UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP EMG

Meeting of the Issue Management Group on Gender and Environment

Tuesday, 29 September 2026, 8:00 – 9:00 EST

Agenda

Background and Rationale

The 31st Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) endorsed the establishment of an **Issues Management Group (IMG) on Gender and Environment,** which aims to strengthen a coherent, gender-responsive and human rights-based approach to environmental action throughout the UN system. As per the decision at the 31st Senior Officials Meeting, the IMG composed of nominated focal points from relevant UN agencies will operate for an initial period of 18 months with the possibility of extension.

Objectives of the IMG

This IMG aims to advance the implementation of commitments to Critical Area of Concern K of the Beijing Platform for Action and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, through the following objectives:

- Promote a better understanding of the interlinkages between gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls with environmental policy and action, and build the capacity of the UN system and governments;
- Promote the implementation of the key gender and environmental resolutions and decisions;
- Facilitate enhanced coordination, data- and information-sharing among UN entities, the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and other actors on gender equality and the environment at the global, regional and national levels, and develop common messaging;
- Advance stronger environmental policy and action by implementing gender-responsive synergies across the Rio Conventions and other multilateral processes;
- Promote the integration of gender equality, rights and empowerment of all women and girls considerations in the work of UN country teams, intergovernmental processes, including human rights treaty-bodies and multilateral environmental agreements, drawing on existing UN efforts and guidance on a gender-responsive approach.

Agenda (1 hour)

Chair: UN-Women

	Time	Session	Description
1	14:00 – 14:05	**Opening Remarks**	Welcome and opening remarks by Janice Golding, Head of EMG Secretariat
2	14:05 – 14:15	**Gender and Environment IMG: Overview and Updates**	Background and rationale for establishing the IMG, including its mandate, expected contributions, and linkages to Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, environmental commitments, and UN system coordination
3	14:15 – 14:25	**Coordination: Upcoming Policy Processes and Opportunities for Joint Engagement**	Discussion of upcoming intergovernmental processes and opportunities for coordinated engagement, including: • WMO's El Niño Preparedness and State of the Climate Actions • Coordination before and during major COPs • CBD COP17 preparations and key messaging • UNFCCC COP31 preparation and key messaging • Rio Convention synergies
4	14:25 – 14:50	**Open Dialogue: Priorities, Expectations and Opportunities for Collaboration**	Plenary discussion on: • Ongoing agency initiatives and knowledge products • Areas where the IMG can add value • Potential thematic working groups • Opportunities for common UN messaging, joint statements, and collaborative products
5	14:50 – 14:58	**Summary of next steps**	Summary of next steps and immediate priorities
6	14:58 – 15:00	**Closing**	Closing remarks by Janice Golding, Head of EMG Secretariat