

Committee of the Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 18 April 2024
09:00 – 12:00 and 13.00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 2 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda item 2: UNEA-6 assessment and lessons learned

Cover note

This paper outlines observations, lessons learned and recommendations from the meetings of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 and the sixth open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6), held from 19 to 23 February 2024.

The document has been prepared by the Secretariat, and will be updated taking into account the views expressed by Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders at the upcoming meetings of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to be held on 18 April and 2 May 2024, with the aim of final consideration and possible endorsement by the Committee at its 166th meeting scheduled for 13 June 2024.

It also factors in recommendations made by the Bureau of the CPR at its meeting held on 19 March 2024 and recommendations made by the OECPR-6 co-facilitators.

Delegations may wish to consider the following questions to guide the discussion on 18 April:

- 1. How can the UNEA theme better help to ensure focused and strategic UNEA sessions?***
- 2. How to better ensure that UNEA resolutions set the global environmental agenda and address emerging environmental challenges?***
- 3. How can the number of draft resolutions submitted be limited? What criteria, if any, could be used?***
- 4. Should paragraph-by-paragraph negotiation (first reading) on draft resolutions and decisions be initiated already during the intersessional period between the annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR and the OECPR?***
- 5. How can the Executive Director's strategic report to UNEA better guide Member States when considering the submission of possible draft resolutions?***
- 6. How can the Regional Ministerial fora be used more effectively as preparatory meetings for UNEA?***

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

ASSESSMENT AND LESSONS LEARNED

I. Background

1. The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment within the United Nations system. It was created following a decision in June 2012 at Rio +20 with the objective to strengthen and upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and ensure a more coherent system of international environmental governance, with a universal membership including all 193 UN Member States.
2. UNEA meets biennially to:
 - set the global environmental agenda;
 - provide overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges;
 - undertake policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences;
 - set the strategic guidance on the future direction of UNEP;
 - organize a multi-stakeholder dialogue; and
 - foster partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization¹.
3. Through its ministerial declaration, resolutions and decisions, the Environment Assembly provides global leadership and catalyzes intergovernmental action on the environment and addresses emerging issues. The Assembly is also the governing body of the UN Environment Programme.
4. Organized by UNEP Regional Offices, several ministerial environment forums and regional stakeholder consultative meetings held prior to UNEA have served as an important space for political dialogue and collaboration on environmental matters and as platforms for Member States to contribute regional perspectives to UNEA-6.
5. In the run-up to UNEA-6, regional ministerial environment forums and regional stakeholder consultative meetings were organized as follows:
 - **Africa - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:**
14-18 August 2023 (Regional ministerial environment forum)
12-14 August 2023 (Regional stakeholder consultative meeting)
 - **Asia-Pacific - Colombo, Sri Lanka:**
1-5 October 2023 (Regional ministerial environment forum)
3 October 2023 (Regional stakeholder consultative meeting)
 - **West Asia - Muscat, Oman:**
22 to 23 October 2023 (Regional ministerial environment forum; regional stakeholder consultative meeting)
 - **Latin America and the Caribbean- Panama City, Panama.**
23 to 27 October 2023 (Regional ministerial environment forum; regional stakeholder consultative meeting)
 - **North America – Online:**
21 November 2023 (Regional stakeholder consultative meeting)
 - **Europe - Bratislava, Slovakia:**
27-29 November 2023 (Regional stakeholder consultative meeting)
6. Prior to UNEA, the second Global Youth Environment Assembly took place on 17 and 18 February 2024, gathering young environmental enthusiasts and policy advocates from around the world who

¹ As set out in Governing Council decision 27/2

participated in policy discussions, knowledge-sharing, and the formulation of the [Global Youth Declaration on Environment](#) presented at UNEA-6.

7. On 24 and 25 February 2023, major groups and stakeholders organized the [21st Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum](#), with the purpose of strategizing and consolidating inputs to UNEA-6 from civil society organizations including inputs from preparatory regional and global consultative stakeholder meetings.
8. The [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), [fourth](#) and [fifth](#) sessions of UNEA in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2022 addressed major environmental themes such as *illegal trade in wildlife, air quality, environmental rule of law, financing the green economy, and delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; strengthening the science-policy interface; towards a pollution-free planet; innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production; and strengthening actions for nature to achieve the sustainable development goals* and adopted four ministerial declarations and numerous resolutions and decisions.
9. In decision 5/4, UNEA decided that the sixth meeting of the open-ended CPR (OECPR-6) should take place from 19 to 23 February 2024 and that the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) should take place in Nairobi from 26 February to 1 March 2024. The UNEA and CPR Bureaux, at its joint retreat in July 2022, decided to hold UNEA-6 fully in-person. The overall theme for UNEA-6 was “[Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution](#)”.
10. Further to a decision by the joint UNEA and CPR Bureaux, the OECPR-6 was held in a hybrid format and was open to interactive online participation through the meeting platform “Interactio” for delegates not in a position to participate in-person. Accredited delegates participating online enjoyed full speaking and interpretation rights for all formal sessions and were offered the possibility to actively participate in all negotiations taking place in dedicated working groups during OECPR-6.
11. The Secretariat conducted an online survey sent to all registered participants in early March 2024 with about **510** respondents representing a **10%** response rate (for more information on registration see section IV). About **37%** of respondents were Member States delegates, and **34%** of responses were provided by major groups and stakeholders. For almost all of the survey questions, the responses were overwhelmingly positive, indicating a **8.2/10** satisfactory experience at UNEA-6. A detailed presentation of the results of the survey is available [here](#).
12. In accordance with UNEA decision, the seventh session of the Assembly will convene in Nairobi from 8 to 12 December 2025, preceded by OECPR-7 to take place from 1 to 5 December 2025.
13. Additional relevant background information is available here:
 - [UNEA main website](#)
 - [Programme of work for UNEA-6](#)
 - [Outcomes from UNEA-6](#)
 - [UNEA-6 key background documents](#)
 - [UNEA Rules of Procedure](#)
 - [Outcome of the process for review by the CPR-based, as endorsed at UNEA-5.2 in paragraph 10 of Decision 5/4](#)
 - [Meeting roadmap for the UNEP Governing Bodies for the period January to December 2022](#)
 - [Meeting roadmap for the UNEP Governing Bodies for the period January 2023 to March 2024](#)
 - [Joint Global Statement of Major Groups and Stakeholders to UNEA-6](#)
14. In line with the request contained in the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the CPR, the Secretariat has prepared and availed a handbook for delegates which gives essential information, including on the provisions of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly and on established practices in the work of the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, including the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The handbook also provides practical guidance related to delegates’ stay in Nairobi, describing the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, including catering

services, banking and joint medical services, and giving advice related to safety and security. Overall, it aims to provide participants with all the information that they may need in advance of their arrival in Nairobi. The handbook is available in the six UN official languages on the following [link](#).

II. Key outcomes of UNEA-6

15. The key outcomes of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly are:

- a) A [ministerial declaration](#) entitled “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.
- b) Adoption of the [following resolutions](#):
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.1: Circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.2: Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.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
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.4: Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.5: Environmental aspects of minerals and metals
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.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
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.7: Combating sand and dust storms
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.8: Promoting sustainable lifestyles
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.9: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.10: Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.11: Highly hazardous pesticides
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.12: Environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflict
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.13: Effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies to achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.14: Strengthening international efforts to combat desertification and land degradation, restore degraded land, promote land conservation and sustainable land management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience
 - UNEP/EA.6/RES.15: Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution
- c) Adoption of the [following decisions](#), as well as a number of procedural decisions which are reflected on the UNEA-6 proceedings report:
 - UNEA decision 6/6 on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
 - UNEA decision 6/7 on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
- d) For the first time, UNEA included a new agenda item entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements”. The item highlighted the importance of cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) with a full day devoted to the discussion. This included an opening plenary meeting and two consecutive high-level dialogues (more information [here](#)). The MEA day attracted high level participation of Member States, representatives from 13 MEA Secretariats as well as a good number of Presidents of MEA governing bodies. A three-day programme of MEA side events was held from 28 February to 1 March 2024, led by the MEA Secretariats, open to all UNEA-6 participants. Further, an MEA exhibition was organized throughout UNEA-6 to showcase cooperation between UNEP and MEAs, other UN entities and

MEAs, as well as among MEAs on cross-cutting topics of interest that are relevant to the theme of UNEA-6. The MEA exhibition also provided space for networking and knowledge sharing. The list of MEA exhibitions can be accessed [here](#).

- e) Three leadership dialogues on the theme of UNEA-6 were held with active participation of high-level representatives from Member States, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other relevant organizations and stakeholders (more information [here](#)).
 - f) One [multistakeholder dialogue](#) was held, allowing representatives of major groups and stakeholders to interact with high level decision makers under the sub-theme [“Partnering for the Environment: Inclusive Multilateralism Fit for Purpose”](#).
 - g) 135 statements were delivered under “national statements” during the high-level segment by Member States, intergovernmental organizations, MEAs, UN system entities and stakeholders. 3 recorded video statements (Panama, Czechia and Vanuatu) were also provided. All statements are available [here](#).
 - h) A special session of the [UN Science-Policy-Business Forum](#) held on 27 February 2024 featured ministers and representatives from governments and the business sector, scientific institutions and civil society.
 - i) Based on a [proposal from the Secretariat](#) which was [endorsed](#) by the [UNEA Bureau](#) at its meeting on 20 December 2023, [33 official side events](#) were organized at UNEA-6. Twenty-four of these side events were in-person events organized at the meeting location, while 9 side events took place fully online. In addition, major groups and stakeholders organized 35 events in the [“Green Room”](#).
16. Discussions in meetings were supported by [UNEA-6 pre-session working documents](#) and [UNEA-6 pre-session information documents](#).

Lessons learned and recommendations for future UNEA sessions:

17. General lessons learned and recommendations include the following:

- a) UNEA ministerial declaration should be short, action-oriented and ambitious, tackling emerging issues and relate closely to the theme of the session. The regional ministerial fora, where existing and relevant should be utilized for regional consultations on the draft ministerial declaration to ensure early and broad-based consultations and to facilitate its adoption by consensus.
- b) To increase transparency, inclusivity and universal participation, the Secretariat should consider holding more briefings for capital-based focal points from Member States that are not represented in Nairobi or not yet accredited to the CPR on the status of preparations of UNEA.
- c) The UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat should as far as possible ensure that the themes of future UNEA sessions provide a strategic and focused framework by **1)** Providing a clearer focus and common thread while also being broad and inclusive and **2)** aligning with the strategic objectives contained in the UNEP Medium-term Strategy (MTS).
- d) The UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat should provide clear guidance to Member States on the respective scope and objective of the i) ministerial declaration, ii) resolutions and decisions, and iii) UNEP’s MTS; to avoid creating overlapping or repetitive mandates. Increased attention should also be given to an integrated and coordinated implementation of the ministerial declaration, resolutions/decisions and the MTS.
- e) The Secretariat should continue to organize interactive dialogues, without pre-established list of speakers, to facilitate a more dynamic discussion, also involving balanced representation of major groups and stakeholders. The secretariat should also consider how to improve the venue and time management of negotiations and side events, for example by 1) dedicating separate space for side events and negotiations, including temporary structures, 2) allocating sufficient

time between events and guiding event organizers on time management and 3) continue working with UNON to upgrade the existing facilities, in particular those dedicated to negotiations.

III. Preparatory process under the auspices of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Committee of Permanent Representatives

18. At their joint retreat held in July 2023, the Bureaux of UNEA and the CPR had endorsed the [guidance to Member States on the submission of draft resolutions and decisions to the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#). The guidance built on the UNEA rules of procedure (in particular rule 44), guidance provided in UNEA decision 5/4, the [outcome of the CPR-based review as endorsed at UNEA-5.2](#), previous guidance issued by the UNEA Bureau, and best practices. The UNEA-6 and CPR Bureaux invited Member States to apply the following timelines for the submission of draft resolutions and decisions to UNEA-6:

Date	Deadlines
20 – 24 November 2023 The 10 th annual subcommittee meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States in a position to do so may announce the intention to submit draft resolutions or decisions. • Draft resolutions or decisions may also be submitted in full, if ready. • A concept note (as referred to in the CPR-based review, subparagraph 13 (e) (ii)) should accompany the announcement or the submission of the draft resolution/decision. Such a concept note can be presented before a draft resolution or decision is submitted.
4 December 2023 <i>(12 weeks in advance of UNEA-6 as indicated in the CPR-based review)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended final deadline for announcing the intention to submit draft resolution or decision (as referred to in subparagraph 13 (e) (i) of the CPR-based review) • Draft resolutions or decisions may also be submitted in full, if ready. • A concept note (as referred to in subparagraph 13 (e) (ii) of the CPR-based review) should accompany the announcement or the submission of draft resolution/decision.
11 December 2023 <i>(10 weeks in advance of OECPR-6 pursuant to UNEA decision 5/4)</i>	Initial recommended deadline to submit draft resolutions and decisions (in accordance with UNEA decision 5/4)
18 December 2023 <i>(10 weeks in advance of UNEA-6 as indicated in the CPR-based review)</i>	Final recommended deadline to submit draft resolutions and decisions (in accordance with subparagraph 13 (e) (iii) of the CPR-based review) <i>CPR-based review)]</i>

19. At the [10th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the CPR](#) (10th ASC), held from 20 to 24 November 2023, the CPR, in line with the [guidance provided by the UNEA and CPR Bureaux at their joint retreat held in July 2023](#), stressed the importance of respecting the final recommended deadline of 18 December 2023 to submit draft resolutions and decisions. Furthermore, fourteen draft resolutions were announced by Member States at the meeting, to be submitted at a later date. The Committee also highlighted the need to streamline the number of draft resolutions for UNEA and to reduce the number of working groups meetings running in parallel, to accommodate small delegations. The Secretariat was requested to prepare, in consultation with the CPR Bureau, a strategic scheduling plan of subcommittee and OECPR-6 meetings to allow for effective, inclusive, and participatory consultations and negotiations on UNEA draft resolutions and decisions, to avoid the scheduling of more than two parallel meetings during the OECPR and UNEA, and to make the plan available to Member States as early as possible and before the end of 2023.
20. The UNEA-6 Presidency and the CPR Chair were further invited by the 10th ASC to guide appointed co-facilitators to organize, as appropriate, early consultations with major groups and stakeholders, to

collect views and positions on draft resolutions for possible consideration by Member States, and proponents of draft resolutions were encouraged to engage with the major groups and stakeholders Facilitating Committee, with the support of the secretariat.

21. All drafts resolutions and decisions except one were submitted by the 10 weeks deadline date, *i.e* by 18 December 2023. Furthermore, the Secretariat availed by 10 January 2024 on the UNEA-6 resolution portal technical notes pertaining to each draft resolution and decision submitted. The technical note provided the following information: a) The suggested requests for UNEP to implement. b) Relation to UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work and to existing UNEA resolutions/decisions, as relevant. c) An initial legal assessment. d) Preliminary budget implications outlining for implementing the draft. e) Secretariat focal points. When applicable, revised technical notes from the secretariat, updated in view of additional information which became available in the course of the consultations, were availed on 14 February 2024.
22. During the intersessional period between 10th ASC and OECPR-6, under the guidance by the CPR Bureau, the CPR held a total of 6 meetings devoted in full to in-depth consultations on the draft resolutions and decisions for UNEA-6. At two subcommittee meetings of the CPR held on 11 and 16 January 2024, the main sponsors of draft resolutions had introduced their drafts cluster by cluster and the secretariat focal points had presented technical notes for each draft resolution. A question-and-answer session followed, during which delegations provided comments and sought clarifications. During the subcommittee meeting on 16 January 2024, the Secretariat also presented two draft decisions and one draft resolution, followed by a question-and-answer session. The subcommittee meeting held on 23 January 2024 offered a second opportunity for delegations to familiarize themselves with the proposals and to provide additional comments or questions on the drafts. The three subcommittee meetings held on 1, 6 and 8 February 2024 offered an in-depth consideration of the draft resolutions and decisions, paragraph-by-paragraph. No line-by-line negotiations took place.
23. The CPR also held 2 regular meetings, whereby the Committee took stock of progress and provided additional guidance on the preparatory process. A full account of all CPR meetings, including links to the respective meeting portals with agendas, background documents and meeting summaries, is available on the [2023 and 2024 roadmaps of UNEP governing bodies](#).
24. Following the guidance of the Bureaux of UNEA and of the CPR, and on the basis of nominations from the regional groups, 10 Co-Facilitators were appointed from the UN regions to lead the informal in-depth consultations on all draft resolutions and decisions.
25. To support the co-facilitators along the process, the Secretariat prepared a guidance note to the co-facilitators on the process of informal consultations on draft resolutions and decisions to be adopted at UNEA-6, which can be accessed [here](#). On 26 January and 14 February 2024, the Secretariat also held two informal training sessions for the co-facilitators to present the guidance, discuss the methods of work and the schedule of informal consultations on draft resolutions and decisions. In addition, several informal meetings between the Secretariat and the co-facilitators were held to take stock of the progress of negotiations.
26. The major groups and stakeholders were self-organised and nominated major group thematic cluster facilitators and major groups resolutions focal points, to coordinate their inputs and find synergies and communalities where possible. The list of major groups and stakeholders thematic cluster facilitators and resolutions focal points can be accessed [here](#).
27. As recommended during the 10th ASC, the co-facilitators organised early consultations with proponents of draft resolutions and with the focal points from major groups and stakeholders for each draft resolution, to collect initial views and positions. Some proponents of draft resolutions also engaged with the major groups and stakeholders Facilitating Committee, with the support of the secretariat.
28. From 11 to 15 September 2024, the Secretariat, in collaboration with UNITAR, organized a training for delegates on Negotiation Skills and Techniques, Drafting Skills and Multilateral Conference Diplomacy, and Capacity-building through Peer Learning. The training aimed at fostering and strengthening delegations' skills and techniques on negotiation and drafting skills for the preparation of UNEA draft resolutions and decisions.

Sixth open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

29. The draft resolutions and decisions were divided into five [clusters](#) and made available online through a password-protected [UNEA-6 resolution portal](#). Two working groups were meeting in parallel to consider the draft resolutions and decisions. Given the large number of draft documents under consideration, informal-informal consultations were sometimes organized in parallel with the meetings of the working groups.
30. The outcomes of UNEA-6 were prepared and negotiated by the [sixth open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#) (OECPR-6), held from 19 to 23 February 2024. In total, the Committee considered 22 draft resolutions and two draft decisions. At its closing plenary on 23 February, the Committee agreed to refer for further consultations 19 draft resolutions and 2 draft decisions for adoption by the Assembly, and recommended no further action on three of them. More details are available in the report from OECPR-6 which will be annexed to the present document once completed.

Committee of the Whole

31. On 26 February 2024, at its opening plenary, the Environment Assembly decided to establish a Committee of the Whole, chaired by a representative of the Eastern European States Group from the UNEA-6 Bureau, tasked to conclude negotiations on any outstanding matters. The Committee met three times in plenary and set up two informal contact groups to prepare for the finalization of draft resolutions and decisions by the afternoon of Wednesday, 28 February 2024.
32. At its first plenary meeting, on the basis of a proposal from the Chair, the Committee agreed to apply eight guiding principles aimed at harmonizing and streamlining the negotiation process during the work of the Committee, which can be summarized as follows.
 - i. The contact group in the cluster should agree on which document would form the basis of the negotiations at the outset of its meeting, based on a recommendation of the Co-Chair of the contact group;
 - ii. In the absence of an agreement, negotiations were to resume based on the most recent version of the draft document, as introduced by the co-facilitators of the OECPR-6 before the close of that meeting;
 - iii. The time allocation proposed by the Co-Chairs for each draft resolution should be respected;
 - iv. Priority should be given to discussing operative paragraphs and to avoid spending more time on preambular paragraphs;
 - v. New ideas or concepts should be avoided;
 - vi. Sufficient time to review new versions of the drafts, as made available on the portal, should be provided;
 - vii. Additional informal-informal consultations could take place in parallel with the meetings of the two contact groups, on the condition that the results of such consultations were duly reported to the contact groups or to the Committee plenary for further consideration, before any possible action or decision was taken;
 - viii. The Co-Chairs of the contact groups were encouraged to coordinate with each other, to as far as possible ensure consistency with regard to the use of agreed legal concepts and definitions.
33. At its final plenary meeting held on 28 February 2024, the Committee agreed to recommend **ten finalized draft resolutions and two draft decisions** for adoption by the Environment Assembly. A detailed report on the work of the Committee of the Whole is set out in annex III to the UNEA-6 proceedings report.
34. Following the closure of the Committee of the Whole, Member States engaged in additional informal consultations on the remaining draft resolutions. The fact that the OECPR and the Committee of the Whole were not able to agree on several outstanding draft resolutions and that negotiations continued through intensive informal consultations outside these two bodies until the fourth day of the session is unprecedented, with the consequence that some drafts were withdrawn or not submitted for adoption due to time limitations, and three draft resolutions were not translated into all six UN languages at the time of adoption.

35. As a result of the negotiations under OECPR-6, the Committee of the whole, and additional informal consultations held on 29 February 2024, UNEA-6 eventually adopted **15 resolutions and two decisions, as well as a ministerial declaration** at the final plenary of UNEA-6.
36. Negotiations were supported by online platforms, including online availability of key documents through the password-protected [UNEA-6 resolution portal](#), and effective communication of information from the Secretariat on the availability of new drafts, including through the use a dedicated UNEA-6 App. Both the CPR and the Committee of the Whole played a fundamental role in the preparation for the outcomes of the Assembly, including by ensuring an open, inclusive and transparent consultation process on the draft ministerial declaration, resolutions and decisions, paving the way for their adoption at UNEA-6 by consensus.
37. For future UNEA preparatory processes, the role of the CPR may be further fine-tuned and refined, taking into account the experience from UNEA-6 and in accordance with the guidance provided in the [outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the CPR](#).

Lessons learned and recommendations for future UNEA sessions

38. To allow for more time for the negotiations and to ensure a limited number of strategic and high-quality draft resolutions:
- a) The UNEA Bureau is invited to provide further guidance to encourage Member States to submit a smaller number of draft resolutions, for example by requiring that any draft to be submitted should be co-sponsored and/or submitted by at least [3] Member States from different regions.
 - b) Member States may wish to consider allowing for more than two parallel working groups meeting at the same time. During UNEA 5.2, there were 3 working groups meeting in parallel.
 - c) Member States are strongly encouraged to continue adhering to the deadline for submission of draft resolutions as per the guidance provided in the Consensual Process for Review by the CPR, UNEA decision and enforced by the UNEA Bureau.
 - d) To promote quality assurance and to avoid potential duplication of existing resolution or with the UNEP Programme of Work, Member States who are considering submitting a draft resolution are encouraged to consult informally with the Secretariat at an early stage before the submission, to allow for technical and legal review.
 - e) To promote strategic value-added, Member States are encouraged to make use of the Executive Director's report to UNEA as a basis for possible draft resolutions addressing potential emerging issues and gaps.
 - f) To provide more clarity on the intention behind the submission of a draft resolution, the UNEA Bureau is invited to prepare additional guidelines to Member States on submission of draft resolutions, indicating whether the purpose of the new draft would be to provide:
 - i. New guidance or instruction to the UNEP secretariat and/or the UN as a whole.
 - ii. New commitments for Member States.
 - iii. A definition of a new concept.
 - iv. Address an emerging issue or an urgent matter.
 - v. Clarity on already agreed language in the resolution.
 - g) Encourage streamlining and consistency of the text of draft resolutions by requesting the secretariat to provide a template for draft resolutions or decisions, offering guidelines on structure and content, including on the formulation of preambular and operative paragraphs, ensuring reflection of UNEP's ongoing work, to inform of available research tools, and to create an online repository of resolutions previously adopted at past UNEA sessions or by the Governing Council on specific topics.

- h) Make optimal use of the intersessional period between ASC and the OECPR, for example by
- i. Making better use of the secretariat technical notes by ensuring in-depth presentation and discussion in the CPR subcommittee meetings.
 - ii. Involving capital-based UNEA focal points at an early stage during the inter-sessional period.
 - iii. Ensuring as far as possible early identification of experienced co-facilitators, preferably immediately after the annual subcommittee meeting, utilizing a different method of identification of co-facilitators, rather than requesting nominations from the regional groups, to identify a broader pool of experienced co-facilitators, e.g. identification through the UNEA and CPR Bureaux.
 - iv. Consider initiating paragraph-by-paragraph negotiation of draft resolutions (first reading) earlier, to capture Member States positions in advance of the OECPR.
- i) To encourage a more active involvement of proponents, Member States submitting draft resolutions should identify focal points for the draft who should be physically present during the annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, the OECPR and UNEA.
- j) To continue to build capacity for co-facilitators and negotiators, the secretariat should, subject to available funding, continue to offer in-person training well in advance of UNEA sessions for all interested delegations e.g. to improve skills relating to:
- i. The preparation of draft UNEA resolutions and decisions.
 - ii. Negotiation tactics and strategies.
 - iii. Co-facilitation of meetings.
- k) The secretariat, under the guidance of the CPR Bureau/Chair of the Committee of the Whole, is encouraged to consider,
- i. Revising the allocation of draft resolutions and decisions under each cluster as the negotiations evolve from the OECPR to the Committee of the Whole to maintain a balance between clusters;
 - ii. Providing clear guidelines and messaging on the negotiation process, including the deadlines and timeframe, at the start of the OECPR and the Committee of the Whole.

IV. Participation and registration

39. Statistics from the registration platform Indico demonstrated that UNEA-6 was the most attended UNEA session so far:
- In total, **8000** people registered to UNEA-6, of which **6882** participants were approved and **5621** attended.
 - **160** Member States and Observers attended, represented by **1608** delegates and **131** ministers and vice ministers.
 - **31** intergovernmental organizations, including MEA Secretariats, attended, represented by 128 delegates.
 - **12** Heads of State and Government / Deputy Heads of State and Government were present at UNEA-6.
 - **1569** representatives of the major groups and stakeholders registered, of which **1032** attended.
40. Statistics on gender distribution demonstrate that **43.5% of the** participants were women. Among Member States delegations, **40%** of delegates were women, while for major groups and stakeholders, **50%** were women. Notably, however, only **33%** of Member States' Heads of Delegations were women. The gender distribution among UN organizations representatives was **56%** female and **43%** male.
41. Similar to previous UNEA sessions, many delegations registered late.

42. Thanks to generous financial contributions of several Member States, the Secretariat was in a position to offer travel support for up to two representatives per developing countries to attend UNEA-6 and its preparatory meetings. In total, travel support was provided to 173 representatives from 100 Member States, as well as 29 individuals representing accredited major groups and stakeholders, and 28 youth representatives attending the Youth Environment Assembly. The delegations who contributed financially to UNEA-6 are as follows (in order of contribution amounts):

Donor	Amount (USD)
European Commission	600,000
France	229,856
United Kingdom	96,234
Portugal	53,937
Sweden	45,000
Finland	43,812
Belgium	32,503
Switzerland	25,000
Australia	20,100
Morocco	20,000
Germany	16,077
European Investment Bank	13,144
GEF Secretariat	12,000
Azerbaijan	11,779
Hungary	10,843
New Zealand	6,209
Total contributions	1,236,493

43. Further, financial contributions were received from Member States and MEA Secretariats to support the consideration of the agenda item on cooperation with MEAs.

Lessons learned and recommendations for future UNEA sessions:

44. To improve participation and registration:

- a) Member States and stakeholders are encouraged to register as early as possible to avoid delays and complications relating to registration.
- b) The secretariat is requested to continue to provide travel support for 2 eligible representatives per developing country, as nominated by Member States, as well as at least two representatives per Major Group and two representatives per UNEP region, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary financial resources.
- c) The UNEA Bureau and the Secretariat should consider putting in place additional measures to promote a gender-balanced representation of delegates, especially with regard to Heads of Delegation. In this regard, it is recalled that UNEA in its decision 6/7 on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of UNEA-7 for the first time explicitly encouraged Member States to support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the sessions of UNEA.

V. UNEA Documentation

45. 13 out of 14 pre-session official documents for UNEA-6 were issued on time and made available online in all official UN languages at least 6 weeks ahead of UNEA-6, and the remaining document (UNEP/EA.6/13) was submitted on 30 January and made available in all official UN languages on 23 February 2024.

46. Due to their late submission, three draft resolutions were considered for adoption by UNEA-6 in English only.

47. Post-session documents (edited and translated resolutions and meeting reports) are expected to become available by mid-April 2024.

Lessons learned and recommendations for future UNEA sessions:

48. To improve the UNEA documentation process:

- a) The secretariat is requested to ensure, in accordance with rule 29 of the rules of procedure of UNEA, that all mandated pre-session documents (working documents) are issued in all official UN languages at least six weeks in advance of the opening of the session.
- b) Member States may wish to allocate more time during the OECPR for review and consideration of the UNEA working documents.
- c) Member States are encouraged to finalize all negotiations by the end of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole, to ensure that documents ready for adoption are translated into all official UN languages.

V. e-Delegate and inscription on the list of national statements

49. To facilitate requests for inscription on the list of speakers for national statements at UNEA-6, the secretariat implemented the “e-Speaker module” which was made accessible through the e-delegate portal, a secured site which centralizes a range of e-services and other resources provided by the secretariat to facilitate the workflow of Member States of the United Nations and their delegates.
50. All Member States were requested to communicate to the secretariat the names and contacts of two officials to be the access administrators in their Office by filling out a form and offered training on how to inscribe their delegate on the list of speakers for national statements through the platform.
51. As a result, 139 Member States were given access, and 128 Member States successfully inscribed their speaker themselves on the list of speakers using the e-delegate platform.

Lessons learned and recommendations for future UNEA sessions:

52. To improve the use of the e-deleGATE platform, the secretariat is requested to explore the adoption of additional modules available in the e-deleGATE portal, covering other aspects of secretariat communication and credentials.

VI. Preparations at regional levels

53. Preparations at regional level, including through regional and subregional environmental ministerial forums and other regional preparatory meetings, often organized back-to-back with regional major groups and stakeholders consultations, contributed greatly to the success of UNEA-6, but there is a potential to create even stronger links between the national, regional and global levels in the preparations for UNEA meetings, with the support of UNEP’s Regional Offices.
54. UNEA-6 adopted resolution 6/3 on enhancing the role and viability of regional forums of ministers of the environment and UNEP regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges. The resolution requests UNEP to enhance the role of regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities, including by introducing a new item on the agendas of future annual subcommittee meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the medium-term strategy and programme of work of UNEP. The resolution also invites Member States to enhance collaboration between regional forums of environment ministers and UNEP.

Lessons learned and recommendations for future UNEA sessions:

55. To improve the link between regional environmental ministerial forums and UNEA:
- a) The secretariat, with the support of UNEP Regional Offices, is requested to ensure implementation of paragraph 1 (a) of resolution 6/3, which requests the Executive Director to include on the agendas of annual subcommittee meetings of the CPR an item on the contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the medium-term strategy and programme of work of UNEP.
 - b) The Chairs of regional ministerial fora are invited to identify topics for draft resolutions as part of the meeting agenda. The Chair of the Regional Ministerial Forum should be invited to report on the identified list at the ASC.
 - c) The Chairs of regional ministerial fora, where existing and relevant, in consultation with the Presidency of UNEA, are invited to consider holding consultations on the draft ministerial declaration as part of the meeting agenda. In addition, in-person participation of the UNEA President at the Regional Ministerial Forums would be helpful to build awareness and consensus around the draft Ministerial Declaration, in consultation with Member States and the major groups and stakeholders.
 - d) Regional and subregional ministerial forums are invited to ensure open and meaningful participation of regional accredited major groups and stakeholders, in accordance with established practices under UNEA, and travel support should be provided to facilitate participation of delegates from developing countries and from selected accredited major groups and stakeholders, subject to the availability of resources.

VII. Stakeholder participation

56. The [Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum \(GMGSF\)](#) was self-organized by the major groups and stakeholders prior to UNEA-6, with 232 participants. The Forum provided an avenue for the major groups and stakeholders to prepare their positions, statements, and contributions to OECPR-6 and UNEA-6, resulting in a [Joint Global Statement of Major Groups and Stakeholders for UNEA 6](#).
57. The Forum offered an opportunity for both accredited and non-accredited stakeholders to exchange perspectives among themselves and with representatives from the UNEP secretariat and interested Member States, to foster dialogue and collaboration within the framework of the UNEA-6 agenda.
58. A Global [Youth Environment Assembly](#) was held on 17 and 18 February 2024, which brought together more than 400 young people from across the world. The Youth Assembly resulted in a [Global Youth Declaration on Environment](#) calling for policies and mandates centered around the principle of intergenerational equity and applying a long-term perspective.

Major groups and stakeholders [organized 35 Green Room side events](#) held throughout the UNEA session in the “Green Room”, a space provided to the major groups and stakeholders by UNEP for their own use, including for morning debriefings, bilateral meetings as well as side events.

59. According to established practice, each of the nine major group was given a dedicated speaking slot at the OECPR and UNEA opening plenaries. A joint statement for the six UNEP regions was presented at the UNEA opening plenary. In addition, a joint major group and stakeholder statement was presented at UNEA closing plenary.
60. With regard to the negotiations, early consultations were organized between co-facilitators, some proponents and major groups and stakeholders, to exchange views on draft resolutions.

Lessons learned and recommendations for future UNEA sessions

61. To promote Stakeholder participation:

- a) The UNEA and CPR Bureaux are invited to continue to apply the practice of offering i) speaking slots to each of the nine major groups at the opening of the OECPR and UNEA sessions, and ii) one joint statement for the six UNEP regions, recognizing the regional perspective of civil society voices.
- b) Stakeholders are invited to reconsider the timing of the organization of future Youth Environment Assemblies to be held closer to UNEA sessions, while also taking into account the need for early preparations to influence the outcomes of UNEA.
- c) Co-facilitators and proponents of draft resolutions are encouraged to engage with stakeholders to exchange views at an early stage of consultations.
- d) The Secretariat is requested to continue to secure a permanent meeting facility for the stakeholders before and during UNEA sessions and, subject to the availability of financial resources, to provide travel support to the major groups and stakeholders to facilitate their in-person participation in UNEA meetings.

VIII . Media and communication

62. The UNEA-6 mobile application (UNEA-6 App) was downloaded 4000 times.

63. The [UNEA-6 website](#) has received more than half a million views since September 2023 (85,000 monthly views in average)

64. To maximize the impact of the session, targeted efforts and resources were identified to enhance online outreach and press engagement of the events, based on the UNEA-6 communication strategy, to ensure appropriate outreach and impact.

65. News media outreach:

- UNEA-6 garnered a significant amount of global press with 10,566 news articles mentioning the UN Environment Assembly (8 Feb – 8 March) published across 4,345 outlets in 158 countries and 61 languages.
- More than 400 journalists accredited, representing more than 150 media outlets and 40 nationalities. 9 press conferences were held, 8 press releases issued and 1 OpEd by the Executive Director of UNEP was published in 24 outlets globally in different languages.
- 25 media interviews were organized for the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, UNEA President and others.
- UNEA-6 social media had excellent post reach of over 50 million in the six official UN languages plus Kiswahili and Portuguese.
- 29 events including opening and closing plenaries, national statements and leadership dialogues were streamed live globally on both UN Web TV (in all 6 official UN languages) and on UNEP's YouTube Channel.

Lessons learned and recommendations for future UNEA sessions

66. To further improve UNEA branding, media and communication outreach, the Secretariat is requested to:

- a) Further explore options for improved greening of UNEA design and produced assets, including reuse and storage of branding materials;
- b) Continue to strengthen local media and communication outreach in host country;
- c) Continue to strengthen coordination with MEA Secretariats to enhance MEA engagement and visibility;

- d) Expand UNEP goodwill ambassadors' engagement on UNEA;
- e) Continue to strengthen multilingual content on UNEA, where possible also going beyond the six official UN languages.

IX. Looking ahead towards the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

67. To ensure improved preparation and organization of UNEA-7 and OECPR-7, the Committee Members may wish to endorse this document and the recommendations contained herein at its 166th regular meeting, and to continue efforts to fully implement the outcome of the Process for review by the CPR, as endorsed through paragraph 1 of UNEA decision 5/4.

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