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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

153rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme

Nairobi, 26 January 2021
Online meeting
14:00 – 17:00 (GMT+3)

Agenda Item 6: Consideration of draft decisions on administrative and budgetary matters for the virtual session of UNEA-5 in February 2021.

This note serves as a background document for consideration of agenda item 6: Consideration of draft decisions on administrative and budgetary matters for the virtual session of UNEA-5 in February 2021.

Following the consultations at the meeting of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 10 December 2020, the secretariat has reviewed the draft decisions on administrative and budgetary matters to be considered by the virtual session of the UNEA-5 in February 2021, for further consideration under agenda item 6 of this meeting.

The zero draft decisions have been amended following the meeting of the subcommittee on 10 December, as follows:

- **Draft decision on the adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly:** At the request of a Member State, one new preambular paragraph (preambular paragraph 2) is proposed recalling the agreed theme for UNEA-5; at the request of a group of Member States an operative paragraph has been added to highlight existing mandates from previous Assembly's sessions (paragraph 3); furthermore at the request of several member States one new operative paragraph has been included relating to the process of informal consultations under General Assembly resolution 73/333 (paragraph 5) and finally in paragraph 8, the recommended time frame for submitting draft resolutions for consideration at the resumed session of UNEA-5 is proposed to be changed from 8 to 10 weeks in accordance with the outcome of the process for review by the CPR as mandated un UNEA decision 4/2.
- **Draft decision on a medium-term strategy for 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023:** Two factual corrections are proposed in paragraphs 2 and 9, both with regard to the time frame for the new Programme of Work and Budget.
- **Draft decision on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions:** No change has been made in comparison with the previous draft.

The Committee is invited to further review the revised drafts with a view to seek broad agreement in view of final consideration at the online session of Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 15-16 February 2021, and the online meeting of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly on 22-23 February 2021.

Draft elements for a decision on the adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling Decision 4/2 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly” by which the United Nations Environment Assembly decided to hold the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its headquarters in Nairobi from 22 to 26 February 2021;

Recalling the theme for the fifth session of the United Nations; “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”;

Conscious of the fact that the restrictions related to the COVID 19 pandemic have not allowed for representatives from member States and stakeholders to meet in person at its fifth session during these dates;

Deeply committed to fulfilling the mandate of the United Nations Environment Assembly as the United Nations highest-level decision-making body on the environment;

Having convened by virtual means between 22 and 23 February 2021:

1. *Decides* to adjourn the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and to resume deliberations at its headquarters in Nairobi from 28 February to **X March 2022** [pending conclusion of paragraph 9/alt.9] to conclude the consideration of its agenda;
2. *Decides* that the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will resume its fifth session from 21 to 25 February 2022, and requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to decide on the format and agenda of its meeting;
3. ***Calls upon the Secretariat as well as Member States to continue work on all relevant work streams, with a view to continue our joint efforts to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and to address relevant existing mandates from previous sessions of the Environment Assembly, including on the Future of the Global Environment Outlook, follow-up to UNGA resolution 73/333, the CPR-based review and on identifying action to address marine litter and micro plastics.***
4. *Takes note* of the reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme submitted to the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on progress achieved in the implementation of resolutions of the Assembly, as set out in the Annex to this decision, and *decides* to defer action on these reports to the resumed session of the Assembly on 28 February 2022;
5. ***Decides that the United Nations Environment Assembly shall at its resumed fifth session finalize implementation of the mandate entrusted to it by General Assembly resolution 73/333 of 30 August 2019, to prepare a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting;***
6. *Decides* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue to review the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Assembly;
7. *Decides* that the resumed fifth session of the Assembly shall consist of plenary meetings, a sessional Committee of the Whole, and a high-level segment, including leadership dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue;
8. *Strongly encourages* member States, without prejudice to the rules of procedure, in particular rule 44, to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the resumed session of the United Nations Environment Assembly at an early stage, preferably at least **ten** weeks in advance of the resumed session of the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, to allow for a productive period in-

between the virtual and resumed session of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, taking into account the limited time and resources available for negotiation of such draft resolutions.

Commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972

9. *Decides* to convene a Special Session of the UN Environment Assembly to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme, to be held on **[3 and] 4 March 2022**, under the leadership of the Presidency and the Bureau of the sixth session of the Environment.
 9. *alt. Decides to include* in the agenda of the resumed fifth session an item entitled “Commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1972” and to hold a special event on **[3 and] 4 March 2022** as an integral part of its high-level segment.
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Draft elements for a decision on a medium-term strategy for 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025¹ and the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023,

1. *Approves* the medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025, and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023;
2. *Approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 200 million United States dollars for the biennium for the purposes indicated in the following table:

Environment Fund programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023

(thousands of United States dollars)

A. Policymaking organs	4,000
B. Executive direction and management	8,000
C. Programme of work	164,000
Climate Action	24,000
Digital Transformations	14,000
Nature Action	24,000
Environmental governance	26,000
Chemicals and Pollution Action	24,000
Finance and Economic Transformations	26,000
Science Policy	26,000
D. Fund Programme Reserve	10,000
E. Programme Management Support	14,000
Total	200,000

3. *Stresses* the importance of early, extensive and transparent consultations between the Executive Director, Member States and the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the preparation of the draft medium-term strategy, the strategic framework and the programme of work and budget.
4. *Stresses* the need for the programme of work and budget to be based on results-based management;
5. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate resources between subprogramme budget lines up to a maximum of ten per cent of the subprogramme appropriations and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and in duly justified exceptional circumstances to reallocate in excess of ten per cent and up to 20 per cent of the appropriations from which resources are reallocated after prior consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;
6. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of Environment Fund allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations, while taking into account expected incomes from other sources;
7. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities, to implement the programme of work for the biennium 2022–2023;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to apply a prudent approach to the management of resources from all sources, including the Environment Fund, including through the careful management of contractual arrangements;
 9. *Welcomes* the progress made in increasing allocations from the Environment Fund to activities and operations in the programme of work for the biennium **2020–2021**.
 10. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to monitor and manage the share of the Environment Fund devoted, respectively, to post costs and non-post costs, while clearly prioritizing the application of the resources of the Environment Fund to programme activities;
 11. Emphasizes the need for comprehensive information, and full justification, regarding proposed expenditures and contributions from all sources of funding, including staffing information, to be provided to the Committee of Permanent Representatives well in advance of its consideration of the programme of work and budget;
 12. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to improve the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of oversight, review and independent evaluation;
 13. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States through the meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its sessions, on evaluation findings and the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations;
 14. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work, apart from those funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of other intergovernmental bodies;
 15. Encouraged by its universal membership, *urges* all Member States and others in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, notably the Environment Fund, and also requests the Executive Director, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to mobilize increased voluntary funding, including softly earmarked funding, to the Programme from all Member States and others in a position to do so as well as to continue to broaden the contributor base;
 16. *Notes* the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions to, and to enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of, the Environment Fund, and *requests* the Executive Director to continue adapting the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, inter alia, in accordance with Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 and any relevant subsequent decisions;
 17. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to design a resource mobilization strategy that improves the adequacy and predictability of resources. And *Encourages* the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to implement the strategy with the priority to broaden the contributor base from Member States as well as other partners;
 18. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit for consideration and approval by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work for the period 2024–2025.
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Draft elements for a decision on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions,

Recalling the request made in UNEA Decision 3/3 requesting the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant parties and/or donors, as appropriate and in accordance with the terms of the respective agreement/fund, to decide on reassigning the balances in *inactive* trust funds when the activities for which they have been established have ended, with a view to supporting the implementation of appropriate subprogrammes of the agreed programme of work.

1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the implementation of UNEA Decision 3/3 through the closure of the inactive trust funds and the *reassignment* of the balances to the relevant activities;
2. *Notes* that, in line with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme carries out the functions of the secretariat must be based on the principle of cost recovery when it comes to administrative;

I

Trust funds in support of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme

3. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds:
 - (a) BRL – Trust Fund for the Revolving Fund Activities of the Bamako Convention with an expiry date of 31 December 2023;
 - (b) FEC – Trust Fund for the core activities of the “Faith for Earth Coalition” of United Nations Environment Programme with no fixed expiry date;
 - (c) FIL – Trust Fund to support the activities of the UNEP Financial Services Initiative on Environment with no fixed expiry date¹;
4. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds upon receiving requests to do so from the appropriate authorities:
 - (a) AFB – Technical cooperation trust fund for UNEP activities as a multilateral implementing entity of the Adaptation Fund Board, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
 - (b) AML – General trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
 - (c) BPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (financed by the Government of Belgium), which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
 - (d) CLL – Trust fund to support the activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
 - (e) CML – Trust fund to support implementation of a special programme on chemicals and waste, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
 - (f) ECL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund financed by the European Commission to support cooperation between the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme on Strengthening International Environmental Governance under a 2011 Strategic Cooperation Agreement and the 2014 Programme Cooperation Agreement, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;

¹ an “assessed contribution type” of trust fund established in order to reduce the workload attributable with the technical aspects associated to the way the current “grant type” trust fund operate in Enterprise Resource Planning System(Umoja).

- (g) ESS - Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA), which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (h) EUL - Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Achievement of Contribution Agreement No. DCI-ENV/2010/258-800, Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation and UNEP (covering environment and sustainable management of natural resources, including energy, priorities 1, 2 and 3.3, "Support for mainstreaming", which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (i) GPP – Trust fund for assisting the delegates from the developing countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in attending the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group for the Global Pact for the Environment, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (j) GPS - Trust fund in support of the Secretariat functions and the organization of meetings and consultations for the Global Pact for the Environment, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (k) IAL – Technical cooperation trust fund for the Ireland Aid Multilateral Environment Fund for Africa (financed by the Government of Ireland), which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (l) IEL – Technical cooperation trust fund for priority projects to improve the environment in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (financed by the Government of the Republic of Korea), which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (m) MCL – General trust fund in support of activities on mercury and other metals, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (n) MDL – Technical cooperation trust fund for UNEP implementation of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (o) REL – Technical cooperation trust fund for the promotion of renewable energy in the Mediterranean region (financed by the Government of Italy), which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (p) SLP - Trust fund to support the activities of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants, which is extended up to 31 December 2030;
- (q) SML – General trust fund for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (r) WPL – General trust fund to provide support the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to promote its activities, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;

II

Trust funds in support of regional seas programmes, conventions, protocols and special funds

5. *Notes and approves* the extension of the following trust funds as requested by the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention of Migratory Species, 9th meeting of the parties of Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas and 8th meeting of the signatories to Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA) respectively;
 - (a) BAL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, which is extended up to 31 December 2024;
 - (b) MRL - Technical cooperation trust fund on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
 - (c) MSL – Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;

6. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds, upon receiving request to do so from the appropriate authorities:

A

Trust funds administered by the coordinating unit for the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean

- (a) CAL – Support of the Mediterranean Action Plan (financed by the Government of Greece), which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (b) MEL – Trust fund for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (c) QML – Support of the Mediterranean Action Plan, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;

B

Trust funds administered by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

- (a) BCL – Trust fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (b) BDL – Trust fund to assist developing countries and other countries in need of technical assistance in the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (c) ROL – General trust fund for the operational budget of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (d) RVL – Special trust fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (e) SCL – General trust fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (f) SVL – Special trust fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;

C

Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region

- (a) QAC – Support of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (b) WAL – Trust fund for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Atlantic coast of the West, Central and Southern African region, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;

D

Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

- (a) CAR – Trust fund for the core budget of the Carpathian Convention, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;

- (b) CAP – Trust fund for the core budget of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related protocols, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;

E

Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

- (a) AVL- General trust fund for voluntary contributions in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, which is extended up to 31 December 2024;
- (b) AWL – General trust fund for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, which is extended up to 31 December 2024;
- (c) BTL – General trust fund for the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (d) QFL – General trust fund for voluntary contributions in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (e) QVL – General Trust Fund in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, which is extended up to 31 December 2024;
- (f) SMU – Trust fund to support the activities of the secretariat of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, which is extended up to 31 December 2024;
- (g) MVL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;

F

Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region

- (a) EAL – Regional seas trust fund for the Eastern African region, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (b) QAW – Support of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;

G

Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas

- (a) ESL - Regional trust fund for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, which is extended up to 31 December 2024;
- (b) QEL – Support of the Eastern Asian Seas Action Plan, which is extended up to 31 December 2024;

H

Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- (a) BBL - Trust fund for the core programme budget for the Nagoya Protocol, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (b) BEL – General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (c) BGL – General trust fund for the core programme budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (d) BYL – General trust fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to

31 December 2023;

- (e) BZL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
- (f) VBL – Voluntary Trust Fund to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;

I

Trust funds administered by the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa

- (a) BML - General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;
- (b) BWL - Special Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Support of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;

J

Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols

- (a) CRL - Regional trust fund for implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is extended up 31 December 2023;
 - (b) QCL – Trust Fund for Support of the Cartagena Convention Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is extended up 31 December 2023;
-