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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Tenth meeting

Nairobi, 20 – 24 November 2023

10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)

Conference Room 1 and 2 (in person)

and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda item 5: Concept note on widening the funding base of UNEP.

The attached guidance constitutes a concept note on widening the funding base of UNEP. The focus placed on ‘widening the funding base’ of contributors is to further address UNEP’s reliance on a narrow funding base whereby less than half of the 193 Member States provide funding to UNEP, and the top 15 contributors provide over 90% of the total income to the Environment Fund. The Secretariat and Member States together have identified opportunities and made efforts to increase the number of Member States that provide core funding to the Environment Fund, in line with the universal membership of UNEA; and to identify partners that can provide flexible funding, preferably to the thematic funds of UNEP.

10th Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Agenda item 5: Widening the funding base of UNEP

22 November 2023

Concept Note for the session

Background

At the first structured annual funding dialogue between the UNEP Secretariat and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), which was part of the 9th annual subcommittee of CPR in October 2022, Member States recommended that the structured funding dialogue be a standing agenda item at future annual subcommittee meetings. Subsequently, this agenda item of the 10th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the CPR constitutes the second annual structured funding dialogue with focus on *Widening the Funding Base of UNEP*. It will be an important opportunity to take stock on progress made and to agree on actions for both the Secretariat and the Member States towards improved funding situation of UNEP.

Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will first provide an updated overview of UNEP's financial trends, funding status and a recap of the challenges of the current funding structure. In this regard, the committee is encouraged to consult the [report](#) or the [concept note](#) from the previous session for background information and to form a basis for this next dialogue. The Secretariat will then highlight actions taken based on the [recommendations](#) of the first structured annual funding dialogue to take stock on the progress made towards providing a more secure, stable, adequate and increased financial contributions to UNEP.

The focus placed on 'widening the funding base' of contributors is to further address UNEP's reliance on a narrow funding base whereby less than half of the 193 Member States provide funding to UNEP, and the top 15 contributors provide over 90% of the total income to the Environment Fund. The Secretariat and Member States together have identified opportunities and made efforts to increase the number of Member States that provide core funding to the Environment Fund, in line with the universal membership of UNEA; and to identify partners that can provide flexible funding, preferably to the thematic funds of UNEP. For example, the Secretariat has increased regional level engagement for resource mobilization by arranging funding dialogues at the regional ministerial levels. The Secretariat has also increased focused outreach to new funding partners and further developed the Thematic Funds. However, the concrete impact of these efforts is still moderate. The Secretariat, therefore, looks forward to feedback from the committee on the actions already taken and any issues that need to be addressed further to widen the funding base.

Further guidance for the Secretariat to organize dialogues with Member States on funding is stated as a specific activity in the "[Action Plan for the Implementation of the Paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development](#)" (UNEP/EA.5/23). Structured funding dialogues between UN entities and their governing bodies are also an integral part of the "[Funding Compact](#)" which is seen as a critical tool to maximize the investments of Member States in the UN Development System and to improve the system's transparency and accountability for system-wide actions and results (UNGA resolution 72/279). Further, the [online survey](#) on funding of UNEP, conducted in 2020, provided guidance on importance of funding dialogues.

Proposed programme

a. Secretariat presentation

The Secretariat will present funding trends and the current funding status; outline the funding challenges and opportunities; make the case for core and flexible funding; and update on progress made on recommendations from structured funding dialogue at 9th annual subcommittee, including efforts on widening the funding base.

b. Panel debate

A panel composed of Member State and Secretariat representatives, guided by two moderators is invited to discuss topics and questions provided ahead of the discussion under the umbrella theme of “widening the funding base”. The panelists are:

1. **H.E. Ms. Rose Makena Muchiri**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative Kenyan mission to the United Nations Office at Nairobi.
2. **H.E. Ms. Romy Tincopa**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru to the UN in Geneva.
3. **Ms. Elizabeth Mrema**, Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UNEP.
4. **H.E. Mr. Firas Khouri**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations Nairobi, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. **Ms. Gudi Alkemade**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherland to UNEP and UN Habitat.

c. Exchange of views, open discussion by CPR

Following the panel discussion, the CPR and other stakeholders are invited to comment and provide their views on the topics discussed in the presentation and the panel debate.

Background documents

[Financial outlook and funding challenges for UNEP – follow up from the 9th annual subcommittee of the CPR](#)

[Action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.](#)

[UN Funding Compact](#)