



Distr.: General  
11 November 2020  
Original: English



**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 resolution 4/22 on  
implementation and follow-up of United Nations Environment  
Assembly resolutions**

**Report of the Executive Director**

**Introduction**

1. The United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in its resolution 4/22 on implementing and following up on its resolutions, requested the Executive Director of UNEP to develop a monitoring mechanism, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to track and assess the implementation by UNEP of Environment Assembly resolutions in the framework of the programme of work and budget. It also requested the Executive Director to propose options to the Committee for an improved reporting framework, to be integrated with reporting on the programme of work and budget, and to report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its fifth session.

2. The present report provides an update on progress made pursuant to resolution 4/22, in particular on the development and activation of the Environment Assembly Monitoring and Reporting Portal ([unea.unep.org/monitoring/](http://unea.unep.org/monitoring/)) and on the development of the consolidated reporting framework agreed upon on 27 February 2020. It also notes that, while a key milestone was reached with the launch of the Portal on 16 October 2020, efforts are under way to introduce further improvements in a second phase of development, based on feedback from Member States.

**I. Progress in the implementation and follow-up of resolution 4/22**

3. Pursuant to resolution 4/22, the Environment Assembly Monitoring and Reporting Portal was officially launched by UNEP on 16 October 2020 at the seventh annual meeting of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Portal was designed and developed by UNEP, in consultation with the Committee, to provide up-to-date and easily accessible information on the

\* 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.

implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions, decisions and declarations and to better align the resolutions with the UNEP programme of work and budget. In addition to monitoring and reporting, the Portal will provide support for future Environment Assembly decision-making and allow for enhanced transparency. It can be accessed by Member States and major groups and stakeholders at <https://unea.unep.org/monitoring/> and by United Nations Secretariat staff members through the UNEP PaperSmart portal at <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution>.

## **A. Design and development**

4. UNEP prepared a draft paper on an improved reporting framework for consideration by the Committee at its 146th meeting, on 20 June 2019. In the initial document, entitled “Options for an Improved Framework for Reporting on Implementation of UN Environment Assembly Resolutions”, UNEP proposed three options for an improved reporting framework.

5. In line with guidance from the Committee, UNEP prepared a second paper, which provided revised options for an improved framework for reporting on resolutions and a detailed proposal for a monitoring mechanism, with a road map for phase one. The road map covered the design, development, implementation and assessment phases of work. For both UNEP reporting and voluntary reporting by Member States, the proposal provided draft parameters, including results, challenges, lessons, opportunities and resources. Links to resolution texts and their alignment with the UNEP programme of work, UNEP projects, and broader goals, including those of multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals would be included in the design. The paper was presented at the sixth annual meeting of the subcommittee, held from 7 to 11 October 2019.

6. The Committee continued discussions at its 148th meeting, held on 10 December 2019, during which Member States requested UNEP to develop a consolidated proposal based on two of the options presented.

7. At its meeting of 27 February 2020, the subcommittee considered and agreed on the consolidated proposal to guide future reporting and subsequently initiated the technical development phase of the monitoring mechanism in line with the revised road map. Member States emphasized that reporting on Environment Assembly outcomes should be comprehensive, covering resolutions from all sessions. They also reiterated the importance of integrating the implementation of resolutions with the UNEP programme of work, UNEP projects, and broader goals, including those of multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals. Guided by this feedback, UNEP continued to develop the content and technical components of the Portal.

8. On 10 June 2020, the Executive Director of UNEP provided an update on the status of the Portal at the joint meeting of the bureaux of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

9. On 16 July 2020, UNEP organized an informal Portal tour for Committee members. About 30 representatives from all regional and political groups and major groups and stakeholders participated. The feedback received included the following requests: to make the information on the Portal available to the public; to provide greater clarity regarding Member States’ voluntary reporting in areas such as modalities for access, authentication of reporting focal points’ identity, the frequency of reporting by focal points and capacity-building for focal points; to strengthen the links between resolutions and the UNEP programme of work and its implementation; to provide greater clarity regarding linkages with multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals; and to include a calendar of events.

10. A second phase of work on the Portal, based on the above-mentioned feedback on the results of the first phase, is under way.

## **B. Resources**

11. Phase one of the implementation of resolution 4/22 required additional annual funds of \$97,080, which were not included in the initial budget. These funds covered staff, consultant, web design and server hosting costs. Some recruitment delays occurred as a result of the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. To deliver on the second phase of the development of the Environment Assembly Monitoring and Reporting Portal, additional resources may be required. Actual further costs, if any, will be determined once the scope of the work is fully defined.

## II. Lessons learned

12. Key lessons learned during phase one of the Portal's development include the following:

(a) *Process*: The development of the Portal is an agile process calling for flexibility and adjustments in the overall context of an agreed-upon design.

(b) *Synergies*: It is important to understand the relationships and synergies between Environment Assembly resolutions, the UNEP programme of work, project portfolios and projects.

(c) *Integration*: There is a need for greater integration of the various UNEP performance-related data platforms and systems, such as the Open Data platform and the Performance Information Management System (PIMS) (projects.unep.org). Open Data has been identified as the public interface for the Monitoring and Reporting Portal and currently includes projects under PIMS, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund.

(d) *Encouraging reporting*: There is a need to encourage and support reporting, including voluntary reporting by Member States; for UNEP, this entails a greater recognition of the time and effort spent on this issue by UNEP resolution focal points.

(e) *Importance of design*: The Portal's design plays a key role in ensuring effective implementation, monitoring and reporting.

13. Building on the lessons learned and in response to the requests by Member States, the following work is anticipated as part of phase two of the development of the Portal:

(a) Incorporating feedback, including but not limited to the following activities: identifying opportunities for reporting by relevant accredited actors, such as major groups and stakeholders; further integrating reporting on Environment Assembly resolutions with reporting on the UNEP programme of work (as applicable); strengthening linkages with multilateral environmental agreements; and including a calendar of events;

(b) Integrating the Portal with other UNEP platforms, such as Open Data and PIMS;

(c) Providing public access to the reports on the implementation of resolutions in the Portal; this information will be provided through the Open Data platform in line with ongoing work on integrating UNEP performance-related data platforms;

(d) Improving the overall user experience, including the look and functionality of the Portal.

## III. Recommendations and suggested actions

14. The Environment Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to continue to provide feedback and guidance for improving the Portal, based on users' experience.

15. The Environment Assembly may also wish to encourage Member States to report, through the Portal, on their efforts to implement Assembly resolutions.