

Governance Affairs Office  
10 December 2021

## **Notification by the Executive Director**

### **Resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**

*Nairobi, 28 February–2 March 2022*

### **Special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

*3 and 4 March 2022*

1. In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 10 of decision 5/3 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, entitled “Adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”, the resumed fifth session of the Environment Assembly (“UNEA-5.2”) will convene in Nairobi from 28 February 2022 to 2 March 2022 (10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. daily). In addition, a special session of the Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (“UNEP@50”) will be held on 3 and 4 March 2022, back to back with the resumed fifth session, under the leadership of the Presidency and the Bureau of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.
2. In accordance with paragraph 8 of decision 5/3, the resumed meeting of the fifth session will consist of plenary meetings, a sessional committee of the whole and a high-level segment, including leadership dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue. The high-level segment of the fifth session will take place on 2 March 2022 under the overarching theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, supported by a report of the Executive Director that will be made available at least six weeks before the resumed session.
3. The agenda for UNEA-5.2 (UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.2) remains unchanged and is reproduced in annex I to this notification for ease of reference. The annotated agenda (UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.2/Add.1) will be adjusted to take into account the outcomes of the online meeting of the fifth session and will be made available on the website for the fifth session.
4. In accordance with the outcome of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 156<sup>th</sup> regular meeting on 30 November 2021 and its subcommittee meeting on 7 December 2021, the special session on UNEP@50 will have the theme “Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and consist of a high level opening ceremony, plenary meetings with national statements, two leadership dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue.
5. A provisional agenda for UNEP@50 was considered and agreed upon by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 156<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 30 November 2021, and is set out in annex II.
6. A proposed structure for both UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50 is outlined in annex III.
7. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Environment Assembly decision 5/3, the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will resume its fifth session (OECPR-5.2) from 21 to 25 February 2022 (10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. daily) on the basis of a decision to be taken by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the format and agenda. OECPR-5.2 will serve as a preparatory meeting for UNEA-5.2.
8. In accordance with the outcome of the 156<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the third informal substantive consultation meeting on General Assembly resolution 73/333 will be held from 16 to 18 February 2022.
9. A programme of official high-level and side events to take place during and in conjunction with the above-mentioned meetings will be prepared by the secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, taking into account the need to enable all Member States, as far as possible, to participate in the negotiations on draft Environment Assembly resolutions, including by limiting the number of side and other events and by avoiding overlaps in the scheduling and structure of meetings at the resumed fifth session.
10. The above-mentioned meetings are expected to be preceded by several informal and self-organized events, including a meeting of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, a meeting of the Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment, and a “Youth Environment Assembly” led by the children and youth major group.

11. In view of the exceptional circumstances associated with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, all the above-mentioned meetings will be subject to general and specific guidance and meeting restrictions, referred to as “COVID-19 minimum requirements”.

12. The following COVID-19 minimum requirements were developed with the support of the United Nations Office at Nairobi with a view to minimizing the risk of infection among delegates and United Nations staff members who attend the above-mentioned meetings, taking into account the COVID-19 restrictions put in place by the host country, Kenya, as well as the guidance provided by the bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at their joint meeting held on 8 December 2021.

(a) ***Hybrid format***

- (i) All representatives of Member States and other stakeholders are invited to attend all the official meetings in person, provided that the COVID-19 minimum requirements outlined in this note are respected.
- (ii) Any accredited delegate may also choose to actively participate in all formal meetings remotely through the online meeting platform, with full speaking rights and with online interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations.
- (iii) The Secretariat will also as far as possible seek to ensure that accredited participants can actively take part in the informal negotiations under informal working groups that may be established under the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Committee of the Whole.
- (iv) Accredited delegates travelling from outside Kenya to attend the meetings must meet the COVID-19 monitoring, prevention and containment measures in accordance with the Government of Kenya’s regulations and guidelines.

(b) ***Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination***

- (i) All delegates, regardless of rank and affiliation who intend to participate in the meetings referred to above in person are required to verify that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19<sup>1</sup> through the registration platform at the time of registration.
- (ii) Representatives of Member States are required to upload an accreditation letter to the registration platform, that must specify that all delegates attending the meetings in person are fully vaccinated.
- (iii) For representatives of major groups and stakeholders and international organizations, the accreditation letter must be complemented by a valid vaccination certificate.
- (iv) The secretariat will review and verify the accreditation letters from Member States and verify the validity of uploaded vaccination certificates as a basis for the issuance of meeting badges. In order to allow the necessary time for the secretariat to verify the vaccination status of participants, the meeting registration will close well in advance of the meetings, on 11 February 2022 at midnight (EAT).

(c) ***Physical distancing***

- (i) To avoid overcrowding and minimize the risk of exposure to potential infection, Member States and stakeholders are recommended to limit their delegation size at the of the conference facilities and common areas of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, as follows:
  - 1. The number of delegates per Member State on the UN compound at any time should be 5 or less.
  - 2. For Member States with representatives at the level of Vice-Minister or Minister, the recommendation is increased; delegations should comprise no more than 10 representatives, while delegations with a representative at the level of Head of State should include no more than 20 participants.
  - 3. For representatives of major groups and stakeholders and United Nations and other international organizations, with the exception of staff members of the United Nations Environment Programme, the number of delegates on the compound should not exceed 2 representatives per group or organization.
  - 4. Requests for any departure from the above-mentioned recommendations should be communicated in writing to the secretariat by 3 February 2022, including a justification for the request. The secretariat will review requests on a case-by-case basis and will respond as soon as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> “Fully vaccinated” means persons who have, at least 14 days prior to the date of the opening of the meeting, received their final dose of a vaccine against COVID-19 approved for use by the regulatory mechanisms of the country of vaccination.

- (ii) The maximum number of delegates in the main conference room will be 3 per Member State (head of delegation + 2) and 50 (in total) for stakeholder representatives. The restriction will be enforced by providing a limited number of "floating badges" to each delegation.
- (iii) Furthermore, and in accordance with the current guidance issued by the host country, UN meeting room utilization should not exceed two thirds of the maximum room capacities. For the larger conference rooms, this will permit a maximum of 3 delegates per desk (inclusive of all diplomatic and non-diplomatic personnel), resulting in a ceiling of 650 persons for the main conference room (rooms 2, 3 and 4 combined), and 290 persons for conference room 1. Similar thresholds will be established also for smaller meeting rooms.
- (iv) Access to the compound for United Nations staff may be limited to essential staff only during the period from 28 February to 3 March, depending on the number of accredited meeting participants.

(d) *Other minimum requirements*

- (i) All meeting participants must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth at all times, except when addressing the meeting from their desks, the podium or lectern, and when eating or drinking.
- (ii) Any participant displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 should refrain from entering the United Nations complex and attending any meeting and should take a test without delay to determine their COVID-19 status. Should a participant test positive by means of an antigen-detecting rapid test (see below), they should, in addition to refraining from participating in the remainder of the meeting they have registered for, self-isolate and inform the secretariat of their COVID-19 status in order to trigger possible contact tracing.
- (iii) Participants must avoid overcrowding any meeting room or other areas in the conference facilities.
- (iv) All participants in the conference rooms must remain seated in designated chairs during the meeting.
- (v) The use of conference rooms in the United Nations complex will be limited to intergovernmental meetings, consultations and negotiations, leadership dialogues, and high level side events.
- (vi) Priority will be given to official meetings and negotiations; official and unofficial side events will therefore be organized fully online, or in a hybrid format in the case of high-level in-person participation.
- (vii) Possible rules relating to quarantine issued by the host country Kenya must be observed.

13. Subject to the provision of additional extrabudgetary in-kind or financial resources by Member States or member of specialized agencies, the following additional measures are being considered:

- (a) The distribution of one antigen-detecting rapid COVID-19 test for each badged delegate for self-testing and self-administered online registration for each day they are expected to attend official meetings, to be self-verified or verified at the entrance of to the United Nations complex.
- (b) The construction of temporary infrastructure in the complex that will allow for large receptions to be held in safe conditions, respecting the guidance on physical distancing.
- (c) The installation of acrylic dividers for each of the desks in the conference rooms, including for the podium.

14. The above-mentioned guidance will be regularly reviewed in the light of the future evolution and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and may be relaxed or tightened or complemented by additional specific guidance based on information provided by the host country, Kenya, and in view of evolving medical advice and scientific findings, under the guidance of the bureaux of the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

15. UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 are open to the participation of representatives of Member States, specialized agencies, United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations, and regional economic integration organizations, as well as to representatives of accredited major group organizations.

16. Delegates are required to register online for one or more of the four separate but related events that are being held in February and March 2022: (i) The consultations held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/333 (16-18 February 2022); (ii) the resumed fifth meeting of the Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (21-25 February 2022), (iii) the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment (28 February – 2 March 2022); and (iv) the special session of the Environment Assembly on UNEP@50 (3-4 March 2022). At the time of online registration, delegates must indicate whether they will participate online or in person. Further detailed information will be provided on the registration platform, which will open on 11 December 2021 and close on 11 February 2022.

17. The link to the registration portal is as follows: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000360/overview>.

18. In addition, all Member States will be required to present credentials for both the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly and the special session pursuant to the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly.

19. In accordance with rule 16 of the rules, each member of the Environment Assembly is to be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required. In accordance with rule 17, the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers are to be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting which the representatives are to attend.
20. Those Member States that have already submitted credentials for the fifth session in February 2021 can submit an updated list of their representatives in the form of a formal communication such as letter or Note Verbale from their Permanent Mission for the purpose of the resumed fifth session and a separate credential for the special session. Alternatively, a Member State may submit a new credential that includes the names of its representatives for both the resumed fifth session and the special session. Should it wish to do so, a Member State may also submit two separate credentials, i.e. for the resumed fifth session and for the special session, respectively.
21. Representatives of Member States are invited to send an advance scanned copy of their credentials, signed either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as other formal communications containing the names of representatives to UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50 (such as a letter or a note verbale from the Permanent Mission) for the attention of Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor, to the secretariat email address [unep-sgb@un.org](mailto:unep-sgb@un.org). The original hard copy of the credentials and other communications should be sent to: Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor, United Nations Environment Programme, P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.
22. In the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – all participating Member States and stakeholders are encouraged to ensure a gender-balanced representation in their delegations at the above-mentioned meetings. Similarly, Member States are encouraged to include youth representatives in their delegations.
23. All relevant information and documentation for UNEA-5.2 will be made available on the website for the fifth session of the Assembly: <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5>.
24. All relevant information and documentation for UNEP@50 will be made available on the website for the special session of the Assembly: <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/unep-50>.
25. All communications concerning UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50 should be addressed to:

Ulf Bjornholm  
Acting Secretary of Governing Bodies to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the  
United Nations Environment Programme Nairobi, Kenya  
E-mail: [unep-sgb@un.org](mailto:unep-sgb@un.org)

# Annex I - Agenda for UNEA-5

UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.2



## United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Distr.: General  
24 November 2021

Original: English

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### United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

#### Fifth session

Nairobi (hybrid), 22–26 February 2021 and 28 February–2 March 2022\*

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

#### Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. International environmental policy and governance issues.
6. Programme of work and budget and other administrative and budgetary issues.
7. Stakeholder engagement.
8. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. Commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972.<sup>1</sup>
10. High-level segment.
11. Provisional agenda and dates of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.
12. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
13. Election of officers.
14. Other matters.
15. Adoption of the report of the session.
16. Closure of the session.

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

<sup>1</sup> Supplementary item recommended for consideration in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure, to be considered at the in-person meeting of the fifth session, or by another process, should the Environment Assembly so decide.



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### United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

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**United Nations Environment Assembly of the  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Special session on the commemoration of the  
creation of the United Nations Environment  
Programme**

Nairobi, 3-4 March 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

### Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the special session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. General debate
  - a) Statements from delegations
  - b) Presentation of the Secretariat Report on the Science Policy Interface.
  - c) Presentation of the Report “The UNEP We Want” by the UNEP@50 Task Force of Major Groups and Stakeholders
5. Leadership Dialogues
  - a) Looking back: 50 years of UNEP.
  - b) Looking forward - Achieving the 2030 Agenda for people and planet.
6. Multi Stakeholder Dialogue
7. Adoption of the Political Declaration of UNEP@50.
8. Adoption of the report of the special session and the summary of the Chair.
9. Closure of the special session.

## Annex III - Structure for UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50

STRUCTURE OF THE RESUMED SESSION OF UNEA-5 <sup>1</sup>				HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT			
Theme: "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals"				Theme: "Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" <sup>2</sup>			
	<b>Monday</b> 28 February 2022	<b>Tuesday</b> 1 March 2022	<b>Wednesday</b> 2 March 2022	<b>Thursday</b> 3 March 2022	<b>Friday</b> 4 March 2022		
8:00-10:00	Reg/pol group meetings Bureau meetings Major Groups meetings	Reg/pol group meetings Bureau meetings Major Groups meetings	Reg/pol group and Bureau meetings M/GS meetings	Reg/pol group meetings Bureau meetings Major Groups meetings	Reg/pol group meetings Bureau meetings Major Groups meetings		Reg/pol group meetings Bureau meetings Major Groups meetings
10:00-13:00	<b>UNEA-5 Opening Plenary</b> - Opening statements from UNEA 5 President, host country and UNEP ED - Statements from Reg/Pol Groups reps - Report from the Chair of the CPR - Credentials of representatives. - Action on draft resolutions	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>UNEA-5 High Level Segment Opening Plenary</b>	<b>High-Level Opening Ceremony</b> - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work. - Credentials of representatives. - High level opening statements - Adoption of political declaration - Presentation of UNEP's Science Policy Interface Report - Presentation of the stakeholder report "The UNEP we want"	<b>Plenary</b> National Statements	<b>High Level Leadership Dialogue 1</b> Looking back: 50 years of UNEP	<b>High Level Leadership Dialogue 2</b> Looking forward - Achieving the 2030 Agenda for people and planet
	<b>Plenary</b> National Statements [11.30 – 13.00]		<b>Plenary</b> UNEA-5 Leadership Dialogue [11.30 – 13.00] Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the SDGs	[10:00 – 13:00]		[10:00 – 13:00]	[10:00 – 11:30]
13:00-15:00	<b>UNEA-5 side event(s)</b>	<b>UNEA-5 side event(s)</b>	<b>UNEA-5 side event(s)</b>	<b>UNEA-5 side event(s)</b>	<b>UNEP@50 high-level side event(s)</b>	<b>UNEP@50 high-level side event(s)</b>	<b>UNEP@50 high-level side event(s)</b>
	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>UNEA-5 Closing Plenary</b> - Action on Ministerial Outcome - Action on GA Res 73/333 Declaration - Action on draft resolutions - Election of Officers - Date & Provisional Agenda of 2021 Assembly - Adoption of the Report	<b>Plenary</b> National Statements [15:00 – 18:00]	<b>Plenary</b> National Statements [15:00 – 16:30]	<b>Multi-stakeholder Dialogue</b> Findings in the report "The UNEP We Want" [15:00 – 16:30]	<b>Plenary</b> UNEP@50 High Level Closing Ceremony Adoption of the report of the special session and Chair's summary Closing of the special session. [16:30 – 18:00]
15:00-18:00			<b>UNEA-5 Leadership Dialogue with MEAs</b> Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve SDGs [15.00 – 16.30] <b>Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue</b> Building back greener - international env. protection and achieving the SDGs in the context of COVID 19 [16.30 – 18.00]				
18:00 – 20:00	<b>UNEA-5 side event(s)</b>	<b>UNEA-5 side event(s)</b>	<b>Poss. high-level reception (TBC)</b>	<b>Poss. UNEP@50 Reception (TBC)</b>			

<sup>1</sup> As endorsed by the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 8 December 2021

<sup>2</sup> As endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 156<sup>th</sup> regular meeting on 30 November 2021 and its subcommittee meeting on 7 December 2021