

Decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session

Decision 5/2. Medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its commitment to contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and highlighting that the time frame of the proposed medium-term strategy and the proposed programme of work and budget coincide with the beginning of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,

Recalling also its encouragement to the Executive Director to take action, within the mandate, programme of work and budget of the United Nations Environment Programme, to enhance coordinated, coherent and integrated delivery within the United Nations system on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling further the coordinating mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme within the United Nations system and respecting the mandates and competences established by the multilateral environmental agreements,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and welcoming the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, that are in line with nationally determined contributions and priorities,

Noting that further action should be undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in its recruitment strategy with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the progress made by the United Nations Environment Programme in ensuring gender balance and parity in its recruitment strategy in line with the United Nations system-wide strategy on gender parity, and underlining that further action in that regard should be undertaken by the Programme,

Having considered the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023, as prepared by the Executive Director following consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, while recalling that some definitions and terminologies used therein have not been agreed intergovernmentally and should therefore not prejudice any future negotiations or agreements,

1. *Approves* the medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023;

2. *Also approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 200 million United States dollars for the biennium for the purposes indicated in the following table:

Environment Fund programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023

(thousands of United States dollars)

A. Policymaking organs	4 000
B. Executive direction and management	8 000
C. Programme of work	164 000
Climate action	24 000
Digital transformation	14 000
Nature action	24 000
Environmental governance	26 000
Chemicals and pollution action	24 000
Finance and economic transformation	26 000
Science policy	26 000
D. Fund programme reserve	10 000
E. Programme management support	14 000
Total	200 000

3. *Stresses* the importance of early, extensive and transparent consultations between the Executive Director, Member States and the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the preparation of the draft medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget;

4. *Also stresses* the need for the programme of work and budget to be based on results-based management;

5. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate resources between subprogramme budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the subprogramme appropriations and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereof, and in duly justified exceptional circumstances to reallocate in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of the appropriations from which resources are reallocated after prior consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

6. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of Environment Fund allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations, while taking into account expected income from other sources;

7. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities, to implement the programme of work for the biennium 2022–2023;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to apply a prudent approach to the management of resources from all sources, including the Environment Fund, including through the careful management of contractual arrangements;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made in increasing allocations from the Environment Fund to activities and operations in the programme of work for the biennium 2020–2021;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to monitor and manage the share of the Environment Fund devoted, respectively, to post costs and non-post costs, while clearly prioritizing the application of the resources of the Environment Fund to programme activities;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for comprehensive information and full justification regarding proposed expenditures and contributions from all sources

of funding, including staffing information, to be provided to the Committee of Permanent Representatives well in advance of its consideration of the proposed programme of work and budget;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to improve the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of oversight, review and independent evaluation;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States through the meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its 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;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Director to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work, apart from those funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of other intergovernmental bodies;

15. *Urges* all Member States and others in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, notably the Environment Fund, encouraged by the universal membership of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and also requests the Executive Director, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to mobilize increased voluntary funding, including softly earmarked funding, to the Programme from all Member States and others in a position to do so and to continue to broaden the contributor base;

16. *Notes* the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions to, and enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of, the Environment Fund, and requests the Executive Director to continue to adapt the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, inter alia, in accordance with Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 and any relevant subsequent decisions;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to design a resource mobilization strategy that improves the adequacy and predictability of resources and encourages the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Committee, to implement the strategy with a priority of broadening the contributor base from Member States and other partners;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to pay due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, in the recruitment strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme, and to submit a comprehensive report on human resources for consideration at the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake further action to ensure gender balance and parity in its recruitment strategy in line with the United Nations system-wide strategy on gender parity;

20. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to submit for consideration and approval by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025.