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

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

Nairobi, 23–27 May 2016

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Organization of work

**Scenario note for the second session of the United Nations
Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment
Programme**

Note by the Executive Director

The present note sets out the proposed plans for and general expectations of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including its high-level segment. It was prepared on the basis of inputs from the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP and the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP as elected at its first session, held in June 2014. The note was revised on 29 April 2016 to include additional information on the organization of the session.

* UNEP/EA.2/1.

I. Dates and duration

1. Pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly decision 1/2 of 27 June 2014, the second session of the Environment Assembly will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 23 May 2016, by the current President of the Assembly, Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren (Mongolia). The session will be held over five days and is expected to conclude by 6 p.m. on Friday, 27 May 2016.
2. The opening plenary meeting on Monday morning will be preceded by informal consultations between the Executive Director of UNEP and all the regional groupings on Sunday, 22 May 2016.
3. Meeting rooms will be allocated, upon request, to all regional groupings and regional economic or political integration entities so that they may hold consultations, as necessary, starting on Thursday, 19 May, and throughout the second session outside the official working hours of the session (from Monday to Friday, 23 to 27 May, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.).
4. The proceedings of the plenary meetings of the second session, including the high-level segment, will be webcast to the public. The Earth Negotiations Bulletin will cover and publish informal reports on the symposiums and side events held during the second session.
5. Detailed information on the second session, including documents and a calendar of meetings, will be made available at the official website for the session: <http://www.unep.org/unea/>. A daily journal providing participants with updated information on the organization of the session will also be available online.

II. Preparatory work by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

6. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013, the Committee of Permanent Representatives has engaged in intensive preparatory work for the second session, including at the third meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee, held from 26 to 30 October 2015, and the second meeting of the Open-ended Committee, held from 15 to 19 February 2016.
7. The Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, represented by its Chair, conducted consultations with the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, with the latter providing further guidance on preparations for the session. A joint meeting of the two bureaux was held in March 2015 and another was held on 19 February 2016.
8. Ms. Julia Pataki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania to UNEP and Chair of the Committee, will report to the Assembly on the work of the Committee at the first plenary meeting of the session, on Monday, 23 May 2016.
9. Major groups and stakeholders have been engaged in preparatory work leading up to the second session, including through regional consultation meetings.
10. An online platform, MyUNEA.org, was created to help ensure ownership, accountability and transparency in the preparations for the second session. It is an open platform intended to enhance inclusion and participation, allowing for the collective wisdom of peoples around the world to support policy processes at the session (including its high-level segment), and it provides a platform for focused discussions on regional issues for a “Healthy environment, healthy people”.

III. Nomination and election of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly

11. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2, paragraph 6, the Bureau of the governing body of UNEP will be “composed of 10 members to reflect the universality of the governing body, in accordance with equitable geographical distribution, and will assist the governing body and perform the functions as set out in the rules of procedure of the governing body.” In line with Environment Assembly decision 1/1 of 27 June 2014, each of the five regions shall be represented by two members in the 10-member Bureau of the Environment Assembly.
12. Pursuant to rule 18 of its rules of procedure, the Environment Assembly will elect the following officers at the beginning of the session: a President nominated by Latin American and Caribbean States, eight Vice-Presidents, and a Rapporteur nominated by the Western European and other States (in accordance with the principle of regional rotation).

13. Given the critical role played by the Bureau of the Environment Assembly in the conduct of the Assembly's business, it is important that the regional groups nominate officers as early as possible so that the nominees have sufficient time to prepare for the session with the support of the secretariat. To that end, the secretariat will distribute to all Member States the relevant form for the nomination of members of the Bureau.

IV. Opening plenary meeting of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

14. At its first plenary meeting, opening statements will be delivered by Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, outgoing President of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (via video message) and a high-level representative of the host country.

15. Following the opening segment, the Assembly will proceed to the election of the Presidency of the second session by acclamation. Following the election of the Presidency, the President of the Assembly will present a token of appreciation to the outgoing President and will deliver a statement. Thereafter the Assembly will elect the presiding officers and members of the incoming Bureau.

16. The proceedings of the Environment Assembly, including the plenary meetings and the scheduled meetings of the Committee of the Whole, will be conducted with simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations.

V. Adoption of agenda of the United Nations Environment Assembly

17. The Environment Assembly may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.2/1) on Monday, 23 May. The provisional agenda for the session, as endorsed by the Bureau of the Environment Assembly on the basis of contributions made by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, is available at <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.

VI. Organization of work

18. Following the adoption of the agenda, the President of the Assembly will invite Member States to consider the organization of work of the session.

19. Pursuant to rule 61 of the rules of procedure,¹ and on the basis of the report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Environment Assembly may wish to establish sessional committees, including a Committee of the Whole, and drafting groups, to discuss substantive reports of the Executive Director and draft resolutions and decisions prepared in advance of the Assembly, as well as to consider other matters of importance. The President may also establish other groups, such as a group of friends of the Chair, to review the draft outcome document of the high-level segment.

20. It is expected that the Executive Director will deliver a statement on the organization of work of the session. The chairs of the regional and political groups will also be invited to deliver statements followed by representatives of Member States wishing to react to the reports of the Executive Director.

VII. Credentials of representatives

21. Pursuant to rule 17 of the rules of procedure,² the credentials of representatives of Member States shall be submitted to the Executive Director before the first plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on Monday, 23 May 2016. Copies of credentials may be submitted in advance of the session to the following e-mail address: unea2@unep.org. Credentials should be issued either by a Head of State or Government, the minister for foreign affairs or other governmental authorities with the mandate to issue credentials in accordance with national rules and legislation.

¹ Rule 61

1. At each session, the United Nations Environment Assembly may set up sessional committees and working parties, from among its members, and refer to them any questions on the agenda for study and report.
2. The sessional committees and working parties may set up subcommittees and subgroups of working parties. The member of such subcommittees and subgroups of working parties shall be nominated by the committee or working party concerned.

² Rule 17

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting which the representatives are to attend.

22. In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Environment Assembly will examine the credentials and will report on the results of its examination under agenda item 2 at the closing plenary meeting of the second session of the Environment Assembly.

VIII. Committee of the Whole

23. The Committee of the Whole is expected to conduct its work under items 4 (international environmental policy and governance issues), 5 (medium-term strategy, programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues) and 8 (provisional agenda, date and venue of the third session of the Environment Assembly) of the provisional agenda beginning after the first plenary meeting on Monday, 23 May, up to the afternoon of Wednesday, 25 May, and to report on the results of its work the Assembly at the closing plenary meeting of the session. Interpretation will be provided into the six official languages of the United Nations for the scheduled meetings of the Committee. Pursuant to rule 62 of the rules of procedure,³ the Committee of the Whole will elect its own Chair and Rapporteur.

24. To facilitate the work of the Committee, the Chair may propose to Member States that they take note of the reports of the Executive Director of UNEP presented under items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda. The reports pertaining to those agenda items are available at <http://web.unep.org/unea/documents>.

25. In order to make optimal use of the limited time available for the work of the Committee of the Whole, the Committee may wish to establish a limited number of drafting groups to finalize the draft resolutions and decisions. It is recommended that five drafting groups be established based on the five clusters of resolutions that emerged from the intersessional period.

26. Efforts will be made to limit the number of parallel meetings of the Committee of the Whole and the drafting groups to a total of no more than three simultaneous meetings. The proposed organization of work of the Committee of the Whole will be presented to Member States at the opening of its first meeting on the basis of guidance from the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Bureau.

27. Pursuant to rule 69 of the rules of procedure, major groups and stakeholders will be allocated seats to observe the proceedings of the Committee. Upon the invitation of the President or the Chair, as the case may be, and subject to the approval of the Environment Assembly, such observers may make oral statements as appropriate.

28. On Wednesday, 25 May 2016, the drafting groups are expected to present the conclusions of their work to the Committee of the Whole. Thereafter, the Committee is expected to consider and approve the draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Assembly for its consideration and possible adoption.

29. It is envisaged that the Chair of the Committee of the Whole will report to the Assembly on the work of the Committee.

IX. High-level segment

30. Pursuant to decision 27/2, paragraph 5, the second session of the Environment Assembly will conclude with a two-day high-level segment on Thursday and Friday, 26 and 27 May, with the participation of dignitaries, ministers of the environment, heads of delegation, heads of United Nations agencies and of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, and senior representatives of major groups and stakeholders.

31. On 30 June 2015, during a subcommittee meeting convened by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Member States reached consensus on the overarching theme of the high-level segment and other related issues. The resulting “Chair’s note on the high-level segment of UNEA-2” was transmitted by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, which endorsed it during its meeting of 21 July 2015.

32. The Chair’s note contained the following points regarding the structure of the high-level segment:

³ Rule 62

Each sessional committee or working party shall elect its own officers, unless otherwise decided by the Environment Assembly. In electing its officers, each sessional committee or working party shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation.

(a) “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the post-2015 development agenda” could be the overarching theme of the high-level segment, to be discussed within a plenary component, in accordance with decision 27/2 (paragraph 5 (a) and (d));

(b) To demonstrate pathways for accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of the post-2015 development agenda, an interactive ministerial policy review session could be organized in accordance with decision 27/2 (paragraph 5 (b), (c)). This session, entitled “Healthy environment, healthy people,” would complement the overarching theme of the high-level segment by allowing ministers to focus on strategic issues, including air quality, waste, chemicals and healthy ecosystems, bearing in mind the respective mandates of UNEP and other relevant international organizations;

(c) In accordance with decision 27/2 (paragraph 5 (e)), the high-level segment should include a multi-stakeholder dialogue accommodating diverse perspectives and building on the overarching theme. In this regard, the importance of timely and inclusive preparations for the sixteenth session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum (21 and 22 June 2016) was underscored;

(d) The high-level segment will thus focus on the overarching theme of “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

33. Accordingly, the high-level segment will consist of several interconnected parts to engage ministers, as well as major groups and stakeholders, on two main topics. Following the opening ceremony until the end of Thursday, 26 May, a ministerial dialogue will be held on the overarching theme of “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

34. The dialogue will be followed by the introduction of the global thematic report on “Healthy environment, healthy people” (UNEP/EA.2/INF/5). The thematic session will comprise both plenary meetings and parallel round-table ministerial dialogues to enhance interaction. The ministerial round tables will be followed by a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme “Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 for Sustainable Development.”

35. The high-level segment will finish on the afternoon of Friday, 27 May. Thereafter, the Environment Assembly will reconvene in plenary to consider and adopt resolutions, decisions and other outcomes of the session.

36. A draft outcome document of the high-level segment, integrating the key messages of the ministers of the environment, will be presented by the President of the Assembly for consideration and possible adoption at the closing plenary meeting.

A. Ministerial breakfast: women ministers and leaders for the environment

37. A ministerial breakfast for women ministers and leaders for the environment, organized by UNEP, will be held at 7.30 a.m. on Thursday, 26 May. Invitations and a programme for the event are available at <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.

B. Opening plenary meeting of the high-level segment

38. The opening of the high-level segment will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 26 May, with an opening ceremony comprising statements by the President of the Environment Assembly and other high-level dignitaries, including a representative of the host country. A detailed programme for the opening ceremony will be made available in due course at <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.

C. Briefing by the Executive Director on the state of the global environment

39. Following the opening ceremony, the President will invite the Executive Director to present his briefing on the state of the global environment.

D. Ministerial dialogue: delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

40. Following the statement of the Executive Director, the Assembly will consider the overarching theme of the high-level segment: “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

41. To ensure the full participation of ministers and heads of delegation, the meeting will be organized as a high-level, interactive, moderated dialogue. The dialogue among ministers and heads of delegation will include interventions by heads of United Nations entities, regional economic

commissions and international organizations, who will contribute to framing the implications for the United Nations system of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the President may invite ministers to share their insights on regional and subregional challenges associated with the overarching theme as well as on the role that the multilateral environmental agreements can play in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

42. Delegations will be given the floor in the order in which they signal their request to speak. Based on the requests received, the President may give first priority to those Member States represented at the ministerial level.

43. Representatives of major groups and stakeholders, heads of United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations may be invited to speak at the discretion of the President.

44. The secretariat will distribute a background note and programme for the ministerial dialogue, which will be available at <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.

E. High-level ministerial luncheon

45. The Executive Director will hold a high-level ministerial luncheon for heads of delegation on the theme “Mobilizing resources for sustainable investments” at 1.15 p.m. on Thursday, 26 May.

46. The purpose of the luncheon is to communicate to ministers of environment and other high-level representatives the findings and outcomes of the Symposium on Mobilizing Resources for Sustainable Investments and other high-level activities, including the Business Dialogue for Environmental Sustainability.

F. Gala dinner for heads of delegation and special guests

47. A gala dinner for ministers of environment, heads of delegation and special guests will be held on the United Nations compound starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, 26 May. The dress code for the dinner will be formal or national traditional attire.

G. Ministerial breakfast on innovation and partnerships for sustainable consumption and production

48. Ministers and heads of delegations will be invited to attend a ministerial breakfast on innovation and partnerships for sustainable consumption and production at 8.15 a.m. on Friday, 27 May. The event, hosted by the presidency of the European Union and its Commission, will highlight various aspects of and entry points to the transition to sustainable consumption and production in the light of Sustainable Development Goal 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns). A programme for the event is available at <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.

H. Ministerial policy review session on “Healthy environment, healthy people”

49. The ministerial policy review session “Healthy environment, healthy people: delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, 27 May, with an introductory segment in plenary to introduce the global thematic report.

50. Following the presentation by the Executive Director, two parallel round tables will convene to address the same theme in a smaller setting. Delegations will be invited to participate in one session or the other on the basis of the English alphabetical order of the names of their countries. Simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations will be provided for both round tables.

51. The President of the Assembly will invite a minister to chair each of the round tables. The chairs of the round tables will present the main findings of each round table at the closing plenary meeting of the second session.

52. In order to facilitate the round-table discussions, the chairs may call upon heads of United Nations organizations and international experts to provide inputs on the theme during the course of discussions. The secretariat will distribute a background note and programme for the ministerial policy review session, available at <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.

I. High-level multi-stakeholder dialogue: “Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

53. A multi-stakeholder dialogue will be held from 1–2.30 p.m. on Friday, 27 May, in plenary. The moderated, interactive dialogue will be open to all Member States and accredited representatives

from the major groups and stakeholders and will consider the theme “Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to jointly deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

54. Building on the overarching theme and the functions set out in decision 27/2, paragraph 5, the multi-stakeholder dialogue will allow participants from Member States to interact with representatives of major groups and stakeholders in mobilizing support for initiatives and new forms of solution-oriented, inclusive and integrative multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. Leaders of recognized international organizations and heads of United Nations system entities and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements will also be invited to participate in the dialogue. The President of the Environment Assembly has circulated a list of nominated civil society participants together with a background note prepared by the secretariat.

55. The dialogue is expected to contribute to strengthening the Environment Assembly as a global platform by providing an opportunity for representatives to explore multi-stakeholder partnerships to address imminent environmental issues at the national, regional and global levels. The dialogue will conclude with a chair’s summary, reflecting the variety of views expressed by participants.

J. Closing plenary

56. The closing plenary meeting of the second session of the Environment Assembly will begin at 3 p.m. on Friday, 27 May 2016, and is expected to end by 6 p.m. At the meeting, the Assembly will hear a report by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole on the work of the Committee and will consider the outcomes of the session for possible adoption, including the outcome of the high-level segment and draft resolutions and decisions.

X. Statements during the high-level segment

57. In order to promote an interactive dialogue, ministers are kindly requested to avoid reading prepared statements. Instead, they are encouraged to make concise interventions that fit into the flow of the discussions. In this regard, representatives may wish to carefully review the background materials on the high-level segment. All participants are urged to make interventions that are concise (maximum three minutes) and, where appropriate, respond to interventions made by others. Ministers or heads of delegation wishing to present written statements for the record should submit them to the secretariat before or during the high-level segment and they will be made available on the website for the session.

58. Member States and major groups and stakeholders are also invited to submit written contributions to the following e-mail address: unea2@unep.org.

XI. Other events associated with the Environment Assembly

59. Prior to the opening of the high-level segment, a number of associated events will be held, including symposiums, side events and green room events organized by UNEP, Member States and other entities.

60. A Science-Policy Forum will be held on Thursday and Friday, 19 and 20 May 2016.

61. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Environment Assembly resolution 1/10, the Executive Director will convene a workshop on different approaches, visions, models and tools for achieving sustainable development, noting the approach of Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth. The workshop will provide recommendations to the Executive Director for appropriate further steps and work.

62. A three-day Sustainable Innovation Expo (SIE2016) will be held from 23 to 25 May, in parallel with the second session of the Assembly, bringing together stakeholders that are committed to contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.

63. SIE2016 will include nine moderated panel discussions on Monday and Tuesday, 23 and 24 May, on global environmental challenges and possible solutions, as well as a business dialogue to be held on Wednesday, 25 May, linking the private sector with policymakers. A full list of these events is available at <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.

64. Two high-level symposiums, entitled “Mobilizing resources for sustainable investments” and “Environment and displacement: root causes and implications”, will be held during the second session. They will bring together a wide range of actors and stakeholders and provide an interactive platform for discussion and mobilization of concerted action.
65. Twenty-six side events and a similar number of Green Room events will be held in parallel to the Assembly session, providing opportunities for inspiring dialogue and motivating action. A full list of these events is available at <http://www.unep.org/unea/>.
66. All participants are invited to take part in these events at their convenience. The secretariat will also organize, in collaboration with various partners, high-level press conferences and media round tables.
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