

# The Outcomes of UNEA-6, Preparations towards UNEA-7 and the Role of Major Groups and Stakeholders

---

8th Africa Animal Welfare Conference  
Nairobi, Kenya, 30 September - 02 October 2024

---

Ulf Bjornholm, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies, Governance Affairs Office, UNEP

# Major Groups and Stakeholders



# UNEP partnering with Civil society

- UNEP is committed to partnering with civil society actors to facilitate engagement and support transparency and inclusiveness in the intergovernmental decision-making process at UNEP.
- Supported by UNEP's Civil Society Unit in the Governance Affairs Office, UNEP is mandated to collaborate with non-governmental and non-for-profit civil society organizations and networks through the "Major Group and Stakeholder" approach - to ensure effective, broad and balanced participation and representation at UNEP-organized meetings.



# Accreditation – application - approval/rejection – registration

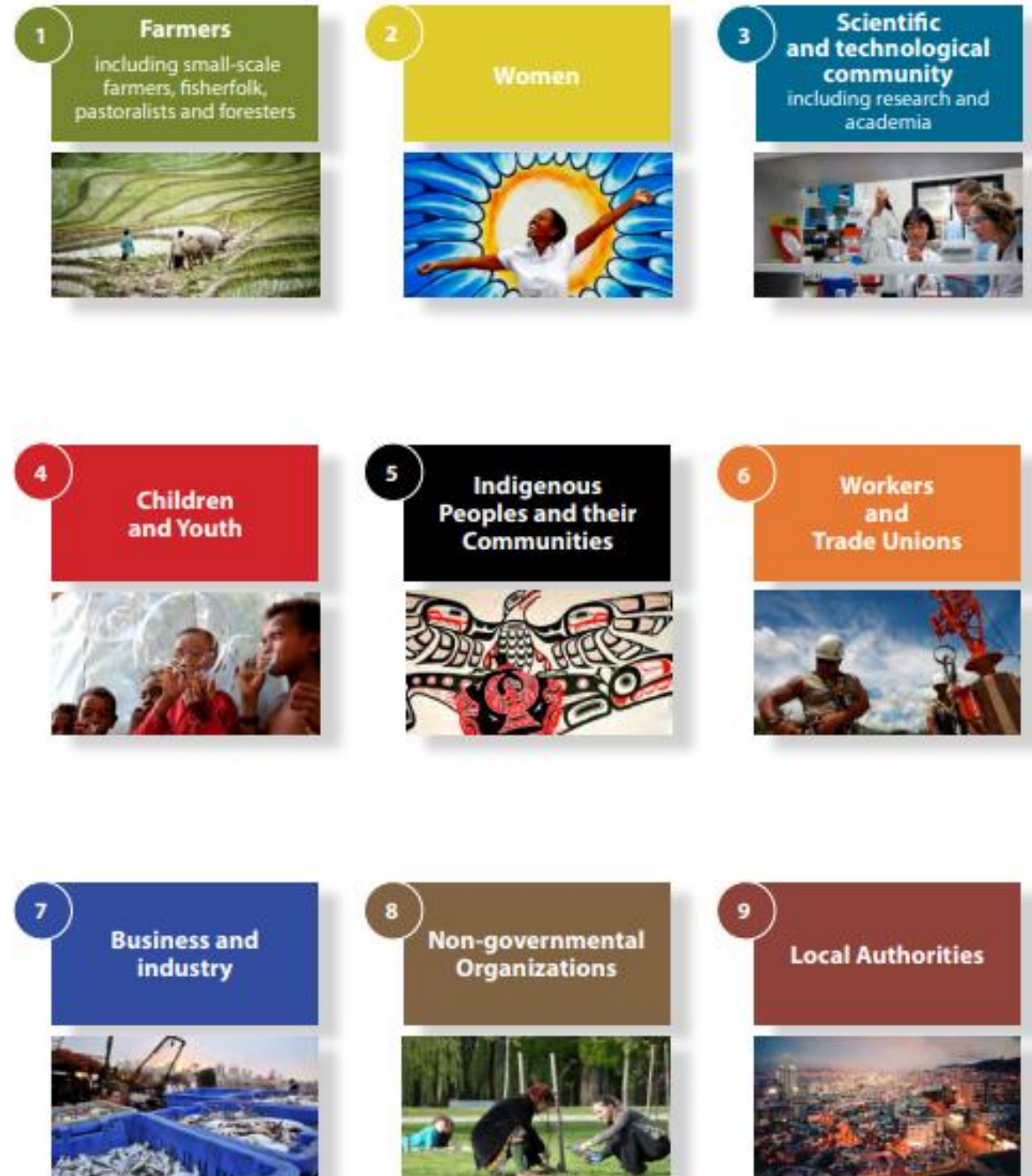
- Organizations accredited to UNEP are essential partners to UNEP's mission and mandate, by contributing to the formulation and implementation of UNEA decisions and resolutions, including UNEP's Programme of Work and Medium-Term Strategy as approved by UNEA.
- The interaction between UNEP and civil society has grown significantly in the past decade; over 1200 organizations have achieved formal consultative status through UNEP accreditation.



# The nine Major Groups

The concept of the Major Groups and Stakeholders was established at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and enshrined in the outcome document “Agenda 21”.

The nine Major Groups are the following:



# Role of Major Groups and Stakeholders during UNEA



# Agenda Setting: Shaping UNEA's Priorities

## 1. Contributions to the consultations on identifying a UNEA theme

MGS provide critical input into the selection of the theme for each upcoming UNEA sessions, to ensure that global priorities are aligned with stakeholder concerns.

## 2. Contributions to the tabling and negotiation on UNEA resolutions

MGS play a key role in influencing member states to champion and table specific resolutions to UNEA, as well as to the negotiations.

## 3. There are many opportunities to influence

MGS are invited to participate at any official CPR or UNEA meetings, and to contribute to UNEA and CPR bureaux meetings or retreats, often meeting back-to-back to prepare for those meetings.

## 4. There are many ways to influence

In UNEP-organized meetings, the civil society has an opportunity to make their voice heard in several important ways – such as:

making statements

Organize side events

providing written comments

sharing their views on an on-going negotiations.

MGS also often engage in informal lobbying and work closely with Member States supporting their agenda.

# Decision Making: Influencing Outcomes

---

## 1. Observer role at UNEA and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

- **Oral and written statements:**

Accredited organizations have the opportunity to provide oral interventions during meetings and submit written inputs on key environmental issues under discussion.

- **Observer access:**

Accredited organizations can attend UNEA and CPR meetings, which are critical platforms for policy-making and governance.

They also have designated seats in all meetings of UNEA.

## 2. Access to the CPR Portal

- **Documents:**

Accredited organizations can access the CPR portal, which contains unedited working documents, drafts of resolutions, and other vital resources. This access allows them to provide timely written inputs and track developments.



# Decision Making: Influencing Outcomes cont..

## 3. Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)

- **Pre-UNEA Forum:**

The GMGSF is a key preparatory meeting that happens before UNEA. Sessions of the Forum provide a platform for Major Groups to coordinate, align positions, and discuss key environmental priorities.

- **Youth Environmental Assembly (YEA):**

Parallel to the GMGSF, YEA is a platform for youth representatives to engage, share their perspectives, and align their contributions to the UNEA agenda.

## 4. Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs)

- **Back-to-Back with Regional Ministerial Forums:**

RCMs allow stakeholders to engage in regional dialogues, offering an opportunity to discuss local and regional priorities, often preceding ministerial forums.

# Side-Events

## Organizing or participating in Side-Events

Major Groups can propose or participate in side-events held during UNEA, which focus on a variety of environmental topics and provide an informal space for discussions outside the formal agenda.

They offer alternative spaces for deeper discussions on pressing environmental issues.



# What is the “Green Room”

The “Green Room” is a physical and virtual platform belonging entirely to Major Groups and Stakeholders themselves – to exchange, host events and discussions in parallel to UNEA.

It serves as an informal space designed to amplify voices from civil society, foster collaboration, and bring forward innovative ideas and solutions.



# Role of Major Groups and Stakeholders during the consultation process for resolutions



# UNEA Resolution Process

- All drafts can be accessed on the [UNEP resolution portal](#).
- Accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders have access to the Resolution Portal
- Resolutions are normally classified into clusters relating to relevant topics
- Co-facilitators are identified per each of the UNEP region to lead consultations



# Consultation process

## CPR subcommittees

Proponents/main sponsors of drafts introduce their proposals followed by a presentation of the technical note prepared by the Secretariat and Q&A

## Additional CPR subcommittees

Informal consultations continue under leadership of CPR Chair and co-facilitators.

**In-depth consideration of the drafts to advance the preparations of the OECPR**  
**Cluster by Cluster**



## Quarterly CPR

**CPR Annual Subcommittee**  
Kick-starting consultations on draft resolutions

- takes stock of progress made
- recommends that the consultations on drafts continue under the guidance of the appointed co-facilitators
- Subject to agreement of proponents, ownership of the drafts transferred from proponents to co-facilitators

**OECPR**  
Start of line-by-line negotiations

# CPR consultations and negotiations

## Before OECPR:

- Proponents or Co-facilitators presents the latest draft resolution to the Committee for further consideration
- The document may indicate various text proposals put forward by Member States in brackets

## During OECPR:

- Word-by-word negotiations
- If consensus is reached, the draft is transmitted to UNEA for adoption
- If consensus is not reached, UNEA may establish a new negotiation committee (Committee of the Whole) to finalize negotiations
- If time allows, all drafts will be edited and translated by UNON prior to formal adoption at UNEA



# Participation of accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders

**At the discretion of the Chair and the co-facilitators and subject to agreement by Member States:**

## Can

- ✓ Attend and listen to the proceedings
- ✓ Make a general statement at the end of the consideration, when Member States have exhausted their intervention
- ✓ Ask for general comments on the drafts to be posted on the UNEA-6 Resolution portal

## Cannot

- ✗ Make concrete textual proposals from the floor

Note: Major Groups and Stakeholders can be encouraged to make textual proposals through a Member State





# Participation of accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders

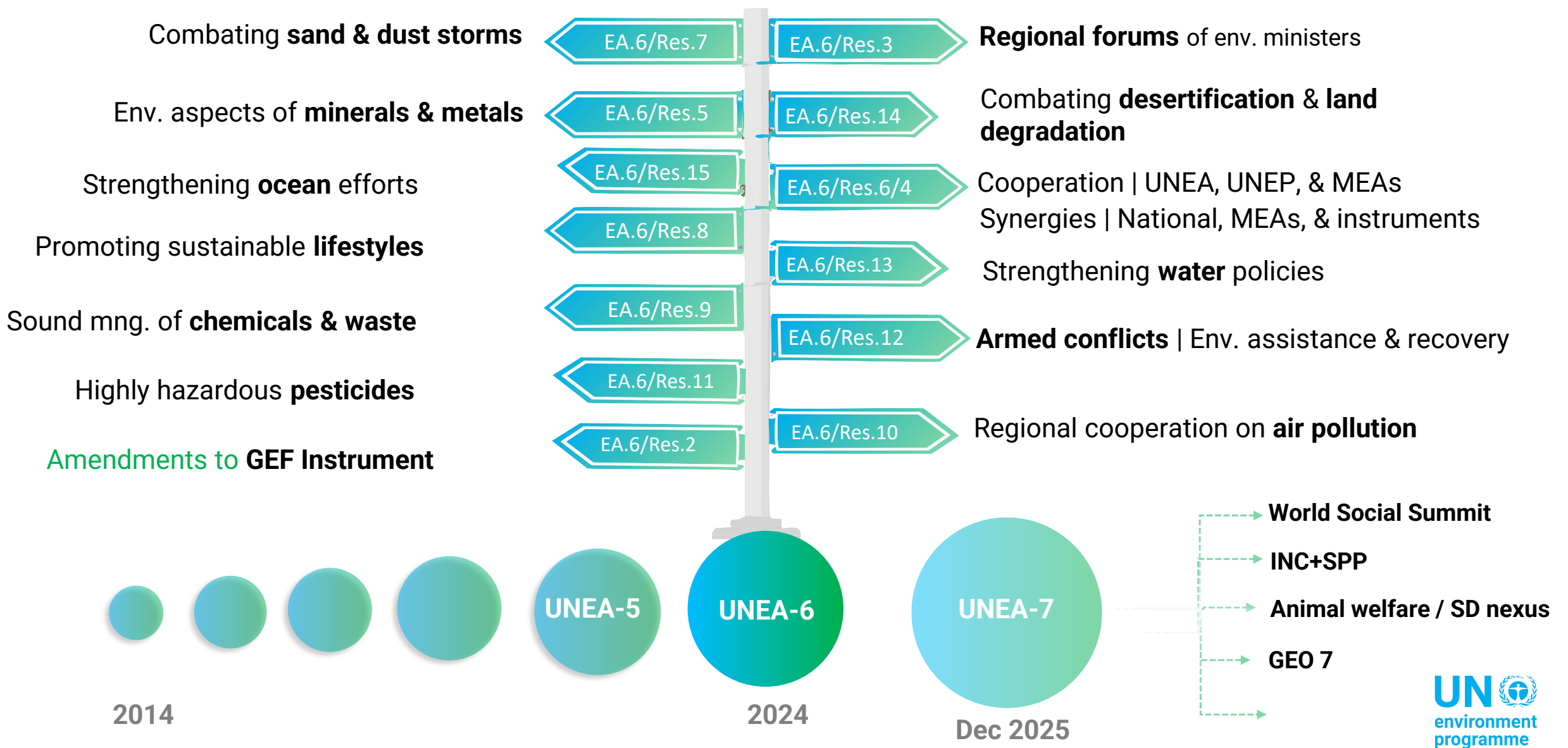
- ✓ Co-facilitators leading negotiations are encouraged to organize early consultations with Major Groups and Stakeholders.
- ✓ Major Groups and Stakeholders nominate “MGS resolution focal points”, to present common views on the drafts
- ✓ A list of focal points from MGS for each UNEA-6 resolution/decision is made available on the UNEA-6 Resolution portal



# Towards UNEA-7



# UNEA 6 – main outcomes



# Towards UNEA-7

Decision 6/7 on the [provisional agenda, date and venue](#) of UNEA-7:

- a. Decided that the seventh session will be held in Nairobi from [8 to 12 December 2025](#)
- b. Requested the Bureau of UNEA, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), to [define a theme](#) for the seventh session of the Environment Assembly [no later than twelve months in advance](#) of the seventh session



# Proposal from UNEP on the theme for UNEA-7

---

1. Forging Tomorrow: Pathways to a Liveable and Resilient Planet
2. Accelerating just transitions for people and planet
3. New frontiers and solutions for a greener tomorrow

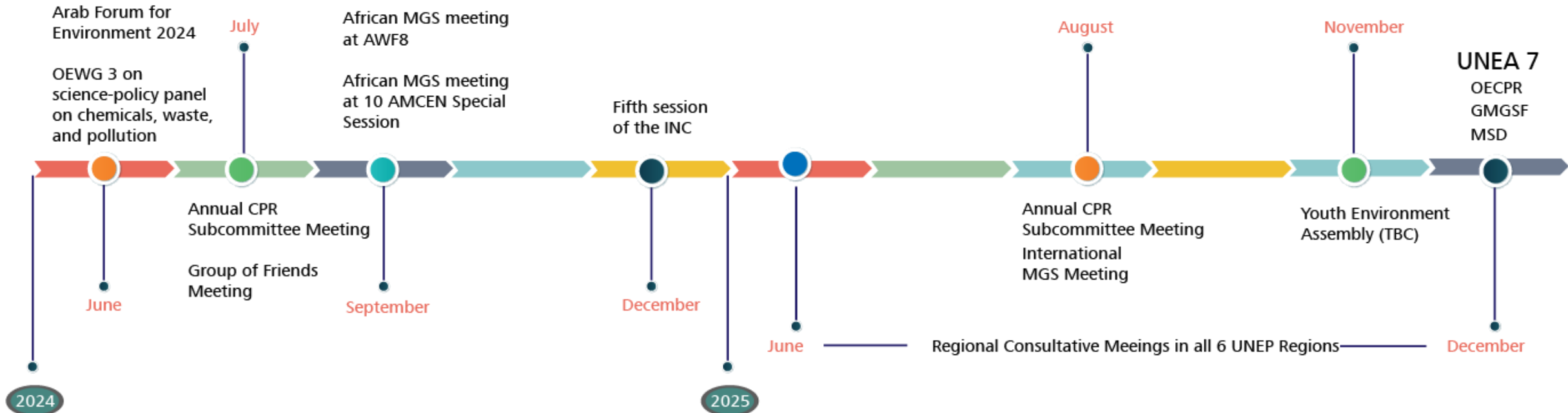
# UNEA-7 theme consultations

## To be decided by the UNEA Bureau in mid-December 2024

- 26 September: open consultations on the UNEA-7 theme led by the UNEA Presidency
- Mid-October: New proposal(s) from the President
- October/November: Additional consultations with Member States and Stakeholders (TBC)
- 11 December: Joint meeting of the UNEA and CPR bureaus; decision to be taken by the UNEA Bureau

# How to get engaged

- Get involved in the work of UNEP and UNEA – apply for accreditation
- Follow and contribute to the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
- Get engaged in the consultations on the theme for UNEA-7
- Link up with other Major Groups and Stakeholders in your region



RCM: Region Consultative Meetings

OECPR: Open ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

GMGSF: Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum

MSD: Multi Stakeholders Dialogue

AWF: African Animal Welfare Conference

INC: Ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution



Thank you

**UN**   
environment  
programme

---

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri  
PO Box 30552 – 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)