### UNITED NATIONS

UNEP/EA.1/INF/17

Distr.: General 9 June 2014 English only





## United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme First session Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014 Item 7 of the provisional agenda<sup>\*</sup>

Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters

# Voluntary indicative scale of contributions for the biennium 2014–2015

### Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note provides information on the voluntary indicative scale of contributions for the biennium 2014–2015 and how the scale has been adapted in the light of the universal membership of the United Nations Environment Programme, as referred to in paragraph 26 of Governing Council decision 27/13.

<sup>\*</sup> UNEP/EA.1/1.

# I. History of the establishment and application of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions

1. In its decision SS.VII/1, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), at its seventh special session, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in 2002, adopted the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, which was set out in the appendix to the decision.

2. In paragraphs 16 and 17 of its report, the Open-ended Working Group stated that all Member States of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies should contribute financially to UNEP and, towards that end, called for the establishment of a voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions and to enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of the Environment Fund. The voluntary scale was to be developed taking into account, among other things, the United Nations scale of assessment and the following factors:

- (a) A minimum indicative rate of 0.001 per cent;
- (b) A maximum indicative rate of 22 per cent;
- (c) A maximum indicative rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

(d) The economic and social circumstances of the Member States, in particular those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(e) Provisions to allow for any Member State in a position to do so to increase its level of contributions over and above its current level.

3. The Open-ended Working Group confirmed, furthermore, that all contributions to the Fund would remain voluntary and each State reserved the right to determine whether or not it wished to contribute voluntarily to the Fund. However, all Member States, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, would be encouraged to contribute to the Environment Fund either on the basis of the indicative scale of contributions or on the basis of any of the following:

- (a) Biennial pledges;
- (b) United Nations scale of assessments;
- (c) Historical level of contributions;
- (d) Any other basis identified by the Member State;

4. In response to the Council's adoption of the Working Group's report, the Executive Director of UNEP launched a pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions for one year, 2003. During the same year, the guiding principles and criteria for the voluntary indicative scale of contributions were further elaborated and presented to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session. The guiding principles and criteria included a call to all the countries that were paying equal to or above the United Nations scale to maintain their high levels of contributions and to countries in a position to do so to consider making higher payments over and above their level of contribution. All the developed countries, countries with economies in transition and many developing countries that were contributing below the United Nations scale and the previous historical high level of contributions.

5. Following the pilot phase, the scale was applied in the biennium 2004–2005, and was subsequently revised for the bienniums 2006–2007, 2008–2009, 2010–2011 and 2012–2013 at the request of the Governing Council. The Council continued to reiterate the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP.

6. In 2008, the Secretary-General acknowledged the success of the initial result of introducing the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (see A/63/201).

### II. Recent commitments by Member States to increasing funding for United Nations Environment Programme, in particular for the Environment Fund

In its resolution 67/213, the General Assembly decided to strengthen and upgrade UNEP in the manner set out in subparagraphs (a) to (h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. As part of that decision, Member States were requested to provide secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to UNEP both from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions.

7. Following the adoption of the resolution, at its twenty-seventh session and its first universal session, held in February 2013, the Governing Council, in paragraph 19 of its decision 27/2, stressed the need by no later than 2016 to implement the provisions of paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document.

8. In its resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the General Assembly urged countries to substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the core budgets of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies (the Environment Fund in the case of UNEP) and contribute on a multi-year basis in a sustained and predictable manner

9. In paragraph 26 of its decision 27/13, the Governing Council noted the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions to, and to enhance predictability in, the voluntary financing of the Environment Fund, and requested the Executive Director to adapt the voluntary indicative scale of contributions in the light of the universal membership of UNEP, in accordance with decisions SS.VII/1 and any subsequent decisions.

10. Furthermore, in paragraph 27 of the same decision, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director in his efforts to mobilize resources for UNEP to take action to strengthen and broaden the donor base of the Environment Fund.

# III. Application of the 2014–2015 voluntary indicative scale of contributions in support of the commitments made by Member States

11. The provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the decisions of the Governing Council on strengthening UNEP funding, in particular for its Environment Fund, were applied to the 2014–2015 programme of work and budget of UNEP. In accordance with Governing Council decision 27/13, the Environment Fund, which is the primary source of non-earmarked funding for UNEP, is to receive contributions worth \$110 million in 2014 and \$135 million in 2015.

12. The voluntary indicative scale of contributions for 2014–2015 was adjusted accordingly:

(a) The decision taken in Cartagena at the seventh special session to take into account the United Nations scale of assessments and the economic and social circumstances of member States in the preparations of the scale was brought to the fore in the 2014–2015 scale: member States are being requested to contribute at least on the same percentage basis as their United Nations assessed scale level for 2013–2015, which reflects their current status of economic and social development since 2002;

(b) Member States already contributing at or above the United Nations scale are requested to retain their high level of contribution;

(c) Member States that are contributing below their highest ever payment are encouraged to strive to return to that level of funding.

13. The Executive Director notified each member State of their suggested level of contribution according to the voluntary indicative scale of contributions between August and October 2013. Following the responses received and further consultations with member States, the scale was finalized in early 2014 and is set out in the annex to the present note. Nevertheless, the actual amount of contribution to be provided by each member State remains at their discretion.

14. Applying the principles articulated above would require many member States to contribute to the Environment Fund many times more than in prior years. Therefore, where the requested increase is so substantive that it may not be rapidly achieved, the Executive Director has encouraged a commitment to gradually increasing the contributions towards the level of the voluntary scale, which

would provide a strong statement of support to UNEP in line with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Furthermore, recognizing the current global financial situation, these increases are expected to be achieved mainly through a shift from earmarked contributions to the Environment Fund.

15. In addition to efforts by member States to increase their level of funding to the Environment Fund in accordance with the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, they are encouraged to work with the UNEP secretariat and other member States to implement all the aspects of the UNEP funding strategy, which was developed at the request of and in close consultation with member States in 2013 and approved by the Executive Director in January 2014. The funding strategy emphasizes the need for a shift towards an increase in non-earmarked funding, a widened base for contributions and more partnerships that catalyse resources and results at the global, regional and national levels. It also seeks an increased return on investment and accountability of the Programme as well as recognizing the need for better communication.

16. Universal membership requires member States to take global responsibility for the stable, secure, adequate and increased funding required to enable UNEP to respond effectively to their call for it to fulfil its role as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Achieving this will require a collective effort and a continued commitment by the UNEP secretariat to continuously demonstrating efficiency and results.

## Annex

	2014			2015		
_	United States dollars		United States dollars			
	(budget: \$110		(budget: \$135			
<i>Country</i> <sup>a</sup>	million)	Percentage of budget	million)	Percentage of budge		
Afghanistan	5 500	0.005	6 750	0.005		
Albania	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010		
Algeria	150 700	0.137	184 950	0.13		
Andorra	39 474	0.036	39 474	0.029		
Angola	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010		
Antigua and Barbuda	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.00		
Argentina	475 200	0.432	583 200	0.43		
Armenia	7 700	0.007	9 450	0.00		
Australia	2 281 400	2.074	2 799 900	2.074		
Austria	877 800	0.798	1 077 300	0.798		
Azerbaijan	44 000	0.040	54 000	0.040		
Bahamas	18 700	0.017	22 950	0.017		
Bahrain	42 900	0.039	52 650	0.039		
Bangladesh	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010		
Barbados	8 800	0.008	10 800	0.008		
Belarus	61 600	0.056	75 600	0.05		
Belgium	5 241 379	4.765	5 241 379	3.88		
Belize	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00		
Benin	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.00		
Bhutan	1 450	0.001	1 780	0.00		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	9 900	0.009	12 150	0.00		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18 700	0.017	22 950	0.01		
Botswana	18 700	0.017	22 950 22 950	0.01		
Brazil	3 227 400	2.934	3 960 900	2.93		
Brunei Darussalam	28 600	0.026	3 500 500	0.02		
Bulgaria	51 700	0.020	63 450	0.04		
Burkina Faso	5 646	0.005	5 646	0.004		
Burundi	1 100	0.003	1 350	0.00		
Cabo Verde	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00		
Cambodia	4 400	0.001	5 400	0.004		
Cameroon	13 200	0.004	16 200	0.004		
Canada	3 282 400	2.984	4 028 400	2.984		
Central African Republic	1 100	0.001	4 028 400	0.00		
Chad	2 200		2 700	0.002		
	2 200 367 400	0.002		0.002		
Chile China	5 662 800	0.334 5.148	450 900 6 949 800	5.14		
Colombia	284 900	0.259	349 650 1 350	0.25		
Comoros	1 100	0.001		0.00		
Congo	5 500	0.005	6 750	0.00		
Costa Rica	41 800	0.038	51 300	0.03		
Côte d'Ivoire	12 100	0.011	14 850	0.01		
Croatia	138 600	0.126	170 100	0.12		
Cuba	75 900	0.069	93 150	0.06		
Cyprus	51 700	0.047	63 450	0.04		
Czech Republic	424 600	0.386	521 100	0.38		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.00		

# Voluntary indicative scale of contributions 2014–2015

(United States dollars)

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	2	2014		2015
	United States		United States	
	dollars		dollars	
<i>Country</i> <sup>a</sup>	(budget: \$110 million)	Percentage of budget	(budget: \$135 million)	Percentage of budge
Democratic Republic of the	2 200	0.002	4.050	
Congo	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Denmark	5 271 920	4.793	5 271 920	3.905
Djibouti	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Dominica	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Dominican Republic	49 500	0.045	60 750	0.04
Ecuador	48 400	0.044	59 400	0.044
Egypt	147 400	0.134	180 900	0.13
El Salvador	17 600	0.016	21 600	0.010
Equatorial Guinea	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Eritrea	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Estonia	44 000	0.040	54 000	0.040
Ethiopia	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.01
Fiji	4 481	0.004	4 481	0.00
Finland	4 395 180	3.996	4 395 180	3.25
France	6 152 300	5.593	7 550 550	5.59
Gabon	22 000	0.020	27 000	0.02
Gambia	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Georgia	7 700	0.007	9 450	0.00
Germany	9 696 293	8.815	9 696 293	7.18
Ghana	15 400	0.014	18 900	0.01
Greece	701 800	0.638	861 300	0.63
Grenada	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Guatemala	29 700	0.027	36 450	0.02
Guinea	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Guinea-Bissau	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Guyana	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Haiti	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.00
Honduras	8 800	0.008	10 800	0.00
Hungary	292 600	0.266	359 100	0.26
Iceland	38 000	0.035	38 000	0.02
India	732 600	0.666	899 100	0.66
Indonesia	380 600	0.346	467 100	0.34
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	391 600	0.356	480 600	0.35
Iraq	74 800	0.068	91 800	0.06
Ireland	470 000	0.427	564 300	0.41
Israel	435 600	0.396	534 600	0.39
Italy	4 892 800	4.448	6 004 800	4.44
Jamaica	12 100	0.011	14 850	0.01
Japan	11 916 300	10.833	14 624 550	10.83
Jordan	24 200	0.022	29 700	0.02
Kazakhstan	133 100	0.121	163 350	0.12
Kenya	30 000	0.027	30 000	0.02
Kiribati	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Kuwait	300 300	0.273	368 550	0.27
Kyrgyzstan	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.00
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.00
Latvia	51 700	0.047	63 450	0.04
Lebanon	46 200	0.042	56 700	0.04
Lesotho	9 975	0.009	9 975	0.00
Liberia	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00
Libya	156 200	0.142	191 700	0.14
Liechtenstein	9 900	0.009	12 150	0.00

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	2014		2015		
Country <sup>a</sup>	United States dollars (budget: \$110 million)	Percentage of budget	United States dollars (budget: \$135 million)	Percentage of budge	
Lithuania	80 300	0.073	98 550	0.073	
Luxembourg	660 313	0.600	660 313	0.489	
Madagascar	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003	
Malawi	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002	
Malaysia	309 100	0.281	379 350	0.281	
Maldives	2 000	0.002	2 455	0.002	
Mali	4 400	0.002	5 400	0.004	
Malta	17 600	0.004	21 600	0.010	
Marshall Islands	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00	
Mauritania	2 200	0.001	2 700	0.002	
Mauritius	14 300	0.002	17 550	0.013	
Mexico	2 026 200	1.842	2 486 700	1.842	
				0.00	
Micronesia (Federated States of)	1 100	0.001 0.024	1 350	0.00	
Monaco	26 437		26 437		
Mongolia	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003	
Montenegro	5 500	0.005	6 750 82 700	0.00	
Morocco	68 200	0.062	83 700	0.062	
Mozambique	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.00	
Myanmar	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.01	
Namibia	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.01	
Nauru	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00	
Nepal	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.00	
Netherlands	10 017 600	9.107	10 017 600	7.42	
New Zealand	278 300	0.253	341 550	0.25	
Nicaragua	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.00	
Niger	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.00	
Nigeria	99 000	0.090	121 500	0.09	
Norway	3 000 000	2.727	3 000 000	2.22	
Oman	112 200	0.102	137 700	0.10	
Pakistan	93 500	0.085	114 750	0.08	
Palau	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00	
Panama	28 600	0.026	35 100	0.02	
Papua New Guinea	4 400	0.004	5 400	0.00	
Paraguay	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.01	
Peru	128 700	0.117	157 950	0.11	
Philippines	169 400	0.154	207 900	0.15	
Poland	1 013 100	0.921	1 243 350	0.92	
Portugal	521 400	0.474	639 900	0.47	
Qatar	229 900	0.209	282 150	0.20	
Republic of Korea	2 193 400	1.994	2 691 900	1.99	
Republic of Moldova	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.00	
Romania	248 600	0.226	305 100	0.22	
Russian Federation	2 681 800	2.438	3 291 300	2.43	
Rwanda	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.00	
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00	
Saint Lucia	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00	
Samoa	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00	
San Marino	3 300	0.001	4 050	0.00	
Sao Tome and Principe	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.00	
Saudi Arabia	950 400	0.864	1 166 400	0.86	
Senegal	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.00	
Serbia	44 000	0.000	54 000	0.00	

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	2014		2015	
-	United States dollars		United States dollars	
- 4	(budget: \$110		(budget: \$135	
Country <sup>a</sup>	million)	Percentage of budget	million)	Percentage of budget
Seychelles	1 200	0.001	1 350	0.001
Sierra Leone	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Singapore	422 400	0.384	518 400	0.384
Slovakia	188 100	0.171	230 850	0.171
Slovenia	110 000	0.100	135 000	0.100
Solomon Islands	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Somalia	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
South Africa	409 200	0.372	502 200	0.372
South Sudan	4 400	0.004	5 400	0.004
Spain	3 270 300	2.973	4 013 550	2.973
Sri Lanka	27 500	0.025	33 750	0.025
Sudan	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Suriname	4 400	0.004	5 400	0.004
Swaziland	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Sweden	4 882 142	4.438	4 882 142	3.616
Switzerland	4 358 546	3.962	4 358 546	3.229
Syrian Arab Republic	39 600	0.036	48 600	0.036
Tajikistan	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Thailand	262 900	0.239	322 650	0.239
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8 800	0.008	10 800	0.008
Timor-Leste	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Togo	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Tonga	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Trinidad and Tobago	48 400	0.044	59 400	0.044
Tunisia	39 600	0.036	48 600	0.036
Turkey	1 460 800	1.328	1 792 800	1.328
Turkmenistan	20 900	0.019	25 650	0.019
Tuvalu	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Uganda	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.006
Ukraine	108 900	0.099	133 650	0.099
United Arab Emirates	654 500	0.595	803 250	0.595
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5 696 900	5.179	6 991 650	5.179
United Republic of Tanzania	9 900	0.009	12 150	0.009
Uruguay	57 200	0.052	70 200	0.052
Uzbekistan	16 500	0.015	20 250	0.015
Vanuatu	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	689 700	0.627	846 450	0.627
Viet Nam	46 200	0.042	56 700	0.042
Yemen	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Zambia	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.006
Zimbabwe	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Total <sup>b</sup>	118 096 636	107.36	134 088 370	99.32

<sup>a</sup>The United States of America does not participate in the voluntary indicative scale of contributions.

<sup>b</sup>The total biennial voluntary indicative scale of contributions is 2.9 per cent higher than the approved budget to accommodate possible negative discrepancies between the scale and actual contributions.