



“Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”

UNEA-6 theme.

MEAs high level dialogue two

Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation.

Wednesday 28 February 2024, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

A. Introduction

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024, will include a Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) day considered through an opening segment and two consecutive high-level dialogues related to the theme of UNEA-6 which reads “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.

UNEA 5 through its decision 5/4 endorsed the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), which recognized the importance of strengthening the contributions and active participation of MEAs to UNEA to promote coherence between the UNEA resolutions and the MEAs governing bodies decisions.

This will be the first time an agenda item on cooperation with MEAs is included on the agenda of UNEA. Many of the governing bodies of MEAs have adopted decisions that call for strengthening cooperation and collaboration with other international bodies, including UNEP. It is therefore

important that UNEA-6 consider reciprocating and complimenting these decisions by providing concrete guidance to UNEP to promote common action.

This concept note is intended to assist Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders in their preparations for the high-level dialogue on “**Strengthening** cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation”.

Further background information to support the dialogue can be found in UNEP/EA.6/INF/6¹ - Background document to support the discussions on the supplementary item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements.”

This MEAs high-level dialogue will be held on 28 February 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

B. Scope

The dialogue will provide an opportunity for participants to elaborate on the challenges and opportunities in their work to enhance effective and integrated implementation of environmental commitments through strengthened cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and governing bodies and Secretariats of MEAs. It will also be an opportunity to discuss on practical ways that UNEA can support to strengthen means of implementation to achieve common objectives in tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, for example through mainstreaming these areas into the broader development agenda.

Reflecting the relevant objectives of MEAs in broader policy frameworks to ensure mutual supportiveness of action provide a key means to enhance cooperation at the national level. The environmental goals and targets of the SDGs are, accordingly, supportive of many of the objectives and obligations of the MEAs. Therefore, the 2030 Agenda is a framework of relevance to the implementation of the MEAs, and improved cooperation among entities at national level involved in the implementation of the MEAs can be an important contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. Furthermore, target 14 of Sustainable Development Goal 17 aims to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

In addition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there are numerous frameworks which provide useful entry points for enhancing cooperation between Member States, UN entities and stakeholders at different levels. Among the most recent ones are the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals - For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

Strengthening the objectives of the MEAs in Country Cooperation Frameworks provides yet another avenue to integrate the environmental commitments in national development planning.

¹ <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/unea-6-documents>

C. Participation, format, and structure

The high-level dialogue will be open to all participants accredited to UNEA-6 and will be webcast live on UN Web TV. Interpretation will be available in all the six official languages of the United Nations.

The high-level dialogue will be divided into two interactive parts that feature different speakers and will be held fully in person. The panellists will be provided with framing questions beforehand to guide the preparation of their interventions. The structure of the interactive parts will be in form of two panel discussions followed by reflections from the participants and follow up questions to the panellists. After the opening remarks by UNEP, the moderator will welcome all participants to the session and deliver short introductory remarks explaining the modalities of participation. For each moderated panel discussion, the panellists will give their reflections and thereafter the moderator will open the floor for an interactive discussion. Efforts will be made to give priority in the order of speakers to those speaking at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level, followed by high-level representatives of stakeholders such as Heads of MEAs Secretariats. Efforts will also be made to ensure that participation in the session is interactive in nature and to ensure a balance between speakers from participating Member States, Heads of MEAs Secretariats, international organizations, other observers and major groups and stakeholders. Delegations will be invited to press the microphone button to indicate their wish to speak when the floor is opened for interventions. In order to provide for maximum participation, interventions made from the floor should be succinct, concise and not exceed three minutes; and the time limit will be strictly implemented. After interventions from the audience, the moderator will invite reflections from the panellists. The moderator will conclude the dialogues with brief closing remarks on main messages emanating from the discussion.

D. Guiding questions

Member States, Heads of MEAs Secretariats, other observers and major groups and stakeholders will be invited to address the following guiding questions to facilitate an interactive dialogue:

Part I: Enhancing cooperation for effective implementation at national level

1. How can strengthened cooperation between UNEP and MEAs address the main challenges and impediments to integration of environmental commitments in national development planning?
2. What opportunities and entry points do the recently adopted frameworks, (The Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Global Framework on Chemicals, and others) provide for enhanced cooperation between UNEP and MEAs at the national level to strengthen implementation of environmental commitments?

Part II: Strengthening means of implementation for effective implementation at national level

3. How can the objectives and commitments of the MEAs be strengthened in Country Cooperation Frameworks? What role could UNEP and MEAs play in this?
4. How can effective engagement of key stakeholders be utilized for strengthened means of implementation to address environmental commitments at national level?
5. Which regional, transboundary and global mechanisms should be strengthened or created to support greater means of implementation at national level? What role could UNEA, UNEP and MEAs play in this?

E. Expected outcomes and call for actions

The dialogue is expected to facilitate elaboration on the type of action governments could take for effective implementation through strengthened cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and the MEAs to address the environmental challenges, including by effective utilization of means of implementation.

Participants will also be invited to call for new action, and/or to announce existing initiatives by their respective governments or organizations aimed at advancing effective, inclusive and sustainable implementation of multilateral objectives at national level to address the three planetary environmental crises.

A summary of the dialogue will be prepared by the Secretariat and presented orally by the moderator at the closing plenary of UNEA-6 and will be included in the final proceedings report of UNEA-6.

F. Contact details

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