

United Nations Environment Assembly  
Bureau Meeting  
Thursday, 16 May 2024  
16:00 - 18:00 (GMT+3)  
Online - Microsoft Teams

### **Draft Summary**

#### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

1. His Excellency Abdullah Bin Ali Al Amri, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Bureau. The President also welcomed the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), His Excellency Firas Khouri, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, who joined the meeting as an ex-officio Bureau member.
2. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), delivered her opening remarks.
3. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 2: Introduction to the work of the Bureau of UNEA.**

4. The secretariat provided a briefing on the roles and functions of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly on the basis of the [UNEA rules of procedure](#) and the final outcome of the [Consensual Process for Review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives](#).
5. One Bureau member inquired on Vice-Presidents delegating their participation in the Bureau meetings when they are unable to attend.
6. The secretariat explained that according to UNEA rules of procedure, Bureau Members are elected in person and should attend all Bureau meetings in person whenever possible, but they may delegate attendance to another delegate to present their views without participating in formal decision-making.

#### **Agenda item 3: Organization of work.**

7. The secretariat provided a briefing on the organization of work of the Bureau on the basis of a draft roadmap of meetings for the Bureau UNEA-7, with proposed meeting dates from May 2024 through December 2025.
8. The President invited the Bureau members to block their calendars for the Bureau meetings and joint Bureau meetings with the CPR Bureau to be held in 2024 and tentatively block their calendars for suggested dates in 2025, especially the dates for the in-person joint retreat to be held in Oman in July 2025.

#### **Agenda item 4: Assessment and lessons learned from UNEA-6.**

9. The secretariat presented the lessons learned from UNEA-6 based on an [assessment document](#), which is expected to be further considered at the 6 June subcommittee meeting of the CPR and subsequently considered and endorsed by the CPR at its 166<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting on 13 June 2024.
10. The Chair of the CPR reflected on the experience from UNEA-5.2 to UNEA-6 and emphasized the importance of documenting lessons learned and the contribution of co-facilitators to advance the preparations for UNEA-7, highlighting the importance of encouraging Member

States not based in Nairobi to participate in the meetings of the CPR and its subcommittee when consultations on draft resolutions are held.

11. Bureau members emphasized the importance of an effective inter-sessional period and early preparation on UNEA-7 draft resolutions, suggested early deadline for submitting resolutions as well as early nominating and training of co-facilitators, encouraged co-facilitators and UNEP focal points to provide guidance to draft resolution proponents, and expressed a desire for an inclusive, ambitious, and forward-looking UNEA-7 while reiterating their commitment to a successful UNEA.
12. Regarding the ministerial declaration, Bureau members suggested strengthening the UNEA-7 process to ensure better alignment of inputs from Member States from the capitals.
13. One Bureau member addressed the severe drought in Zambia causing food, energy and water insecurity, with power and water being rationed, and emphasized the urgency of addressing these challenges, expressing his commitment to remain available for further discussions.
14. The President noted the importance of clear guidance on the submission of draft resolutions and negotiation.
15. Regarding the inter-sessional period, the secretariat informed that it plans to engage more with capital-based environmental focal points and encourage their active participation through online platforms during all the meetings but especially when the draft resolutions and decisions are presented at the CPR subcommittee meetings followed by questions & answers sessions.

#### **Agenda item 5: Consideration of the process to define the theme for UNEA-7**

16. The secretariat provided a briefing on the [background document](#) with proposed guidance, principles and criteria for the identification of a theme for UNEA-7 and a proposed timeline for consultation on the theme.
17. One Bureau member proposed a theme for the UNEA-7 that read, “Ambitious and accelerating options in nature to achieve sustainable, resilient and low-carbon development, leaving no one behind.”
18. One Bureau member emphasized the importance of a focused theme to amplify results, foster political will, involve major groups and increase UNEA's relevance, suggesting themes like sustainable resource management and multilateral environmental policies' interlinkages with equity and inclusiveness while welcoming the secretary's proposed themes.
19. Based on the discussion, the Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare possible themes for UNEA-7 ahead of the joint meeting of the Bureau of UNEA-7 and the CPR Bureau scheduled for 26 June.
20. The Bureau agreed to apply the guiding principles, criteria, timeline and consultation process outlined in the background document as the way forward towards defining a theme for UNEA-7.

#### **Agenda item 6: Other matters.**

21. No other matters were raised.

#### **Agenda item 7: Closing of the meeting.**

22. The meeting closed at 18:00 (GMT+3).

## **Annex 1: List of participants of the UNEA Bureau**

### **UNEA Bureau members**

1. H.E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, President of UNEA and Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman.
2. H. E. Ms. Zakia Khattabi, Vice President of UNEA and Federal Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal of Belgium.
3. H. E. Ms. Fitsum Assefa Adela, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Planning and Development of Ethiopia.
4. H. E. Ms. Anikó Raisz, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of State for Environmental Policy and Circular Economy of Hungary.
5. H. E. Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Vice President of UNEA and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Government Offices of Sweden.
6. H. E. Mr. Collins Nzovu, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Green Economy and Environment of Zambia.
7. H.E. Ms. Joyelle Clarke, Rapporteur of UNEA and Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

### **Representation of UNEA Bureau members.**

8. H. E. Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Vice President of UNEA and First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, **represented by** Ms. Nino Gokhelasvili, Head of the Department of Environment and Climate Change Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Permanent Representative to UNEP.
9. H. E. Mr. Ali Gholampour, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP, **represented by** Ms. Zahra Dolatkah, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP.
10. H. E. Mr. Juan Carlos Castro Vargas, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Environment of Peru, **represented by** Mr. Edgar Romero, Vice Minister of Environmental Management of Peru.

### **CPR Bureau member participating in an ex-officio capacity.**

1. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to UNEP.

### **UNEP Secretariat**

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director
3. Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Chief of Staff.
4. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies.
5. Mr. Ulf, Bjornholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies
6. Mr. Gerhard Kreutzer, Legal Affairs Officer