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

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**United Nations Environment Assembly of the  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Third session**  
Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

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

**Note of the Executive Director\***

Summary

The present note, prepared with inputs from the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme and the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, elected at its third session, sets out the proposed plans and general expectations for the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including its high-level segment. The note is intended to assist delegations and observers in preparing for a successful fourth session of the Environment Assembly.

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\* UNEP/EA.3/INF/1: Issued without formal editing.

## I. Dates and duration

1. The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly will open at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 11 March 2019. The Assembly will address the theme, “Innovative Solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption & production”. The duration of the session will be five days. The session is expected to conclude at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 15 March 2019.
2. The Assembly will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives from Monday 4 March 2019 to Friday, 8 March 2019 (see also Section II, “Preparation of the Session”).
3. Meeting rooms will be allocated, upon request, to regional and political groups to facilitate their consultations, as necessary, on Sunday, 10 March, as well as outside the official hours of the plenary meetings of the UN Environment Assembly (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday) through Ms. Nadya Omar ([Nadya.omar@un.org](mailto:Nadya.omar@un.org)).
4. Journalists and media representatives will have a specific space in which to conduct interviews and other reporting activities. Journalists will be granted access to the open sessions, the high-level segment, side events and the multi-stakeholder dialogue.
5. The proceedings of the plenary meetings of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly, including the high-level segment, will be webcast on the internet to make it accessible to the broader public.
6. Detailed information on the fourth session, including with regard to documents and calendar of meetings and events is available at the official UN Environment Assembly website: <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/>, as well as at a Mobile Event App that will run on both the IOS and Android platforms.
7. A Meeting Notification by the Executive Director was made available to Member States with detailed information on registration for all participants and the process for submission of Member States’ credentials. The notification is available in all official languages at the Assembly website <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/documents/official-documents>
8. All plenary meetings of the Assembly will be conducted with interpretation services for all six official UN languages. Background documentation for the Assembly as well as in-session and post-session documents, including draft resolutions, will be made available electronically through the Assembly website and through a dedicated online resolutions platform.

## II. Preparation for the Session

9. Pursuant to the mandate given by Governing Council decision 27/2, the Committee of Permanent Representatives is engaged in the preparatory work for the fourth

session of the Environment Assembly. Preparations included the Fifth Annual sub-committee meeting of the Committee, which was held from 22 to 26 October 2018, and the fourth Open-ended meeting of the Committee, taking place from 4 March to 8 March 2019.

10. Preparations for the Open-ended meeting of the Committee have been undertaken by the Committee Bureau, in consultation with the UN Environment Assembly Bureau, including through regular joint meetings of two bureaux.
11. At the first plenary meeting of the UN Environment Assembly on Monday, 11 March 2019, the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will report to the Assembly on the work of the Committee, including with regard to the outcomes of the fourth Open Ended Meeting of the Committee. All documentation pertaining to the Committee of Permanent Representatives is available at the following link <https://www.unenvironment.org/cpr>

### **III. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

12. The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly will be opened by H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler, Minister of Environment, Estonia and President of the Assembly. At the first plenary meeting, the Assembly will hear opening statements by the President of the Assembly, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, a representative from the government of the host country, Kenya.
13. The opening statements will be pursued by adoption of the Assembly's provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.4/1), which has been prepared in consultation with the Bureaux of the Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. An annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.4/1Add.1) is also available in all official languages in the following website <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/documents/official-documents>
14. Following the adoption of the agenda, the President of the Assembly will invite Member States to consider the Assembly's organization of work.
15. Pursuant to rule 60 of the Rules of procedure, and on the basis of the report from the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Assembly may establish sessional committees, including a Committee of the Whole, to discuss substantive reports of the Executive Director and draft resolutions and decisions prepared in advance of the Assembly, and to consider other matters of importance. The Assembly may also establish other groups, such as a group of Friends of the President, as required.
16. On the basis of a report by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Assembly may take early action on draft resolutions and decisions at its first plenary meeting.

### **VI. Credentials Committee**

17. In accordance with rule 17 of the Rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives should be submitted to the Executive Director prior to the first

meeting of the session. Member States are invited to submit a copy of the credentials through the registration portal (<https://reg.unog.ch/event/26989/>), signed by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, preferably by Monday, 25 February 2019, two weeks ahead of the first plenary meeting of the Assembly, and to submit the original upon arrival at the meeting registration desk at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

18. The Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly will serve as the Credentials Committee and will present its report under agenda item 3 to the plenary of the fourth session of the Environment Assembly.

## **VII. Committee of the Whole**

19. The Committee of the Whole is expected to conduct its work under provisional agenda items 5 (International environmental policy and governance), 6 (Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues) and 10 (Provisional agenda and date of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly) commencing on the afternoon of Monday, 11 March, after the first meeting of the Plenary of the Assembly held in the morning of the same day and concluding on Wednesday, 13 March. The Committee is expected to report to the Assembly at its closing plenary session on Friday, 15 March 2019. The plenary meetings of the Committee will be conducted with interpretation services for all six official UN languages.
20. Pursuant to rule 62 of the Rules of procedure, the Assembly will elect a Chair and a Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole, on the basis of a recommendation by the Bureaux of the Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
21. To facilitate the work of the Committee, the Chair may propose that Member States take note of the information provided by the Executive Director under agenda items 5, 6 and 10 of the provisional agenda. All relevant reports pertaining to these agenda items are made available online, including through a dedicated resolution platform.
22. To ensure timely delivery of the work of the Committee of the Whole, the Committee may, if necessary, establish a limited number of drafting groups, with the aim to find agreement on any outstanding draft resolutions and decisions.
23. Pursuant to rule 70 of the Rules of procedure, Major Groups and Stakeholders will be allocated seats to observe the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole and may be invited to make interventions as appropriate, subject to permission granted by the Chair of the Committee.
24. At its plenary meeting on Wednesday 13 March 2019, the Committee of the Whole is expected to consider the conclusions from relevant working groups or other working parties, and where possible to approve draft resolutions or decisions for submission to the final plenary meeting of the Assembly on 15 March 2019.
25. The Committee of the Whole is expected to adopt a report for submission to the plenary of the Assembly.

## VIII. High-level segment

26. Pursuant to decision 27/2, paragraph 5, the Environment Assembly will hold a high-level segment on Thursday and Friday, 14 and 15 March 2019. It will include sessions for national statements as well as Leadership Dialogues, which will focus on the theme of the Assembly, “Innovative Solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”. In accordance with paragraph 5e of the decision, the high-level Segment will also include a multi-stakeholder dialogue.
27. Agenda items 7 (Stakeholder engagement), 8 (Contributions to meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development), 9 (High-level segment), 11 (Adoption of the outcomes of the session), 12 (Election of officers), 13 (Other matters) and 14 (Adoption of the report) will be considered during the High-Level Segment.

### Opening Ceremony of the high-level segment

28. The opening ceremony plenary of the high-level segment will begin on Thursday 14 March 2019 at 11:00 am. It will consist of statements from the President of the Environment Assembly, the Executive Director and a high-level representative of the Government of the host country Kenya. The opening plenary will be immediately followed by national statements from dignitaries representing Member States and international organizations followed by statements by Ministers of the Environment. (see below).
29. In the statement to the high-level segment of the Assembly, the Executive Director will highlight major policy matters and introduce the report on the theme of the Assembly, “Innovative Solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption & production.”

### National Statements

30. The national statements under the theme of the Assembly, “Innovative Solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”, will take place on Wednesday 13, Thursday 14 and Friday 15 March 2019. Statements will be open to representatives of member States and, in accordance with rules 68, 69 and 70 of the Rules of procedure of the Assembly, to representatives of States not members of the Assembly, including Specialized Agencies, United Nations bodies, other intergovernmental organizations and observers of international non-governmental organizations through the Major Groups and Stakeholders. Chairs of Regional Ministerial Fora that wish to address the Assembly will also be given the opportunity to do so. Although the high-level segment formally begins on 14 March, Heads of Delegation who arrive early will have the opportunity, to deliver their national statement already on 13 March 2019. Delegations are invited to inscribe through Mr. Yannis Derbali ([yannis.derbali@un.org](mailto:yannis.derbali@un.org)).

31. Heads of delegations will have the opportunity to continue making national statements immediately after the opening plenary of the High-Level Segment on 14 March 2019. These statements will take place in parallel to the leadership dialogues.
32. The list of speakers for the national statements will be prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with rule 35 of the Rules of procedure, taking into account the practices of the General Assembly. Attending Heads of State and/or Government as well as Heads of Royal Houses shall be accorded precedence.
33. Delegations are invited to inscribe on a list of speakers in advance of the Assembly. In doing so, they are also invited to indicate the preferred day of delivery of the statement, and the level of the representative who will deliver the statement. The list will remain open until Thursday 28 February 2019 and will be made available to all Member States by Friday 1 March 2019.
34. In accordance with rule 38, and to allow maximum participation of delegations, the President of the Assembly will recommend a time limit for statements amounting to three minutes per delegation, and exceptionally six minutes to representatives speaking on behalf of regional and political groups. Statements can be made in any of the six official languages of the United Nations.
35. Statements will be delivered from a lectern in Conference Room 2. They will be webcast, recorded and published on the official website of the Assembly. Pre-recorded as well as full written statements submitted by delegations will be made available electronically on the meeting website and referenced in the proceedings of the meeting.

### **Leadership Dialogues**

36. Following the official opening plenary of the High-Level Segment, three consecutive Leadership Dialogues will be held on Thursday 14 March (4.00 – 5.30 p.m.) and Friday 15 March (10.00-11.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.) in Conference Room 2, under the following themes: (i) Environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security and halting biodiversity loss (ii) Life-cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, chemicals and waste management and; (iii) Innovative sustainable business development at a time of rapid technological change.
37. Each dialogue will last about 90 minutes and will be organized as a high-level, interactive and moderated session. The meetings will be open to representatives of Member States and, in accordance with rules 68, 69 and 70 of the Rules of procedure of the Assembly, to representatives of States not members of the Assembly, Specialized Agencies, United Nations bodies, other intergovernmental organizations and Major Groups and Stakeholders. The Leadership Dialogues will be conducted with interpretation services for all six official UN languages, and they will be webcast.
38. The Secretariat will invite experienced moderators with prior experience in the field to conduct the sessions. Moderators will conduct the session from the floor. The

Dialogues will open with one or more short presentation(s) with the aim to introduce the theme of the dialogue to the audience.

39. Due to the limited time available and the call for interactive dialogues, there will be no list of speakers for the dialogues, and no formal panel discussions. Ministers and high-level participants are encouraged to signal their intention to intervene to the moderator before given the floor. The moderator will discourage formal statements, in order to promote an interactive dialogue.
40. The main outcomes and key messages from the Leadership Dialogues will be compiled by the Secretariat and presented in plenary on the afternoon of Friday 15 March 2019. Which will also contribute to agenda items 8 and 9.
41. The background document for each theme of the leadership dialogues is available in all official languages at the following website <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/theme-fourth-session-un-environment-assembly> . Any question regarding the organization of the leadership dialogue including for those delegations wishing to signal the intention a Minister of the Environment to participate in a preferred dialogue can be addressed to Mr. Alberto Pacheco ([Alberto.Pacheco@un.org](mailto:Alberto.Pacheco@un.org)).

### **Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue**

42. In pursuant of agenda item 7, on Thursday 14 March 2019 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue will be organized under the theme “Innovative solutions for Sustainable Consumption”. The dialogue will provide an opportunity for Major Groups and Stakeholders to engage in a dialogue with Government, present and discuss innovative solutions to achieve more sustainable consumption patterns, and share views and experiences relevant to the theme of the Assembly. It will also build on and complement the discussions in the Leadership Dialogues. The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue will be conducted with interpretation services for all six official UN languages, and it will be webcast.
43. The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue will be held as an interactive meeting. The dialogue will include a brief panel discussion in which participants drawn from non-governmental and governmental backgrounds will share their experiences and recommendations relating to the selected theme. Through their stories and messages, participants will help to foster a constructive dialogue and bring the theme of the Environment Assembly closer to the reality of people on the ground.
44. A background note on the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue, including guiding questions and names of the moderators and panellists will be distributed at least 4 weeks ahead of the Assembly. Any question regarding the organization of the multi-stakeholder dialogue including for those delegations wishing to signal the intention a Minister of the Environment to participate can be addressed to Mr. Alexander Juras ([Alexander.Juras@un.org](mailto:Alexander.Juras@un.org)).

### **Wrap-up Plenary Session**

45. A wrap-up plenary session will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on 15 March 2019. It is expected to consider key messages of the Leadership Dialogues and Multi-Stakeholders’ Dialogue and other selected events linked to the Assembly. The

Ministerial outcome document of the high-level segment, integrating key messages from Ministers of Environment, will be presented by the President of the Assembly for consideration. It will also conclude consideration of agenda items 7 (Stakeholder engagement), 8 (Contributions to meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development), 9 (High-level segment).

### **Closing plenary**

46. In pursuant of agenda items 11-14, the closing plenary session will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday 15 March, with the aim of considering the report of the Committee of the Whole adoption of outstanding draft resolutions and decisions as well as the Ministerial outcome document.

### **Election of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly**

47. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2, paragraph 6, the Bureau of the governing body of UN Environment Program will be "composed of 10 members to reflect the universality of the governing body, in accordance with equitable geographical distribution, and will perform the functions as set out in the Rules of procedure of the governing body." In line with UN Environment Assembly Decision 1/1, "each of the five regions shall be represented by two members in the 10-member Bureau of UN Environment Assembly."
48. Pursuant to rule 18 of the Rules of procedure, the fourth session of the Environment Assembly will, in accordance with the principle of regional rotation), elect the following officers of the Bureau during its final plenary meeting to be held on Friday 15 March: a President nominated by the Western Europe and Others Group, eight Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur nominated by the African Group.
49. Given the critical role played by the UN Environment Assembly Bureau in the conduct of business, it is important for the regional groups to nominate officers as early as possible. As soon as the officers have been nominated, the Secretariat will share the information with all Member States.

### **Dates and Agenda of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly**

50. At the closing plenary, the Assembly will also consider the provisional agenda and dates for its next session.

### **IX. Other events associated with the UN Environment Assembly**

51. A number of other associated events, including pre-session events, side events, media events and hospitality events will be organized by the UN Environment Programme, Member States and other organizations.
52. A meeting of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum will be held from Thursday 7 to Friday 8 March 2019. Organized by Major Groups and Stakeholders accredited to the UN Environment Programme, this multi-stakeholder Forum is open to the participation of accredited and non-accredited civil society organizations, and



Member States. The Forum will allow Major Groups and Stakeholders to coordinate their inputs to both, the Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (4 – 8 March 2019) and the Environment Assembly.

53. A Science, Policy and Business Forum will be held on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 March 2019. The forum is organized to engage all relevant stakeholders on innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.
54. Fourteen official side events have been selected by the Secretariat from a large number of applications in the basis of a set of selection criteria. The side event will take place on 11-15 March. All information on official side events <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/agenda-and-logistics>
55. The 2019 Sustainable Innovation Expo will take place from 10 to 15 March and will be located in a marquee in the Fountain Area of the UN compound. It will start with a reception on Sunday 10 March from 17:00 to 19:00 hrs, and the official opening of the Expo is on Monday 11 March at 9:00 am. The Expo will showcase the latest developments in science, innovation and technology to support the theme of the Assembly by focusing on eco-innovation and sustainable financing to tackle some of the planet's greatest challenges. All information regarding the Expo is available <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/sustainable-innovation-expo>
56. On 13 March 2019 (10.00 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.) an interactive discussion will be organized on the launch of three key publications of the UN Environment Programme; the sixth Global Environment Outlook, the 2019 Global Resources Outlook and the Global Chemicals Outlook.
57. From March 11 – 15, Major Groups and Stakeholders will organize activities in the “Green Tent”, a space dedicated for civil society organisations to meet, present initiatives, and hold trainings and events.
58. A full list of events is made available at the Assembly website. <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/agenda-and-logistics>

## **X. Engagement with general audiences and the digital community**

59. In the run-up to the Assembly, the Secretariat of the UN Environment Programme is leading a global campaign to #SolveDifferent. This campaign will focus on an informative and emotive approach to communicating the environmental cost of key consumption and production models.