

Closing session  
UNEA-6  
1 March 2024  
United Nations Office at Nairobi  
Conference Room 2

**Statement by Mr. Norbert Kurilla**

**Chair of the Committee of the Whole - UNEA-6 Closing Plenary**

Friday, 1 March 2024, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Madam President,

It is my great pleasure and honor to report that the Committee of the Whole has successfully concluded its work. Based on the excellent preparatory work undertaken at the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under the leadership of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, His Excellency **Mr. Firas Khouri**, and his fellow bureau members, we considered **19 draft resolutions and 2 draft decisions**.

In total, we held three plenary meetings, with negotiations taking place in-between meetings on five different clusters of draft resolutions and decisions, through contact groups and in informal consultations. Our deliberations took place day and night, with tireless efforts made by co-chairs and delegations to arrive at agreed texts.

The Committee of the Whole was assisted in its work by 2 contact groups. The negotiations were facilitated by the following colleagues:

- **Ms. Yume Yorita from Japan**
- **Ms. Nana Ama Owusuaa Afriyie Kankam from Ghana**
- **Mr. Rohit Vadhwana from India**
- **Ms. Gudi Alkemade from the Netherlands**
- **Mr. Alejandro Montero from Chile**
- **Ms. Karin Snellman from Sweden**
- **Ms. Felista S. Rugambwa from the United Republic of Tanzania**
- **Mr. Robert Bunbury from Canada**
- **Mr. Nader Al-Tarawneh from Jordan**
- **Mr. Tobias Ogweno from Kenya**

With thanks to their hard work and extraordinary skills as co-chairs and facilitators, I am very pleased to submit to you, Madam President, 10 draft resolutions and 2 decisions, which were agreed *ad ref* and endorsed at the plenary of the Committee of the Whole, for final consideration and adoption by the Assembly.

The final texts have been made available online through the resolutions portal. The documents submitted for adoption are as follows:

**The 10 draft resolutions are:**

1. “*Circularity of a resilient, low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry*”, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.4.

2. *“Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility”*, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.5.
3. *“Enhancing the role and viability of regional forums of environment ministers and United Nations Environment Programme regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges”*, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.6.
4. *“Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments”*, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.7.
5. *“Environmental aspects of minerals and metals”*, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.8.
6. *“Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements”*, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.9.
7. *“Combating Sand and Dust Storms”*, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.10.
8. *“Promoting sustainable lifestyles”*, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.11.

9. “*Sound management of chemicals and waste*”, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.12.
10. “*Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally*”, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.13.

## 2 Decisions

1. “*Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions*”, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.2.
2. “*Provisional agenda, date and venue of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly*”, contained in document UNEP/EA.6/L.3.

After the endorsement of the draft resolutions and decisions, delegations requested additional time to continue their informal discussions after the closing of the Committee of the Whole, with a view to find agreement on some of the outstanding drafts. The Secretariat clarified that such discussions may take place in an informal setting, and that meeting rooms would be provided upon request. Based on the outcome of these discussions, Member States may submit new draft resolutions to the United Nations Environment Assembly, in accordance with rule 44 in the UNEA Rules of Procedure.

The information provided to you today through this statement is also reflected in the procedural report of the Committee of the Whole, which

has now been finalized and is available on the meeting portal of the Committee as document number UNEP/EA.6/CW/L.1.

Madam President,

I wish to recognize with great appreciation the work of His Excellency **Mr. Silvio Jose Albuquerque e Silva of Brazil**, in his capacity as Rapporteur for the Committee of the Whole, who has cleared the report before its finalization.

I also wish to express my deepest appreciation to the co-chairs of the contact groups for brokering the final compromise solutions. I am also grateful to all delegates who engaged in a constructive spirit of results-oriented negotiations.

Finally, my special thanks to the secretariat of UNEP, as well as UNON conference services and interpreters, and to the Governance Affairs team, who enabled us to achieve this excellent result.

The consensus achieved these last days is a clear example of the results that we can achieve through constructive dialogue. I wish to close by reiterating that we must promote multilateralism and strengthen our collaborative efforts to contain the rising threats to our planet.

Thank you very much.