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

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

Nairobi (online), 22–26 February 2021\*  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*\*

**International environmental policy and  
governance issues**

**Progress in the implementation of decision 4/1 on the  
programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021,  
resolution 2/20 on the proposed medium-term strategy for  
2018–2021 and the programme of work and budget for  
2018–2019 and resolution 1/15 on the proposed programme of  
work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017**

**Report of the Executive Director**

**Introduction**

1. In its decision 4/1 on the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue to report to Member States through the meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and to the Environment Assembly at its biennial sessions, on evaluation findings and the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations.
2. In decision 4/1, the Executive Director was also requested to submit, for consideration and approval by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and building on lessons learned from previous periods, a results-oriented and streamlined medium-term strategy and programme of work in line with General Assembly resolution 72/266 on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations.
3. In both resolution 2/20, on the proposed medium-term strategy for 2018–2021 and the programme of work and budget for 2018–2019, and resolution 1/15, on the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017, the Environment Assembly had previously requested

\* In accordance with the decisions taken at the meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly held on 8 October 2020 and at the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 1 December 2020, the fifth session of the Assembly is expected to adjourn on 23 February 2021 and resume as an in-person meeting in February 2022.

\*\* UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.1.

the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a yearly basis, and to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its biennial sessions on evaluation findings and the progress made with regard to the performance of each subprogramme and its expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations.

4. In response to the above requests, the present report summarizes the relevant progress made. Further information is contained in the annual UNEP programme performance reports cited below.

## **I. Progress in the implementation of decision 4/1, resolution 2/20 and resolution 1/15**

5. Through the presentation of periodic reviews of the performance of its programmes of work, UNEP, pursuant to the requests made by the Environment Assembly in its resolutions 1/15 and 2/20 and its decision 4/1, has consistently reported to Member States through the meetings of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its biennial sessions, on evaluation findings and the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations. The information reported is available in the relevant UNEP programme performance reports.<sup>1</sup>

6. Following extensive consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Executive Director has submitted a medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 (UNEP/EA.5/3) and an accompanying programme of work and budget covering the first biennium, 2022–2023 (UNEP/EA.5/3/Add.1) for consideration and approval by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session. The medium-term strategy builds on lessons learned from past programming cycles, incorporating these as appropriate. In line with General Assembly resolution 72/266 on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations, the medium-term strategy, together with the accompanying programme of work and budget, is a results-oriented, streamlined document that shows the expected programmatic accomplishments of UNEP for the quadrennium 2022–2025, supported by the organization's executive leadership, policy-setting and programme management and support role.

## **II. Recommendation and suggested action**

7. The Environment Assembly may wish to take note of the present report and provide further guidance as appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP programme performance reports can be accessed through <https://wedocs.unep.org/>.