

Annex

Revised proposals for a theme for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Introduction

This document on the revised proposals for a theme for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) has been prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Presidency to support the consultations on the theme.

Based on the consultations held on 26 September 2024, during which several delegations supported merging proposed themes 1 and 3 for a more streamlined and inclusive proposal and at the request of the UNEA-7 Presidency, the document now includes only two proposals for further consideration as follows:

Proposal 1 (revised from original proposals 1 and 3): Solutions for a resilient planet

Proposal 2 (original proposal 2): Accelerating just transitions for people and planet

The document outlines a brief rationale for the two proposals considering the multitude of international conferences and meetings taking place in 2024 and 2025 and considering emerging issues in the multilateral environmental space that can accelerate the delivery of the multilateral environmental agreements and the SDGs. Some preliminary ideas of what each concept could encompass are listed below each proposed theme in bullet form. This is not an exhaustive but merely an indicative list.

Furthermore, with the adoption of the [Pact for the Future](#) by the General Assembly in September 2024, this document also takes into consideration connections and synergies with this important intergovernmental outcome.

Revised proposed theme

1) Solutions for a resilient planet

The theme focuses on promoting solutions for a safer, more resilient planet. By leveraging scientific innovation combined with effective governance, UNEA-7 could help Member States advance solutions rooted in the recommendations of the [2024 Global Resource Outlook](#) and of the [Seventh Edition of the Global Environment Outlook that will be launched during UNEA-7](#). These can include: transforming key human systems that are at the root cause of the global environmental crisis, reducing resource intensity and enhancing efficiency; reorienting demands, including consumption and production; and driving the scaling up of new technologies to anticipate and respond more effectively to environmental risks, including emerging ones, to achieve the SDGs.

Possible focus areas under this theme could include:

- Promoting coherent decoupling policies and practices that enhance the sustainable and transparent governance of natural resources and the implementation of MEAs, including innovative practices that reduce resource intensity in high-impact sectors (e.g. food, mobility, housing, energy, waste) and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including sustainable lifestyles, and circular economy approaches as a pathway to achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns, and zero-waste initiatives.
- Promoting policies and practices that can empower decision-makers to withstand and recover from environmental shocks and stressors, including early warning systems, strategic foresight, predictive analytics and horizon scanning.
- Improving access to relevant data, science and information to stimulate technological innovations and enable evidence-based and inclusive policymaking, including through artificial intelligence and digital cooperation.
- Leveraging inclusive and innovative financial flows, technologies, partnerships and practices that can be scaled sustainably to set economic incentives that drive transformations, including energy transitions, and build resilience against vulnerabilities, while respecting human rights.
- Developing circular economy approaches, policy and legal frameworks and standards to enable the private sector to drive market transformations, enabled by sustainable and circular business models, that can help manage risks sustainably while ensuring financial protection and recovery from environmental damage.
- Institutionalizing multi-stakeholder engagement in environmental decision-making, leveraging citizen science, traditional science and knowledge, including from Indigenous peoples as well as the outcomes of the Global Digital Compact, to accelerate the delivery of the MEAs

2) Accelerating just transitions for people and planet

This theme focuses on driving transitions to low-carbon, resilient and environmentally sustainable economies and societies that go hand in hand with addressing issues of equity and inclusivity. Linked to possible outcomes of the World Social Summit to be held in 2025, [and the Seventh Edition of the Global Environment Outlook that will be launched during UNEA-7](#), and the Pact for the Future, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2024, UNEA-7 could assist Member States to further apply a ‘just transition’ lens to areas other than the current labour rights and climate focus. It can shift to also include the biodiversity and pollution agendas, anchoring it in environmental rule of law and environmental rights principles, with a focus on relevant solution pathways to achieve the SDGs.

Possible focus areas of this theme could include:

- Providing policy coherent solutions that advance inclusive and socially just pathways to achieve the multilateral environmental agreements.
- Enhancing participatory mechanisms for environmental decision-making to deliver the MEAs, with emphasis on women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities and persons in vulnerable situations.
- Enacting regulatory reforms that promote green and decent jobs and more responsible, rights-based business engagement that respects the rule of law, while promoting circular economy approaches that account for socio-economic inequalities and vulnerabilities.

- Shaping finance and investment policies to align with circularity, sustainable development, and human rights approaches that decrease climate, nature and pollution footprints of high impact sectors.