

Guidance for the organization of work of the Committee of the Whole

Working structure

1. The Committee of the Whole (the Committee) is an in-session subsidiary body which will be established by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first plenary meeting on 8 December 2025.
2. The Committee is usually mandated to finalize negotiations on all pending draft resolutions and decisions.
3. At its first plenary meeting, the Committee will establish two contact groups, which will operate under its authority and under the guidance of its Chair.
4. The contact groups will work with clusters, each led by co-chairs.
5. No more than 2 clusters will meet in parallel. Clusters A and B will convene in parallel, as will clusters C and D. **Under the guidance of the Bureau and of the co-chairs, this arrangement may be revisited and adjusted as necessary, in consideration of the progress achieved within each cluster. This approach aims to harmonize and streamline the negotiation process, thereby maximizing the conditions conducive to a successful outcome.**
6. The co-chairs will report on the outcomes of the contact groups to the stocktaking plenary of the Committee, scheduled for Tuesday, 9 December 2025, in the evening, and the closing plenary of the Committee in the evening of Wednesday, 10 December.

Documentation and basis for negotiations

7. **Basis for negotiations:** All draft resolutions and decisions pending finalization and submitted to the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) shall serve as the basis for textual negotiations.
8. **Streamlined text on preambular and operative paragraphs:**
 - (i) The OECPR at its closing plenary meeting decided to transmit to UNEA the non-papers with the streamlined preambular paragraphs of draft resolutions that were made available before the start of the OECPR. The OECPR also decided that these non-papers will be used as the basis for negotiations on the PPs by UNEA, on the understanding that delegations can introduce additional text.
 - (ii) The OECPR also decided to transmit to UNEA non-papers on the operative paragraphs of some draft resolutions¹ to be used as the basis for negotiations on those operative paragraphs by UNEA, on the understanding that delegations can introduce additional text.
9. **Outcomes of informal consultations held on 6 December:** The OECPR further decided that the non-papers from the informal consultations held on Saturday, 6 December, will be transmitted by the Chair of the CPR to UNEA, for the Committee to use them as the basis for negotiations.

¹ Operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution entitled “Strengthening global response on the massive influx of sargassum seaweed blooms”; and operative paragraphs of draft resolution entitled “Advancing options for international instruments on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals and guidance for mineral resources circularity”.

Conduct of negotiations

10. **Negotiation format and language:** Negotiations will take place in person and in English.
11. **Focus on operative paragraphs:** Negotiations shall begin with the operative paragraphs of each draft resolution or decision.
12. **Real-time submissions:** There will be no call for written submissions. Negotiations will take place in the room and in real time, with delegations invited to present proposals directly in the contact groups.
13. **No new concepts: Delegations should refrain from introducing new ideas or concepts at this advanced stage of negotiations.**
14. **Review of drafts:** Delegations should be given sufficient time to review new versions of the drafts, as made available on the e-Proposals module.
15. **Merging/Withdrawal:** Any merging or withdrawal of draft resolutions or decisions may be announced either in the contact groups or during the plenary meetings of the Committee.

Role of co-chairs

16. Co-chairs are appointed to guide negotiations within each thematic cluster. They are central to the substantive progress of discussions. Their primary duties include:
 - **Facilitating convergence:** Actively steering negotiations towards convergence and, where appropriate, building consensus.
 - **Proposing compromise drafts:** Offering compromise drafts to resolve deadlocks and advance discussions on contentious issues.
 - **Legal coordination:** Coordinating on legal language to ensure consistency in the use of agreed concepts and definitions across all resolutions, with the support of the Secretariat.
 - **Managing schedules and time allocations:** Proposing time allocations for each draft resolution to ensure balanced progress across all clusters.
 - **Convening informal consultations:** Organizing informal consultations as needed to address specific or challenging issues in smaller, more focused settings.
 - **Overseeing merging/withdrawal:** Managing the formal process for any merging or withdrawal of draft resolutions within their assigned cluster.

Meeting arrangements and schedule

17. **Daily schedule:** Contact groups meetings are planned for 10:00 to 13:00, 14:00 - to 18:00. and from 19:00 to 22:00. ²
18. **Time allocation:** The draft structure for the 3 days of the Committee of the Whole has been published on the [website](#). The order in which drafts will be considered within each Cluster will be available on the UNEA-7 website under “Programme” as well as on the UNEA App. The proposed organization of work for each day will be published on the preceding day. Co-chairs will propose time allocation for each cluster to enable balanced progress across

² Contact groups may continue their work beyond 22:00 on an exceptional basis.

all clusters and with a view of harmonizing and streamlining the negotiation process and maximizing the conditions for a successful outcome.

Informal informal consultations

19. **Authority to convene:** Co-chairs may convene additional informal informal consultations, including with specific groups of delegations or proponent, as needed.
20. **Informal informal consultations** may take place during break times and in the mornings and provided that they avoid parallel scheduling with the Contact Groups, the regional and political group meetings.
21. **Announcements of informal informal consultations:** The Secretariat will announce these consultations in a timely manner via the UNEA App and reflect them on the UNEA 7 website under “Programme”.
22. **Outcomes and reporting:** Any outcomes from these consultations will be reported back to the relevant contact group and will be distributed as non-papers through the e-proposals module, as appropriate.

Reporting and transmission to UNEA plenary

23. **Deadline:** Negotiations will continue until Wednesday, 10 December, with the aim of reaching consensus on all pending drafts before the Committee concludes its work.
24. **Reporting:** Co-chairs will report back on the outcomes of the contact groups at the stocktaking plenary meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 9 December, in the evening, and at the closing plenary on the evening of Wednesday, 10 December.
25. **Outcome of the contact groups:** Draft resolutions and decisions finalized in the contact groups will be transmitted by the Committee to UNEA-7 for adoption.

Access to documents and Co-sponsorship

26. **Access:** All iterations of the draft resolutions and decisions will be available on the e-Proposals module. Delegates requiring access should contact their delegation’s e-delegate administrator or the Secretariat.
27. **Co-sponsorship:** Member States may co-sponsor a proposal directly on the e-Proposals module by selecting the relevant draft and clicking the “Co-sponsor” button. Co-sponsorship will remain open until the draft is officially adopted.