

Frequently asked questions

What is the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for UNEP?

UNEP's **Medium-Term Strategy** (MTS) serves as the blueprint for the organization's efforts to tackle critical global environmental challenges. Central to this strategy is addressing the three planetary environmental crises - the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature, land and biodiversity loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste - which pose significant threats to both the planet and humanity. The strategy outlines UNEP's role in supporting countries and stakeholders in responding to these crises, with a focus on fostering sustainability and resilience. It aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), as detailed in its outcome document, *The Future We Want*.

What is the Programme of Work (PoW) for UNEP?

The **Programme of Work and Budget** (PoW) details UNEP's results framework and pathways for change for the biennium towards a set of outcomes. It outlines the means of measuring the effectiveness of UNEP in its direct, enabling, and influencing roles, and defines a timebound trajectory that aligns the organization with the 2030 Agenda. UNEP formulates a budget to accompany a Programme of Work, receiving guidance from the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

What is the timeframe for the preparation of the new UNEP MTS 2026-2029 and POW 2026-2027?

The timeline for UNEP's new MTS involves an 18 month development process, culminating in approval at the seventh session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in December 2025. The planning and formulation phase runs from June 2024 through December 2025, with implementation beginning in January 2026. The process and timeline is available [here](#).

How will UNEP ensure the development of the new strategy involves stakeholders?

[UNEA Decision 6/7](#) requested “the Executive Director, through inclusive and regular consultation with Member States and, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, to prepare a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026–2027 and a draft medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029, fully taking into account the views of Member States and making every effort to reflect consensual views, for consideration and approval by the Environment Assembly at its seventh session, following the established processes as set out in paragraph 11 of Governing Council decision 27/2”. In this context, UNEP will facilitate a series of informal and inclusive dialogues with Member States, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and the Private sector and the inputs from these will inform the development of the strategy. A series of virtual dialogues have been scheduled providing these groups with a platform to share their views on the strategic direction of UNEP.

How is UNEP going to fund the implementation of the new Medium-Term Strategy?

The Environment Fund, which is UNEP's core fund approved by our Member States, provides the financial backbone for the balanced and efficient delivery of UNEP's programmes of work. It is complemented by the three Planetary Funds, other softly and tightly earmarked funding and global funds, such as GEF and GCF. The prorated budget for 2024–2025, unchanged from the budget for 2022–2023 due to the extension of PoW 2022-2023 into 2024-2025, totals US\$869 million, of which US\$200 million is for the Environment Fund. The details of the Environment Fund for the biennium 2026-2027 is expected to be approved by UNEA-7 in December 2025.

UNEP will work closely with our funding partners to diversify our funding base across Member States, global funds, foundations and other funding partners.

How will the new MTS help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have seen important progress in extreme poverty, child mortality, electricity access, and against certain diseases. Yet only 17 per cent of the SDGs are on track to be met by 2030 and nearly all of the environmental SDGs are off-track. UNEP is uniquely placed to support the entities of the UN development system to adopt and mainstream a more climate- and environment-responsive approach into their programmes and strategic plans and their policy advice to programme countries, in accordance with national development policies, plans, priorities and needs.¹As part of the UN Country Teams and in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinators' system, UNEP shall increase its effort to mainstream environmental outcomes as part of the UN Cooperation Frameworks, substantiated by science-base and data-rich information in the Common Country Assessments.

How will the new MTS enhance synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)?

UNEA resolutions 6/4 and 6/6, adopted at UNEA-6, explicitly addressed the importance of cooperation with MEAs and outlined specific actions for enhancing collaboration. The new MTS will enhance synergies with MEAs by fostering more coordinated and integrated approaches to environmental challenges. It will build on UNEP's existing work and ensure that the implementation of MEAs is more effective by aligning the MTS with the priorities of these agreements. The strategy will focus on promoting collaboration between different environmental agreements, supporting Member States in their efforts to meet their environmental commitments, and developing tools that facilitate better governance, reporting, and policy development.

¹ Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/79/L.60). UN General Assembly, Seventy-ninth session, Second Committee.