

Joint Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
20 December, 16:00 - 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online

Agenda item 4: Selection of official side events for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

This note, entitled “*Selection of official side events for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.*”, serves as a background document for consideration under agenda item 4 entitled “Selection of official side events for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”.

This note includes a recommended list of **32 official side events** to be held during the sixth session of the Environment Assembly for consideration and possible endorsement by the members of the UNEA and the CPR Bureaux.

Following an open call for applications from 20 September to 17 November 2023 to Member States, intergovernmental organizations, including the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, specialized agencies and UN system entities and major groups and stakeholders accredited to the UN Environment Programme and its governing bodies, a total of **233** side event applications were received by the secretariat through an online application form.

The secretariat has reviewed and assessed the applications received with a view to ensure a broad geographical representation of stakeholders, a high potential to add value to UNEA sessions, as well as a high-level resonance in relation to the overall theme for UNEA-6 – “*Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution*”.

More specifically, the following criteria have been applied in the selection process:

1. Thematic consideration: the focus of the side events should relate to the theme of UNEA-6.
2. Outreach: priority has been given to the side events that are to be organized in partnership with other Member States and/or stakeholders and that help raise the profile of UNEA-6.
3. Representation: the side events should facilitate broad stakeholder participation and should, where relevant, include civil society, private sector and the scientific community, and the choice of lead speakers / contributors / panelists should to the extent possible be geographically, generationally and gender balanced.

The shortlisting was carried out in two phases, whereby a thorough review and evaluation of all the applications were undertaken by a committee comprised of secretariat staff based on the above-

mentioned established criteria. In the second phase, the internal secretariat task force on UNEA-6 preparations assessed the list based on which the final recommended list has been prepared.

In addition to the shortlist, about 21 additional proposals have been identified as potential contributors to some of the selected side events that address same or similar topics. On this basis, the organizers of the selected side events will – with the support of the secretariat – be invited to reach out to the other applicants to explore possible cooperation to enhance the quality and ownership of the final side event, with potentially higher impact. Such an approach can lead to broader engagement among key stakeholders and may spur new forms of cooperation across Member States and organizations that go beyond the organization of a single event.

Official side events, for a duration of 75 minutes each, will be convened in-person and virtually over the five days of UNEA-6, during lunch breaks and in the evenings.

With regard to the specific distribution of events in time and space, the secretariat will need more time to prepare a fully-fledged programme.

Finally, the secretariat will seek to ensure that the official UNEA side events reach as large an audience as possible, through effective promotion and communication on UNEA-6 website and social media platforms, and by reaching out to UNEP partners, goodwill ambassadors and others.

The members of the two Bureaux are invited to endorse the proposed list of official side events to be held during UNEA-6.

Recommended list of official side events for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)

Organizer/contributors	
#1	<p>Proposal 1: Leveraging effective and inclusive collaboration with financial institutions to accelerate the transition to more circular economies</p> <p>Lead organizer: Ministry of Environment of Rwanda, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, Ministry of Environment of Peru</p> <p>Partners: Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), and its 17 member countries: Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, India, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, South Africa and Switzerland; World Bank, UNEP Finance Initiative, Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean, CIRCULAR STEP, African Circular Economy Alliance, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)</p>
#2	<p>Proposal 10: Raising ambition for the conservation and sustainable use of the Ocean and Seas by 2030 by accelerating action at global, regional, and national levels on biodiversity, pollution and climate change</p> <p>Lead organizer: France</p> <p>Partners: Costa Rica, Barbados, UNEP</p>
	<p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 192: The Great Blue Wall: Building Regenerative Blue Economy (lead organizer IUCN)
#3	<p>Proposal 16: Coordinated Efforts to Promote Effective, Inclusive and Sustainable Global Actions for Biodiversity Conservation—International Symposium on Action Initiative for KMGBF</p> <p>Lead organizer: Division of International Organizations, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, and Division of International Ecological and Environmental Conventions, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China</p> <p>Partners: UNEP</p>

#4	<p>Proposal 23: Sustainable Consumption for Biodiversity: Unleashing the Power of GBF Targets 15 and 16</p> <p>Lead organizer: Consumers International Partners: Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production of the One Planet Network, Consumers International, Forest Stewardship Council, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</p>
#5	<p>Proposal 26: Synergistic Approaches to Overcome the Triple Crisis and the SDG Deadlock</p> <p>Lead organizer: Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) Partners: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)</p>
#6	<p>Proposal 30: The impacts of war and heavy industry on pollution, biodiversity and climate</p> <p>Lead organizer: Government of Czechia</p> <p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 151: UNEA, peace and conflict: Progressing multilateralism on the triple planetary crisis in conflict-affected regions
#7	<p>Proposal 37: The Blue Pacific 2050 Strategy - Accelerating towards the SDGs by Addressing the Triple Planetary Crises</p> <p>Lead organizer: Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Partners: Governments of Palau, Samoa and the Cook Islands</p>
#8	<p>Proposal 55: Scaling up investment in Africa to tackle the triple planetary crisis</p> <p>Lead organizer: the GEF Partners: Nigeria and UNEP</p>

#9	<p>Proposal 56: Ensuring that the energy transition contributes to a nature and people positive planet</p> <p>Lead organizer: Fauna & Flora Partners: IUCN, IPIECA, ICMM</p>
#10	<p>Proposal 60: Shaping a water resilient world, with water security for all</p> <p>Lead organizer: European Commission, Directorate General Environment Partners: UNEP and Water Europe</p>
#11	<p>Proposal 61: High-level Panel from words to effective actions: Youth as the solution to tackle the Triple Planetary Crisis</p> <p>Lead organizer: Portugal, Sweden and Children and Youth major Group</p> <hr/> <p>Potential contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 111: Green skills and green jobs for youth in the Global South: accelerating a just transition to a low carbon and circular economy (lead organizer: Madagascar) - Proposal 70: Working Multilaterally to advance a just transition: what is needed to achieve a circular economy with decent work for a pollution-free planet? (lead organizer ILO)
#12	<p>Proposal 63: What's cooking? The environmental, human health, socio-economic, and animal welfare impacts of selected novel alternatives to conventional meat and dairy products.</p> <p>Lead organizer: UNEP Partners: SEI, CIAT, ILRI, GFI</p>
#13	<p>Proposal 67: Transboundary Ecosystem Restoration: Key to Addressing the Planetary Crises</p> <p>Lead organizer: Government of Slovenia Partners: Costa Rica, UNECE, Ramsar Convention, IUCN</p>

#14	<p>Proposal 68: Intergovernmental Consultations on Nature-based Solutions: Moving forward with the recommendations</p> <p>Lead organizer: Costa Rica and Nigeria Partners: Senegal, Tajikistan, Republic of Korea, Colombia and United Kingdom</p>
#15	<p>Proposal 74: High-Level Policy Dialogue on Human Mobility in the context of Climate Change</p> <p>Lead organizer: Government of Uganda, IOM Partners: Ethiopia, UNFCCC and East Africa Development Bank's (EADB's) Regional Collaboration Centre for East and Southern Africa (RCC EAS Africa)</p>
#16	<p>Proposal 82: Making Nitrogen Visible through the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>Lead organizer: Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Co-ordination, Government of Pakistan</p>
#17	<p>Proposal 92: The Nature of Subsidies: Repurposing subsidies for an inclusive and sustainable future</p> <p>Lead organizer: UNDP Partners: UNEP, OECD, the GEF, Governments of Botswana, Colombia and Kyrgyzstan</p>
#18	<p>Proposal 96: Seaweed as a Nature-based Solution to Tackle the Triple Planetary Crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution</p> <p>Lead organizer: UN Global Compact Partners: Governments of Madagascar and Indonesia, UNEP, UNCTAD, World Bank, IOC-UNESCO, Friends of Ocean Action, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defence Fund, Climate Champions Team</p> <hr/> <p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 46: The 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough: Mobilizing International Action for Seagrass Conservation (lead organizer CMS)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 5: Scaling up global ambition on blue carbon (lead organizer UNESCO)
#19	<p>Proposal 97: UN Plastics Treaty: Reuse – a Climate and Plastic Solution</p> <p>Lead organizer: The Government of Chile, with The Global Alliance to Advance Reuse (PR3 - Resolve) Partners: Government of Fiji</p>
	<p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 146: A Global Plastics Treaty and Biodiversity: Converging or Conflicting Regimes? National perspectives (lead organizer IUCN) - Proposal 139: Ending plastic pollution through a lifecycle, circular approaches (lead organizer Morocco and the WB and WWF)
#20	<p>Proposal 103: Combatting Nature Crime– the case of Illegal Logging: A Nexus for Biodiversity, Climate, and Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>Lead organizer: US and Norway</p>
	<p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 24: Indigenous peoples environmental human rights defenders (IPH RDs): Playing a critical role in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss (lead organizer Indigenous Peoples Rights International and the Indigenous Peoples Major Group) - Proposal 183: Securing Rights to Land, Territories and Resources for Combating Planetary Crisis (lead organizer: Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact) - Proposal 11: Crimes that affect the environment and the triple planetary crisis: connecting the dots (France, UNODC and UNEP)
#21	<p>Proposal 106: International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits: an invitation to governments</p> <p>Lead organizer: UK and France</p>

	<p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 125: Preventing the Triple Planetary Crises Together: A One Health Approach for People and Planet (lead organizer: N4H secretariat) - Proposal 14: GLG high-level reception on environmental dimensions of AMR (lead organizer: WHO)
#22	<p>Proposal 112: Circular economy and extended producer responsibilities in addressing pollution control</p> <p>Lead organizer: Government of Kenya, National environment management authority Partners: WWF Kenya</p>
#23	<p>Proposal 119: World Mangrove Center – grounding the Indonesia’s commitment and walking the talk</p> <p>Lead organizer: Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia Partners: UNEP</p>
#24	<p>Proposal 123: Connecting the Threads: A coordinated policy response to transform the textile value chain and offer solutions which preserve nature</p> <p>Lead organizer: Türkiye, the Netherlands Partners: Benin, Cambodia, Chile, European Commission, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Pakistan, South Africa, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, GACERE (Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency), UNEP, UNECE, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Global Fashion Agenda.</p>
#25	<p>Proposal 155: Action to deliver cleaner air and climate mitigation for the health of people and planet</p> <p>Lead organizer: Climate and Clean Air Coalition Partners: United States, UK, Sweden, Kenya, Colombia (tbc), Japan (tbc), Thailand (tbc), UAE (tbc), Clean Air Fund, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, Global Methane Hub, WHO, UNECE, UNESCAP, AUC (tbc)</p>
	<p>Potential contributors:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 164: Launch of the UNEP data platform for world-wide near-real-time ambient CO2 concentrations, in collaboration with IQAir, a Swiss air quality company (lead organizer UNEP and IQ Air)
#26	<p>Proposal 177: Promoting Sustainable Transportation: Global Standards for Fuels and Vehicles</p> <p>Lead organizer: Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Directorate of Sustainable Mobility Partners: UNEP, European Commission, Rwanda, Republic of Ghana, World Bank.</p> <p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 141: One billion reasons to act – The Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility (lead organizer: UNEP) - Proposal 142: Supporting the Switch to Electric Mobility (lead organizer: UNEP)
#27	<p>Proposal 178: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources to tackle the Triple Planetary Crisis</p> <p>Lead organizer: IRP Partners: UNEP, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Argentina Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)</p>
#28	<p>Proposal 187: Tackling the Triple Planetary Crisis: Building the Linkages from Science to Action</p> <p>Lead organizer: SPP OEWG secretariat (Science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention) Partners: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), International Resource Panel (IRP), Assessment Panels of the Montreal Protocol; Global Environment Outlook (GEO) and Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD)</p> <p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 17: Global Waste Management Outlook 2 (lead organizer UNEP International Environment Technology Centre)
#29	<p>Proposal 222: Pathways for the consistent and high integrity application of Nature-based Solutions - the role of the IUCN Global Standard for Nbs</p>

	<p>Lead organizer: International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN Partners: Federal Republic of Germany - Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection; Republic of Colombia - National Planning Department; Republic of Senegal - Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; People’s Republic of China - Ministry of Natural Resources</p>
#30	<p>Proposal 226: Digital Environmental Sustainability: Pioneering Multilateral Solutions</p> <p>Lead organizer: Germany Partners: Future Earth International, UNEP, UNDP, ISC</p> <p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 118: Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS) – Reflection and Outlook (lead organizer: UNEP) - Proposal 31: Citizen Science – A key support for MEAs (lead organizer European Citizen Science Association)
#31	<p>Proposal 231: Inclusive Pathways: Advancing Gender and Indigenous Perspectives in Multilateral Environmental Cooperation for Sustainable Future for All</p> <p>Lead organizer: Women4Biodiversity and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Partners: Cultural Survival, International Fund for Indigenous Peoples, OHCHR, Swed Bio at Stockholm Resilience Centre, Soka Gakkai International, UNDP, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), UNEP</p> <p>Potential contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 117: Tackling climate change and gender inequalities through nature-based solutions (lead organizer PACJA)
#32	<p>Proposal 233: For a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste – Joining forces for an accelerated Implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals</p> <p>Lead organizer: Federal Environment Ministry, Germany</p>

Partners: ICCM6/ Presidency, Pakistan Ministry of Environment (tbc), ICCM5 Presidency German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (tbc), UNEP, Economy Division (tbc)

Potential contributors

- Proposal 45: Accelerating the Nature and Climate Agendas through Restoration and Livelihoods (the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and with a Special Focus on Stakeholders Involvement, Local action and Indigenous Peoples) (lead organizer: UNEP)