

Agenda Item 8.3: Update on the outcomes of UNEA7

Purpose:

1. To inform the Meeting of the outcomes of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA7) which was convened from the 8 to 12 December 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya.
2. To consider options for the implementation of relevant outcomes of UNEA7.

Background:

3. The seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA7) brought together political, industrial, scientific, and civil society leaders to work towards strengthening actions for nature to achieve the sustainable development goals with the theme of “*advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet*”. The UNEA7 was preceded by the Open-ended committee of permanent representatives.
4. Fifteen (15) SPREP Member Countries registered to attend UNEA6 (5 metropolitan Members and 10 Pacific Island Members). SPREP organised two regional preparatory meetings to brief Members on the OECPR and UNEA7 preparations including the draft resolutions submitted and are of high importance and priority to the Pacific region. SPREP also developed resource materials to assist and support members in unpacking the key draft resolutions.
5. Key draft resolutions and decisions:

Cluster	Title of the Resolution	Submitted by	Status
A	Draft resolution on strengthening global response on the massive influx of sargassum blooms	Dominican Republic, Barbados, Mexico	Approved
	Draft resolution on accelerating global action to promote the climate resilience of coral reefs	Fiji	Approved
	Draft resolution on preservation of glaciers and the broader cryosphere	Tajikistan	Approved
	Draft resolution on active protection of deep-sea ecosystem	Vanuatu	Withdrawn
B	Draft resolution on maximising existing resources through enhanced coherence and synergies among MEAs and their implementation	Japan Panama	Approved
	Draft resolution on promoting sustainable solutions through sport for a resilient planet	Kenya	Approved
C	Draft resolution on enhancing environmentally sound management of minerals including through circularity	Colombia Oman	Approved
	Draft resolution on environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance	Kenya	Approved
	Draft resolution on sound management of chemicals and waste	Switzerland	Approved
D	Draft decision on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions	Secretariat	Approved
	Draft decision on the medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026-2027	Secretariat	Approved
	Draft decision on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the eighth session of the UN Environment Assembly	Secretariat	Approved
	Draft resolution on strengthening the role of UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi	Mexico	Withdrawn

Key Outcomes from the UNEA7

6. While several draft Resolutions under Cluster A progressed smoothly, negotiations on the draft Resolution on **active protection of deep-sea ecosystems** revealed significant divergence among Member States. Concerns were raised by a number of delegations regarding the perceived overlap with mandates under UNCLOS and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) as well as the potential implications for ongoing discussion related to deep-sea mining. In this context, and in the interest of maintaining constructive engagement and avoiding a polarised outcome, Vanuatu made the strategic decision to withdraw the draft resolution. This withdrawal should not be interpreted as a loss of momentum, but rather as a tactical repositioning that preserves key concepts for future multilateral processes, including potential re-engagement under more conducive political conditions.
7. By contrast, the draft Resolution on **accelerating global action to promote the climate resilience of coral reefs**, led by Fiji, demonstrated strong Pacific leadership and diplomatic coordination. Through flexibility and sustained engagement during OECPR negotiations, Pacific SIDS contributed to the Pacific as it links coral reefs protection to climate resilience, food security and livelihoods, and reinforces the vulnerability of SIDS in the face of climate change.
8. The discussion on the draft Resolution on MEAs synergies demonstrated collaboration across MEAs is increasingly urgent to combat interconnected environmental crisis that cannot be tackled in silos.
9. Discussions under Cluster C were of relevance to the Pacific region, given the disproportionate exposure of SIDS to pollution, hazardous chemicals, and waste management challenges. PSIDS interventions emphasised the need for equitable participation, technical assistance and predictable financial support to enable effective implementation of chemicals and waste-related resolutions.
10. During negotiations on draft resolution on **environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance**, several developing countries, including Pacific SIDS, highlighted the concerns regarding implementation capacity and the need for context-specific approaches. The approved resolution reflects a balance between ambition and national circumstances.
11. Negotiations on the draft resolution on **environmentally sound management of minerals including circularity** highlighted the differing perspectives on extractive species activities and downstream waste impacts. For PSIDS, the circular economy framing is particularly important, given limited land availability, fragile ecosystems, and challenges associated with managing end-of-life products. These discussions reinforced the need for future resolutions to better reflect the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of island contexts.

Emerging processes and strategic considerations

12. Discussions during OECPR-7 and UNEA-7 also underscored the growing importance of emerging global processes, including the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP). Pacific SIDS consistently highlighted the need for equitable representation, sustained technical support, and financial assistance to enable meaningful participation in such science-policy interfaces.

13. These emerging processes present both opportunities and challenges for the Pacific region, reinforcing the need for early engagement, coordinated regional positions, and targeted capacity-building support ahead of future UNEA sessions.

Engagement strategy for UNEA8

14. The experiences and lessons from OECPR-7 and UNEA-7 highlight the importance of early, coordinated, and well-resourced engagement by SPREP and PSIDS. Uneven participation, parallel negotiations, and capacity constraints underscore the need for a structured engagement strategy to strengthen Pacific visibility, influence, and outcomes at UNEA-8.
15. An engagement strategic could include the following:
- a. Identify SPREP team from programmes including a communications staff, subject to the thematic area of the draft resolutions;
 - b. Develop a concept note for a side event and booth during UNEA;
 - c. Encourage PSIDS submitting resolutions and possible co-sponsorship by other PSIDS country;
 - d. Develop a timeline for PSIDS preparatory meetings (in-person, virtual or hybrid);
 - e. Present an outline of the engagement plan and strategy during the tri-laterals for potential funding assistance; and
 - f. Strengthen PSIDS Coordination by increasing Pacific members CPR representation and requesting UNEP to continue to have hybrid CPR meetings, coordination with SPREP metropolitan members particularly Australia (and New Zealand) including possible financial support for PSIDS coordination meetings, raising the profile of OECPR and UNEA in regional meetings hosted and organised by SPREP.

Recommendation

16. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
- 1) **Note** the outcomes of the UNEA7 **and request** the Secretariat to assist and support Members towards achieving the UNEA7 resolutions and proposed actions for UNEA8.