

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of UNEA and the CPR
Wednesday, 11 December 2024
16:00 to 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online meeting

Agenda item 2: Consideration of a theme for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

This background document has been prepared by the Secretariat to guide the discussion under agenda item 2: Consideration of a theme for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

The document reflects a revised streamlined proposal for the theme for UNEA-7, which reads as follows:

Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet

The background document also outlines a brief rationale for this revised streamlined proposal.

Bureaux members are invited to consult with their respective regional groups in advance of the joint Bureaux meeting to facilitate the discussion in the meeting.

In accordance with paragraph 9 of [UNEA decision 6/7](#), the UNEA-7 Bureau is requested to, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, define a theme for the seventh session of the Environment Assembly no later than 12 months in advance of the seventh session.

Revised background document 11 December 2024

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

Introduction

Further to the [fourth informal consultations](#) held on 14 November 2024, the President is presenting a revised streamlined proposal taking into account the views and guidance provided by the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and observers, including the major groups and stakeholders.

The revised streamlined proposal now reads as follows:

“Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet.”

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat, at the guidance and request of the President of the UN Environment Assembly, and it outlines a brief rationale for the revised streamlined proposal, considering the multitude of international conferences and meetings taking place in 2024 and 2025 and emerging issues in the multilateral environmental space that can accelerate the delivery of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and cooperation between UNEP, UNEA and the MEAs. Some preliminary ideas of what the proposed theme could encompass are listed in bullet form, taking into account the feedback provided by Member States during the last rounds of consultations as well as the guidance provided by the UNEA-7 Bureau. 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.

“Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet”

The theme focuses on accelerating sustainable solutions for a safer and more resilient planet. Leveraging scientific innovation combined with effective environmental governance, UNEA-7 can guide Member States to advance effective responses rooted in the latest scientific assessments. This theme recognizes that striving for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive hinges on advancing sustainable development, promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection to benefit all, as recognized in the [“Future We Want”](#). Thus, a resilient planet is one where healthy ecosystems are prioritized; where resource intensity is reduced and efficiency is enhanced; where consumption and production demands are reoriented towards sustainability; and where new technologies and practices can sustainably anticipate and prevent environmental risks. To be successful and truly catalyze the achievement of the SDGs, all of these conditions must be underpinned by effective and inclusive environmental governance and respect for the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Possible focus areas under this theme could include:

- Promoting coherent policies and practices that enhance the implementation of the MEAs, including innovative and socially just practices and transitions that reduce resource intensity in high-impact sectors (e.g. food, mobility, housing, energy, waste); promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including sustainable lifestyles; encourage circular economy approaches and zero-waste initiatives, leaving no one behind.
- Improving scientific research, access to data and information that can stimulate sustainable technological innovations, in line with the precautionary principle, and empower decision-makers to withstand and recover from environmental shocks and stressors, including early warning systems, strategic foresight, predictive analytics and horizon scanning, leveraging artificial intelligence and digital cooperation to advance the aspirations of the [Global Digital Compact](#).
- Advancing multi-stakeholder engagement in environmental decision-making, leveraging citizen science, traditional knowledge and practice, including from Indigenous peoples; and enhancing inclusive participatory mechanisms that respect the rights to access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, with emphasis on women, youth, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, local communities and persons in vulnerable situations.
- Leveraging inclusive and innovative means of implementation and capacity building, while aligning financial flows that can be scaled sustainably with MEAs implementation and setting economic incentives to drive transformations taking into consideration the national capabilities, including energy transitions, reducing inequalities and building resilience against vulnerabilities, while respecting the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- Promoting business engagement and aligning finance and investment policies with circularity and sustainable development paths that decrease climate,

nature, and pollution footprints of high-impact sectors, leaving no one behind.
