

Statement by the United Nations Environment Programme

ECOSOC Management segment

New York, 5-6 June 2024.

1. It is an honour to address the ECOSOC management segment to introduce the report of the UN Environment Assembly, which corresponds to item 18 d and is contained in document A/79/25.
2. The sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme was held at UNEP headquarters) in Nairobi from 26 February to 1 March 2024, under the theme “*Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution*”. 157 Member States were represented, including 130 at the ministerial level. A significant number of bodies, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, secretariats of various multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations, civil society, major groups, academia, and the business and scientific communities, also participated and contributed actively.
3. The Assembly saw the world’s ministers of environment and representatives engage in three interactive leadership dialogues: one held on 29 February on “Super-highway or still in slow-motion: Are science, data, and digitalization really speeding our transition to a sustainable future”; a second held on 1 March on the overarching theme of “Show me the money: Can the global financial system really tackle climate change, nature loss and pollution”; and a third held on 1 March on “Alive or kicking: Environmental multilateralism is a beacon of hope but is it delivering fast enough?”. During the first interactive leadership dialogue, participants discussed on the need for more data sharing and collaboration among environmental leaders to address challenges like biodiversity loss and pollution. In the second dialogue, participants discussed how to align public and private finance with global goals for climate change, nature loss, pollution and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the third dialogue, participants explored ideas on how to bolster the effectiveness of environmental multilateralism, leading to more tangible and long-term results for people and the planet.
4. A multistakeholder dialogue was held under the sub-theme “*Partnering for the Environment: Inclusive Multilateralism Fit for Purpose*”. The dialogue explored concrete solutions for inspiring transformative action to achieve effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions innovative partnerships and strategies to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
5. The sixth UN Environment Assembly adopted 15 resolutions aiming to boost multilateral efforts to address the crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution. These advance the work of Member States on management of metals, mineral resources, chemicals and waste, on environmental assistance and recovery in areas impacted by armed conflict, on integrated water resource management in the domestic sector, agriculture and industry to tackle water stress, on sustainable lifestyles, on rehabilitation of degraded lands and waters, and more.
6. A Ministerial Declaration affirmed Member States’ commitment to slow climate change, restore and protect biodiversity, create a pollution-free world and confront issues of desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation by taking effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions.
7. The UNEA6 also held a Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) Day, a first of its kind, dedicated to international agreements addressing the most pressing environmental issues of concern, The Youth Assembly was another highlight of UNEA-6, which called for greater inter-generational equity.

8. To fully utilize the existing institutional links between the Environment Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum, Member States may wish to, inter alia:
- Welcome the ministerial declaration of the Environment Assembly at its sixth session (UNEP/EA.6/HLS.1) entitled "*Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution*" in their deliberations on the ministerial declaration at the 2024 sessions of the high-level political forum and the Economic and Social Council, and as the Environment Assembly's contribution to the General Assembly for consideration at the Summit of the Future, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 - Consider aspects of the various resolutions adopted by the 6th UNEA that are relevant for the provision of inputs to the policy recommendations to the HLPF.
 - Call upon Member States to identify in their voluntary national reviews to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, where applicable, the contributions of multilateral environmental agreements to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as referred in Environment Assembly resolution 6/6;
 - Appropriately acknowledge the Global Framework on Chemicals, including its strategic objectives and targets, as referred in Environment Assembly resolution 6/9;
 - Welcome the decision of the Environment Assembly to convene the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly from 8 to 12 December 2025 as referred in Environment Assembly decision 6/7;
 - To recognize the growing demand for stronger and more coherent environmental support at the country level, including with regard to UNEP engagement with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams,
 - To take note of the call addressed to UNEP, as the leading global environmental authority within the United Nations, to intensify its support and assistance to Member States, including at the country level and in cooperation with secretariats of relevant multilateral environment agreements, in the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements and the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals,
 - To reaffirm the need to ensure the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of UNEP to enable the Programme to fulfil its mandate;
 - Include in the provisional agenda of the eighty-first session of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme" to consider the outcomes of the seventh session of the Environment Assembly;
 - To recommend the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the seventh session of the Environment Assembly to be held from 8 to 12 December 2025 in line with the spirit of integration and universality of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.