



# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/043

Geneva, 4 April 2023

CONCERNING:

SIXTH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-6)

New agenda item on Cooperation with Multilateral environmental Agreements (MEAs)

1. The CITES Secretariat is conveying the following information from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to the Parties and other stakeholders regarding UNEA-6.
2. In a letter from the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly, H.E. Ms. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, dated 6 February 2023, to the Executive Director of UNEP, the President is requesting the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), which will take place in Nairobi from 26 February – 1 March 2024 under the theme “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.
3. The supplementary agenda item will be entitled "Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements". The letter is contained in the Annex to the present Notification. As indicated here, the aim of the new agenda item is to strengthen contributions and active participation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Environment Assembly to promote coherence between the resolutions of the Environment Assembly and the decisions of the governing bodies of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, while fully respecting the autonomy of those Multilateral Environmental Agreements and without introducing new and additional requirements for the contracting Parties to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
4. The request is a result of the so-called Process for Review of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and reflected in the [outcome document](#) of that review, as negotiated by the Member States and endorsed at UNEA-5 in its decision 5/4. Paragraph 6 of the outcome of the review includes several recommendations on strengthening the contributions and active participation of MEAs in UNEA sessions. Specifically, sub-paragraph 6 (b) proposes to establish a standing agenda point on “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements” in UNEA sessions.
5. Substantive preparations for UNEA-6 have already been initiated by UNEP. The Executive Director of UNEP has put forward the idea of organizing a panel discussion with the Presidents of COPs linked to the discussion to the theme of UNEA-6 as well as an MEA Day showcasing the work of the MEAs. The first steppingstone will be to prepare a proposal for further consideration and discussion for UNEA and CPR Bureaux at their joint meeting scheduled for early July.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Postal address:  
CITES Secretariat  
Palais des Nations  
Avenue de la Paix 8-14  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

[cites.org](http://cites.org)

6. The CITES Secretariat invites Parties and other stakeholders to liaise with their UNEP focal points to feed into the preparations of UNEA-6. Questions or queries can be addressed to the CITES Secretariat at [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org) using “UNEA-6” in the subject line.

Annex

06 FEV. 2023

Kingdom of Morocco



Ministry of Energy Transition and  
Sustainable Development

The Minister

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To  
**Ms. Inger Andersen**  
Executive Director of UNEP

**Excellency,**

I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly and in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly of a supplementary item, entitled "Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements".

In accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, a supporting statement is attached to the present letter (see addendum).

I also have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Leila Benali**  
President of the United  
Nations Environment Assembly

Ministre de la Transition Énergétique  
et du Développement Durable  
  
Leila BENALI

**To:**  
Ministers responsible for the Environment;  
Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives;  
Major Groups and Stakeholders.

## **Annex**

### **Supporting statement**

1. In its decision 5/4 of 2 March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly endorsed the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, as agreed at the eighth meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 October 2021.
  2. In paragraph 6 of the outcome of the CPR-based review, it is recommended that under the guidance of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and with the support from the Secretariat and in close cooperation with the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the contributions and active participation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Environment Assembly be strengthened to promote coherence between the resolutions of the Environment Assembly and the decisions of the governing bodies of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, while fully respecting the autonomy of those Multilateral Environmental Agreements and without introducing new and additional requirements for the contracting parties to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The proposed agenda item is to facilitate such contributions and participation by Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Environment Assembly while providing an opportunity for dialogue amongst themselves and with Member States with a view to enhancing effective environmental governance.
  3. In this regard, in paragraph 6 (b) of the outcome of the CPR-based review, it is recommended that the Environment Assembly consider establishing an agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements” in its sessions.
  4. Subsequently, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, at its ninth annual subcommittee meeting held from 24 to 28 October 2022 recommended that the Bureau of the Environment Assembly propose an amendment to the provisional agenda to the sixth session of the Environment Assembly to include a new agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements”.
  5. At its joint meeting on 30 January 2023, the Bureaux of the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives decided to propose the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements”; and invited the President of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly, on behalf of the Bureau, to write to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to request, in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, the inclusion of the supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session.
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