

# UNEP's Mandate and Organizational Structure

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Orientation Session for New Members  
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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# UNEP's History, Mandate and Mission



# Key milestones in UNEP's history

## 1972: Stockholm Conference, UNEP established

**UNEP is established in 1972** at the UN Conference on the Human Environment to monitor the state of the environment, inform policy making with science and coordinate responses to the world's environmental challenges.



## 2012: RIO+20, UNEP strengthened

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, UNEP's mandate is strengthened, and governance upgraded to **universal membership through UNEA** helping to define a new era of international environmental governance.



## 2022: UNEP@50, UNEP's contribution acknowledged

Political declaration at the UNEP@50 Special Session of UNEA acknowledged 50-year contribution of UNEP and further strengthened the mandate.



## UNEP's MANDATE (its role)

...leading global environmental authority, that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

## UNEP's MISSION (the "how")

...provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by informing, enabling and inspiring nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.



# UNEP's mission in practice

inform

## SCIENCE-POLICY

- ...provides evidence about the state and health of the planet and contributes solutions
- ...identifies emerging environmental threats
- ...provides guidance on sound policies

inspire

## SHOWS POSITIVE CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

- ...shares environmental success stories
- ...celebrates and awards individuals and institutions

## "ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD"

- ...raises awareness and advocates for action on the environment

enable

## CONVENING POWER

- ...brings people together to tackle triple planetary crisis (e.g. UNEA)

## ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

- ...supports strong environmental laws and institutions
- ...plays important role with regards to MEAs

## ROLE IN UN SYSTEM

- ...is the voice of environmental dimension of sustainable development within the UN

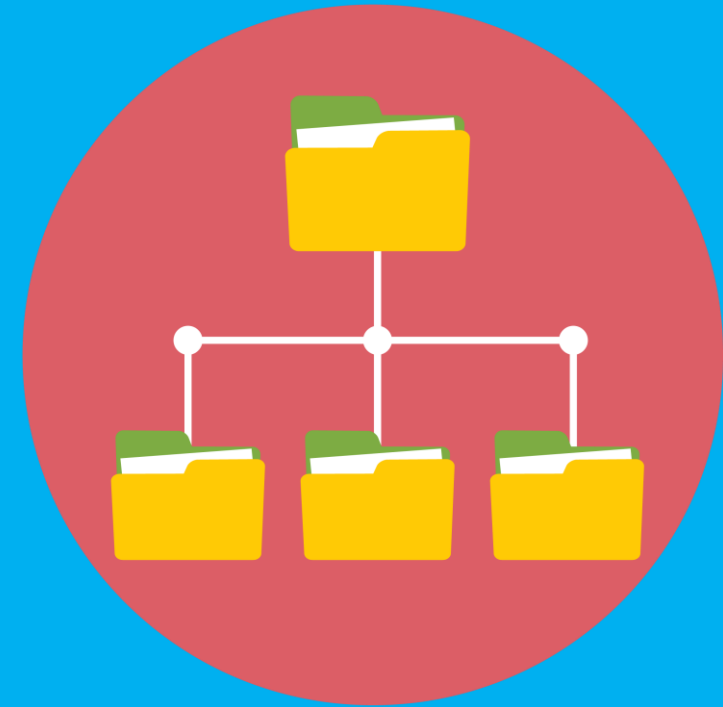
## CAPACITY BUILDING

- ...helps countries deliver on their environmental commitments
- ...provides tools and facilitates transfer of technologies

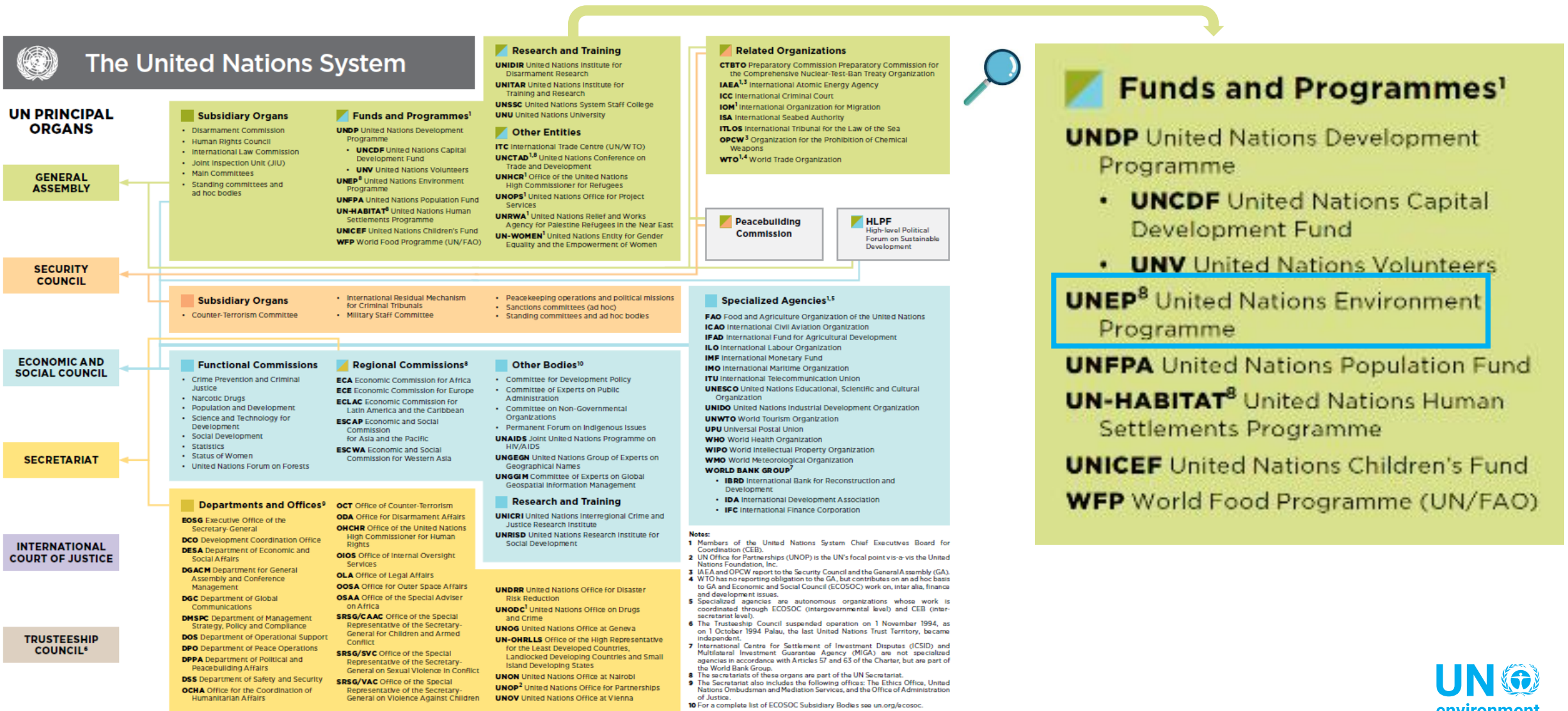
## PARTNERSHIPS

- ...facilitates South-South and triangular cooperation
- ...supports partnerships and access to global funds

# UNEP's role in the wider UN system



# UNEP within the United Nations System



This Chart is a reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations System and for informational purposes only. It does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations System.





# UNEP is Governed by Member States

## The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) – meets every two years

- Open-ended CPR (every two years to prepare UNEA)
- Annual CPR subcommittee (annually)
- CPR (quarterly)
- CPR Subcommittee (as necessary)

## The UN General Assembly (UNGA) – every year

- Administrative and Budgetary Committee (5th committee)
- Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)





# UNEP as part of the UN Secretariat

## **UN System Chief Executives Board (CEB)**

Highest level coordination forum of UN system, chaired by UNSG.  
UNEP represented by the Executive Director.

## **High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM)**

Subsidiary body of CEB, acts on behalf of the CEB on admin and management.

UNEP represented by Director of Corporate Services Division.

## **High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)**

A system-wide coordination on policy coherence on programme.  
Chaired by UNEP Executive Director.

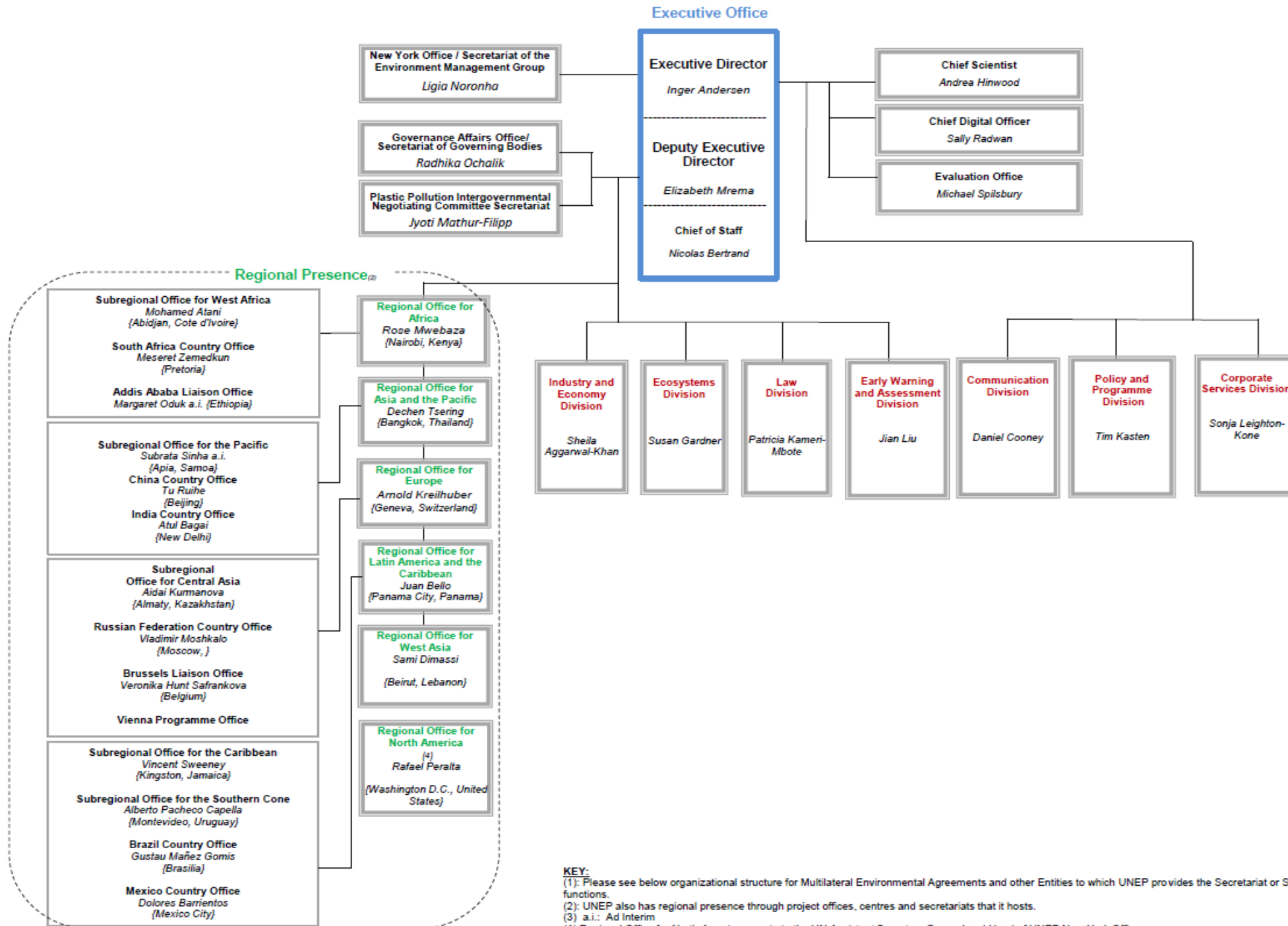
## **UN Environment Management Group (EMG):**

UNEP leverages its role as the Secretariat and Chair to better mainstream environmental issues into the work of the UN system, while coordinating the group's environmental activities for max impact and efficiency.



# UNEP's Secretariat





**KEY:**

(1): Please see below organizational structure for Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other Entities to which UNEP provides the Secretariat or Secretariat functions.

(2): UNEP also has regional presence through project offices, centres and secretariats that it hosts.

(3) a.i.: Ad Interim

(4) Regional Office for North America reports to the UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York Office

# All Staff Overview (P+, NO, GS) As of 30 June 2023

## Staff By Regional Rep. & Position Groups

Region	G	NO	P+	Total
African Group	271	3	153	<b>427</b>
Asia Pacific Group	64	7	171	<b>242</b>
Eastern European Group	10		35	<b>45</b>
Latin America & Caribbean	40	2	80	<b>122</b>
Western European & Others	115		379	<b>494</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>1330</b>

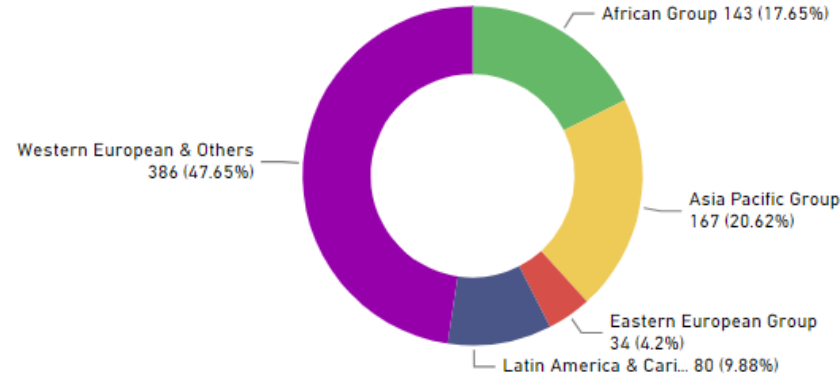
## Number of Staff by Gender



## P+ Regional Groups Overview

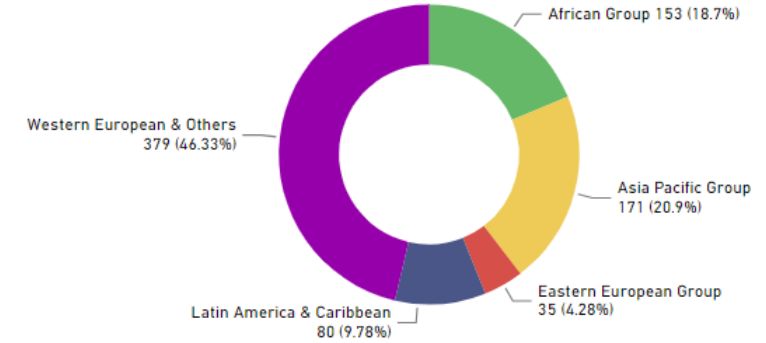
31 Dec 2022

Number of staff by Region



30 June 2022

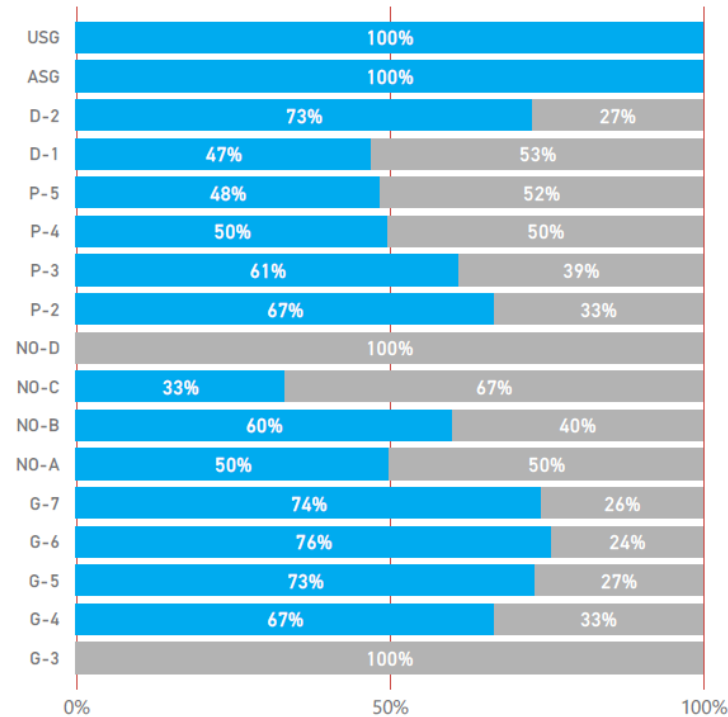
Number of staff by Region



## Gender Parity Overview

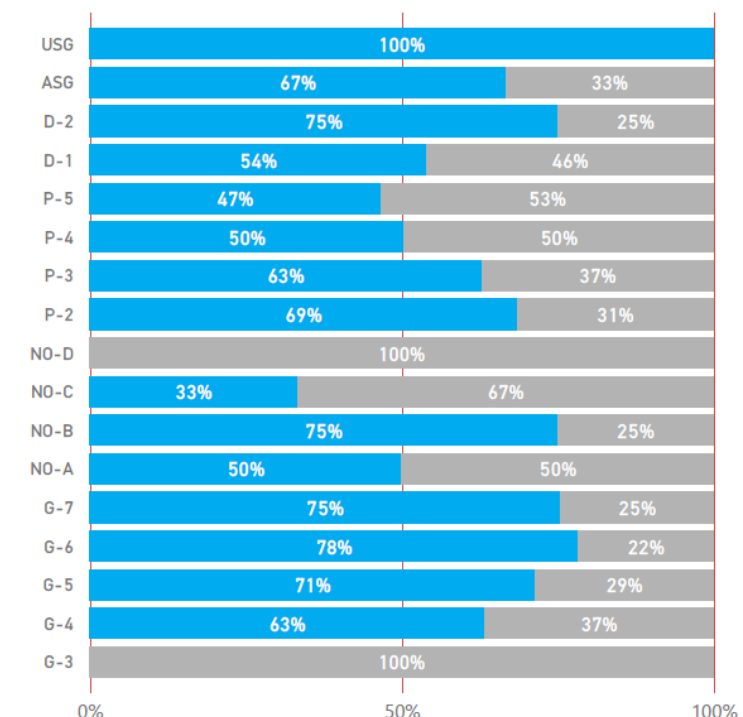
31 Dec 2022

All Staff by Gender & Level (Percentages %)



30 June 2022

All Staff by Gender & Level (Percentages %)

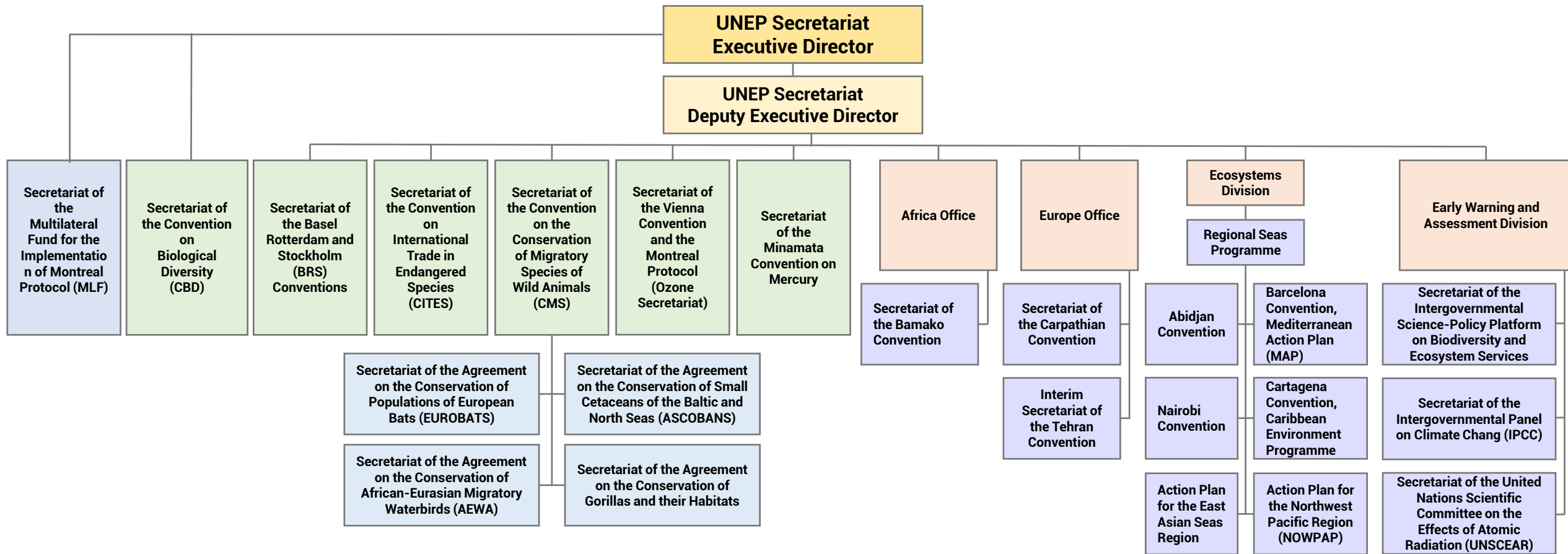


## UNEP and the MEAs

- **UNEP supports the negotiation and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)**
- **UNEP hosts the secretariat of 15 MEAs that cover a wide range of regional and global environmental issues**
- **...including hazardous chemicals and waste; biodiversity; oceans; migratory species; and rehabilitation of the ozone layer...**



# The MEAs and other entities to which UNEP provides the Secretariat or Secretariat Functions





# Oversight and Accountability

## Internal controls

- Accountability
- Statement of Internal Controls
- Delegation of Authority

## Audits

- “Single audit principle”
- External: Board of Auditors
- Internal: Office of Internal Oversight Services

## Evaluation

- UNEP independent Evaluation Office

## MOPAN Evaluations

- 21 Members
- Latest UNEP assessment in 2021:

**“UNEP remained highly relevant and its role in global environmental issues increased and it effectively delivered scientific assessments, policy advice and technical capacity building to Governments with visible outcomes.”**



# UNEP's funding



# How is UNEP funded?

## EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

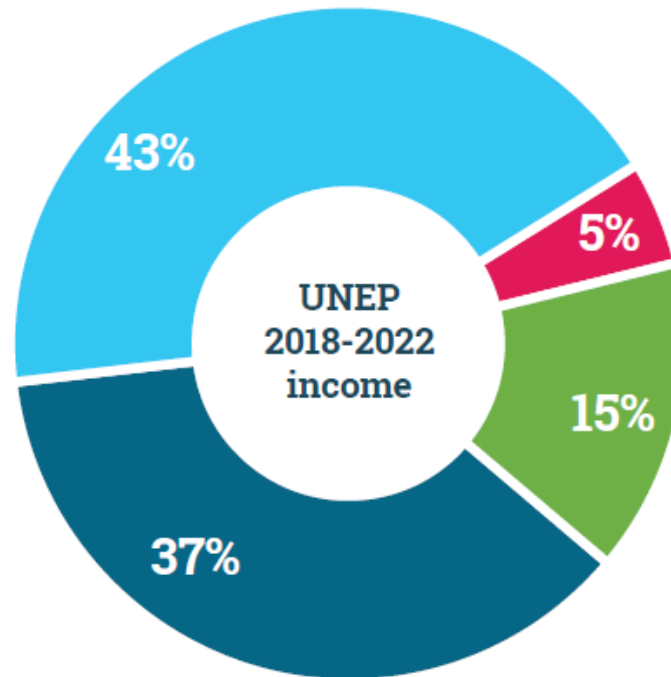
earmarked for specific projects, themes or countries, enable expansion and replication of programme and results in more countries with more partners.

- **Earmarked Funds**

From Member States, the European Commission, the UN family, the Multilateral Fund (Montreal Protocol) etc. (\$1,143.5M/43 per cent\*)

- **Global Funds**

From GEF and GCF (\$992.6M/37 per cent\*)



*\* combined income in five-year period (2018-2022) as at 31 Dec 2022*

## CORE CONTRIBUTIONS

gives flexibility to implement programme of work as approved by all Member States.

- **UN Regular Budget**

supports functions of UNEP Secretariat, including the Governing Bodies, coordination in the UN system, and cooperation with global scientific communities. (\$121.3M/5 per cent\*)

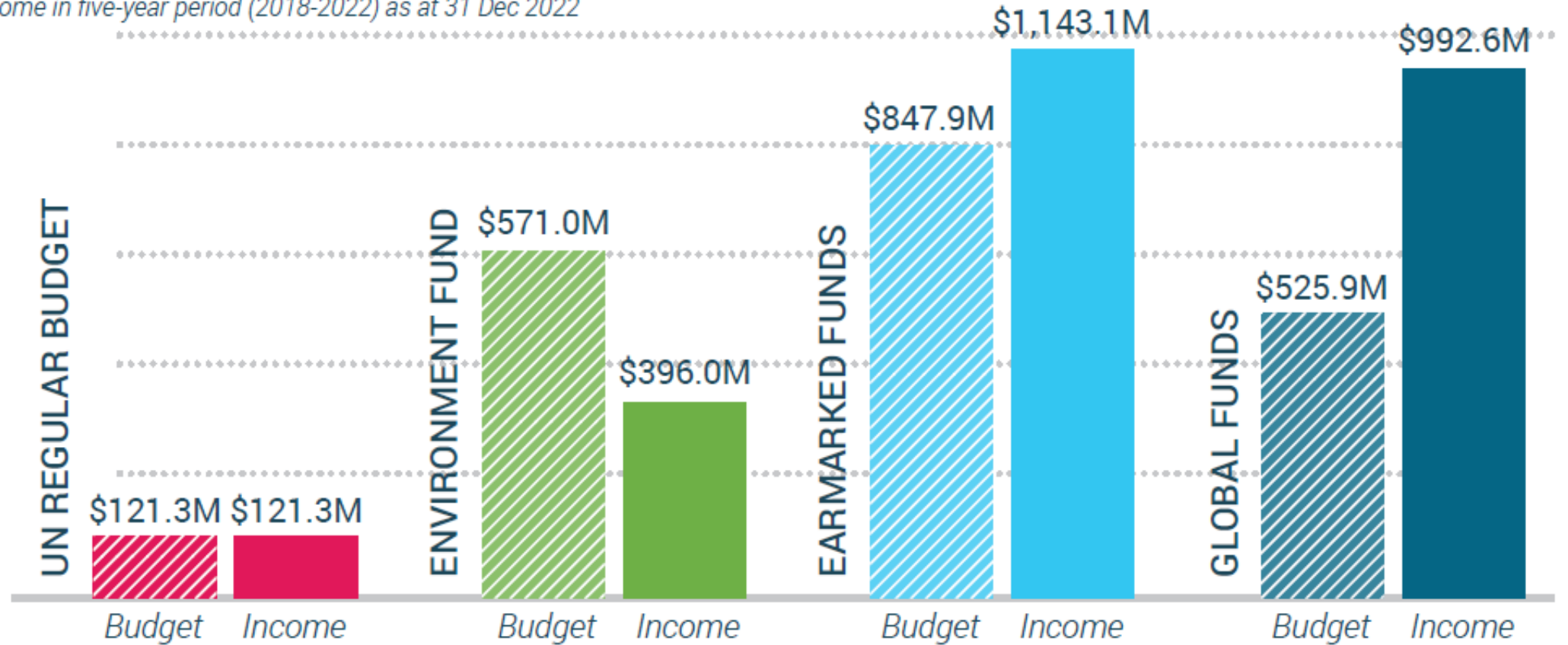
- **Environment Fund**

the core fund, supports essential capacity needed for balanced and efficient delivery of programme approved by Member States. (\$396.0M/15 per cent\*)

# UNEP's budget vs income

## Budget and Income by Funding Source (2018-2022)

\* combined income in five-year period (2018-2022) as at 31 Dec 2022



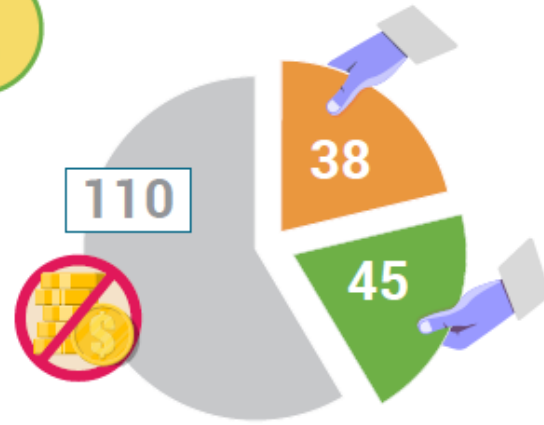
## How to strengthen UNEP's funding

1



**Fund the Environment Fund at the level of the budget** approved by Member States. In 2022 income was at 81 per cent of the approved budget of US\$ 100 million.

2



**Contribute your full share** – all UNEP Member States (193) have the responsibility to fund UNEP. In 2022, 83 Member States contributed to the Environment Fund, 45 of whom contributed their full share as per the indicative scale established by Member States.

3

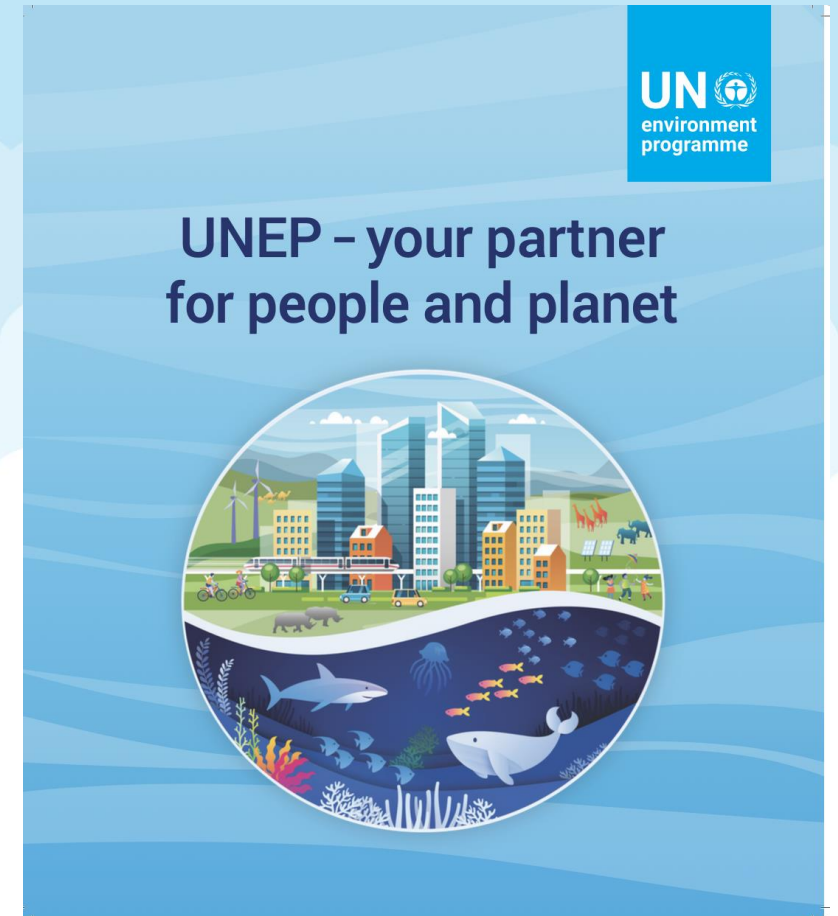


When core funding to the Environment Fund is not possible, **support the three Thematic Funds**. Currently almost 82 per cent of the funding received by UNEP is tightly earmarked. More effective delivery of results needs more flexibility in funding.

**UNEP is your partner on the journey to tackle the triple planetary crisis**

**We invite our partners to share the journey**

**For more info:**





# Thank you



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