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**United Nations Environment
Assembly of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

**Committee of Permanent Representatives to the
United Nations Environment Programme**

168th meeting

Nairobi, 17 December 2024

Conference Room 2

10:00- 18:00 (GMT+3)

Hybrid meeting

**Informal Member States Dialogues, Development of UNEPs Medium-
Term Strategy 2026-2029**

Synthesis report

1. Background and Purpose

- a. The 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6) decision 6/7¹ requested the Executive Director through inclusive and regular consultation with Member States and, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, to prepare a draft Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029 and a draft Programme of Work and Budget (PoW) for the period 2026-2027.
- b. In July 2024, the Secretariat presented a draft roadmap for MTS 2026-2029 and PoW 2026-2027 at the 11th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), followed by a revised version at the 167th CPR meeting, which highlighted the need for inclusive dialogues with Member States, Major Groups, MEAs, and other UN agencies.
- c. On the 15th, 16th and 17th of October 2024, UNEP organised four informal virtual dialogue sessions with Member States to explore their aspirations for UNEP and its upcoming MTS 2026-2029. The sessions brought together a diverse group of 128 participants from 65 countries, representing both Nairobi-based missions and representatives from capitals, ensuring broad engagement.
- d. Through open, collaborative discussions, the sessions gathered insights, priorities, and innovative ideas from Member States that will inform the development of UNEP's next MTS.

¹ [Decision7UNEA6.pdf \(unep.org\)](#)

2. Key messages from the “informal dialogues”

a. **Key Message 1 - The MTS should be science-driven, succinct, more focused and results-oriented with specific indicators to better demonstrate UNEP’s impact.**

- i. UNEP should have a clearer and more memorable results framework to effectively demonstrate its impact avoiding duplication of efforts, and optimising human and financial resources, as highlighted in UNEA resolutions, particularly in UNEP/EA.6/Res.6.²
- ii. The MTS should incorporate **lessons learnt** from the current and previous MTS cycle and focus on achieving tangible results.
- iii. The MTS should maintain UNEP’s foundational and enabling subprogrammes and strengthen the **science-policy interface**.

b. **Key Message 2 – Building on the current strategic framing reinforces UNEP’s mandate to deliver on agreed environmental priorities and drive progress towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals.**

- i. The current MTS has given UNEP and the world a “solid foundation for framing” the three interconnected environmental crises of climate change, nature and land loss, and pollution. The MTS should prioritise continuity in its strategic focus, building upon the progress of the three thematic sub-programmes and the four foundational and enabling subprogrammes.
- ii. The MTS should place greater emphasis on the means of implementation needed to achieve the internationally agreed goals and targets.
- iii. The MTS should strongly emphasise the role and contribution of the foundational subprogrammes of environmental governance and science-policy, which offer critical enablers to drive the required ambition, such as promoting the science-policy interface, early warning systems and rights-based rule of law and MEA implementation.
- iv. UNEP should emphasise breaking down silos to address the interconnected crises of climate change, nature and loss, and pollution. In this vein, strategic outcomes and related actions should ensure a horizontal and integrated approach addressing multiple strategic pillars at the same time.
- v. The MTS should be ambitious yet realistic and align with UNEP’s mandate, outlined in Paragraph 88 of “The Future We Want” as well as implement global environmental agreements and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.
- vi. While addressing climate change, nature and land loss, and pollution is critical, the MTS develop viable, eco-friendly alternatives that balance economic growth, poverty eradication, and environmental protection and incorporate socio-economic co-benefits of environmental sustainability, such as green and decent, jobs, climate finance, and environmental resilience.
- vii. The MTS should even more explicitly address issues of droughts, land degradation, desertification, and water scarcity as part of the Nature strategic objective.
 - While UNEP's work on land degradation, drought, desertification, and water scarcity is already fully captured in the current MTS under the strategic objective area of nature and land loss, UNEP should strongly feature its work on land degradation, droughts, desertification, and water scarcity in the new MTS.
 - UNEP should strengthen collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and other MEAs to streamline efforts, share

² 6/6. Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

knowledge, avoid duplication, and mobilise resources for combating desertification and promoting land restoration.

- Recognise that the impacts of desertification, drought, land degradation, and water scarcity vary significantly by region. UNEP should tailor responses to address specific regional vulnerabilities and leverage partnerships with regional bodies to drive localised solutions.

c. Key Message 3 – The MTS should promote integrated, cross-sectoral solutions that address interconnected environmental challenges while maintaining flexibility to adapt to emerging issues.

- i. UNEP’s work should enhance synergies across the strategic objectives to promote integrated solutions and create programmatic space for incorporating new and emerging issues.
- ii. With the emergence of global frameworks and initiatives such as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, the Global Chemicals Framework, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and One Health, UNEP’s role in these efforts should be well defined in the new MTS.
- iii. The MTS should ensure flexibility to incorporate new and evolving challenges, including the environmental impact of disasters and conflicts, oceans, and food and water insecurity.
- iv. Recognising the deep interconnection between the environment and pollution to human health, food insecurity, infectious disease emergence and antimicrobial resistance, the MTS should explicitly outline One Health related objectives in connection with its strong partnership with WHO, FAO, OIE and other relevant organisations.
- v. Strengthening UNEP’s focus on emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, technology transfer, and digital tools for environmental monitoring presents an opportunity to better address evolving challenges and deliver innovative solutions.
- vi. UNEP should also contribute to shaping the relationship between peace, justice, and inclusive societies for sustainable development. In this regard, UNEP’s Important work on disasters and conflicts should be more visible in the new MTS, building on the lessons learnt from past work.
- vii. The new MTS should integrate targeted programming for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

d. Key Message 4 - The MTS should promote synergies among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

- i. UNEP should maximise synergies and support the work of MEAs, including demonstrating how it serves the implementation of MEA resolutions.
- ii. The MTS should complement the mandate of MEAs, with an emphasis on enhancing coordination efforts.
- iii. MEAs should be meaningfully integrated from a programmatic perspective, highlighting synergies and their transformative role.
- iv. The MTS should foster stronger collaboration between UNEP and other UN agencies to reduce **duplication of efforts**. This includes streamlining initiatives across MEAs to promote synergies and avoid overlapping responsibilities.

e. Key Message 5 - The MTS should carry a stronger integration of the social agenda, with particular emphasis on poverty alleviation and human rights

- i. The MTS should prominently integrate the human right to a “clean, healthy, and sustainable environment”³. In this vein, UNEP should also adopt a human rights-based approach for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD, as referenced in section C⁴.
- ii. UNEP should explore how the new MTS can emphasise the social dimension of sustainable development and support the timely achievement of the SDGs.
- iii. The new MTS should strongly consider the social and environmental justice agenda, leaving no one behind. In this regard, deepening the interconnections between environmental justice, social racial justice, as outlined in the UNEP report on “Environmental Rule of Law: Tracking Progress and Charting Future Directions”⁵
- iv. The MTS should adopt a strong poverty lens, ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and those disproportionately affected by the energy transition.
- v. The MTS should strengthen its commitment to youth by recognising the important role young people play, in advancing environmental sustainability.

f. Key Message 6 - The MTS should better integrate circular economy approaches and unsustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices.

- i. The MTS should emphasise sustainable production and consumption methods, establishing structured, institutional mechanisms for technology transfer and promoting environmentally friendly alternatives, especially to support developing countries.
- ii. UNEP’s work on the circular economy should align with relevant UNEA resolutions, ensuring synergies across programs and fostering stronger implementation.
- iii. Circular economy should be emphasised as a cross-cutting issue and be integrated across UNEP, highlighting the role of the circular economy in advancing sustainable consumption and production to reduce resource extraction and improve efficiency.
- iv. The MTS should emphasise a stronger link between circular economy and economic growth, delivering green jobs, promoting efficient and productive use of resources, minimising negative environmental impacts and accelerate progress to Net Zero.

g. Key Message 7 - UNEP should strengthen collaboration with the Resident Coordinators’ system to ensure the MTS is responsive to national needs and is fit for local implementation.

- i. UNEP should take a leading role in **fostering synergies** between global, regional and national priorities, particularly through collaboration with the United Nations Development System (UNDS), the United Nations **Resident Coordinators (UNRC) system and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), to enhance** impact at the country and regional level.
- ii. The MTS should more effectively reflect regional and national challenges within its global strategy, emphasising the importance of regional cooperation and the need for tailored, country-specific approaches. The MTS should adopt a globally responsive approach taking into consideration the diverse challenges specific to each region. The MTS should draw on lessons learnt from the current MTS and apply these lessons, particularly in terms of **regional collaboration** with Resident Coordinators and regional environmental bodies.

³[A/RES/76/30076/300. The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#)

⁴[Section C. Considerations for the Implementation of the Global Kunming -Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.](#)

⁵<https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/environmental-rule-law-tracking-progress-and-charting-future-directions>. Other reports to consider in this regard include: A/77/549, October 2022, “Ecological Crisis, Climate Justice and Racial Justice” and A/HRC/50/60, June 2022: “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the fight against racial discrimination” by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

- h. **Key message 8 - UNEP should diversify its funding base to secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to deliver on its mandate.**
- i. The MTS should address the critical need for predictable funding, as resource constraints pose a significant challenge – UNEP’s reliance on voluntary contributions creates uncertainty, particularly for long-term initiatives.
 - ii. Achieving UNEP’s ambitious goals requires stable financing, underscoring the importance of securing consistent contributions from both public and private sectors. In this regard, UNEP needs to explore innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships to support the successful implementation of the MTS.
 - iii. UNEP should address the lack of political will to secure predictable funding, which affects the ability to secure financial commitments and advance ambitious environmental reforms.
- i. **Key Message 9 – The MTS must incorporate lessons to improve efficiencies across UNEP and increase implementation effectiveness.**
- i. UNEP should adequately reflect on and incorporate relevant audit and evaluation recommendations to improve organisational inefficiencies and provide a good basis for developing the new MTS.

Annex 1

MTS Dialogues Format

Each session lasted 120 minutes. Four sessions were scheduled to accommodate participants across different time zones

- 15 October 2024 10:00-12:00 East Africa Time (EAT)
- 16 October 2024 10:00-12:00 EAT
- 17 October 2024 9:00-11:00 EAT
- 17 October 2024 16:00-20:00 EAT

The online dialogues demonstrated the effectiveness of virtual meetings in enabling broader participation. Participants noted that the IT platforms – Indico for registration and Teams for the meeting – functioned smoothly, facilitating both plenary and breakout sessions. This successful use of technology underscores the ability to maintain high levels of engagement in a virtual format.