

Note on budget estimates for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

This note outlines projected budget estimates and funding gap for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) taking place from Monday, 26 February to Friday, 1 March 2024, as well as the sixth meeting of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6) taking place from Monday, 19 to Friday, 23 February 2024, and the UNEA Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum (UNEA GMGSF) to be held on Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 February 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The total estimated budget for UNEA-6, OECPR-6 and GMGSF is approximately USD 4.4 million, and it covers the following core expenses:

- **Conference servicing** such as costs for meeting rooms, processing and issuance of pre-session, in-session and post-session documentations, and interpretation costs.
- **Travel support** for two representatives from developing countries, with priority given to the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States to UNEA-6 and OECPR-6.
- **Organization of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum and travel support** for a limited number of representatives from accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders to attend UNEA-6, OECPR and the UNEA GMGSF.
- **Core UNEA communication activities**, include branding, media coverage, translation, multimedia coverage, website content management and a dedicated UNEA event app for participants.
- **Organization of official UNEA side events and other associated events** and exhibitions, including as related to the dedicated “MEA Day”.
- **Setting up several additional temporary infrastructures**, including 1 large and three smaller tented meeting venues for panel discussions, three tented exhibition areas and a tented delegate’s lounge, including furniture, AV equipment etc.

The expenditures for the above activities and infrastructure are estimated as follows:

Items	Meetings (USD)			Total (USD)
	UNEA	OECPR	MGS	
Conference services costs (UNON regular budget allocation)	708,000	-	-	708,000
Conference services costs (UNEP regular budget allocation)	239,000	54,000	-	293,000
Support to 2 representatives of developing countries	1,232,000	-	-	1,232,000
Organization of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum, including travel support	-	-	201,000	201,000
UNEA communication activities	495,000	-	-	495,000
Other conference costs including AV equipment, webcasting and reporting services through the Earth Negotiations Bulletin	809,000	19,000	-	828,000
Temporary infrastructure (large tented areas) to accommodate associated events and exhibitions	630,000	-	-	630,000
Grand Total	4,113,000	73,000	201,000	4,387,000

Funding sources

Historically, the total costs for regular sessions of the Environment Assembly have ranged between USD 3 and 4 million, financed through three main sources of funding, as follows:

1. *UN Regular Budget:*

As a formal calendar meeting of the UN, the UN regular budget provides financial resources to cover core conference services costs. For UNEA-6, the regular budget is expected to consist of (i) **USD 708,000** through UNON Conference Services, and (ii) **USD 450,000** directly to UNEP, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

2. *UNEP funding:*

The regular budget does not cover all costs related to UNEA. Therefore, approximately 1/3 of the UNEA budget has previously been funded from UNEP's core budget.

For UNEA-6, UNEP will allocate approximately **USD 1,500,000** from its budget, to ensure a successful UNEA. This is significantly higher than the UNEP's contribution for previous UNEA sessions.

This amount includes **USD 95,000** from the unspent balances of UNEA-5.2

3. *Member States direct contributions (extrabudgetary resources – XB):*

Traditionally, about a third of the total costs for UNEA have been covered through generous contributions from individual Member States. Most of these funds have been used for travel support for delegates from developing countries (which is not covered by any of the above-mentioned funding sources). Based on the experience from previous UNEA sessions (adjusted to 2023 cost level), travel support for UNEA-6 is estimated at about 1.2 million USD.

To bridge the funding for travel support and other costs, such as temporary infrastructure (tents) or communication activities and taking into account the level of contributions made to support previous UNEA sessions, Member States in a position to do so are encouraged to provide extrabudgetary support for the organization of UNEA-6, with the aim of mobilizing **USD 1,729,000 in total**. While non-earmarked contributions to UNEA-6 are particularly welcome, Member States may also indicate what type of activities they wish to support, such as travel support to participants from developing countries, or Major Groups and Stakeholders activities.

To date, UNEP has received pledges to support UNEA-6 from the **European Commission (USD 600,000) and Hungary (USD 5,400)** in support of UNEA-6. UNEP expresses its deep appreciation to both parties, and hope that other Member States will follow suit.

Funding gap

As of 10 October 2023, and against the estimated total budget of USD 4,387,000 for UNEA-6 core activities, the funding gap for UNEA-6 amounts to about USD 1,729,000. The details are as follows:

Total budget estimate (USD)	4,387,000
Secured funding from regular budget and UNEP budget	
Regular budget (UNON)	708,000
Regular budget (UNEP)	450,000
UNEP contribution	1,500,000
Total secured funding	2,658,000
Total funding gap	1,729,000
Extrabudgetary contributions received	
XB (European Commission)	560,700 ¹
XB (Hungary)	4,900 ¹
Remaining funding gap	1,163,400

Conclusion

To bridge the remaining funding gap of approximately USD 1,163,400, all Member States in a position to do so are invited, in accordance with their specific circumstances and capacity, to contribute financially to the organization of UNEA-6, to ensure an inclusive, participatory, and a successful session. Every contribution counts – large and small.

¹ Excluding Programme Support Costs (PSC)