

Meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly
7 November 2024, 16:00 to 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online

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 one consolidated proposal for the theme for UNEA-7, which reads as follows:

Equitable solutions for a resilient planet

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

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.

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

5 November 2024

Introduction

Based on the consultations held on 22 October 2024, during which several delegations expressed support for [both proposals presented by the UNEA-7 Presidency](#) or elements thereof, the President is presenting a single, more streamlined and inclusive proposal that merges the two previous proposals.

The streamlined proposal now reads as follows:

“Equitable solutions for a resilient planet”

For reference, the proposal is the result of the merger of the two proposals previously presented, namely:

Former Proposal 1: Solutions for a resilient planet

Former Proposal 2: Accelerating just transitions for people and planet

The annex to this document prepared by the Secretariat outlines a brief rationale for the 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 and the SDGs. 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. 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.

Annex

Streamlined proposed theme

“Equitable solutions for a resilient planet”

This theme focuses on promoting solutions for a safer, more equitable and resilient planet. Leveraging scientific innovation combined with effective environmental governance, UNEA-7 can guide Member States to advance effective responses rooted in the recommendations of the [2024 Global Resource Outlook](#), amongst other scientific assessments, and linked to the [Pact for the Future](#) and possible outcomes of the 2025 World Social Summit. This theme recognizes that securing a liveable, prosperous and resilient planet hinges on fair, balanced and equitable transitions to circularity and sustainable economies and societies. An equitable and resilient planet is one where healthy ecosystems are prioritized; where resource intensity is reduced and efficiency 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 rule of law and respect for environmental rights principles.

Possible focus areas under this theme could include:

- Promoting coherent decoupling policies and practices that enhance the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including innovative and socially just practices 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.
- Improving scientific research, access to data and information that can stimulate sustainable technological innovations 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 right to access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice with emphasis on women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities and persons in vulnerable situations.
- Leveraging inclusive and innovative means of implementation for the MEAs that can be scaled sustainably and set economic incentives to drive transformations, including energy transitions, reduce inequalities and build resilience against vulnerabilities, while respecting human rights.

- Promote rights-based business engagement and align 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.
