United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme
Eleventh meeting
Nairobi, 8 – 12 July 2024
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Conference Rooms 2 (in person) and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda item 3 (e): Secretariat concept note for a panel discussion with former Chairs of the Regional Ministerial Environment Forums

This concept note has been prepared by the Secretariat to guide the panel discussion at the 11th annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR, under agenda item 3 (e) (Contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP Medium-term Strategy and Programme of Work).
Secretariat concept note for a panel discussion with former Chairs of the Regional Ministerial Environment Forums

11th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Agenda Item 3 e) Contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work.

Objective of this concept note

This concept note is prepared to support the discussions during the eleventh annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives on agenda item 3e: contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work.

Background

During its sixth session in February-March 2024, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted Resolution 6/3, entitled “Enhancing the role and viability of regional forums of ministers of the environment and United Nations Environment Programme regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges”.

Currently, UNEP supports three regional forums as their Secretariat: the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (Asia-Pacific Forum), and the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC Forum).

In addition, UNEP currently has six regional offices: Regional Office for Africa (ROA), Regional Office for Europe (ROE), Latin America and the Caribbean Office (LACO), Regional Office for North America (RONA), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), and Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA).

Through paragraph 1(a) of resolution UNEA 6/3, Member States requested the Executive Director of UNEP to include on the agendas of annual subcommittee meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme 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 the Programme.

This session responds to this mandate.

Objective of the session

In line with paragraph 1(a) of UNEA resolution 6/3, this session will allow for an exchange of views among Member States and other stakeholders in order to identify and explore potential measures to enhance the role and viability of regional forums of environment ministers and environment authorities and UNEP regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges.

Proposed format
The session will comprise three parts. The first part will be a presentation from the UNEP Secretariat with background information on the contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP Medium-term Strategy and Programme of Work.

The second part will take the shape of a panel discussion among experts on the functioning of the regional ministerial forums, and who have interacted with UNEP regional offices, including in its function as Secretariat to the forums, namely, former Chairs of the three regional forums: Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and AMCEN.

In the third part, an open discussion will be held among CPR representatives and other stakeholders, to exchange views on how to enhance the role of regional forums and regional offices in line with UNEA resolution 6/3.

**Draft agenda**

**Part 1 – Presentation by the Secretariat**
The UNEP Secretariat will share background information on the contribution of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities to the UNEP Medium-term Strategy and Programme of Work.

**Part 2 – Panel discussion**
Moderated discussion led by a senior UNEP official, who would direct questions to former Chairs of regional forums, or Member State senior officials with ample experience working with the regional forums and offices, who would share their views.

Four questions could be posed to three representatives, one per region with a ministerial forum (Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia-Pacific), for a total of 60 minutes of discussion giving 5 minutes per answer.

Possible questions:

1. What are the key roles that regional forums play? What have been some key achievements?

2. How could the connection between regional forums to other regional and global environmental intergovernmental processes, such as Regional Commissions, UNEA, MEAs, be enhanced?

3. Given your experience as Chairs of the regional forums, what would you advise to strengthen such role, both process (multistakeholders participation) and context (UNEA theme, draft resolutions) for regional engagement, as well as connection with global processes?

4. How can Regional Offices enhance the support they provide to the operation of their regional forums, including mobilizing Member States support on financial resources?

**Part 3 – Open discussion**
Member States and other stakeholders would take the floor for 45 minutes, following applicable rules of procedure, to provide their views on how to strengthen the role of regional forums of environment ministers and environment authorities and UNEP regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges.
### Draft calendar of activities

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<td>Welcome remarks</td>
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<td>15:10 – 16:10</td>
<td>Panel discussion</td>
<td>Former Chairs of regional forums or senior Member State officials</td>
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<td>Moderator: Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema</td>
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<td>16:10 – 16:55</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
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<td>Moderators: Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema</td>
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<td>16:55 – 17:00</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
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