

Proteus Partners update: UNEA-7

The 7th sessions of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-7) and United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) took place from 1 – 12 December 2025 under the theme *Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet*.

Several other events took place prior to or alongside OECPR-7 and UNEA-7, including the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, the Youth Environment Assembly, the Cities and Regions Summit, and various side events and leadership dialogues. Over 5,000 delegates from Member States, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, international organisations, scientists, and the private sector participated in the meeting and associated events.

The UNEP Medium-term Strategy for 2026-2029 was also approved at UNEA-7.

Ministerial Declaration and adopted resolutions at UNEA-7

Through the [Ministerial Declaration](#), Member States affirmed commitments to bold actions that drive sustainable solutions, with strengthened international and regional cooperation among governments, international organizations, the scientific community and the private sector. Identified actions include enhancing monitoring and response options to manage pollution, advancing sustainable production and consumption through circular economy and other options, supporting efforts towards an inclusive bio economy, accelerating transition towards sustainable food systems, supporting nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to address threats to water quantity and quality, advancing implementation of the One Health approach, and pursuing ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

A total of [11 resolutions](#) were adopted, covering management of metals and mineral resources, synergies among multilateral environmental agreements, environmental sustainability of AI, and more. Some resolutions of particular significance for businesses included:

[UNEP/EA.7/L.6 - Strengthening international cooperation on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals](#) – This resolution calls for compilation of submissions from Member States on progress made against Environment Assembly resolutions [4/19](#) (mineral resource governance), [5/12](#) and [6/5](#) (environmental aspects of minerals and metals). These submissions will also inform the convening of dialogues among Member States and relevant stakeholders and partners to discuss international cooperation, resource recovery (including circularity), best practices and strengthening capabilities related to environmentally sound management of minerals and metals.

[UNEP/EA.7/L.8 - Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments](#) – This resolution encourages Member States to continue enhancing synergies in implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, including at national and local levels, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and partners.

[UNEP/EA.7/L.13 - Sound management of chemicals and waste](#) – This resolution concerns identification of gaps, priorities, measures and support needs related to challenges concerning lead, cadmium and organotins. It invites Member States to join the Intergovernmental Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, to step up efforts to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and urges compliance to the Basel Convention.

[UNEP/EA.7/L.14 - Environmental sustainability of artificial intelligence systems](#) – This resolution encourages Member States and UNEP to harness the opportunities and benefits of artificial intelligence and to minimize its environmental impacts. It requests a report on the environment benefits, risks and impacts on artificial intelligence. It also calls for improvements in the quality,

accessibility and interoperability of environmental data, including support for national environmental public data systems in developing countries.

Leadership Dialogues and Side Events

During UNEA-7, leadership dialogues were held with a focus on transformative, multi-stakeholder and multi-level actions. These included dialogues on [circularity and sustainability](#) to enable the energy and digital transition and on the [global financial systems](#) role in unlocking private finance and aligning economies with sustainable development.

Several side events focused on sustainable management of minerals and metals. There was a common message on the need for government and industry collaboration to ensure environmentally sound management of minerals and metals, recognising that the urgency for critical minerals must not come at the expense of environment and social safeguards. The significant environmental and social risks were consistently recognised, with specific recognition of the impacts of mining on Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Governments and businesses were encouraged to take a full lifecycle approach to addressing risks and impacts, supported by traceability and transparency efforts. Finally, actors were encouraged to leverage opportunities for circular economy and other innovative approaches to capture and repurpose value from minerals and metals.

Launch of the Global Environment Outlook-7

The [Global Environment Outlook-7 \(GEO-7\)](#) offers a comprehensive scientific assessment of the global environment. Developed by 287 experts from 82 countries (including Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge holders), GEO-7 provides evidence on trends, drivers and inter-connections between climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

The report finds that following current development pathways will bring about catastrophic change at huge cost to people, planet and economies. On the other hand, investing in climate, nature, land and pollution efforts can deliver trillions of dollars each year in global GDP and deliver a range of societal benefits.

It goes on to outline transformative solutions pathways, with implementation via whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, that can enable benefits for environment, society and the economy. It further identifies regional solution pathways, recognising that these should be tailored to the socioeconomic-ecological context of each region.