

Meeting Notes

Update meeting on the preparations for the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), 6 December 2023

This briefing took place on 6 December 2023 at 11 AM Geneva Time (online and on site). It was organized by the Geneva Environment Network and provided an update on the preparations for the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6).

UNEA-6 will take place from **26 February to 1 March 2024, in Nairobi**.

The United Nations Environment Assembly UNEA is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment. This session's theme "**Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution**" focuses on addressing the interlinkages of these three planetary environmental crises.




At UNEA-6, a series of leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues and more than 30 official side events and associated events are expected to lay the ground for strengthened global and regional coordinated efforts by the United Nations Environment Program, Member States, and partners.


UNEA-6 will also highlight the importance of cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) with a full day (28 February 2024), devoted to the discussion with a view to enhancing its relationship with the MEAs by strengthening convergence of actions and sharing of experiences.

The UNEA-6 will be preceded by the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR). This preparatory meeting (19 to 23 February 2024) pre-negotiates and deliberates the content and wording of proposed resolutions, declarations and decisions for endorsement and approval by the UNEA-6 Assembly.

The **official website** of the Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) can be accessed at: <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6>

Speakers at today's briefing:

	Arnold KREILHUBER, Director, Europe Office, United Nations Environmental Program UNEP	Welcomed all to the briefing about the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)
	H.E. Ambassador Omar ZNIBER, UNEA-6 Presidency. Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva	Gave an introduction to the triad of environmental challenges: Pollution, climate change, loss of biodiversity. The preparation work for UNEA-6 is going forward, the Ministerial Declaration is being prepared.
	Michel TSCHIRREN, Head, Global Affairs Section, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland	Welcomed on behalf of the government of Switzerland. Thanks to the Geneva Environment Network for the organization of this session. Three major environmental crises: Pollution (plastics, chemicals, waste), climate change, loss of biodiversity. "Environmental multilateralism matters" - > MEA multilateral environmental agreements. We are not yet where we want

		and need to be. UNEA-6 offers the opportunity to take decisive action.
	Radhika OCHALIK, Secretary, Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders Director, Governance Affairs Office, UNEP	Detailed briefing on ongoing preparations of UNEA-6, program and side events. See Slides below
	Monika STANKIEWICZ, Executive Secretary, Minamata Convention on Mercury (MEA)	Talked about the MEA (Multilateral Environmental Agreements) day at UNEA-6 on 28 February 2024
	Jacqueline ALVAREZ, Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP	Spoke about the chemicals and pollution aspect of UNEA-6. E.g. Circularity. 30 September 2023 a worldwide agreement on a Global Framework on Chemicals, pollution and waste was reached in Bonn. UNEA-6 is an opportunity to connect science to decisions makers.
	Elisa TONDA, Chief, Resources and Markets Branch, UNEP	“The unsustainable use of resources has triggered critical scarcities and caused climate change and widespread environmental degradation – all of which have negative impacts on the well-being of the planet and its people.” “...striving to decouple economic development from resource use and environmental degradation...” Example: Sand
	Patrizia HEIDEGGER, Deputy Secretary General and Director for EU Governance, Sustainability and Global Policies, European Environmental Bureau	Brings in the perspective of UNEA-6 for major groups and stakeholders UNEA-6 Regional Consultation Meeting for the European Region: last week 27-29 November in Bratislava & Online. > 30 countries and many stakeholders attending. Global chemical framework is needed for hazardous chemicals, microplastics. Mobilizations are ongoing to establish a Global Science- Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention. There are concerns about conflicts of interest (industry) Themes are eg: Circular economy, mining and minerals, sustainable materials, environmental impact of conflict and military activities.

Some selected briefing slides (all slides can be found on the briefing website):



Structure of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)

26 February – 1 March 2024, UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya

Theme: "Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution"

					High-level segment	
Monday, 26 February 2024		Tuesday, 27 February 2024		Wednesday, 28 February 2024	Thursday, 29 February 2024	Friday, 1 March 2024
08:00	Bureau meeting	Bureau meeting	Bureau meeting	Bureau meeting	Bureau meeting	Ministerial breakfast
09:00	Reg/pol group meetings	Reg/pol group meetings	Reg/pol group meetings	Reg/pol group meetings	Reg/pol group meetings	Reg/pol group meetings
10:00	Major Groups meetings	Major Groups meetings	Major Groups meetings	Major Groups meetings	Major Groups meetings	Major Groups meetings
10:00	UNEA-6 Opening Plenary [CR 2-3-4] - Opening of the session [Item 1] - Adoption of the agenda [Item 2] - Establishment of the CoW - Statements [Item 1] - Report from the CPR Chair [Item 4] - Credentials of representatives [Item 3] - Contributions to the HLPF [Item 8]	Committee of the Whole [CR 2-3-4] Working Groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11]	Committee of the Whole [CR 2-3-4] Working Groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11]	Cooperation with the MEAs [CR1] [Item 10] High-Level Dialogue on Cooperation with MEAs [CR1] Strengthening science policy interface for effective implementation of environmental commitments	UNEA-6 High-level segment [Item 9] [CR 2-3-4] Opening Plenary Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution	Leadership Dialogue [CR 1]* focusing on finance solutions
	Committee of the Whole Opening Plenary [CR 2,3,4] [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11]					
13:30	Side event(s)	Side event(s)	Side event(s)	Side event(s)	Side event(s)	Side event(s)
14:45	Committee of the Whole [CR 2-3-4] Working Groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11]	Committee of the Whole [CR 2-3-4] Working Groups [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11]	Committee of the Whole Closing Plenary [CR 2-3-4] [Consideration of agenda items 5, 6 and 11]	High-Level Dialogue on Cooperation with MEAs [CR 1] Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at national level including through means of implementation	Plenary [CR 2-3-4] National Statements [Item 9] (List of speakers)	Leadership Dialogue [CR 1]* focusing on science, data, and digital solutions
15:00						
18:00						
18:30	Side event(s)	Side event(s)	Side event(s)	Side event(s)	Side event(s)	Side event(s)
19:45	Plenary [CR 2-3-4] National Statements [Item 9] (List of speakers) [TBC]		High-level Host Country reception [TBC]		UNEA-6 Closing Plenary [CR 2-3-4] - High-level segment [Item 9] – presentation of summaries - Cooperation with MEAs [Item 10] – presentation of summaries - Credentials of representatives [Item 3] - Action on draft Ministerial Declaration [Item 12] - Action on draft resolutions/decisions [Items 5, 6 and 12] - Stakeholder engagement [Item 7] – presentation of summary - Provisional agenda, date and venue of UNEA-7 [Items 11 and 12] - Election of officers [Item 13] - Other matters [Item 14] - Adoption of the report [Item 15] - Closure of the session [Item 16]	
Evening					*Each Leadership Dialogue will focus on different transformative, multi-stakeholder and multi-level actions and solutions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution	

Participation modalities



	In-Person	Online participation	Live streamed (view only)
Formal Plenary meetings	✓	✗	✓
Informal Plenary meetings	✓	✗	✓
Committee of the Whole plenary meetings	✓	✗	✓
CoW: Informal consultations/working groups	✓	✓	✗
OECPR Plenaries	✓	✓	✓
OECPR: Informal consultations/working groups	✓	✓	✗

UNEA-6 meetings will be held fully in-person.

Video messages can be provided by Heads of State and Government who will not be able to participate in-person.

Ministerial Declaration

Consultations are held under the leadership of the UNEA-6 Presidency



The roadmap for the consultation on the UNEA-6 ministerial declaration was shared in April 2023.

The "zero draft" was circulated on 5 May.

The first informal consultations on the zero draft was held 20 June.

The "first draft" was circulated on 17 August, with an invitation for written input by 29 September.

The second informal consultations was held on 26 September.

The "second draft" of the ministerial declaration will be circulated at the end of October.

The Third informal consultations was held on 8 November and a fourth consultation will be held on 7 December.

Visit the page [Inputs to the Ministerial Declaration](#) for more details

Announcement of draft resolutions at the 10th Annual Sub-committee meeting of the CPR

1. United States of America: Promoting regional cooperation to improve air quality globally.
2. Saudi Arabia: Strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities' resilience to drought.
3. Japan: Promoting synergistic approach to address the triple crisis on climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development.
4. European Union, on behalf of the EU and its Member States: Stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically, regionally, and globally.
5. European Union, on behalf of the EU and its Member States: Effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
6. Malawi: Enhancing the role and viability of regional forums for environmental ministers and environmental authorities and regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation to tackle environmental challenges.
7. Malawi and Morocco: Fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation between UNEA, UNEP, and MEAs.
8. Ukraine: Environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts.
9. Senegal and Switzerland: Follow-up to UNEA resolution 5/12 on the environmental aspects of minerals and metals management.
10. Ethiopia: Global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides.
11. Switzerland: Sound management of chemicals and waste.
12. Switzerland: Solar radiation modification.
13. Dominican Republic: Addressing complications caused by sargassum seaweed.
14. Cameroon, on behalf of several States: Standards, norms and criteria for the implementation of Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development.
15. Sri Lanka: Effective, Inclusive and Sustainable Multilateral Actions towards Climate Justice
16. Sri Lanka: Sustainable management of Cascade System
17. India: Sustainable lifestyles

Procedure for the submission of draft resolutions and decisions

Submitted draft resolutions/decisions will be made available on the [Resolutions portal](#)



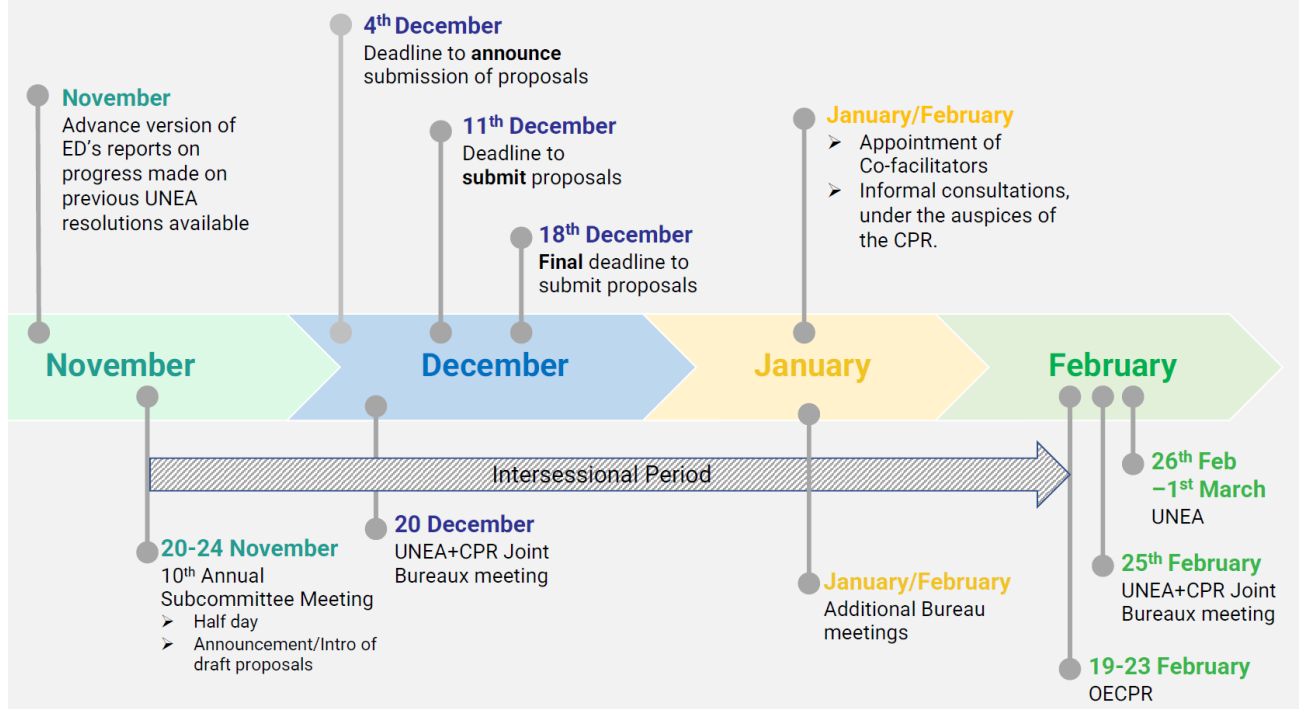
✓ Draft Submission

- 1 Sent by email by main sponsor
- 2 With note verbale
- 3 In Word
- 4 Indicating main sponsor and co-sponsors

✓ Concept note

- 1 Rational and concept
- 2 Relation to UNEA-6 theme.
- 3 Relation to UNEP 23/25 programme of work
- 4 SDGs
- 5 Emerging global issues
- 6 Relation to previous UNEA resolutions and decisions
- 7 Financial requirements
- 8 Main stakeholders for implementation

Preparatory process for draft resolutions/decisions



Registrations and travel support



Registrations

Opened on 13 September 2023

Close on 9 February 2024

Invitation letters issued

Additional information will be made available on logistical arrangements.

Travel support

Maximum of two (2) delegates from developing countries

Deadline to apply is 20 December 2023

[Registration \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/registration)

Visit the [UNEA-6 website](https://www.unep.org/registration) for more information on registrations, events, FAQs, event app and more.

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Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)

NEW: the [UNEA handbook](#) is now available, with essential information for all delegates

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) will be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, under [the theme](#): *Effective, inclusive and*

WHEN: 26 Feb 2024 - 1 Mar 2024
WHERE: Nairobi, Kenya

Notifications

Further information

The recording, the summary of the event, the presentations and the resources mentioned during this briefing are accessible here:

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/events/briefing-on-the-6th-session-of-the-united-nations-environment-assembly/>

Official website of the Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6):

<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6>

Information on how to register for UNEA-6 and related deadlines:

<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/registration>

More about UNEA6 Multilateral Environmental Agreements Day at:

<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/multilateral-environmental-agreements-day>

Outcomes of ICCM5, including the Global Framework on Chemicals at:

<https://www.saicm.org/events/iccm5>

Further information on UNEP work on Issues of Concern can be found at:

<https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/issues-concern>

UNEA-6 documents, including progress on previously agreed resolutions can be accessed at:

<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/unea-6-documents>

The resolution portal can be accessed at:

<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/resolutions-portal>

The full text of UNEA resolution 5/12 «Environmental aspects of minerals and metals management» (UNEP/EA.5/Res.12) can be accessed at :

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39927/ENVIRONMENTAL%20ASPECTS%20OF%20MINERALS%20AND%20METALS%20MANAGEMENT.%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

More information on the Intergovernmental Meeting on Minerals and Metals can be found at:

<https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/global-intergovernmental-meeting-minerals-and-metals>

The full text of UNEA resolution 5/11 “Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production” (UNEP/EA.5/Res.11) may be consulted at:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39920/ENHANCING%20CIRCULAR%20ECONOMY%20AS%20A%20CONTRIBUTION%20TO%20ACHIEVING%20SUSTAINABLE%20CONSUMPTION%20AND%20PRODUCTION.%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Further information on the UNEA6 regional consultation for the European Region group can be found at: <https://eeb.org/unea-6-regional-consultation-meeting-for-the-european-region-27-29-november-bratislava-online/>

Second Version of the Draft Ministerial Declaration at:

<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/inputs-ministerial-declaration-unea-6>

More information on Leadership Dialogues to be organized at UNEA-6 can be accessed at:

<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/leadership-dialogues>

Notes recorded by Stefan Arquint, WFEO National Committee Switzerland /
Dec 6 2023