



Dialogues with Member States Development of Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029

I. Background and Objective

The development of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for the period 2026-2029 comes at a pivotal time for the global community. This MTS will be the last strategic framework before the 2030 deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), making it a critical opportunity to intensify efforts towards sustainable development and environmental protection.

The 2026-2029 MTS builds on the strong foundation of the current MTS by integrating lessons learned and adapting to emerging challenges. While the existing MTS has established a solid foundation, the global context has evolved with intensified environmental shocks, ongoing geopolitical tensions, and continuous economic challenges. The new MTS, set to be approved by UNEA 7 in December 2025, not only guides UNEP's strategic direction but also plays a crucial role in shaping global environmental governance.

At the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6), decision UNEP/EA.6/L.3 requested the Executive Director to prepare a draft Programme of Work for the period 2026-2027 and a draft Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2026-2029, through inclusive and regular consultation with Member States and, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, for consideration and approval by the Environment Assembly at its seventh session.

The Secretariat presented a draft roadmap at the 11th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) in July 2024. Following Member States' comments, a revised roadmap was presented at the 167th meeting of the CPR, which emphasized the importance of inclusive dialogues with Member States, Major Groups, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and other UN agencies.



In this context, UNEP aims to facilitate informal dialogues with Member States to ensure their perspectives are integral to the development of the MTS 2026-2029. The upcoming discussions will provide a platform for Member States to share their views on the strategic direction of UNEP and contribute to shaping a roadmap that effectively addresses the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature loss and desertification, and the crisis of pollution and waste.

The dialogue approach, successfully used and welcomed during the development of the current MTS, is being leveraged again as a good practice for the 2026-2029 MTS development process. These dialogues are designed to be informal, inviting participants to contribute their personal thoughts and ideas. Participants are expected to join the dialogues in their individual capacity and engage openly under Chatham House rules, fostering an environment of trust and candid exchange. This format is intended to encourage more dynamic and constructive discussions, allowing UNEP to gain a deeper understanding of the perspectives and expectations regarding its future strategic direction.

II. Structure of the Dialogue

Agenda	Duration	Speaker	Details
Opening Technology Walk Through	20 min	Director, Policy and Programme Division	Introduction of meeting objectives, participants, and house rules
Strategic Framing	15 min	UNEP Executive Director	Short presentation by the UNEP ED
Dialogues I: Breakout Sessions	30 min	Participants	Small group discussions
Dialogue II: Plenary Session	25 min		Report back to the plenary
Reflections and Feedback	20 min		Reflections and questions from the participants
Closing	10 min	UNEP Executive Director	UNEP ED shares final reflections



III. Time and Venue

Time:

- Tuesday, 15 October: 1000 hours - 1200 hours (Nairobi time / GMT+3)
- Wednesday, 16 October: 1000 hours - 1200 hours (Nairobi time / GMT+3)
- Thursday, 17 October: 0900 hours - 1100 hours (Nairobi time / GMT+3)
- Thursday, 17 October: 1800 hours - 2000 hours (Nairobi time / GMT+3)

Venue: Virtual (link to be shared prior to the Dialogues)

IV. Background documents

- [Draft Roadmap for the Development of the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work for 2026-2027](#)
- [For people and planet: the UNEP strategy for 2022–2025](#)
- [UNEP Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023](#)