



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

**Annual subcommittee meeting of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment
Programme**

Seventh meeting

Nairobi, 12-16 October 2020

Online

1.00 pm – 6.00 pm (GMT+3)

**Agenda Item 4: Consideration of a draft UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025
and Programme of Work 2022-2023**

This note, entitled “Report on Results of “Online Survey on UNEP Funding”, serves as one of four supporting documents for agenda item 4, “Consideration of a draft UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 and Programme of Work 2022-2023.”

The Secretariat has carried out an online survey on UNEP’s funding during July and August 2020, providing representatives from all 193 UNEP Member States an opportunity to take the survey anonymously. The purpose of the survey was to explore the reasons and issues that encourage or prevent Member States from contributing to UNEP - and what information and actions would make investing in UNEP more attractive.

The survey emanated from a request by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and is part of the wider dialogue between the Secretariat and Member States on UNEP’s funding.

The present report provides both a summary and a more detailed analysis of the results of the online survey. The full survey questionnaire is annexed to this report.

This report serves as one of the background documents in support of consideration of the draft Medium Term Strategy under agenda item 4 of the 7th meeting of the annual subcommittee.

Report on Results of “Online Survey on UNEP Funding”

1. Background

The Secretariat carried out an online survey on UNEP’s funding during July and August 2020, providing representatives from all 193 UNEP Member States an opportunity to take the survey anonymously in English, French or Spanish. The purpose of the survey was to explore the reasons and issues that encourage or prevent Member States from contributing to UNEP and what information and actions would make investing in UNEP more attractive. The survey emanated from a request by the CPR¹ and is part of the dialogue between the Secretariat and Member States on UNEP’s funding, which intensified in 2019.

This report provides the results of the survey, which offer valuable information on further actions that the Secretariat and the Member States need to take to address the challenges and opportunities related to UNEP’s funding. The survey also informs the Action Plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, “The future we want” and most notably paragraph 88b, on providing secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to UNEP. The results of the survey have also informed the Programme of Work and Budget (2022-2023), most notably on resource mobilization.

The survey consisted of 27 questions (see Annex 1 for details), structured around seven key areas: UNEP’s strengths; the Environment Fund; the Fair Share/VISC (Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions); Earmarked funds; information available on UNEP’s funding; information on respondents themselves; and contributions to UNEP from their government. Many of the statements and arguments mentioned in the survey originated from the previous discussions held between Member States and the Secretariat and were thus tested with a wider group of Member States.

2. Summary of results

There was a good turn-out of responses for the survey – **80 respondents from all UN regional groups** took their time to respond to the questions, and also provided more detailed responses to the open-ended questions.

The majority of the respondents work at the Ministry of Environment or equivalent (67%) and 15% worked at an Embassy in Nairobi. Regarding funding of UNEP, 60% said their governments had provided funding to the Environment Fund in 2019, while 35% said they had provided earmarked funding in 2019.

When asked to choose approaches that would be helpful for the Secretariat when engaging Member States in a discussion about funding, a large part of the respondents (63%) chose **a survey such as this one as a good tool**. Meetings with individual representatives of Member States were chosen by 63%, and meetings with Regional and Political groups were chosen by 59% of respondents.

The Survey revealed a wide **agreement** with the statements that describe **UNEP’s strengths/comparative advantages in line with its mandate**. Almost all (95% or more) agree that UNEP is

¹ [CPR subcommittee on 23rd of January 2020](#), where Member States suggested a questionnaire to get a clear view of the funding issue as part of the implementation of Para 88b of the outcome document of Rio+20, “The Future We Want”.

the leading global authority on the environment and has the global convening power to bring all environmental stakeholders together; as well as that UNEP provides strong science-policy data and solutions to its Member States and is good at raising awareness about critical environmental issues.

Regarding the **Environment Fund and how to increase its funding**, there is a wide consensus among respondents that most of the approaches proposed are important in order to attract funding to the Environment Fund. For example, all respondents agree that it is important to provide more information on results achieved with the Environment Fund funding, how funds are allocated, and which activities they fund (74% said it is very important).

A large majority of respondents (85%) agree that the **'fair share'/VISC (Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions) is a useful tool** to encourage Member States to contribute to the Environment Fund, and that it is "fair" because it shares the responsibility for UNEP's funding across all Member States (82%) and because it considers each country's situation individually (72%). 43% feel that the tool is not fair in their particular case because it doesn't consider the latest economic situation of their country. 67% agreed that every Member State should contribute their 'fair share'/VISC. Many (51%) agree that the basis of the tool could be better explained.

A majority of respondents believe that **the tools and products** the Secretariat uses **to increase the visibility and recognition of contributors** to the Environment Fund **are important**. For example, over 89% of respondents believe that articles on UNEP's website about a Member State and the work it does on environmental challenges nationally and globally is an important tool, and over 40% believe it is very important.

Regarding earmarked funding, the two **most important arguments for providing earmarked funds**, according to the respondents, are the possibility to demonstrate that a Government has supported a specific environmental cause (91% said it was important); and the possibility to fund programmes that were directly aligned with Government priorities (90% said important).

Almost all respondents (96%) believe that creating thematic funds would be an important approach in order to **increase softly earmarked funds rather than tightly earmarked funds**, as would providing more information on the benefits of softly earmarked funding vis-a-vis tightly earmarked funding. Over 82% think that charging a lower percentage of programme support costs to softly earmarked contributions would also be an important strategy.

A majority of respondents think that the **information products and tools on UNEP's funding** provided by the Secretariat **are helpful**. For example, 92% said that the UNEP website was helpful, 81% said the Programme Performance Report was helpful, and 86% said the monthly Environment Fund report (shared by email) was helpful.

On the question about the **effects of COVID-19 on government priorities and spending**, it was encouraging to note that the majority (66%) of respondents believed that it was likely (29% said very likely) that their Government would think that investing in the global environment is more important than before. Furthermore, 13% think that it is likely their Government will increase their funding of UNEP, 66% believe that their Government would maintain its funding to UNEP (32% thought it very likely), while 12% of respondents think their funding would decrease.

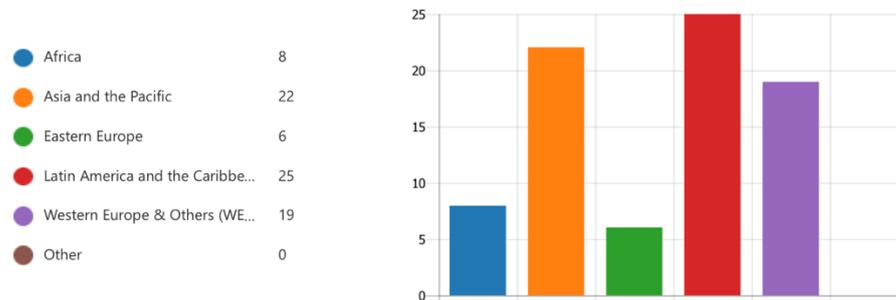
3. Detailed responses to survey questions

a. The respondents

The survey received 80 individual responses, from all UN regional groups as detailed by Question 2:

2. The member State you represent belongs to the following UN regional group:

[More Details](#)



The majority of the respondents (67%) work at the Ministry of Environment or equivalent, the second largest group consist of Member State representatives working at an Embassy in Nairobi (15%) followed by respondents working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (9%) and an Embassy outside Nairobi (2%). (The rest specified 'other'.)

The respondents represented both Member States that provided/did not provide funding to UNEP in 2019, as detailed by questions 21, 22 and 25 (see part 3.h. of this report).

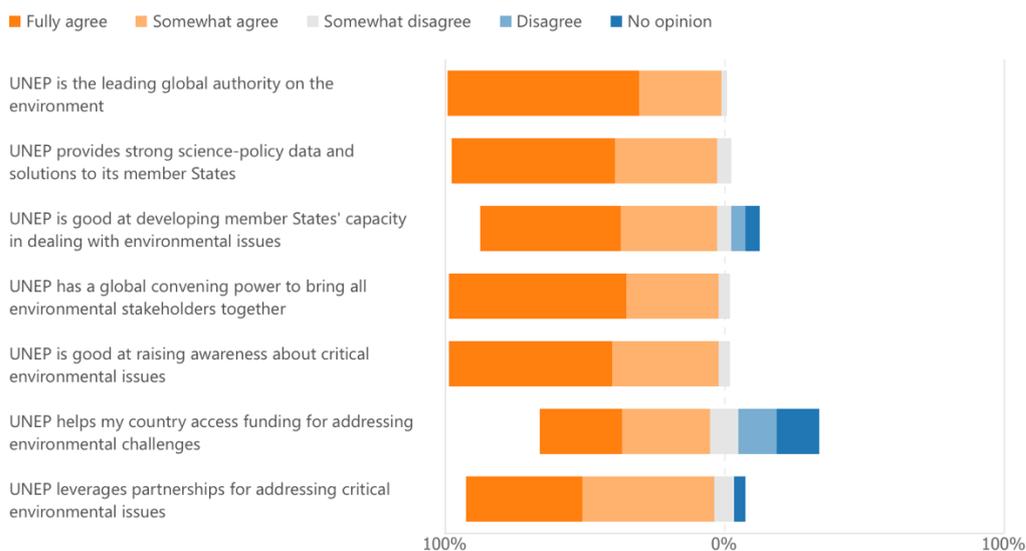
b. Strengths and comparative advantages of UNEP

The survey sought the views of respondents on a series of statements about UNEP's strengths and comparative advantages vis à vis other environmental actors. These strengths have been identified, among other things, based on the mandate of UNEP; and on previous discussions held with Member States.

The majority of respondents agreed with the statements (see also results table on Question 3 below):

- 97.5% agree (68.4% fully agree) that UNEP is the **leading global authority on the environment**;
- 95% agree (58.2% fully agree) that UNEP **provides strong science-policy data and solutions** to its Member States;
- 85% agree (50% fully agree) that UNEP is good at **developing member States' capacity** in dealing with environmental matters;
- over 96% agree (63% fully agree) that UNEP has a **global convening power to bring all environmental stakeholders together**;
- over 96% agree (58% fully agree) that UNEP is **good at raising awareness about critical environmental issues**;
- over 60% agree (21% fully agree) that UNEP helps their country **access funding** for addressing environmental challenges;
- and over 88% agree (42% fully agree) that **UNEP leverages partnerships** for addressing critical environmental issues.

3. Could you kindly give your opinion on the below statements on UNEP's strengths:



In addition to the above-mentioned strengths, respondents highlighted: engagement with Multilateral Environmental Agreements; support in South-South cooperation and regional cooperation; the great potential to provide a holistic view of environmental concerns; the identification of new and critical challenges; and the recent success to raise the visibility of the environmental agenda in the context of UN Reform.

Respondents also highlighted what they perceived as weaknesses and challenges, such as: low visibility of UNEP and what it does, both in general and at country level; that the wider UN often gets ‘credit’ for UNEP’s assessments as media speaks of ‘UN reports’; limited resources and therefore limited impact; and the question on country/regional presence. Regarding the latter, there were widely differing views among respondents on whether UNEP should strive for physical office presence in countries or not.

c. Environment Fund

This section of the survey sought guidance on how to increase funding to UNEP’s Environment Fund, and how to encourage more Member States to contribute.

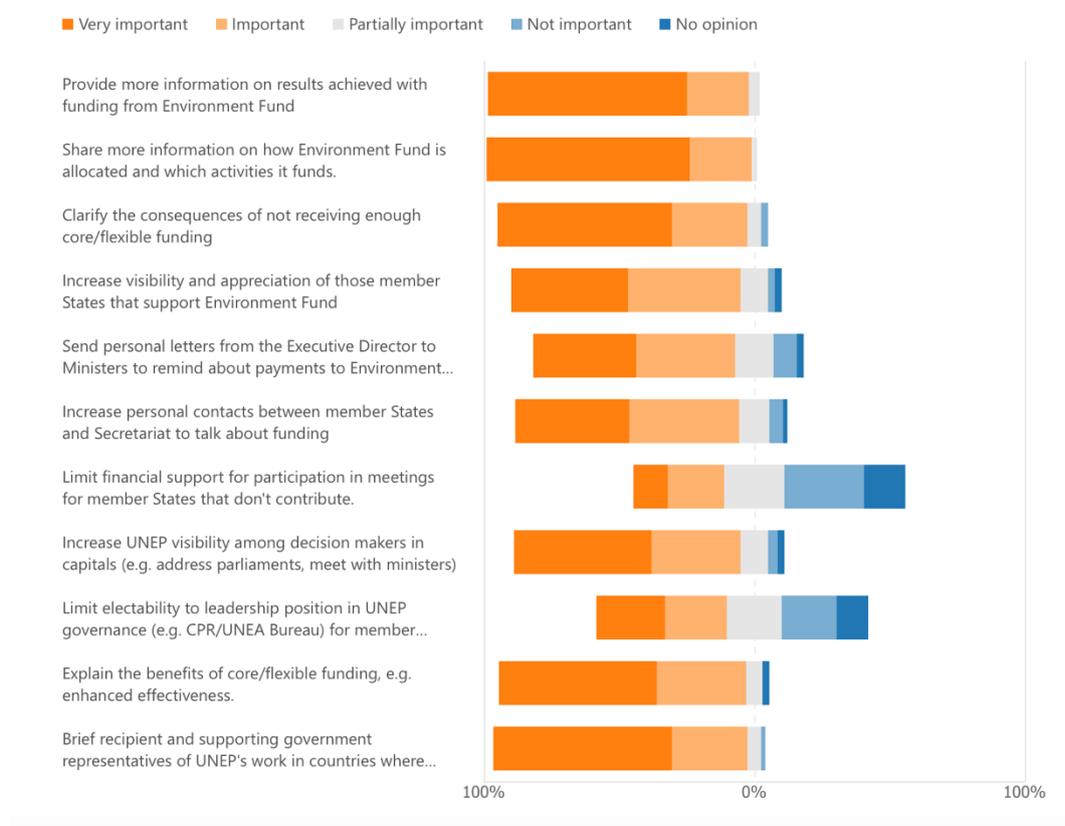
As can be seen in the table below on Question 5, there seems to be consensus among respondents that most of the approaches mentioned in the survey relating to: increasing information sharing on the Environment Fund and its results; the importance of core funding; and improving visibility of contributors, etc. are important in order to attract funding to the Environment Fund. For example, all respondents agree that it is important to provide more information on results achieved with Environment Fund, how funds are allocated, and which activities they fund (74% say it is very important).

Most of the approaches/strategies presented in Question 5 are already part of the Resource Mobilization Strategy undertaken by the Secretariat.

The survey also tested two ideas that had been put forward by the Member States themselves in various discussions on funding in 2019 and earlier in 2020. These seemed to divide the opinion of the Member States more than the other approaches for which input was sought, and would merit a discussion between Member States if they were to be further pursued:

- The idea of limiting financial support for participation in meetings for Member States that do not contribute to the Environment Fund – 57% of respondents say that it is important, while 29% say it is not important.
- The idea to limit electability to leadership positions in UNEP governance (e.g. CPR, UNEA Bureau) for Member States that do not contribute to the Environment Fund – 68% of respondents say that it is important, and 20% of respondents say that it is not important.

5. To attract funding to the Environment Fund, how important are the below approaches/strategies?



(For full text on response options please see Annex 1)

Additional approaches and strategies in order to attract more funding to the Environment Fund (as proposed by the survey respondents) include: increasing the visibility of UNEP in countries – also at the level of the public; work with Member States to automate payments; talk directly to the Ministry deciding on allocations (often Ministry of Finance); find donors for "streams of work" in Programme of Work through Environment Fund (rather than them earmarking to programmes); understand and communicate more on what UNEP does to address Member States' priorities (i.e. what can UNEP do for you?); explain what more could be done with more core resources; communicate how (small) contributions of more Member States can help keep the others on board (universal responsibility); and consider visibility and recognition also to middle and low income countries that provide funds to the Environment Fund.

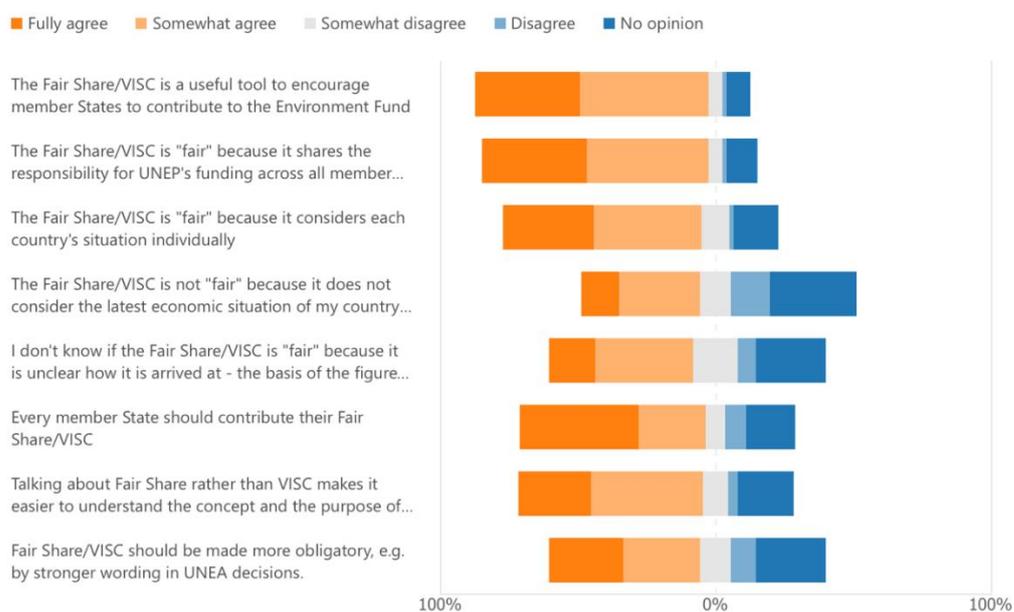
d. Fair share – Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC)

This section asked questions about the ‘fair share’/VISC as a tool, how it could be improved, and how to increase the number of Member States contributing at their ‘fair share’/VISC level. As an introduction to this section, respondents were informed that the VISC was established by the Member States themselves in 2002 to improve the predictability of funding to the Environment Fund, and to broaden the base of contributing Member States.

The large majority of respondents (85%) agreed that the ‘fair share’/VISC is a useful tool to encourage Member States to contribute to the Environment Fund, and that it is “fair” because it shares the responsibility for UNEP’s funding across all Member States (82%) and because it considers each country’s situation individually (72%). 67% agree that every Member State should contribute their ‘fair share’/VISC. Furthermore, 67% agreed that the Secretariat’s recent efforts to increasingly talk about the ‘fair share’ rather than VISC made it easier to understand the concept and the purpose of the tool.

54% agree that the ‘fair share’/VISC should be made more obligatory by for example stronger wording in UNEA decisions, while 20% of respondents disagree with this, and 25% didn’t have an opinion on the matter. Nevertheless, 43% agreed that the tool was not fair in their particular case because it didn’t consider the latest economic situation of their country, and a further 52% agreed that it was unclear how the scale was calculated and that the basis of the figure should be better explained by the Secretariat.

8. Please rate the following statements about the Fair Share/VISC according to your opinion:



(For full text on response options please see Annex 1)

In response to Question 9: “Please provide any other views you may have on the Fair Share/VISC, for example if you believe it is ‘fair’ or not and why, how the tool could be improved etc.” respondents provided further details.

It is clear that there is a need to better explain the background to VISC and how it is calculated. At the same time, some respondents noted that it was more important to focus on the principles that support the VISC, e.g. that the universal membership of UNEP carries a universal responsibility, rather than

on the technicalities of its calculation. There were also some comments that while the use of ‘fair share’ clarified the tool, there should be caution in the use of ‘fair’, as this could be understood differently by different people. Several respondents argued for making the VISC more obligatory in line with the UN assessed scale, while others said this should only be the case if also so called softly earmarked funds that a Member State provides to UNEP would be counted towards their ‘fair share’/VISC. Finally, some opposed the use of prior years’ high contributions as a basis for calculating a country’s future VISC.

e. Public recognition for contributors

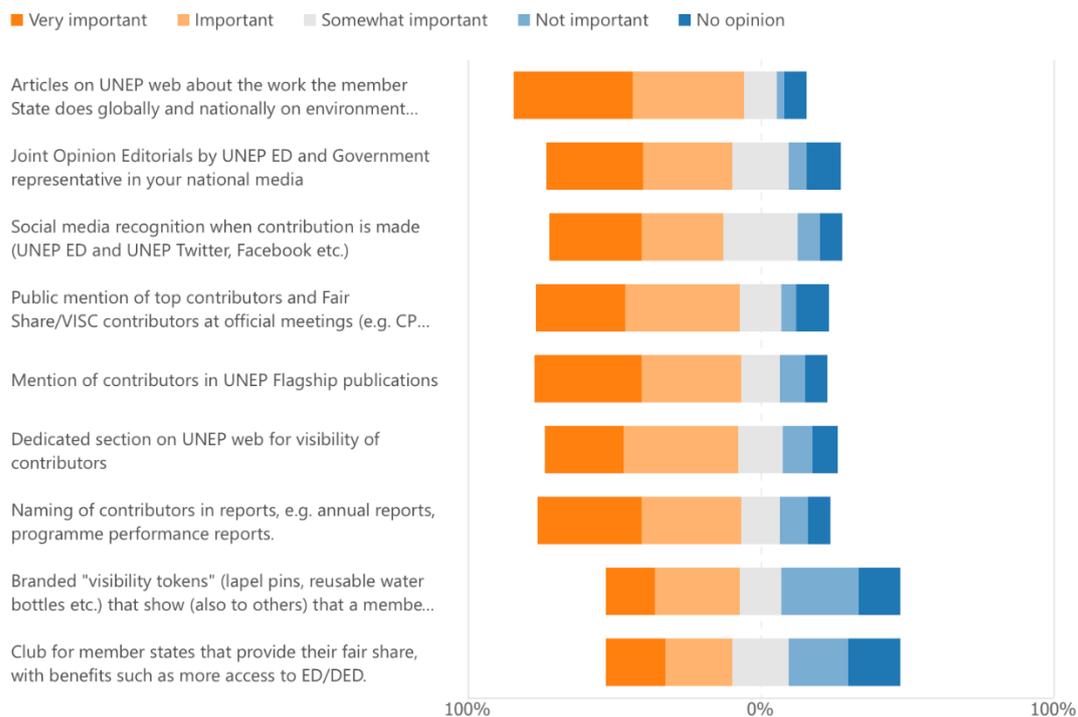
In the last two years, the Secretariat has increased its communication and outreach efforts to provide more acknowledgement and visibility to top-15 contributors and those that contribute their ‘fair share’/VISC; and to also increase the level of knowledge about UNEP and its strengths, and the funding challenges and opportunities.

In Question 10 (see below table), respondents were asked to rate several proposed tools/products and their importance in increasing the public recognition of contributors. According to the respondents, the work the Secretariat is already doing² to increase the public recognition is important.

It is interesting to note that respondents do not think that only visibility for their financial contributions is important. Although for example social media recognition from UNEP when a contribution is made is deemed important (84%), and 31% said it was very important, the most important tool in this table according to respondents is articles on the web about the work a Member State does globally and nationally on environmental issues. Over 89% of respondents believe this is an important tool, and over 40% believe it is very important.

² To clarify, the Secretariat has already rolled out the first four points/tools presented and is in the process to see how points 5-7 can be implemented. However, the ideas proposed in point 8 and 9 are direct suggestions from Member States emanating from previous discussions on funding, and this survey provided an opportunity to test these ideas with a wider group of Member States.

10. UNEP is increasing its public recognition of member States, in particular those who provide funding to the Environment Fund at their Fair Share/VISC and/or are the top-15 contributors. How important are the below products and tools for visibility and appreciation?



(For full text on response options please see Annex 1)

On Question 11, *Please share any other ideas you may have to increase public recognition of the Funding Partners*, the importance of recognition in conjunction with the key 'core' flagship products, as well as major meetings (in particular UNEA), and receptions was reinforced. Some other respondents questioned whether it would not be better to consider ways to convince Finance Ministries on the importance of contributing to UNEP rather than providing public visibility. Some cautioned against alienating representatives from Member States that did not, for one reason or another, contribute funds to UNEP.

f. Earmarked funding

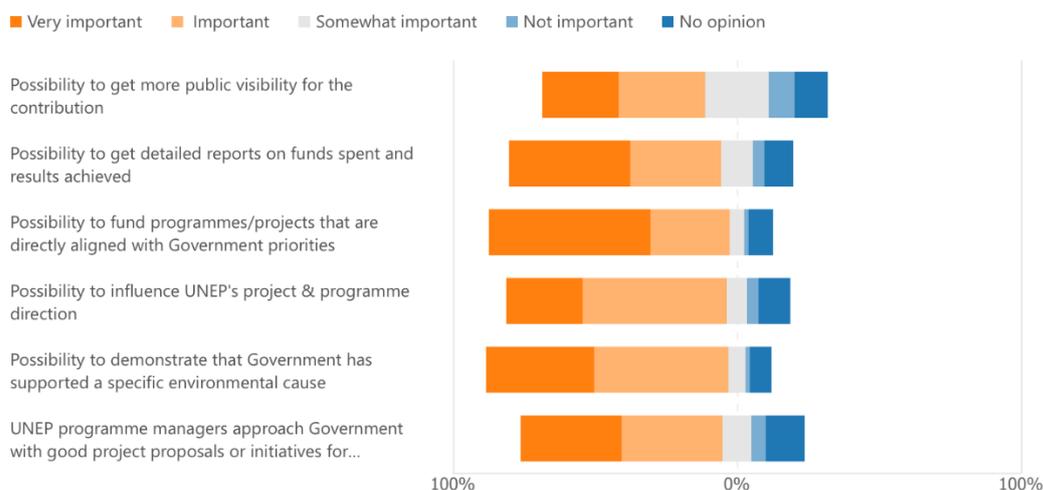
In this section, the Secretariat wanted to better understand the reasons behind why Member States choose to provide earmarked funding, and how to encourage more softly earmarking.

The two most important arguments for providing earmarked funds, according to the respondents, were the possibility to demonstrate that a Government has supported a specific environmental cause (91% said it was important, and 38% said it was very important); and the possibility to fund programmes that were directly aligned with Government priorities (90% said important, 57% very important).

84% of respondents said that the possibility to influence UNEP's project and programme direction was important (27% very important) – while at the same time, 66% of respondents in Question 14

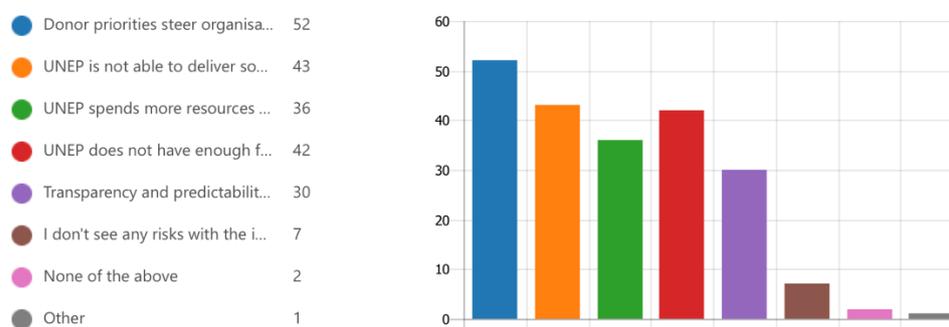
(see below) highlighted a risk with earmarked funding being that donor priorities steer the organization, rather than the programme agreed by all Member States.

12. How important are the below arguments when decision is made to provide earmarked funding to UNEP, rather than core funding?



(For full text on response options please see Annex 1)

14. Which risks do you see with the imbalance of funding, i.e. high rate of earmarked funding and not enough core funding? (check all that apply)



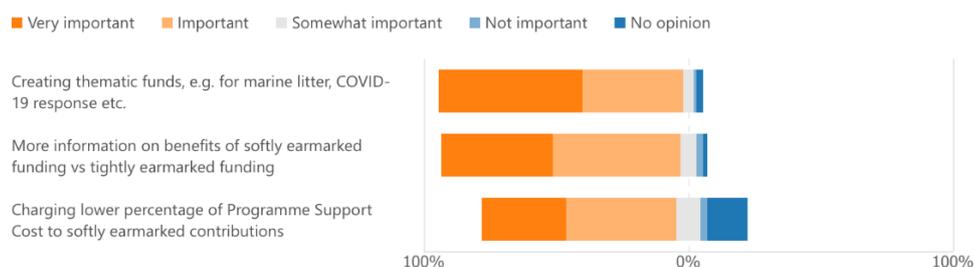
(For full text on response options please see Annex 1)

Questions 13, 15 and 16 sought the guidance from respondents on how the Secretariat could encourage Member States to shift an increasing part of the earmarked funding to “softly” earmarked funding instead. As you can see below (Question 15), a vast majority (96%) of respondents believed that creating thematic funds would be an important strategy to achieve this, as would providing more information on the benefits of softly earmarked funding vs tightly earmarked funding. Charging a lower percentage of programme support costs to softly earmarked contributions also got many votes, over 82% thought it and important strategy (over 31% said very important).

Other suggestions put forward by the respondents included having softly earmarked contributions count towards a Member State’s ‘fair share’/VISC contribution – this suggestion was a popular one among the respondents. UNEP’s engagement with Banks and other financial institutions was highlighted as a positive development, and related to this, UNEP was encouraged to explore softly earmarked funding streams from them.

As a general point it was noted that since all Member States will have their own specific reasons to provide earmarked funding, it may be important to discuss, on a case by case basis, on which conditions the intended contribution can be more softly earmarked. The thinking is that if the motivation is known, there may be different ways of achieving the objective while at the same time allowing less strict earmarking.

15. UNEP would like to see an increasing part of the earmarked funding be shifted to 'softly' earmarked funding, i.e. funding with less restrictions on use. Which of the below strategies would be important to achieve that?

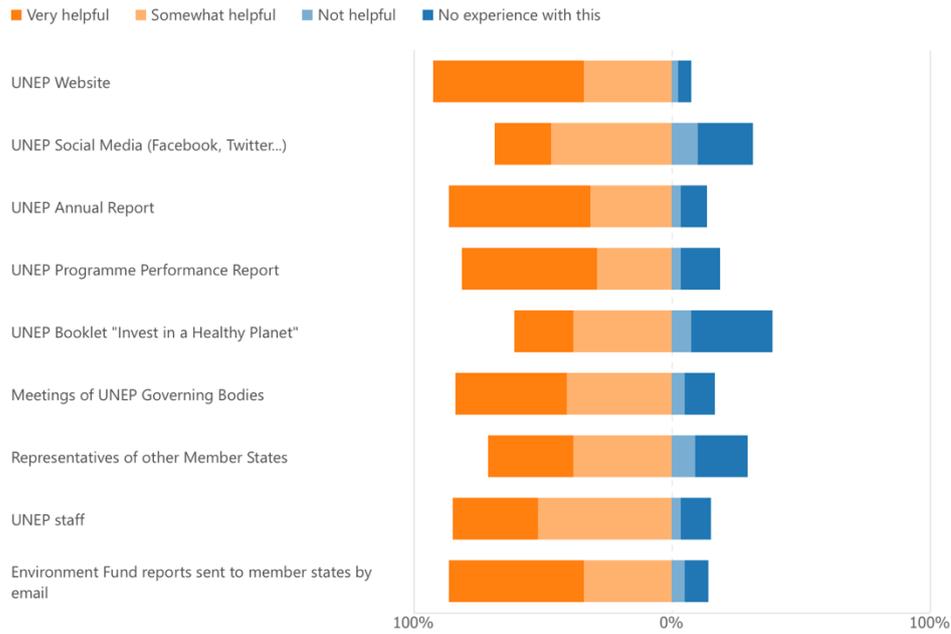


g. Availability of information on UNEP’s funding

To support decision-making on whether or not to provide financial support to UNEP, it is important to have information available on UNEP's funding needs and opportunities - and why UNEP is a good investment. This section of the survey asked the respondents to consider how helpful they found the existing sources of information, and how to continue the dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat on the funding of UNEP.

All of the current sources of information presented were deemed helpful by the respondents, which is encouraging for the Secretariat. For example, 92% said that the UNEP website was helpful (57% said very helpful), 81% said the Programme Performance Report was helpful, and 86% said the monthly Environment Fund report (shared by email) was helpful (51% said very helpful). Requests for additional information included more technical and financial reports, and information on how the ‘fair share’/VISC was calculated.

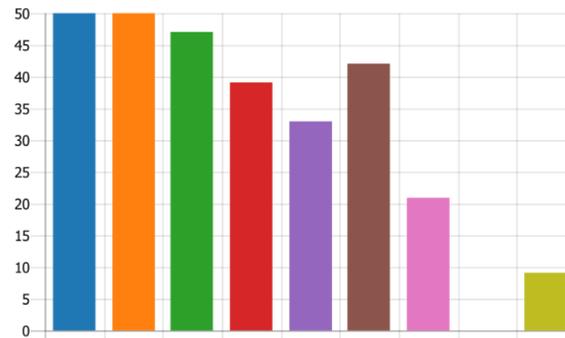
17. How helpful are the below sources when you are looking for information about UNEP and its funding?



On the question how to continue the dialogue on funding, respondents were asked to choose which among the suggested approaches that would be helpful. 63% thought that surveys such as this one was a helpful tool, as was meetings with individual representatives of Member States (also 63%). Meetings with Regional and Political groups were important according to 59% of respondents, and events at UNEA placed fourth with 53% of respondents believing they would be helpful.

19. The UNEP Secretariat would like to engage more with Member States to discuss the challenges and solutions to UNEP's funding situation. Which of the following approaches would be helpful? (check all that apply)

- Surveys like this one 50
- Individual meetings with repre... 50
- Meetings with Regional and P... 47
- Meetings of the Committee of... 39
- Targeted information campaig... 33
- Events at UN Environment Ass... 42
- Pledging conference in Nairobi 21
- None of the above 0
- Other 9



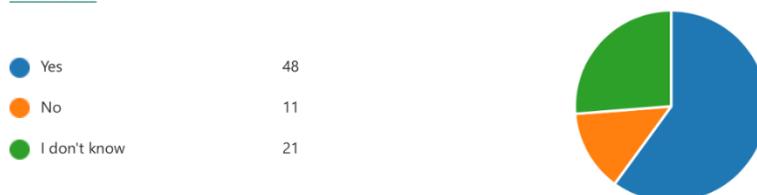
(For full text on response options please see Annex 1)

h. Contributions of Member States to Environment Fund and earmarked funding

The survey asked respondents if their Governments had provided funding to the Environment Fund in 2019, and if yes, if they had provided their 'fair share'/VISC. Of the respondents, 48 (60%) had provided funding to the Environment Fund, and out of these, 23 had contributed their Fair Share/VISC. Questions 23 and 24 sought more information about why a Government had not provided funding to the Environment Fund, and if they had, why they did not contribute their Fair Share/VISC. Responses included budgetary issues, lack of financial resources, the political situation in the country, and not having enough influence over Ministry of Finance. Some stated that they believed that by providing also earmarked resources they were providing enough funding in total.

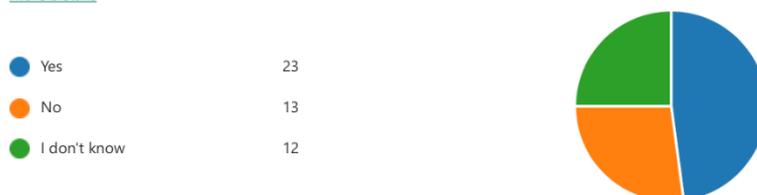
21. Did your government contribute funds to UNEP's Environment Fund in 2019?

[More Details](#)



22. If 'yes', did your Government contribute its Fair Share/VISC

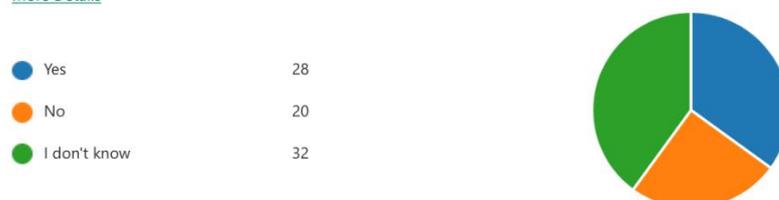
[More Details](#)



Moving on to earmarked funds, Question 25 asked respondents if their Government had provided earmarked funding to UNEP in 2019. 28 respondents (35%) said they had, 20 said they had not, while 32 respondents (40%) were not sure.

25. Did your Government provide Earmarked funding to UNEP in 2019?

[More Details](#)

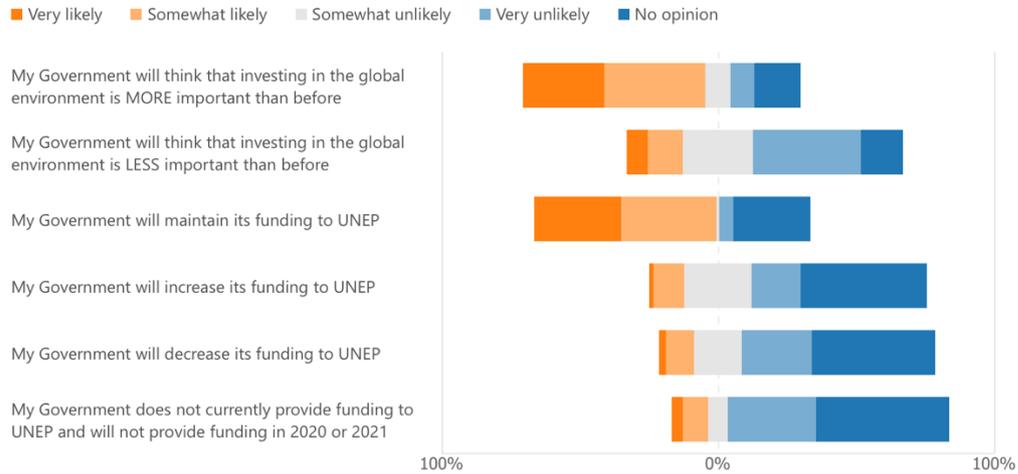


i. Possible effects of COVID-19 on funding for environment and for UNEP

Question 26 of the survey (see below), asked respondents to rate statements about the effects of COVID-19 on government priorities and spending. It was encouraging to note that 66% of

respondents believed that it was likely (29% said very likely) that their Government would think that investing in the global environment would be more important. Furthermore, 66% believed that it was likely that their Government would maintain its funding to UNEP (32% thought it very likely). 12% of respondents thought it likely they would decrease their funding, while 13% thought it likely they would increase their funding of UNEP.

26. COVID-19 might have an effect on Government policies and spending. How likely are the following statements:



Annex 1: Full Questionnaire Submitted to Member States as Online Survey

Survey on funding for UNEP

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the interlinkages between human health and the health of the planet very clear. It has also confirmed that the work on restoration of lost ecosystems and biodiversity; fight against climate change; reduction of pollution including from chemicals and waste; and addressing illegal wildlife trade, amongst other things, must continue if we are to avoid future pandemics. UNEP's mandate and work firmly sit at the heart of these issues and we stand by nations to build back a healthier planet.

It is, therefore, more important than ever to ensure that UNEP has the resources needed to deliver our programme. For this, we rely on our Member States and other partners to provide 95% of our funding on a voluntary basis. We are especially looking to Member States, as the owners of the organisation, to lead the way in resolving the challenges identified and (1) improve the ratio between core and earmarked funding, (2) broaden the funding base, especially increase the number of Member States that contribute and (3) move from tightly earmarked towards softly earmarked funding.

In continuation of the dialogue between the UNEP Secretariat and the Member States started in 2019, this survey further explores UNEP's funding challenges and possible solutions. We sincerely thank you in advance for investing your time in answering these questions, which is even more important than before in the face of the current crisis and its economic implications.

This survey contains 7 sections with up to 27 questions and will take approximately 30 minutes to respond. The responses will remain anonymous, and we will share the compiled results of this survey with all member States.

Part 1: Questions about you

First, a few questions about you so that we can better understand how member State representatives from various duty stations and regions view UNEP and our funding.

1. You are a representative of your government and deal with UNEP related matters:
 - at an Embassy in Nairobi
 - at an Embassy in New York
 - at an Embassy accredited to UNEP in a location other than Nairobi or New York
 - at the Ministry of Environment or related in my capital
 - at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or related in my capital
 - I do not deal with UNEP matters but work for my Government in a mission
 - I do not deal with UNEP matters but work for my Government in my capital
 - I work for an entity other than my Government
 - Other

2. The member State you represent belongs to the following UN regional group:
 - Africa
 - Asia and the Pacific
 - Eastern Europe
 - Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)
 - Western Europe & Others (WEOG)
 - Other

Part 2: Your views on UNEP

UNEP is the leading global authority on the environment. Since 1972, UNEP's ambition is to inform, enable and inspire nations and peoples to improve their quality of life – without compromising that of future generations.

In this section we would like to find out whether you agree with what UNEP has identified as its comparative advantages vis à vis other actors in the field of environment.

3. Could you kindly give your opinion on the below statements on UNEP's strengths:

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	No opinion
UNEP is the leading global authority on the environment					
UNEP provides strong science-policy data and solutions to its member States					
UNEP is good at developing member States' capacity in dealing with environmental issues					
UNEP has a global convening power to bring all environmental stakeholders together					
UNEP is good at raising awareness about critical environmental issues					
UNEP helps my country access funding for addressing environmental challenges					
UNEP leverages partnerships for addressing critical environmental issues					

4. Please tell us more what you think are UNEP's strengths and/or weaknesses:

Part 3: The Environment Fund - UNEP's core fund

The Environment Fund provides for the essential capacity to deliver our Programme of Work, and to support our member States to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. Despite numerous decisions made by member States to strengthen the Fund, income received has consistently been only about half of the approved budget.

This section of the survey seeks your opinion on how to increase funding to the Environment Fund and how more member States could be encouraged to contribute to the Fund.

5. To attract funding to the Environment Fund, how important are the below approaches/strategies?

	Very important	Important	Partially important	Not important	No opinion

Provide more information on results achieved with funding from Environment Fund					
Share more information on how Environment Fund is allocated and which activities it funds.					
Clarify the consequences of not receiving enough core/flexible funding					
Increase visibility and appreciation of those member States that support Environment Fund					
Send personal letters from the Executive Director to Ministers to remind about payments to Environment Fund					
Increase personal contacts between member States and Secretariat to talk about funding					
Limit financial support for participation in meetings for member States that don't contribute.					
Increase UNEP visibility among decision makers in capitals (e.g. address parliaments, meet with ministers)					
Limit electability to leadership position in UNEP governance (e.g. CPR/UNEA Bureau) for member States that don't contribute to Environment Fund					
Explain the benefits of core/flexible funding, e.g. enhanced effectiveness.					
Brief recipient and supporting government representatives of UNEP's work in countries where UNEP has activities/projects.					

6. Which statements, in your opinion, would compel member States to provide core funding to UNEP? (check all that apply)

- Core funds support collective programme priorities that benefit all
- Providing core funds gives a stronger voice to a member State to engage in global governance
- Increased predictability of core funding increases organisational effectiveness
- Providing core funds are cheaper to administer leaving more funds for programme delivery
- Contributing core funds allows a member State to take credit for all of UNEP's work and results (as core funding is essential for all the work the organisation does).
- None of the above
- Other

7. Do you have other suggestions on what UNEP could do to attract more funding to the Environment Fund, and to encourage more member States to contribute?

Part 4: The Fair Share - Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC)

The Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC) was established by UNEP Member States in 2002 as a tool to broaden the base of contributions and to improve the predictability of the Environment Fund. The VISC, also called the Fair Share, represents the amount that each Member State is encouraged to contribute and takes into account each State's assessed contribution to the UN, the socio-economic status of the country and previous contributions.

Despite that Member States have asked the UNEP Executive Director to continue applying the Fair Share/VISC and although universal membership requires that all Member States provide funding to the Environment Fund, only 82, or 42%, of our Member States contributed in 2019.

This section of the survey seeks your opinion about the Fair Share/VISC as a tool and how it could be improved.

8. Please rate the following statements about the Fair Share/VISC according to your opinion:

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	No opinion
The Fair Share/VISC is a useful tool to encourage member States to contribute to the Environment Fund					
The Fair Share/VISC is "fair" because it shares the responsibility for UNEP's funding across all member States					
The Fair Share/VISC is "fair" because it considers each country's situation individually					
The Fair Share/VISC is not "fair" because it does not consider the latest economic situation of my country (VISC is updated for every PoW biennium)					
I don't know if the Fair Share/VISC is "fair" because it is unclear how it is arrived at - the basis of the figures should be explained better					
Every member State should contribute their Fair Share/VISC					
Talking about Fair Share rather than VISC makes it easier to understand the concept and the purpose of the tool					
Fair Share/VISC should be made more obligatory, e.g. by stronger wording in UNEA decisions.					

9. Please provide any other views you may have on the Fair Share/VISC, for example if you believe it is "fair" or not and why, how the tool could be improved etc.

10. UNEP is increasing its public recognition of member States, in particular those who provide funding to the Environment Fund at their Fair Share/VISC and/or are the top-15 contributors. How important are the below products and tools for visibility and appreciation?

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	No opinion
Articles on UNEP web about the work the member State does globally and nationally on environment (shared on social media)					

Joint Opinion Editorials by UNEP ED and Government representative in your national media					
Social media recognition when contribution is made (UNEP ED and UNEP Twitter, Facebook etc.)					
Public mention of top contributors and Fair Share/VISC contributors at official meetings (e.g. CPR, Annual Subcommittee, UNEA)					
Mention of contributors in UNEP Flagship publications					
Dedicated section on UNEP web for visibility of contributors					
Naming of contributors in reports, e.g. annual reports, programme performance reports.					
Branded "visibility tokens" to contributors (lapel pins, reusable water bottles etc.)					
Club for member states that provide their fair share, with benefits such as more access to ED/DED.					

11. Please share any other ideas you may have to increase public recognition of the Funding Partners

Part 5: Earmarked funding

Earmarked funding, or non-core funding, which is given to specific projects, themes, countries, regions etc., made up 82% of UNEP's income in 2019. Out of this, 5% was 'softly' earmarked funds, meaning funds that were provided to a specific UNEP sub-programme or broad theme rather than tightly earmarking funds to a specific project.

In this section we would like to understand the reasons for choosing earmarking over providing core/flexible funding. We also seek your views on how member States could be encouraged to shift their tight earmarking towards softer earmarking.

12. How important are the below arguments when decision is made to provide earmarked funding to UNEP, rather than core funding?

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	No opinion
Possibility to get more public visibility for the contribution					
Possibility to get detailed reports on funds spent and results achieved					
Possibility to fund programmes/projects that are directly aligned with Government priorities					
Possibility to influence UNEP's project & programme direction					
Possibility to demonstrate that Government has supported a specific environmental cause					

UNEP programme managers approach Government with good project proposals or initiatives for earmarked funding					
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13. Please share any ideas you may have on how UNEP can attract more softly earmarked funding vs tightly earmarked funding

14. Which risks do you see with the imbalance of funding, i.e. high rate of earmarked funding and not enough core funding? (check all that apply)

- Donor priorities steer organisation's priorities rather than the programme agreed by all member States
- UNEP is not able to deliver some parts of its programme due to lack of funding
- UNEP spends more resources in managing funds than delivering programme
- UNEP does not have enough flexibility to respond to emerging needs and crisis, e.g. COVID-19
- Transparency and predictability of funding is reduced
- I don't see any risks with the imbalance
- None of the above
- Other

15. UNEP would like to see an increasing part of the earmarked funding be shifted to 'softly' earmarked funding, i.e. funding with less restrictions on use. Which of the below strategies would be important to achieve that?

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	No opinion
Creating thematic funds, e.g. for marine litter, COVID-19 response etc.					
More information on benefits of softly earmarked funding vs tightly earmarked funding					
Charging lower percentage of Programme Support Cost to softly earmarked contributions					

16. Please give us other ideas on how to convince partners to prefer softly earmarked funding over tightly earmarked funding

Part 6: Availability of information on UNEP's funding

To support decision-making on whether or not to provide financial support to UNEP, it is important to have information available on UNEP's funding needs and opportunities - and why UNEP is a good investment.

In this section we would like to explore if and how you find information on UNEP's funding, and if there is any specific information that you need but cannot get.

17. How helpful are the below sources when you are looking for information about UNEP and its funding?

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful	No experience with this
UNEP Website				
UNEP Social Media (Facebook, Twitter...)				
UNEP Annual Report				
UNEP Programme Performance Report				
UNEP Booklet "Invest in a Healthy Planet"				
Meetings of UNEP Governing Bodies				
Representatives of other Member States				
UNEP staff				
Environment Fund reports sent to member states by email				

18. Please let us know if there is any type of information on UNEP's funding that you are currently not receiving or finding but would like to have access to in future?

19. The UNEP Secretariat would like to engage more with Member States to discuss the challenges and solutions to UNEP's funding situation. Which of the following approaches would be helpful? (check all that apply)

- Surveys like this one
- Individual meetings with representatives from member States
- Meetings with Regional and Political Groups
- Meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
- Targeted information campaigns
- Events at UN Environment Assembly or Annual Sub Committee, such as panel discussions etc.
- Pledging conference in Nairobi
- None of the above
- Other

Part 7: Questions about Your Country's contributions

Finally, we would like to find out some information about your country's contributions to UNEP. All the information provided is anonymous, unless you choose to provide us with the name of your country and/or your e-mail address.

20. Which member State do you represent (this is voluntary)?

21. Did your government contribute funds to UNEP's Environment Fund in 2019?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

22. If 'yes', did your Government contribute its Fair Share/VISC

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

23. Why did your Government not contribute to the Environment Fund?

24. Why did your Government not contribute its Fair Share to the Environment Fund?

25. Did your Government provide Earmarked funding to UNEP in 2019?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

26. COVID-19 might have an effect on Government policies and spending. How likely are the following statements:

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	No opinion
My Government will think that investing in the global environment is MORE important than before					
My Government will think that investing in the global environment is LESS important than before					
My Government will maintain its funding to UNEP					
My Government will increase its funding to UNEP					
My Government will decrease its funding to UNEP					
My Government does not currently provide funding to UNEP and will not provide funding in 2020 or 2021					

27. Can we contact you with follow-up questions? Would you like more information? Please insert your email address (also kindly specify what information you would like to receive).