressed their appreciation to the President and her team, in particular, to the Permanent Representative of Morocco in Nairobi for skillfully facilitating the informal consultations; reaffirmed their support for the suggested way forward as outlined by the President; and emphasized the importance of an inclusive and open process.

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

7. The Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, presented a further revised thematic focus of the second high-level dialogue under the supplementary item “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements”, as outlined in the [background note](#). She informed the Bureau that further to the discussion held during the joint retreat of the Bureaux of UNEA and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on the thematic focus of the two high-level dialogues to be held under the supplementary item titled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements” a revised proposal on the thematic focus of the second high-level dialogue was placed under a silence procedure in August 2023. Considering the feedback received during the silence procedure, the thematic focus of the second high-level dialogue has been further revised to read as *“Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation”*. The Executive Director invited the Bureau to endorse the thematic focus of the two high-level dialogues to enable the Secretariat to start preparations.

8. The Bureau members thanked the Secretariat for its hard work and supported the new proposal.

9. The Bureau endorsed the thematic focus of the two high-level dialogues as follows:
 - Dialogue 1: Strengthening science-policy interface for effective implementation of environmental commitments.
 - Dialogue 2: Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level, including through means of implementation.

Agenda item 4: Briefing on the structure of the leadership dialogues.

10. The Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, introduced the agenda item, followed by a briefing by the Secretariat on the [thematic focus and structure of the leadership dialogues](#).
11. One Bureau member, on behalf of a regional group, sought clarity on the envisaged results of the leadership dialogues and encouraged the Secretariat to ensure that Member States participating at a high level are provided the opportunity to speak in at least one dialogue. Another Bureau member asked for information on the concept notes for the dialogues.
12. The Secretariat explained that as per past practice, the summaries of the leadership dialogues will be presented at the closing plenary meeting of UNEA and included in the proceedings report; assured that effort will be made to ensure a balanced participation of Ministers in the three dialogues; and clarified that the concept note for each dialogue will have guiding questions to help delegations prepare for their interventions.

Agenda item 5: Update on the preparations for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

13. The Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen, introduced the agenda item, followed by a presentation by the Secretariat.
14. One Bureau member enquired about the Secretariat's strategy to close the budget gap for UNEA-6.
15. The Executive Director appreciated the contributions from the European Commission of USD 600,000 and Hungary of USD 5400, informed that she has sent a letter to all Member States presenting the UNEA-6 budget and the funding gap, and informed that direct engagement with delegations will follow, indicating that contributions from all Member States would be welcomed.

Agenda item 6: Other matters.

16. One Bureau member informed of an upcoming regional consultation meeting for European region taking place in late November in Bratislava, focusing on the preparations for UNEA-6. He indicated that the summaries and outcomes of the meeting will be reported at a later date.
17. His Excellency Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP provided a brief update on the status of preparations for the 10th annual subcommittee meeting scheduled to take place from 20 to 24 November 2023. It was noted that the CPR Bureau would work closely with the UNEA Bureau during the inter-sessional period leading to UNEA-6.

Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting.

18. The meetings closed at 17:20 (GMT+3).

Annex 1: List of participants of the UNEA Bureau

UNEA Bureau members

1. H. E. Ms. Leila Benali, President of UNEA and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco.
2. H. E. Mr. Silvio Jose Albuquerque e Silva, Vice President and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP.
3. Mr. Norbert Kurilla, Advisor to the President of the Slovak Republic on Environment, Energy and Climate Action.
4. Mr. Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi, Rapporteur, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

Representation of UNEA Bureau members.

5. H. E. Mr. Jose Duarte Piteira Silvestre Cordeiro, Vice President and Minister for the Environment and Climate Action of Portugal, **represented by** Ms. Ana Filomena Rocha, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal to UNEP
6. H. E. Ms. Harrison Trudy, Vice President, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister of Environment of the UK, **represented by** Mr. Jamie Rendell, Head of the International Multilateral Negotiations Division of the UK Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs.
7. H. E. Mr. Alioune Ndoeye, Vice President and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal, **represented by** Mr. Baba Drame, Director of Environment at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.
8. H. E. Ms. Susana Muhamad Gonzales, Vice-President of UNEA and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, **represented by** Mr. Andres Duque, third Secretary of Foreign Affairs, in charge of Ocean Affairs and Environmental Governance at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
9. H. E. Mr. Jafar Barmaki, Vice President, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iran to UNEP, represented by Mr. Seyed Hamzeh Madani, Acting Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iran to UNEP.

Absent.

10. H.E. Ms. Sherry Rehman, Minister for Climate Change of Pakistan.

CPR Bureau member participating in an ex-officio capacity.

1. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to UNEP.

UNEP Secretariat

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
2. Mr. Nicholas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
3. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.