

Closing plenary speech

(5 minutes)

Web title: Inclusive multilateralism at UNEA-6 boosts environmental movement

Excellencies, colleagues and friends,

Everybody has worked such long hours over the last few weeks to deliver outcomes from UNEA-6. Outcomes that represent a step forward in our collective efforts to slow the triple planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature and land loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste. My thanks to Your Excellency Minister Leila Benali, President of UNEA-6. To Kenya, in particular His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto and Your Excellency Soipan Tuyu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry. To the UNEA bureau, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and its leadership. To all delegates and UNEP and UNON staff.

UNEA-6 has delivered 15 resolutions and two decisions, which cover important aspects of the triple planetary crisis. There is a call for advances in securing the metals and minerals needed for the transition to net-zero. A call to do better on protecting and restoring the environment during and after conflicts. Resolutions that will help UNEP and Member States do more on chemicals and waste, sand and dust storms, land restoration and more. A ministerial declaration that affirms the international community's strong intent to slow climate change, restore nature and land, and create a pollution-free world.

The negotiations were not always easy. Member States did not always agree. But that is the nature of multilateralism, and indeed life. What matters is how we disagree – respectfully – and how we seek to overcome our differences. Even in disagreement, UNEA-6 has opened important conversations that I am sure will continue in the spirit of finding solutions that work for people and planet.

This spirit of multilateralism – true inclusive multilateralism – was evident throughout this vibrant Assembly. In the engagement of youth, of civil society, of indigenous peoples, of international organizations, of scientists and of the private sector. It was most apparent in the first Multilateral Environmental Agreement Day. It was hugely encouraging to have these powerful agreements gather in Nairobi for the first time. This is the beginning of a new unification movement that will ensure each agreement works more closely together and delivers even better results. I look forward to seeing this in practice.

So, my thanks again for all your hard work. And a huge welcome to the incoming President of UNEA-7, Your Excellency Abdullah Bin Ali Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority of Oman. I look forward to your leadership.

Excellencies and friends,

UNEP will now take forward the responsibilities you have entrusted to us in these new resolutions. In addition to keeping the environment under review. In addition to fulfilling our obligation to serve as an authoritative advocate for action across the triple planetary crisis.

Much work lies ahead. So, I ask everyone to do what they can in their own sphere of influence. To engage fully in important processes this year, such as the three Rio Convention COPs, the negotiations on an instrument to end plastic pollution and, of course, the Summit of the Future.

The world needs action. The world needs speed. The world needs real, lasting change. UNEA-6 has delivered an extra boost to help us deliver this change and ensure every person on this planet enjoys the right to a safe and healthy environment.

Thank you.