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**United Nations
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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**

**Funding Implications of the Policy-Making Organs in the
context of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021**

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In its resolution A/RES/73/260 entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”, adopted on the 22nd of December 2018, the UN General Assembly expressed “concern about the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of the United Nations Environment Programme governing body, and requests the Secretary-General to make proposals, as appropriate”.

The purposes of this note is to Inform all delegations that subject to the approval by the Assembly of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021 and of the adoption of the decision to hold the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, the Executive Director will request to the Secretary General an increase of the allocation of the regular budget for the funding of the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies as part of the proposed annual budgets of 2020 and 2021.

* UNEP/EA.4/1/Rev.1. Issued without formal editing.

I. Funding Implications of the Policy-Making Organs in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021

1. In its resolution A/RES/73/260 entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”, adopted on the 22nd of December 2018, the UN General Assembly “expresses concern about the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of the United Nations Environment Programme governing body, and requests the Secretary-General to make proposals, as appropriate”.
2. This paragraph underlines the concern of the General Assembly regarding the gap in the funding of the United Nations Environment Assembly previously highlighted in the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly.
3. Since 2014, the resources provided by the regular budget have been insufficient to support the new governance of the United Nations Environment Assembly as adopted by the first session of the universal session of the Governing Council of UN Environment in its decision 27/2 which implemented paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document *The Future We Want*. The recurrent shortfall has been funded through extra-budgetary resources which are neither sustainable, predictable nor a stable source of funding.
4. Tables 1 & 2 illustrate, respectively, both expenditures from 2013 to 2017 and the planned allocations for UNEA-4 for 2019. It is important to note that both tables (1 & 2) below reflect UNEA Sessions excluding the costs associated with the Annual Subcommittees meetings that occur in the previous years. **[Tables continued in next page]**

Table 1. Previous UNEA Sessions Actual Expenditures in USD

Event	Expense Category	Regular Budget	Extra Budgetary	Total Expenses
2013-2014: Annual Subcommittee, UNEA-1 and Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR)	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 Costs		442,037	442,037
	IT and other Costs		173,861	173,861
	Events Total		783,671	2,534,138
2015-2016: Annual Subcommittee, UNEA-2 and Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR)	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 Costs		481,197	481,197
	IT and other Costs		45,030	45,030
	Events Total		910,624	2,306,227
2017 Annual Subcommittee, UNEA-3 * and Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR)	Conference Services	477,500	513,254	990,754
	Travel of Representatives of LDCs and DCs		468,347	468,347
	Travel of Representatives of Major Groups		119,027	119,027
	Communications Costs		461,600	461,600
	IT and other Costs		155,069	155,069
	Events Total		477,500	1,717,297

* Please note UNEA-3 was exceptionally held in 2017 for a duration of 3 days. The cost of the third session is therefore, not comparable with the other sessions, nor with the budget for the fourth session.

Table 2. UNEA 4 Planned Budget in 2019 Figures in USD

Event	Expense Category	Regular Budget	Extra Budgetary (Including Environment Fund)	Total Allocation/Planned
2019-UNEA4 & OECPR	Conference Services	1,050,100	545,600	1,595,700
	Travel LDCs & SIDs		591,320	591,320
	Travel DCs & Major Groups		277,680	277,680
	ICT Services		193,800	193,800
	Security & Medical Services		129,600	129,600
	Staff Overtime & Hospitality	87,000	-	87,000
	Communications Costs		500,000	500,000
	Event Total		1,137,100	2,238,000

NB: The planned costs for UNEA 4 excludes the Annual Sub-Committee costs that took place in 2018 (even years)

5. For this reason, the Secretariat in its request to the Secretary General for the proposed annual budgets of 2020 and 2021, will request an increase of the allocation of the regular budget for the funding of Assembly and its subsidiary bodies. Table 3 below provides the funding requirement as intended to be proposed for both UN Office in Nairobi (Section 2) and the United Nations Environment Programme (Section 14). In total, the additional resource requirements are in the amount of \$8,800.00 for 2020 and all even numbered years thereafter and the amount of \$410,000 for 2021 and all odd numbered years thereafter under section 14, Environment, would arise under the Programme of Work budgets for the biennium 2020-2021. However, for the purpose of the annual Regular Budget, the proposals will be formulated separately in 2020 and 2021.

II. Recommendations and suggested actions

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 proposal to the attention of the UN Environment Assembly, guardian of the implementation of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 Declaration and the Governing Council 27/2 which created the UN Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies (Open-ended Committee of the Permanent Representative, annual subcommittee, quarterly Committee of Permanent Representative).

7. It would be therefore recommended that in the decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly the Assembly invites the UN General Assembly to increase the resources from the Regular Budget for the funding of the UN Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to ensure its sustainability, predictability and stability.
