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**United Nations  
Environment Assembly of the  
United Nations Environment  
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Fourth session**

Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019

Items 6 and 10 of the provisional agenda\*

**Programme of work and budget, and other  
administrative and budgetary issues**

**Provisional agenda and date of the fifth session  
of the Environment Assembly**

**Funding implications for the policymaking organs in the context  
of the programme of work and budget for the biennium  
2020–2021**

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

In its resolution 73/260 on the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, the General Assembly of the United Nations expressed concern about the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of the United Nations Environment Programme governing body, and requested the Secretary-General to make proposals, as appropriate.

The purpose of the present note is to inform all delegations that, subject to approval by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021 and to the adoption of a decision on the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, the Executive Director will request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to increase the regular budget allocation for the funding of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies in the proposed budget for the biennium 2020–2021.

\* UNEP/EA.4/1/Rev.1.

## I. Funding implications for the policymaking organs in the context of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021

1. In its resolution 73/260 on the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, the General Assembly expressed concern about the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of the United Nations Environment Programme governing body, and requested the Secretary-General to make proposals, as appropriate.
2. Similar concern was previously expressed by the governing body of UNEP in the context of the programmes of work and budgets for the bienniums 2016–2017 and 2018–2019 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolutions 1/15 and 2/20, respectively.
3. Since 2014, the resources provided by the regular budget have been insufficient to support the new governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme and its subsidiary bodies as established in UNEP Governing Council decision 27/2 on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The recurrent shortfall has been funded through extrabudgetary resources, which do not constitute a sustainable, predictable or stable source of funding.
4. Tables 1 and 2 show actual expenditure for previous sessions of the Environment Assembly from 2013 to 2017 and the planned budget for the fourth session of the Environment Assembly, respectively. It is important to note that the tables only reflect the costs of the Environment Assembly sessions and do not include the cost of annual subcommittee meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held in previous years.

Table 1  
**Actual expenditure for previous sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly**  
(United States dollars)

<i>Event</i>	<i>Expense category</i>	<i>Regular budget allocation</i>	<i>Extra budgetary funding</i>	<i>Total expenses</i>
<b>2013–2014: UNEA-1 and OECPR</b>	Conference services	783 671	739 615	1 523 286
	Travel of representatives of LDCs and DCs		1 059 496	1 059 496
	Travel of representatives of major groups		119 129	119 129
	Communications		442 037	442 037
	IT and related costs		173 861	173 861
	<b>Events total</b>		<b>783 671</b>	<b>2 534 138</b>
<b>2015–2016: UNEA-2 and OECPR</b>	Conference services	910 624	499 717	1 410 341
	Travel of representatives of LDCs and DCs		1 007 870	1 007 870
	Travel of representatives of major groups		272 414	272 414
	Communications		481 197	481 197
	IT and related costs		45 030	45 030
	<b>Events total</b>		<b>910 624</b>	<b>2 306 227</b>
<b>2017: UNEA-3<sup>a</sup> and OECPR</b>	Conference services	477 500	513 254	990 754
			468 347	468 347
			119 027	119 027
	Communications		461 600	461 600
	IT and related costs		155 069	155 069
<b>Events total</b>		<b>477 500</b>	<b>1 717 297</b>	<b>2 194 797</b>

Abbreviations: UNEA, United Nations Environment Assembly; IT – information technology; LDCs, least developed countries; DCs, developing countries; OECPR, Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

<sup>a</sup> In 2017, exceptionally, the duration of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly was three days. The cost of the third session is therefore not comparable with the cost of the other sessions, nor with the budget for the fourth session.

Table 2

**Planned budget for the fourth session of the Environment Assembly, to be held in 2019**  
(United States dollars)

<i>Event</i>	<i>Expense category</i>	<i>Regular budget allocation</i>	<i>Extrabudgetary funding (including Environment Fund)</i>	<i>Total allocation/planned allocation</i>
<b>2019-UNEA-4 and OECPR</b>	Conference services	1 050 100	545 600	1 595 700
	Travel of representatives of LDCs and SIDS		591 320	591 320
	Travel of representatives of DCs and major groups		277 680	277 680
	ICT services		193 800	193 800
	Security and medical services		129 600	129 600
	Staff overtime and hospitality	87 000	–	87 000
	Communications		500 000	500 000
	<b>Events total</b>	<b>1 137 100</b>	<b>2 238 000</b>	<b>3 375 100</b>

*Abbreviations:* UNEA, United Nations Environment Assembly; LDCs, least developed countries; DCs, developing countries; SIDS, small island developing States; ICT, information and communications technology; OECPR, Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

*Note:* The planned costs for the fourth session of the Environment Assembly exclude the cost of meetings of the annual subcommittee that took place in 2018 (the annual subcommittee meets during alternate years).

5. In the light of the funding shortfall in previous budgets, the Executive Director will request an increase in the allocation of the regular budget for the funding of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies in the proposed budget for the biennium 2020–2021. Table 3 provides the funding requirements for the United Nations Environment Assembly for 2020 and 2021 and reflects both the costs borne by the United Nations Office at Nairobi (section 2) and those borne by the United Nations Environment Programme (section 14). In total, the additional resource requirements are in the amount of \$8,800 for 2020 and all even-numbered years thereafter; and in the amount of \$410,000 for 2021 and all odd-numbered years thereafter, under section 14, on environment, in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021. For the regular budget allocation, proposals will be formulated separately in 2020 and 2021.

Table 3  
**Resource requirements for the United Nations Environment Assembly for 2020  
and 2021**  
(in United States dollars)

	<i>Requirements for 2020 (even years)</i>	<i>Requirements for 2021 (odd years)</i>
<b>Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management</b>		
<b>United Nations Environment Assembly</b>		
Meetings servicing		273 000
Pre-session documentation	214 000	214 000
In-session documentation		165 900
Post-session documentation		161 500
Report writing		42 800
<b>Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)</b>		
Meetings servicing		136 500
Report writing		11 200
<b>Annual subcommittee of the CPR</b>		
Meetings servicing	136 500	136 500
Post-session documentation	14 700	14 700
Report writing	11 200	11 200
<b>Quarterly meetings of the CPR</b>		
Meetings servicing	71 600	71 600
Post-session documentation	23 300	23 300
Report writing	12 300	12 300
<b>Subtotal, section 2</b>	<b>483 600</b>	<b>1 274 500</b>
<b>Section 14, Environment</b>		
<b>United Nations Environment Assembly</b>		
Overtime, security		73 700
Overtime, medical		7 300
Overtime, substantive servicing		67 800
Information and communications technology requirements		79 100
Equipment rental		62 000
Hospitality		19 200
<b>Open-ended meeting of the CPR</b>		
Overtime, security		40 200
Overtime, medical		7 300
Information and communications technology requirements		21 900
Equipment rental		23 100
<b>Annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR</b>		
Overtime, security	1 100	1 100
Information and communications technology requirements	7 300	7 300
Equipment rental	400	400
<b>Subtotal, section 14</b>	<b>8 800</b>	<b>410 400</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>492 400</b>	<b>1 684 900</b>

*Note:* The resource requirements in table 3 include the provision of annual subcommittee meetings held in even years.

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## II. Recommendations and suggested action

6. While bearing in mind that the allocation of the regular budget is the prerogative of the General Assembly, the secretariat wishes to bring this matter to the attention of the Environment Assembly in order to facilitate the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of Rio+20 and Governing Council 27/2, which made fundamental changes to the governance of UNEP, including the governing body and its subsidiary bodies.

7. In its decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, to be adopted at its fourth session, the Environment Assembly may wish to request the General Assembly of the United Nations to increase the regular budget allocation for the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies to ensure the sustainability, predictability and stability of funding of the governing body.

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