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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\*

**Scenario note for the online meeting of the fifth session of the  
United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations  
Environment Programme**

**Note by the secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. The present note, prepared with input from the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP elected at the fourth session of the Assembly, sets out the proposed plans and general expectations for the online meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The note is intended to assist representatives and observers in preparing for a successful meeting. An overview of the proposed organization of work for the online meeting is set out in the annex to the note.

**II. Dates and duration**

2. The online meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will be opened at 11 a.m.<sup>1</sup> on Monday, 22 February 2021. The duration of the online meeting will be two days. The meeting is expected to conclude by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 23 February 2021.

3. The online meeting of the fifth session of the Assembly will be preceded by the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, which is expected to be held on Monday, 15 February and Tuesday, 16 February 2020 (see also section III of the present note).

4. The proceedings of the plenary sessions of the online meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will be webcast to make them accessible to the public as well as to journalists and media representatives.

5. Detailed information about the fifth session, including the documents and the calendar of meetings and events, is available on the official website for the session:

<https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/uneca5>.

\* 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.

<sup>1</sup> All time references are to Nairobi time (UTC + 3).

6. A notification by the Executive Director providing detailed information about registration for participants and the process for the submission of Member States' credentials has been made available to Member States and is available at: <https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/unea5>.

7. All the plenary sessions of the online meeting as well as the leadership dialogue will be conducted online, with interpretation provided in the six official languages of the United Nations. All the background documentation for the session, as well as in-session and post-session documents, including draft decisions, will be made available on the website.

### **III. Preparations for the session**

8. Pursuant to the mandate accorded to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Governing Council decision 27/2, the Committee has been and will continue to be engaged in the preparatory work for the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, including through the seventh annual subcommittee meeting, which was held from 12 to 16 October 2020, and the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee, which is expected to take place on 15 and 16 February 2021.

9. Preparations for the Open-ended Committee meeting have been undertaken by the Bureau of the Committee, in consultation with the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, including by means of regular joint meetings of the two bureaux.

10. At the first plenary session of the online meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, on Monday, 22 February 2021, the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will report to the Assembly on relevant work of the Committee, in particular the outcomes of the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee. All the documentation pertaining to meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives is available at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/cpr>.

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

11. The online meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly will be opened by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, Minister for Climate and Environment of Norway. At the first plenary session of the online meeting, the Assembly is expected to hear opening statements from the President of the Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of UNEP.

12. After the opening statements, the Environment Assembly will consider and adopt the provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.1), which was prepared in consultation with the bureaux of the Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.1/Add.1) is available in the six official languages of the United Nations on the official website for the fifth session: <https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/unea5>.

13. Subsequently, the President of the Assembly will invite Member States to consider the proposed organization of work for the online meeting of the fifth session (see annex).

14. On the basis of the report by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Assembly may be invited to take early action on draft decisions at its first plenary meeting on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

### **V. Credentials Committee**

15. In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives should be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting which the representatives are to attend. Member States are invited to submit, through the registration portal (<https://indico.un.org/e/UNEA-5>), a copy of the credentials signed by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, preferably by Monday, 8 February 2021, two weeks before the first plenary session of the online meeting of the fifth session.

16. The Bureau of the Environment Assembly will serve as the Credentials Committee and will present its report to the Environment Assembly under item 3 of the agenda for the fifth session.

## **VI. Leadership dialogue**

17. A leadership dialogue will be convened during the online meeting of the fifth session with the aim of promoting an interactive high-level discussion on the contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world. To facilitate the participation of ministers and other high-level representatives from different time zones, the leadership dialogue will be held twice: from 4 to 7 p.m. (Nairobi time (UTC + 3)) on Monday, 22 February, and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Nairobi time (UTC + 3)) on Tuesday, 23 February.

18. Each of the substantially identical sessions of the leadership dialogue will thus last around three hours and will be organized as high-level, interactive and moderated sessions. The leadership dialogue 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 Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Environment Assembly and to representatives of specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations bodies, other intergovernmental organizations and major groups and stakeholders. Each session of the leadership dialogue will be webcast and conducted with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations.

19. Interested Member States will be invited to inscribe, by Monday 8 February 2021 at the latest, the details of their high-level representatives on the list of participants for the fifth session, indicating the name, title and level of representation of the representative and their preferred timing for participation in the leadership dialogue. The list of participants will be opened on Monday, 25 January 2021.

20. Representatives of Member States may also, as an alternative or as a complement to “live” attendance, submit a recorded or written statement, which will be uploaded on the website for the session. Such submissions should be sent to the secretariat by 1 February 2021. Recorded speeches will not, however, be played at the leadership dialogue.

21. The main outcomes and key messages emanating from the leadership dialogue will be compiled by the secretariat and presented to the Environment Assembly on the afternoon of Tuesday, 23 February 2021.

22. Further details and background information on the leadership dialogue, including guiding questions for participants, are set out in a concept note, which is available on the session website. Any questions about the organization of the leadership dialogue may be sent to the Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders at: [unep-sgb@un.org](mailto:unep-sgb@un.org).

## **VII. Adjournment session**

23. At an adjournment (wrap-up) session to be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on 23 February 2021, a factual summary of the leadership dialogue, prepared by the secretariat, will be presented. A consensual statement integrating the key messages highlighted by the ministers for the environment may be presented by the President of the Assembly for consideration by the Environment Assembly. The session may also include a kick-off event for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of UNEP in 1972.

## **VIII. Dates and agenda of the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

24. At the adjournment session, the Assembly will consider the proposed dates and provisional agenda for the resumed (in-person) meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, which is expected to take place in February 2022.

## Annex

## Organization of work of the online meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

	<i>22 February 2021</i>	<i>23 February 2021</i>
11 a.m.–2 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening of the session (agenda item 1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Functional opening (President and Executive Director)</li> <li>-Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations</li> <li>- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 2)</li> <li>-Statements by regional and political groups</li> <li>- Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)</li> <li>-Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (agenda item 4) on draft decisions recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACEFRS<sup>a</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership dialogue: Group B</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACEFRS<sup>a</sup></b></p>
2–4 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>	
4–7 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership dialogue: Group A</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACEFRS<sup>a</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adjournment (wrap-up) plenary session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summary of the leadership dialogue</li> <li>- Adoption of procedural decisions, including on the medium-term strategy and the programme of work and budget (agenda item 12)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">[Consensual statement] [Kick-off for UNEP@50]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adjournment of the session</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACEFRS<sup>a</sup></b></p>

<sup>a</sup> Interpretation available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish (ACEFRS), the six official languages of the United Nations.