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

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

**Resumed fifth session**

Nairobi (hybrid), 28 February-2 March 2022\*\*

**First special session: commemoration of the  
fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the  
United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi (hybrid), 3 and 4 March 2022

**Scenario note for the resumed fifth session of the United  
Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations  
Environment Programme and the first special session to  
commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment  
of the United Nations Environment Programme**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. The present note, prepared on the basis of guidance 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 meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) and for the first special session to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50).

2. Both meetings will take place in a hybrid format. This means that 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 the [Secretariat notification](#) are respected. Any accredited delegate may also choose to actively participate in all formal meetings

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\*\* 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.

remotely through an online meeting platform, with full speaking rights and with online interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations.

3. In accordance with [UNEA decision 5/3](#), the resumed fifth session of the Assembly will be organized under the theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” and consists of an opening plenary, plenary meetings with national statements, a high-level segment opening plenary, a high-level leadership dialogue, a leadership dialogue with Heads of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, a multi-stakeholder dialogue, and a closing plenary.

4. The special session on UNEP@50 will be organized under the theme “Strengthening United Nations Environment Programme for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and consists of a high-level opening plenary, plenary meetings with national statements, two leadership dialogues, a multi-stakeholder dialogue and a high-level closing plenary.

5. An overview of the organization of work for both sessions are set out in this [link](#).

6. The proceedings of the plenary meetings of the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, including the high-level segment, will be webcast on the internet to make it accessible to the broader public

7. Journalists and media representatives will have a specific space in which to conduct interviews and other reporting activities. Journalists will be granted access to the open sessions, the high-level segment, side events and the multi-stakeholder dialogue.

8. Additional relevant information and background information for both sessions is made available on the main website for the resumed fifth session of the Assembly (<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5>) and for the special session on UNEP@50 (<https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/unep-50>)

9. Questions about the information provided in the scenario note may be sent to the Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders ([unep-sgb@un.org](mailto:unep-sgb@un.org)).

## **II. Preparations for the sessions**

10. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2, the political outcomes of UNEA-5.2 and the special session on UNEP@50 will be prepared by the resumed fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-5.2), which will take place in a hybrid format from 21 – 25 February 2022.

11. Preparations for both sessions have also been undertaken by the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including through regular joint meetings.

12. At the first plenary session of the hybrid meeting of the resumed fifth session of the Environment Assembly, on Monday, 28 February 2022, the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will report to the Assembly on relevant work of the Committee, in particular on the outcomes of the resumed fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee. All documentation pertaining to meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives is available on the CPR webpage (<https://www.unenvironment.org/cpr>) and the UNEA resolution papersmart portal (<https://apps1.unep.org/resolution/>).

13. Meeting rooms will be allocated, upon request, to regional and political groups to facilitate their consultations, as necessary, throughout OECPR-5.2, on Saturday and Sunday, 26-27 February, as well as outside the official hours of the plenary meetings of the UN Environment Assembly (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday) through Ms. Xi Ling ([xi.ling@un.org](mailto:xi.ling@un.org)) and Ms. Nadya Omar ([nadya.omar@un.org](mailto:nadya.omar@un.org)).

## **III. Scenario for the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

### ***Opening plenary***

14. The resumed fifth session of the Assembly will open at 10 a.m.<sup>1</sup> on Monday by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Minister for Climate and Environment of Norway.
15. The Assembly will hear opening statements from the Executive Director of UNEP, the Director-General of the UN Office in Nairobi, a high level representative from the Host Country Kenya, the Chairs of Regional and Political Groups, and representatives of the nine major groups and stakeholders.
16. After the opening statements, under agenda item 2 on the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the Environment Assembly is expected to recall that the agenda for the session (UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.2), was adopted at the online session of the prepared in consultation with the Bureaux of the Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. A revised annotated agenda (UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.2/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>.
17. The Assembly is also expected to consider the organization of work for the session under agenda item 2, based on a proposal available [here](#). Under this agenda item, and pursuant to rules 61 and 62 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly may also establish a Committee of the Whole, and elect a Chair and Rapporteur of that Committee. See section V.
18. The Assembly is expected to defer consideration of agenda item 3 on credentials of representatives to the closing plenary. See section VI.
19. The Assembly is then expected to consider agenda item 4 on a report by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and may take early action on draft resolutions and decisions on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee, as referred to in agenda item 12 on adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
20. The Assembly is expected to allocate agenda item 5 on international environmental policy and governance issues to the Committee of the Whole and to consider it subsequently at the closing plenary, taking into account the delivery of national statements on 1 and 2 March 2022, and the convening of two leadership dialogues on 1 and 2 March 2022. See sections VII and VIII.
21. The Assembly is expected to conclude consideration of agenda item 6 on programme of work and budget and other administrative and budgetary issues, with the understanding that action under this agenda item has already been taken at the online session of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly on 22 and 23 February 2022.
22. The Assembly is expected to continue consideration of agenda item 7 on stakeholder engagement to the closing plenary, taking into account the convening of a multi-stakeholder dialogue on 1 March 2022. See section IX.
23. The Assembly will then consider agenda item 8 on 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.
24. The Assembly is expected to defer consideration of agenda items 9 – 14 to the closing plenary.
25. The President will then invite delegations to deliver national statements. See section VII.

### ***High level segment***

26. Pursuant to decision 27/2, paragraph 5, and as referred to under item 10 of the agenda of the session, the Assembly will hold a high-level segment on 1 and 2 March 2022. The high-level segment will address the overarching theme “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.
27. The high level segment will be supported by a [report](#) by the Executive Director on the theme of the fifth session, entitled “Nature at the Heart of Sustainable Development: A

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

contribution to the High-Level Segment of the resumed session of the 5th UN Environment Assembly”, available [here](#) in all official UN languages.

28. The segment will include an opening plenary to be organized from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on 2 March, which is expected to consist of opening statements from high level representatives and dignitaries, including from the United Nations and the Host Country Kenya, followed by a leadership dialogue from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

29. The opening plenary will be preceded by a leadership dialogue with representatives of the multilateral environmental agreements, to be organized on 1 March 3.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

30. The opening plenary will also be preceded by a multi-stakeholder dialogue with representatives of major groups and stakeholders, to be organized on 1 March from 4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

31. Outcomes of the leadership dialogues and the multi-stakeholder dialogue will be considered at the closing plenary through an oral report by the Chair of the session, under agenda items 7 and 10.

### ***Closing plenary***

32. The closing plenary will be held on 2 March from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

33. The Assembly is expected to conclude consideration of agenda item 3 on credentials of representatives, on the basis of a report from the Bureau of the Assembly.

34. The Assembly is expected to conclude consideration of agenda items 5, 7 and 10, following an oral report on the outcome from the high-level opening, leadership dialogues and multi-stakeholder dialogue from the Chair.

35. The Assembly is expected to consider agenda item 9 on the 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, including with regard to the preparation of a political declaration as outcome of that commemoration.

36. The Assembly is expected to consider agenda item 11 on provisional agenda and dates of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly, and to take action on a draft decision on this matter.

37. The Assembly is expected to consider agenda item 12 on adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session, and to take action on a draft ministerial declaration and on any outstanding draft resolutions or decisions.

38. Pursuant to rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly will elect officers for its sixth session. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2, paragraph 6, the Bureau is "composed of 10 members to reflect the universality of the governing body, in accordance with equitable geographical distribution, and will perform the functions as set out in the Rules of procedure of the governing body." In line with UN Environment Assembly Decision 1/1, "each of the five regions shall be represented by two members in the 10-member Bureau of UN Environment Assembly." In accordance with the principle of regional rotation, the Assembly will elect the following officers of the Bureau: a President nominated by the Africa Group, eight Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur nominated by the Eastern European Group.

39. The Assembly will then consider agenda item 14 on any other matters.

40. Finally, the Assembly will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt the draft proceedings report of the in-person meeting of its resumed fifth session.

## **IV. Scenario for the special session on UNEP@50**

### ***High level opening plenary***

41. The special session of the Assembly on UNEP@50 will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 3 March 2022 by the President of the sixth Assembly, as elected at the resumed fifth session of the Assembly. The special session will be convened under the overarching theme “Strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

42. The special session of the Assembly will hear opening statements from high level representatives and dignitaries, including from the United Nations and the Host Country Kenya, as well as from a representative from major groups and stakeholders.
43. After the opening statements, under agenda item 2 on the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the special session of the Assembly is expected to adopt the [agenda](#) for the session (UNEP/EA.SS.1/1) and consider its organization of work for the session, based on a proposal available [here](#).
44. The special session of the Assembly is expected to elect one Rapporteur for each of the two leadership dialogues to be held under agenda item 7 on leadership dialogues.
45. The special session of the Assembly is expected to consider agenda item 3 on credentials of representatives, on the basis of a report from the Bureau of the Assembly (see section VI).
46. The special session of the Assembly is expected to consider agenda item 5 on the presentation of the report of the Executive Director on the science policy interface, which is entitled “Reflecting on the past and imagining the future: a contribution to the dialogue on the science-policy interface” (UNEP/EA.SS.1/2).
47. The special session of the Assembly is also expected to consider agenda item 6 on a presentation of the stakeholder report entitled “The UNEP We Want”, on the basis of a presentation from representatives of major groups and stakeholders.
48. The special session of the Assembly is further expected to consider for adoption the political declaration pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/333 of 30 August 2019.
49. The opening plenary will be followed by national statements, under agenda item 4 on statements by representatives (see section VII), agenda item 7 on leadership dialogues (see section VIII) and agenda item 8 on multi-stakeholder dialogues (see section VIII). The outcomes of these agenda items will be reported at the high-level closing plenary.

### ***High level closing plenary***

50. The high-level closing plenary of the special session of the Assembly will be held on Friday, 4 March from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with the aim to adopt the report of the special session and a Chair’s summary.
51. The special session of the Assembly will hear closing statements from high-level representatives and dignitaries, including from the United Nations and the Host Country Kenya, as well as from a representative from major groups and stakeholders.

## **V. Committee of the whole**

52. The Committee of the Whole is expected to conduct its work under agenda items 5 (International environmental policy and governance) and 11 (Provisional agenda and date of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly), commencing on the afternoon of Monday, 28 February 2022 after the first plenary meeting of the resumed fifth session of the Assembly held in the morning of the same day and concluding on Tuesday, 1 March. The Committee is expected to report to the Assembly at its closing plenary meeting on Wednesday, 2 March 2022. The plenary meetings of the Committee will be conducted with interpretation services for all six official UN languages.
53. To ensure timely delivery of the work of the Committee of the Whole, the Committee may, if necessary, establish one or more drafting groups, with the aim to find agreement on any outstanding draft resolutions and decisions.
54. Pursuant to rule 70 of the Rules of procedure, Major Groups and Stakeholders will be allocated seats to observe the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole and may be invited to make interventions as appropriate, at the discretion of the Chair of the Committee.
55. At its final plenary meeting on Tuesday, 1 March 2022 at 3.00 p.m. , the Committee of the Whole is expected to finalize its consideration of outstanding matters, with a view to agree on draft resolutions or decisions for submission to the final plenary meeting of the Assembly on Wednesday, 2 March 2022.

## VI. Credentials Committees

56. In accordance with rule 17, the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers are to be submitted to the Secretariat through the registration portal (<https://indico.un.org/event/1000360/overview>) signed by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, preferably by Friday, 18 February 2022.

57. Delegates are required to register online for one or more of the three separate but related events that are being held in February and March 2022: (i) the resumed fifth meeting of the Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (21-25 February 2022), (ii) the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment (28 February – 2 March 2022); and (iii) 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 close on Friday 18 February 2022, and in the [Secretariat notification](#).

58. Those Member States that have already submitted credentials for the online 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. Member States who wish to do so, may also submit two separate credentials, i.e. one for the resumed fifth session and one for the special session, respectively.

59. 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.

60. The Bureau of each Environment Assembly will serve as the Credentials Committee and will present its report to the Assembly under the relevant agenda item of the agenda.

## VII. National Statements

61. National statements to the resumed fifth session of the Assembly, under the theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, will take place on Monday, 28 February, and Tuesday, 1 March 2022.

62. National statements to special session of the Assembly, under the theme “Strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” will take place on Thursday, 3 March 2022 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and on Friday, 4 March 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

63. Statements can be made in any of the six official languages of the United Nations.

64. A list of speakers for the national statements for both sessions will be prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with rule 35 of the rules of procedure and with due regard to protocol and established practice. Statements may be delivered by representatives of Member States, Observer States, Members of specialized agencies, accredited intergovernmental organizations, United Nations system entities, and accredited non-governmental organizations.

65. Detailed guidance on national statements, including on how to submit an online registration form to indicate preferred mode of delivery (in-person or pre-recorded video), level of speaker, and preferred time slot has been made available in a [Secretariat guidance note on the delivery of national and stakeholder statements](#).

66. In person statements will be delivered from a lectern in Conference Room 2 and will be webcast. Pre-recorded statements will be screened during the session, provided that the recording has been submitted in accordance with the deadline and that they fulfil the technical requirements outline in the guidance note.

67. In accordance with rule 38, and to allow for all delegations to contribute, the President of the Assembly will establish a time limit for statements amounting to three minutes per delegation, and five minutes to representatives speaking on behalf of regional and political groups. The speaking time will be strictly adhered to by the Chair of the sessions, including by means of technical devices that remind speakers of the remaining speaking time. Pre-recorded statements will be stopped at the length of 3 minutes.

## VIII. Leadership dialogues

68. Two leadership dialogues will be convened during the resumed fifth session of the Assembly with the aim of promoting an interactive high-level discussion on the overarching theme “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.

69. The first leadership dialogue will be convened with the heads of several Multilateral Environment Agreements and high-level representatives of Member States and stakeholders on Tuesday, 1 March from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. More information is available in this [concept note](#) for the dialogue.

70. The second leadership dialogue will be convened on Wednesday 2 March from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. More information is available in this [concept note](#) for the dialogue.

71. Both leadership dialogues will be supported by a [report](#) by the Executive Director on the theme of the fifth session, entitled “Nature at the Heart of Sustainable Development: A contribution to the High-Level Segment of the resumed session of the 5<sup>th</sup> UN Environment Assembly”, available [here](#) in all official UN languages.

72. Two leadership dialogues will also be convened during the special session of UNEP@50 on Friday, 4 March 2022 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 pm. The theme of the first high-level leadership dialogue, “Looking back: 50 years of UNEP”, will enable participants to reflect on the achievements of UNEP since its establishment in 1972. The theme of the second high-level leadership dialogue, “Looking forward: achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for people and planet”, will allow participants to focus on the future of UNEP and environmental multilateralism. More information on these dialogues is available in this [concept note](#).

73. Both leadership dialogues for the special session on UNEP@50 will be supported by a [report](#) by the Executive Director entitled “Reflecting on the past and imagining the future: a contribution to the dialogue on the science-policy interface”, available [here](#) in all official UN languages, and by the stakeholder report entitled “The UNEP We Want”.

55. Detailed guidance on all leadership dialogues, including on how to submit expressions of interest to participate in one or more of the dialogues, has been made available in a [guidance note](#) on participation in the leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues.

## IX. Multi-stakeholder dialogues

74. In accordance with [UNEA decision 5/3](#) and under agenda item 7 of the resumed fifth session of the Assembly, a multi-stakeholder dialogue will be convened on Tuesday 1 March from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. under the overarching theme “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, with a focus on “Building back greener - international environmental protection and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of COVID-19”.

75. Under agenda item 8 of the special session on UNEP@50, a multi-stakeholder dialogue will also be convened on Friday, 4 March from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. under the theme “Strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme for the implementation of the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”. The dialogue will be informed by the stakeholder report “the UNEP We Want”.

76. Detailed guidance on both dialogues, including on how to submit expressions of interest to participate in one or more of the multi-stakeholder dialogues, has been made available in a [guidance note](#) on participation in the leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues.

## X. Other events associated with the UN Environment Assembly

55. Several associated events, including pre-session events, side events, media events and hospitality events will be organized by the UN Environment Programme, Member States and other organizations.

56. A full list of events is made available at the Assembly website:  
<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5>