

# The United Nations Environment Assembly / UNEA

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6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference – Action  
2022, Gaborone, Botswana, 31 October - 02 November 2022

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Alexander Juras, Chief Civil Society Unit UNEP  
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# UN Environment Programme Governance Structure

## United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

The leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda; established after Rio+20 in 2012. Universal membership; Chaired by UNEA President

UNEA-1: 23-27 June 2014 - UNEA-2: 23-27 May 2016 - UNEA-3: 4-6 December 2017  
UNEA-4: 11-15 March 2019 - UNEA-5: 22-23 February 2021 and 28 February – 2 March 2022  
First special session: UNEP@50 the 3-4 March 2022

### UNEA Bureau

- 10 members from 5 regions; leads the preparation of UNEA
- Chaired by UNEA President, from the African Group
- Meets 4-6 times per year, sometimes jointly with the CPR Bureau

### Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

- Subsidiary inter-sessional body of the Environment Assembly
- Responsible for review and follow-up of the UNEP Programme of Work and UNEA decisions and resolutions, and for preparing for the OECPR and UNEA
- Composed of about 120-130 member States representatives accredited to UNEP (around 80-90 represented in Nairobi) and **Major Groups/NGOs as observers**
- Meets formally 4 times per year – usually full day meetings
- Meets informally in subcommittees 1-2 times per month to address specific issues

### CPR Bureau

- 5 Members from 5 regions; leads the preparation of CPR and OECPR meetings
- Current Chair from the Group of Western European and Other States
- Meets monthly or as needed, sometimes jointly with UNEA Bureau

Open-Ended CPR Meetings

Annual Subcommittee Meetings

# United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

Key mandates and functions

Governing Council decision 27/2 of 2013



- Sets the **global environmental agenda**
- Provides **overarching policy guidance** and defines **policy responses** to emerging environmental challenges
- Undertakes **policy review, dialogue and exchange** of experiences
- Sets the **strategic guidance** on the future direction of UNEP
- Organizes **multi-stakeholder dialogue** sessions
- Fosters **partnerships** for achieving environmental goals through resources mobilization

# United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

## Session, Bureau and Agenda



- **Session**

- Every two years for a period of five-days
- Every odd numbered years (UNEA resolution 2/22)
- Held during the last week of February (UNEA resolution 3/2)

- **Bureau**

- 10 members - a President; 8 Vice-Presidents; and a Rapporteur
- Elected at the final meeting of a session and members hold office until their successors are elected
- Eligible for re-election
- Replacement of a Bureau member is governed by rule 19
- Oversee the preparations of UNEA and support in the general conduct of business of UNEA

- **Agenda**

- Adopted at the start of the session
- UNEA approves the provisional agenda ahead of a session

# United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

## Theme and Structure of UNEA



- **Theme**

- Provides a framework for political debate
- Agreed by the Bureau of UNEA based on consultations

- **Structure of UNEA**

- Opening segment
- National statements
- Leadership dialogues
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue
- High-level segment
- Closing segment
- Committee of the whole

# United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA

## UNEA Themes



- **UNEA 1:** Illegal trade in wildlife, air quality, environmental rule of law, financing the Green Economy, the Sustainable Development Goals, and “delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- **UNEA 2:** Strengthening the science-policy interface
- **UNEA 3:** Towards a Pollution-Free Planet
- **UNEA 4:** Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production
- **UNEA 5:** Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
- **UNEA 6 (tbc):**
  1. Environmental multilateralism fit for the future: Towards healthy economies, healthy societies and a healthy planet.
  2. Towards the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
  3. Multilateral solutions for climate change, nature loss and pollution.

# Major Groups and Stakeholders/Civil Society Engagement in UNEA meetings



- Representatives of UNEP accredited non-governmental organisations may participate in all public meetings of UNEA and its subsidiary organs
- They have the right to make oral and written interventions
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum prior to UNEA meetings
- Multi-Stakeholder dialogue as part of the UNEA Agenda
- Green Room
- Side Events
- Interaction with Member States and Others

# Why Shall Civil Society Engage with UNEA?



- It is your right!
- You can influence and improve global environmental decision making
- You can bring in your expertise
- Ensure that those who are affected by a certain decision are heard
- Add transparency and legitimacy to decision making processes
- Know what your government is doing when engaging internationally
- Make contact and start cooperation or strategic alliances with like minded
- Widen your horizons
- Know what is going on or what will happen in the future
- Youth: Ensure that the voice of future generations is heard
- .....

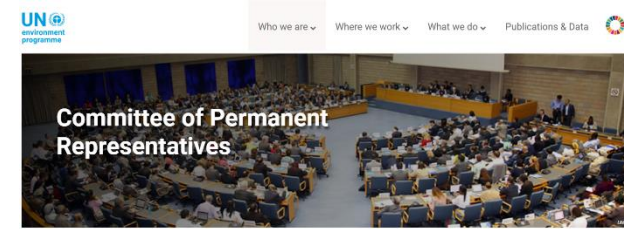


# Important links



The United Nations Environment Assembly is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, with a universal membership of all 192 Member States. The Assembly meets biennially in Nairobi, Kenya, to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop international environmental law. Through its ministerial declarations and resolutions, the Assembly provides leadership, catalyzes intergovernmental action on the environment, and contributes to the implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN Environment Assembly is also the governing body of the UN Environment Programme. It has had four sessions so far: in 2014 and was preceded by the Governing Council of the UN Environment Programme, which was composed of 58 member States.

The 5th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) took place in a two-step approach. The first session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.1) was held online on 22–23 February 2021, and the resumed in-person session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.2) took place online and in Nairobi on 23 February – 2 March 2022.



The Committee of Permanent Representatives prepares the meetings of the UN Environment Assembly and regularly reviews the implementation of its decisions.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives is composed of all [accredited Permanent Representatives](#) to the United Nations Environment Programme and was formally established as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council (now the United Nations Environment Assembly) in May 1985 by [Governing Council Decision 13/2](#).

[Read more](#)

- [UNEA website](#)
- [CPR Website](#)
- [UNEP Governing Bodies Roadmap of Meetings](#)
- [Meetings and documents portal](#)
- [Outcome of the Consensual Process for Review by the CPR](#)
- [Member States directory](#)
- [UNEA rules of procedure](#)
- [Papersmart portal](#)

# Thank you



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Alexander Juras  
Chief, Civil Society Unit, UNEP  
Alexander.Juras@un.org

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

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