
Joint Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
26 June 2024, 16:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online Meeting – Microsoft Teams

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 participants, followed by opening remarks by His Excellency Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The meeting [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Consideration of proposals for defining the theme for UNEA-7.

3. The President reminded the participants that the UNEA Bureau, at a meeting held on 16 May, agreed on the guiding principles and basic criteria in defining a theme for UNEA-7 as well as a tentative roadmap for consultations on the theme and requested the secretariat to prepare a paper with proposals of themes for discussion at today's joint Bureaux meeting.
4. The Executive Director presented the following [three secretariat proposals for the theme of UNEA-7](#), emphasizing that the background document is to serve as a "fire starter" and the consultations on the theme will be a Member States driven process led by the President of UNEA and his team:
 - Forging Tomorrow: Pathways to a liveable and resilient planet.
 - Accelerating just transitions for people and planet.
 - New frontiers and solutions for a greener tomorrow.
5. One Bureau member suggested aligning the theme for UNEA-7 with the theme of the 2026 high-level political forum (HLPF), given that the outcomes of UNEA-7 will be the basis of UNEA contribution to the 2026 HLPF and also suggested considering the Summit of the Future discussions to ensure alignment and relevance.
6. One Bureau member requested how the proposed themes could support a strong delivery of UNEA-7 and elevate its importance among international meetings, emphasizing that the theme should reflect UNEA outcomes, including resolutions and the ministerial declaration, to enhance communication and political messaging.
7. Some Bureaux members indicated that all three proposed themes seemed highly relevant towards advancing global environmental agenda; emphasized choosing a theme that addresses environmental conservation and challenges for developing countries; and supported further discussion on them between July to November.

8. Bureaux members who preferred the first proposal highlighted its focus on creating a livable and resilient planet, covering climate change adaptation, mitigation, circular economy, sustainable use of resources, and biodiversity loss. They recognized its potential to build on previous UNEA resolutions and highlighted the possible combination with the third proposal.
9. Bureaux members that favored the second proposal highlighted its relation to the decisions of UNFCCC COP27 and the importance of a holistic approach to just transitions, emphasizing promoting ecosystem integrity, sustainable biodiversity, climate justice, and quality job creation tailored to each country's circumstances; and also recommended better framing of the discussion on just transition to avoid divisive debates and ensure a successful UNEA-7.
10. Bureaux members who preferred the third proposal highlighted that it is well-suited for building a greener future, especially for Africa. They emphasized its relevance to key international sustainability agendas over the next two years, including the Summit of the Future scheduled for September 2024 and stressed the need for new frontiers and practices for a better tomorrow.
11. The Executive Director reminded the Bureaux of UNEA [decision 6/7](#), in which the UNEA Bureau is requested, in close collaboration with the CPR, to define the theme for UNEA-7 no later than 12 months in advance of UNEA-7, which is December 2024.
12. The Executive Director informed the Bureaux of the themes for the upcoming HLPF session and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) under review:
 - a. 2025 HLPF theme: "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 agenda". Goals under review in 2025 HLPF include good health and well-being (Goal 3), gender equality (Goal 5), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), life below water (Goal 14), and partnerships (Goal 17).
 - b. 2026 HLPF theme: "Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all". Goals under review in 2026 HLPF include clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), and partnerships (Goal 17).
 - c. 2027 HLPF theme: "Scaling up just transitions to achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals". Goals under review in 2027 HLPF include quality education (Goal 4), reduced inequalities (Goal 10), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12), life on land (Goal 15), and partnerships (Goal 17).
13. The President thanked the Bureaux for their comments. He also informed that in view of the short timeframe in advance of the annual subcommittee meeting, the secretariat's proposals on the themes would remain unchanged; he would convey to delegations at the 11th annual subcommittee meeting the comments provided at the joint Bureaux meeting; and subsequent to the annual subcommittee meeting, he would determine the way forward, including on the need to convene additional consultations and the revision of the secretariat's proposals.

Agenda item 3: Preparations for the 11th meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

14. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the secretariat presented an update on the preparations and expected outcome for the 11th annual subcommittee meeting (11th ASC), to be held from 8 to 12 July, based on the agenda, structure and meeting documentation made available on the [meeting portal](#).
15. One Bureau member noted the success of interactive discussions at the 10th annual subcommittee meeting and recommended replicating it at the upcoming 11th ASC; encouraged the secretariat to

request opening statements to be limited to regional and political groups and a joint statement from the major groups; and recommended that the secretariat provide short presentations to allow more time for strategic discussions on key challenges, obstacles and the role of Member States in overcoming these.

16. One Bureau member highlighted the key role that regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities play in shaping UNEA outcomes and delivering on UNEP's overall goals, emphasized the importance of discussing relevant resolutions and unified regional voices for better UNEA outcomes and translating decisions into national action, and noted the potential for these forums to significantly contribute to achieving ambitious outcomes at UNEA-7.
17. The Bureau member from Zambia, His Excellency Collins Nzovu, informed members that he has been reassigned from the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment to the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation and assured the members that he remains available to assist during the transition period.

Agenda item 4: Other matters.

18. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 5: Closing of the meeting.

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

Annex: List of Participants

The United Nations Environment Assembly 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, **represented by** H.E Mr. Peter Maddens, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to UNEP.
3. H. E. Ms. Fitsum Assefa Adela, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Planning and Development of Ethiopia, **represented by** Mr. Abas Mohamed, Chief Executive Officer of the Climate Change Department.
4. H. E. Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Vice President of UNEA and First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.
5. H. E. Ms. Anikó Raisz, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of State for Environmental Policy and Circular Economy of Hungary.
6. H. E. Mr. Ali Gholampour, Vice President of UNEA and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP.
7. 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.
8. H. E. Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Vice President of UNEA and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Government Offices of Sweden.
9. H. E. Mr. Collins Nzovu, Vice President of UNEA and Minister of Green Economy and Environment of Zambia.
10. H.E. Ms. Joyelle Clarke, Rapporteur of UNEA and Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

The Committee of Permanent Representative Bureau Members:

1. H. E. Mr. Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
2. H. E. Mr. Wael Attiya, Vice Chair, Ambassador of Egypt to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.
3. H. E. Nicol Adamcová, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czechia to UNEP, **represented by** Mr. Michal Novotny, Deputy Permanent Representative of Czechia to UNEP.
4. H. E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Vice Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to UNEP.
5. Mr. Jovan Bernard Reid, Rapporteur, Deputy Head of Mission of the Permanent Mission of Barbados to Kenya and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP.

The UN Environment Programme Secretariat was represented by:

1. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP.
3. Mr. Nicholas Bertrand, Chief of Staff, UNEP.
4. Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Secretary of Governing Bodies, UNEP.
5. Mr. Gerhard Kreutzer, Legal Officer, UNEP.