

Agenda Item 8.4: UNEA6 Strategic Outcomes

Purpose:

1. To inform the Meeting of the outcomes of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA6) which was convened from the 26 February to 1 March 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.
2. To consider options for the implementation of relevant outcomes of UNEA6.

Background:

3. The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA6) brought together political, industrial, scientific, and civil society leaders to work towards strengthening actions for nature to achieve the sustainable development goals.
4. Fourteen (14) SPREP Member Countries registered to attend UNEA6 (5 metropolitan Members and 9 Pacific Island Members).
5. There were 20 resolutions arranged in 5 clusters:
 - a. Cluster A - combines draft resolutions relating to abating pollution and promoting sound management of chemicals and waste. (Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), chemicals and waste, Air Quality (AQ), Sand and dust storms, Solar Radiation Modification (SRM)).
 - b. Cluster B - combines draft resolutions relating to halting and reversing the loss of nature while restoring ecosystems. (water policies, land degradation, nature-based solutions (NBS), Oceans governance, mother earth).
 - c. Cluster C - combines draft resolutions relating to international environmental governance. (MEA's cooperation, Synergies, climate justice).
 - d. Cluster D - combines draft resolutions relating to addressing root causes of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution. (Armed conflict, minerals and metals, behaviour, Circular Economy (CE)).
 - e. Cluster E - combines draft resolutions and draft decisions relating to procedural, budgetary, and administrative matters. (Trust funds, GEF, Date/agenda of next UNEA).

Key Outcomes from the UNEA6

6. UNEA outcomes form the key global environmental agenda and as such, the outcomes of the sixth Session of the UNEA have strategic importance and relevance to SPREP, the Noumea Convention, as well as the Waigani Convention.

7. The Pacific region participated in person at UNEA6. The outcomes of UNEA 6 were:
- a. Ministerial Declaration UNEP/EA.6/HLS/L.1.
 - b. Two decisions:
 - i. UNEP/EA.6/L.2 - Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions approved the following trust funds:
 - the general trust fund for Caribbean Biological Corridor Initiative;
 - the general trust fund for climate stability;
 - the general trust fund for living in harmony with nature; and
 - the general trust fund for the core activities of the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V).
 - ii. UNEP/EA.6/L.3 - Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
 - c. 15 Resolutions:
 - i. UNEP/EA.6/L.4 - Circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry.
 - ii. UNEP/EA.6/L.5 - Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility.
 - iii. UNEP/EA.6/L.6 - Enhancing the role and viability of regional forums of environment ministers and United Nations Environment Programme regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges.
 - iv. UNEP/EA.6/L.7 - Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments.
 - v. UNEP/EA.6/L.8 - Environmental aspects of minerals and metals recognising importance of addressing sustainable management of minerals and metal resources.
 - vi. UNEP/EA.6/L.9 - Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements. Encouraging members to promote synergies and cooperation in the implementation of MEA's.
 - vii. UNEP/EA.6/L.10 - Combating sand and dust storms.
 - viii. UNEP/EA.6/L.11 - Promoting sustainable lifestyles reaffirming the commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the three dimensions of sustainable development, which are integrated, indivisible, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Include One Planet Network Programme on Sustainable Lifestyles and Education, Green Jobs for Youth Pact.
 - ix. UNEP/EA.6/L.12 - Sound management of chemicals and waste. The resolution encourages contributions to the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) Fund. Requests UNEP to facilitate coordination between the GFC Fund, Specific International Programme, Special Programme to support the BRS, Minamata and Strategic Approach for International Chemical Management (SAICM). Requests UNEP to prepare a report to address lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotin.

- x. UNPE/EA.6/L.13 - Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally. Encourages states to develop national air quality programmes, set national ambient air quality standards noting the WHO recent AQ guidelines. Requests UNEP to work with states to build and enhance national AQ monitoring capacity including use of low-cost sensors, passive samplers and satellite data.
- xi. UNEP/EA.6/L.14 - Highly hazardous pesticides. The resolution on highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) encourages members to phase out of HHPs in agriculture, promote transition to and make available those alternatives, prevent the illegal traffic of HHPs as well as become members of the voluntary, multi-stakeholder global alliance on HHPs established under the Global Framework for Chemicals (GFC) for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste.
- xii. UNEP/EA.6/L.15 - Environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflict.
- xiii. UNEP/EA.6/L.16 - Effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies to achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Encouraging integrated water resource management.
- xiv. UNEP/EA.6/L.17 - Strengthening international efforts to combat desertification and land degradation, restore degraded land, promote land conservation and sustainable land management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience. Align with UNCCD Strategic framework national policies, programmes and plans and processes. Contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal GBF and take proactive management and integrated approaches.
- xv. UNEP/EA.6/L.18 – Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution with focus on the BBNJ ratification, GBF implementation, global plastic treaty intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) processes, London Convention/Protocol accession and strengthening regional seas programmes.

Next steps for SPREP following UNEA6

- 8. Alignment of the Secretariat's workplans and activities to help achieve the resolutions including the continued use of the Country Territory Strategic Partnership Framework (CTSPF) to guide the integrated and coordinated delivery of SPREP work to Members.
- 9. Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of MEAs and other relevant environmental instruments.
- 10. Supporting Members in achieving their commitments and statements made during the UNEA6 such as relating to phasing out of highly hazardous pesticides and commitment to negotiating a global plastic treaty with support from the Government of Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and UNEP.

Recommendation:

- 11. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the outcomes of the UNEA6; and
 - 2) **Request** the Secretariat to assist and support Members towards achieving the UNEA6 resolutions