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

**146th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 20 June 2019

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1

**Agenda Item 7b): Follow-up of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly -
Implementation of decision UNEP/EA.4/1**

The annexed note, “Development of a Roadmap for Mainstreaming UNDS Reforms” has been developed in response to a request to the Executive Director in UNEA resolution 4/1 (L.28), entitled “Programme of work and budget for 2020–2021”, to undertake an assessment of internal policies, guidelines and regulations that need to be adjusted in order to implement the provisions in General Assembly resolutions 71/243 and 72/279 and to present a plan with timelines for their implementation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 146th meeting.

It identifies internal policies, guidelines and regulations that need to be assessed for UNEP to implement the UNDS reform; some of which may also have budgetary and funding implications. It also sets out a plan with indicative timelines.

The note concludes that the ongoing UN Development System repositioning presents new opportunities and has direct implications for UNEP, the full extent of which is still partly unknown. UNEP perceives the changes as an enabling opportunity to deliver better on our environmental mandate within and as part of the UNDS. UNEP is unwavering in its commitment to working together to drive UNDS reforms forward, with the primary objective of delivering better collective sustainable development results for the people and planet we serve.

Development of a Roadmap for Mainstreaming UNDS Reforms

1. Introduction

This document responds to United Nations Environment Assembly's (UNEA) resolution 4/1 requesting “the Executive Director to undertake an assessment of internal policies, guidelines and regulations that need to be adjusted in order to implement the provisions in General Assembly resolutions [71/243](#) and [72/279](#) and to present a plan with timelines for their implementation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) at their 146th meeting”.

The document builds on the [information note on the implications and opportunities of the UN development system \(UNDS\) reforms](#) for the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) provided to the CPR at its 145th meeting. It should be read in conjunction with the [Secretary-General's report, and related addenda, on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development](#), considered by the [Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\) at its Operational Activities Segment \(OAS\)](#).

The Secretary-General has emphasised that 2019 is a year of transition for the UNDS, with many components still being developed. The organisation continues to leverage the opportunities and spaces created by the reforms to better deliver its policy expertise and support to Member States for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in line with its mandate and capacities. The UNDS reforms present unique opportunities for entities such as UNEP, with limited country presence. With a new Executive Director, 2019 will be a year to review and best incorporate UNDS reforms in parallel with the continued efforts to strengthen the Organization.

The development system reforms have implications for how UNEP plans, delivers and reports on results at the global, regional and country levels. They also present us with significant opportunities to further deliver our mandate within the 2030 Agenda, as called for in the Outcome Document of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development ¹. In line with our mandate, UNEP has an essential role within the repositioned UN development system, providing advice and policy guidance on how to integrate environmental and natural resource sustainability and resilience.

The development system reforms offer an opportunity to raise the environmental agenda and strengthen coordination of global environmental policies and strategies at regional and national levels, including by better linking the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) expertise and resources to the work of the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and the new Resident Coordinator System.

This paper identifies internal policies, guidelines and regulations that need to be assessed for UNEP to implement the UNDS reform; some of which may also have budgetary and funding implications. It also sets out a plan with indicative timelines.

The collective implementation of UNDS reform is being undertaken jointly by the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General and with the support of the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) and the Transition Team. UNEP remains very

¹ Para 88 of the Future We Want calls to “(c) Enhance the voice of UNEP and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening UNEP engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering UNEP to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment”.