UNEA sessions and related consequences for UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget

10th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

November 2023
1. Background

**UNEP's Medium-term Strategy (MTS)**
- MTS 2022-2025 approved at UNEA5.1 in February 2021
- Four-year strategy.
- Currently ending the first biennium

**Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget**
- POW and Budget for 2022-2023 extended to include 2024-2025
- Biennial cycles, two in the four-year MTS cycle.

*UNEA Decision 5/4*
*Also decides, to extend the programme of work for the period 2022–2023 by two years, to the end of 2025, with the budget and targets being pro-rated accordingly.*
UNEA Decision 5/4:

Decides, that the sixth session of the UNEA will be held in Nairobi from 26 February to 1 March 2024;

Urges the Environment Assembly at its sixth session, when considering the date and venue of its seventh session, to keep in mind its resolution 2/22, on the review of the cycle of the Environment Assembly and rule 1 of its rules of procedure concerning the recommended time between sessions of the Environment Assembly, and the need to approve the MTS for the period 2026–2029 and the PoW of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027 in 2025.
2. Three options

1. UNEA-7 is held in February 2026 & special session in 2025 to approve the MTS 2026-2029.
   - Change the UNEA cycle to even years.
   - Special session in 2025
   - UNEA 7 will take place in 2026.

2. UNEA-7 is held in February 2026.
   - Change the UNEA cycle to even years.
   - Extend the current MTS and POW/Budget 1 year.
   - UNEA-7 in February 2026, approves the 2027-2030 MTS and the 2027-2028 PoW/Budget.

3. UNEA-7 is held in late 2025
   - Revert the UNEA cycle to odd years.
   - MTS and PoW/Budget would be approved before the current one expires.
Past UNEA meetings

- UNEA 1: June 2014
- UNEA 2: May 2016
- UNEA 3: December 2017
- UNEA 4: March 2019
- UNEA 5.1: February 2021
- UNEA 5.2: February 2022

Timing of UNEA meetings has varied since UNEA 1
Comparing the three options

1. Additional budget needed for holding a special session:
   - $US 100,000 for a decision through silence procedure
   - $US 1,100,00 for a hybrid meeting
   - $US 355,000 fully online

2. No additional costs required for the regular session of UNEA

3. No additional costs required for the regular session of UNEA
Members of the CPR are invited to consider the three options.

Secretariat looks forward to receive guidance from members of the CPR on the proposed way forward.
Thank you

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