



Distr.: General

7 June 2024

English only



## **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)

**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**

This concept note has been prepared by the Secretariat to guide the panel discussion at the 11<sup>th</sup> 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).

## **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.

## **Format of the session**

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, Chairs of the three regional forums: Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (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.

## **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 Dr. Rose Mwebaza Director and Regional Representative, Africa Office- UNEP, will direct questions to Chairs of regional forums, or Member State senior officials who have ample experience working with the regional forums and offices, to share their views.

Three questions will be posed to three representatives, one per region with a ministerial forum (Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean), for a total of 30 minutes of discussion giving 10 minutes per answer.

The questions are:

- 1- What are the key roles that regional forums play? What have been some key achievements? How can Regional Offices enhance the support they provide to the operation of the regional forums, including mobilizing Member States support on financial resources?
- 2- How can the connection between regional forums and other regional/global environmental intergovernmental processes, such as Regional Commissions, UNEA, MEAs, be enhanced?
- 3- Given your experience as Presidency of the regional forum, what would you advise to strengthen the role, both process (multi-stakeholders participation) and context (UNEA theme, draft resolutions) of regional engagement, as well as their connection with global processes?

### Part 3 - Open discussion

Member States and other stakeholders will 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.

## Calendar of activities

Time	Session	Speakers
15:00 – 15:10	Welcome remarks	Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
15:10- 15:30	Introduction of agenda item 3e- Presentation	Dr. Rose Mwebaza, Director and Regional Representative, Africa Office
15:30 – 16:00	Panel discussion	Chairs of regional forums Moderator: Director and Regional Representative, Africa Office- UNEP, Dr. Rose Mwebaza
16:00 – 16:45	Open discussion	All participants Moderator: Moderator: Director and Regional Representative, Africa Office- UNEP, Dr. Rose Mwebaza
16:45	Conclusions and closing remarks	Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema