

Committee of the Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 4 December 2023
10:00 –13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 2 (in person) and Microsoft
Teams (online)

Agenda Item 4: Preparations for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

This note provides an updated overview of the status of preparations for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), to be held at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, from 26 February to 1 March 2024. An initial version of this note was shared with the Committee as a background to the 163rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, also including an annex with a budget note which provided estimated costs for the organization of UNEA-6.

In this context, and despite generous contributions or pledges from the European Union, France, Finland, Hungary, Morocco and New Zealand, we wish to inform Member States that the current budget gap for UNEA-6 is still over USD 1 million. To this end, all Member States in a position to do so are invited to consider a financial contribution to the organization of UNEA-6, in particular, to fund travel support for delegates from developing countries and to ensure the participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders.

The Committee is invited to consider this note and to provide further guidance to the Secretariat and to the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as appropriate.

A. Agenda and theme for UNEA-6

1. In accordance with the [UNEA decision 5/4](#), the sixth session of the Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be held at the headquarters of UNEP in Nairobi from Monday, 26 February to Friday, 1 March 2024. The session will be preceded by the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6) to be held from Monday, 19 to Friday, 23 February 2024, which will serve as the main preparatory meeting for the Assembly.
2. The provisional agenda ([UNEP/EA.6/1](#)) and the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.6/1/Add.1) for the sixth session, as well as a [draft structure for the UNEA-6](#), has been endorsed by the [Bureau of UNEA-6](#) at the joint retreat of the Bureau of UNEA-6 and the CPR Bureau held in Morocco on [6-7 July 2023](#), and has been made available on the "[Meetings document](#)" page of the UNEA-6 website.
3. In accordance with a proposal from the UNEA-6 Presidency and a decision of the UNEA-6 Bureau, the provisional agenda for UNEA-6 includes a supplementary agenda item entitled "Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements". Consequently, the third day of UNEA-6 (28 February 2023) will be devoted to two consecutive high-level dialogues on this topic (the "[MEA Day](#)"). The discussion will be supported by a note by the secretariat (UNEP/EA.6/INF/6), and the outcomes of the two dialogues will be presented at the closing plenary meeting of UNEA-6 on 1 March 2024. Furthermore, several parallel panel discussions and exhibitions will be organized throughout the week of UNEA-6, to showcase cooperation between Multilateral Environmental Agreements, UNEP and other UN entities. A [concept note](#) on the consideration of the supplementary item is available on the 163rd CPR meeting portal.
4. Following extensive consultations with the CPR and in accordance with [Paragraph 9 of UNEA decision 5/4](#), the Bureau of UNEA-6 defined the [theme for UNEA-6](#) as "**Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution**". A [background document](#) prepared by the Secretariat, at the request of the UNEA-6 Presidency, and communicated to Member States, observers and Major Groups and Stakeholders through a [letter from the UNEA-6 President](#), guided the discussion to define the theme.

B. Participation modalities, registration and travel support

5. At the [joint retreat of the UNEA and CPR Bureaux on 6-7 July 2023](#), it was decided that UNEA-6 will be held under the following participation modalities:
 - a. 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. Interpretation will be available in the six UN official languages.
 - b. 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.
 - c. All Member States will have 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. Pre-recorded video messages at other levels would be uploaded on the website but not played in the meeting room and not reflected in the meeting report.
 - d. Informal consultations and negotiations under working groups or contact groups established under UNEA-6 or OECPR-6 will be organized as hybrid meetings with a combination of in-person and online participation through an online platform, to facilitate participation from capitals for small delegations.

6. Registration for UNEA-6 and OECPR-6 was opened on 12 September 2023 and will close on 9 February 2024. Registration is required for all delegations and is open to Member States, members of specialized agencies, specialized agencies and related organizations, UN bodies and entities, intergovernmental organizations and regional economic integration organizations, and accredited international non-governmental organizations. All delegations are encouraged to register as early as possible. Detailed information and guidance are available on the “[Registration](#)” page of the UNEA-6 website. Additional information relating to travel support for developing countries can be found on the same page.

C. Draft ministerial declaration

7. In May 2023, the UNEA-6 President issued a [letter](#) and a [zero draft ministerial declaration](#), and invited Member States and accredited observers and Stakeholders to share initial ideas and inputs in writing. A [second letter](#) from the UNEA President and a [first draft ministerial declaration](#) were shared on 17 August 2023. Two informal consultations were held on the draft, open to all interested delegations, in accordance with a [roadmap for consultations](#), with additional consultations planned for the remaining period until UNEA-6. All written inputs from Member States and accredited observers and Stakeholders and other relevant information relating to the draft ministerial declaration have been made available on the “[Inputs to the Ministerial Declaration](#)” page of the UNEA-6 website.
8. The President of UNEA circulated the [second draft of the ministerial declaration](#) through a letter dated 26 October 2023. Informal consultations on the second draft of the ministerial declaration was held on 8 November 2023 (third informal consultations) and will continue on 7 December 2023 (fourth informal consultations) with paragraph by paragraph reading of the draft.

D. Submission of draft resolutions and associated secretariat technical notes

9. Member States that consider submitting draft resolutions and draft decisions for consideration at UNEA-6 are encouraged to respect as far as possible the [Guidance on the submission of draft resolutions and decisions to UNEA-6](#), which was endorsed by the UNEA and CPR Bureaux at their [joint meeting on 6 and 7 July 2023](#).
10. In support of the consultations on draft resolutions, the Secretariat will aim to prepare technical notes, which will include: 1) a legal assessment; 2) an assessment of the relationship between the draft resolution/decision and the current UNEP Programme of Work; and 3) an initial estimation of the costs associated with the implementation of the draft resolution, should it be adopted.
11. Draft UNEA resolutions and decisions and related background information such as concept notes, Secretariat technical notes, and previous resolutions on the same topic, among others, will be made available online through a dedicated and password-protected [UNEP Resolutions portal](#), which will be open to Member States and accredited observers and stakeholders only.
12. At the 10th annual subcommittee meeting held from 20 to 24 November 2023, delegations announced the submission of the following draft resolutions for UNEA-6:
 - a. United States of America: Promoting regional cooperation to improve air quality globally.
 - b. Saudi Arabia: Strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities’ resilience to drought.
 - c. Japan: Promoting synergistic approach to address the triple crisis on climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development.

- d. European Union, on behalf of the EU and its Member States: Stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically, regionally, and globally.
 - e. European Union, on behalf of the EU and its Member States: Effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
 - f. Malawi: Enhancing the role and viability of regional forums for environmental ministers and environmental authorities and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation to tackle environmental challenges.
 - g. Malawi and Morocco: Fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP, and MEAs.
 - h. Ukraine: Environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts.
 - i. Senegal and Switzerland: Follow-up to UNEA resolution 5/12 on the environmental aspects of minerals and metals management.
 - j. Ethiopia: Global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides.
 - k. Switzerland: Sound management of chemicals and waste.
 - l. Switzerland: Solar radiation modification.
 - m. Dominican Republic: Addressing complications caused by sargassum seaweed.
 - n. Cameroon, on behalf of several States: Standards, norms and criteria for the implementation of Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development.
13. The Secretariat informed of its intention to submit two draft proposals, as follows:
- a. Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, as contained in the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/EA.6/12).
 - b. Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions.
14. Also at the 10th annual subcommittee meeting, the Committee requested the secretariat to present a draft decision on UNEA sessions and related consequences for UNEP's Medium-Term Strategies and Programmes of Work and Budget, as a basis for further consultations.
15. The Bureau of the CPR, at its meeting on 22 November 2023, endorsed the [roadmap](#) for the intersessional period.
16. On 29 November 2023, the Bureau of the CPR considered the possible clustering of the draft resolutions and decisions presented at the annual subcommittee meeting or submitted to date and the appointment of co-facilitators to lead the consultations on draft resolutions. More information can be found in the [meeting portal](#).

E. High-level segment

17. The UNEA-6 high-level segment will take place on 29 February and 1 March 2024, and will consist of a formal opening with high-level dignitaries, three leadership dialogues, and one multistakeholder dialogue, to be held in parallel with national statements. The dialogues will be open to all participants accredited to UNEA-6 and will be webcast live on UN Web TV. Interpretation will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations. The dialogues will be interactive and held fully in person. There will be no pre-established list of speakers. The dialogues will be facilitated by a professional moderator to allow for an interactive discussion among the participants. The participants will be provided with a concept note with framing questions beforehand to guide the preparation of their interventions. A summary of each dialogue will be prepared by the secretariat and presented orally by the moderator at the closing plenary of the session and will be included in the UNEA-6 final report.

F. National Statements

18. Representatives of Member States, members of specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, UN entities, and intergovernmental organizations will be invited to deliver national statements under the UNEA-6 theme during the high-level segment on 29 February and 1 March 2024. Statements can be made in any of the six UN official languages and the meetings will be webcast live on UN Web TV. Heads of State and Government who would not be able to participate in-person can provide pre-recorded video messages that will be played in the meeting following an introduction by the presiding officer and pre-recorded video messages at other levels if provided, will be uploaded on the website and not played in the meeting nor reflected in the meeting report. A speakers list will be developed. Heads of State and Government will have the opportunity to deliver their national statements immediately after the opening plenary of the high-level segment on 29 February 2024. The Secretariat will provide detailed guidelines regarding the inscription process for delivering national statements in December 2023.

G. Supplementary agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements.”

19. In follow up to UNEA [decision 5/4](#), in which UNEA endorsed the [outcomes of the review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#), the President of UNEA-6, on behalf of UNEA Bureau, 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 (see document [UNEP/EA.6/15](#)).
20. 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.
21. It is foreseen that the MEA day will be formally opened from 9 to 10 am on 28 February 2024 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 consecutive 3-hour moderated high-level MEA dialogues will be held from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm and from 3:00 – 6:00 pm on 28 February 2024 under the following broad programmatic areas:
 - a) Dialogue 1: Strengthening science policy interface for effective implementation of environmental commitments.
 - b) Dialogue 2: Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation.
22. 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. 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.
23. Additional information is available in a [concept note](#) on the consideration of the supplementary item is available on the 163rd CPR meeting portal.

H. UNEA-6 budget estimation

24. The successful outcomes of previous UNEA sessions have been contingent on generous financial support from Member States. Similarly, an inclusive and impactful sixth session will require additional financial contributions to complement available resources, in particular to facilitate the participation of representatives from developing countries.
25. The estimated cost for UNEA-6 amounts to approximately USD 4,4 million. These costs are principally financed through 1) funds from the UN Regular Budget; 2) funds from UNEP's Environment Fund; and 3) extrabudgetary resources from Member States.
26. The total funding gap amounts to approximately USD 1,729,000. Following generous pledges and contributions from the European Commission, France, Hungary, Morocco, New Zealand and Switzerland totaling USD 694,000, bringing the current remaining funding gap to about USD 1,030,000.
27. To close the remaining funding gap, all Member States in a position to do so are invited to consider providing a financial contribution in support of the organization of the sixth session.
28. As a follow-up to the 163rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 31 October 2023, the Secretariat has developed a dedicated website providing information on the [extrabudgetary financial contributions from member States and partners](#) on the UNEA-6 website. Detailed information on the UNEA-6 budget is made available in this [note](#).

I. UNEA-6 Documentation

29. UNEA-6 working documents will be issued in the six official UN languages at least 6 weeks in advance of the session, and UNEA-6 information documents (English only) will be issued as early as possible. All UNEA-6 documents will be made available on the "[Meetings documents](#)" page of the UNEA-6 website.
30. An advance unedited version of the report by the Executive Director to UNEA-6 ([UNEP/EA.6/2](#)) has been made available on the [Meetings documents](#) webpage of the UNEA-6 website.
31. Advance unedited English versions of the mandated progress reports of the Executive Director to UNEA-6 on the implementation of UNEA resolutions have been made available on UNEA-6 website on the "Meetings documents" [page](#).

J. Side events

32. Official side events will be convened in-person and virtually over the five days of UNEA-6, during lunch breaks and in the evenings. A total of 16 slots have been allocated for in-person side events and another 16 slots for virtual side events. Each of these 75-minute side events is intended to enrich and complement the UNEA-6 session by providing a unique opportunity to discuss the theme, share experiences, find solutions, and inspire partnerships towards tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Applications were received through an online portal with an extended deadline of 17 November 2023, to be screened and reviewed by the secretariat. 232 applications to host a side event at UNEA-6 were received and the list of selected in-person and virtual side events will be submitted to the UNEA Bureau in December 2023 for endorsement. For more information, please visit the [UNEA-6 official side events webpage](#).

K. UNEA Delegates Handbook

33. The United Nations Environment Assembly, in its decision 5/4, endorsed the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review, by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies. One of the

outcomes was a request to the secretariat to prepare a handbook for delegates that would serve to familiarize them with the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, including its governing bodies, its intersessional work, the work of the bureaux and other pertinent matters.

34. The [United Nations Environment Assembly Delegates Handbook](#) is now available on the [UNEA-6 website](#) and UNEP in English. The Handbook in other UN Official languages will be made available on the same link.

L. Reducing the environmental impacts of UNEA-6

35. The UNEP Secretariat is committed to mitigate the environmental impact of UNEA-6. The goal is to strengthen UNEA-6's sustainability efforts in collaboration with our main partners, UNON and the Host Country. A Greening UNEA webpage will be published closer to UNEA with concrete information on action taken to reduce the environmental impact of the Assembly. A report will be issued after UNEA-6 is finished to evaluate the environmental impact of the meeting.

M. UNEA-6 communication plan

36. A UNEA-6 communication plan has been developed and considered by the UNEA-6 Bureau, covering a wide range of communication aspects including the [UNEA-6 website](#), a communication resources and assets for Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders, media advisories, outreach through social media, etc.
37. A UNEA-6 event mobile app is under development, to assist delegations in receiving all the latest practical information during the Assembly.

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