

Governance Affairs Office
XX December 2021

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Notification by the Executive Director

**The resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme**
Nairobi, 28 February – 2 March 2022

And the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
3-4 March 2022

- 1) In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 10 of [UNEA decision 5/3](#), entitled “Adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”, the resumed fifth session of the Environment Assembly (“UNEA-5.2”) will convene in Nairobi, Kenya, from 28 February 2022 to 2 March 2022 (10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 each day), and a special session of the Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (“UNEP@50”), will be held on 3 and 4 March 2022, in conjunction with UNEA 5.2, under the leadership of the Presidency and the Bureau of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.
- 2) In accordance with paragraph 8 of UNEA decision 5/3, the resumed meeting of UNEA-5.2 shall consist of plenary meetings, a sessional committee of the whole and a high-level segment, including leadership dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue. The high-level segment of UNEA-5.2 will take place on 2 March 2022, under the overarching theme “*Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*”, supported by a report of the Executive Director that will be made available at least 6 weeks in advance of the resumed session.
- 3) The provisional agenda for UNEA-5.2 (UNEP/EA.5/1.Rev2) remains unchanged and is set out in *Annex I* to this notification. The annotated agenda (UNEP/EA.5/1.Rev2/Add.1) will be adjusted to take into account the [outcomes of the online session of UNEA-5](#), and made available on the [UNEA 5 website](#).
- 4) The provisional agenda for UNEP@50 has been considered and agreed at the 156th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 30 November 2021 and is set out in *Annex II*.
- 5) A proposed structure for both UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 is outlined in *Annex III*.
- 6) In accordance with paragraph 2 of UNEA decision 5/3, the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will resume its fifth session (OECPR-5.2) from 21 to 25 February 2022 (10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 each day), on the basis of a decision to be taken by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the format and agenda. OECPR-5.2 will serve as preparatory meeting for the Assembly.
- 7) In accordance with the outcome of the 156th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 30 November 2021, the third informal substantive consultation meeting on [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 73/333](#) will take place 15-17 February 2022.
- 8) A programme of official high level and side events to take place during and in conjunction with the above mentioned meetings will be prepared by the secretariat under the guidance of the UNEA Bureau, taking into account the need to enable, as far as possible, all Member States to participate in the negotiations on UNEA resolutions, by rationalizing the number of side events and other events and by avoiding overlaps in the scheduling and structure of UNEA sessions.
- 9) The meetings are also expected to be preceded by several preparatory stakeholder events, including a meeting of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum, a meeting of the Science Policy and Business Forum, and a “Youth Environment Assembly” led by the Children and Youth Major Group.

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- 10) In view of the exceptional circumstances associated with the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), all above mentioned meetings will be subject to general and specific guidance and meeting restrictions, referred to as COVID-19 minimum requirements.
- 11) The following COVID-19 minimum requirements have been developed with the support of the United Nations Office in Nairobi with a view to minimize the risk of infections among delegates and staff that attend the above mentioned meetings, taking into account the COVID-19 restrictions put in place by the host country Kenya, as well as the guidance provided by the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
- a) Hybrid format:
- i) All Member States and Stakeholders representatives are invited to attend all official meetings in person, provided that the COVID minimum requirements as outlined in this note are respected.
 - ii) Any accredited delegate may also choose to actively participate in the meetings remotely through the meeting online platform, with full speaking rights and with full online interpretation.
 - iii) Accredited delegates travelling from outside Kenya to attend the meetings must meet the COVID-19 monitoring, prevention, and containment measures established by the Government of Kenya.
- b) Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination:
- i) All meeting delegates and UN staff who enter the UN complex in Gigiri in Nairobi, regardless of rank and affiliation, are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19¹.
 - ii) For any delegate who wish to participate in person, verification of full vaccination must be made available in writing at the time of the registration, by way of uploading relevant documents to the registration platform.
 - iii) For Member States, the document to be uploaded on the registration platform is the accreditation letter, which should confirm that any representative that attend the meeting in person is fully vaccinated.
 - iv) For representatives of Major Groups and international organizations, the accreditation letter must be complemented by a valid vaccination certificate.
 - v) The secretariat will review the accreditation letters from Member States and verify the validity of uploaded vaccination certificates, as a basis for issuance of meeting badges. To allow for the necessary time for the secretariat to verify the status of vaccination, the registration will close early (10 February 2022).
- c) Physical distancing:
- i) Member States are recommended to limit the size of their delegation to avoid overcrowding the conference and other facilities of public use at UNON.
 - ii) In accordance with the current guidance issued by the host country, meeting room utilization should not exceed 2/3 of the normal capacity, meaning 650 for the main conference room 2-3-4 combined, and 290 for Conference Room 1. This will permit on average a maximum of 3 delegates per desk in both of these large rooms. On this basis, Member States and Stakeholders are recommended to keep within the following suggested delegation size
 - The number of delegates per Member States entering the UN compound at any time should be of 5 representatives or less.

¹ Persons who have received their final dose at least 14 days prior to the meeting date with vaccines against COVID - 19 approved for use by the regulatory mechanisms of the country of vaccination.

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- For Member States attending with a Vice Minister or higher, the recommendation will increase to no more than 10 representatives, and for delegations attending at Head of State level, the number will increase to no more than 20 representatives.
- For representatives from Major Groups and UN and other international organizations, the recommended number of delegates on the compound should not exceed 2 representatives per organization.
- Significant departures from the above recommendations should be communicated in writing to the secretariat by 10 February at the latest, including a motivation for the departure from recommended numbers. The secretariat will review the requests on a case-by-case basis and will revert with an answer as soon as possible.
- The maximum number of delegates in the large conference room will be 3 per Member State (Head of delegation + 2) and 50 (in total) for stakeholder representatives. The restriction will be enforced by providing a limited number of "floating badges" to each delegation.

d) Other minimum requirements:

- i) All participants must wear face coverings covering nose and mouth at all times, except when they address the meeting from their desks, podium or lectern, and when eating or drinking.
- ii) Any participant displaying any COVID-19 symptoms should refrain from attending any meeting and test his or her COVID-19 status. Should a participant test positive in a rapid antigen test (see below), in addition to refrain from attending any meeting at the UN compound for the remaining time of the conference that they are registered for must inform the secretariat of their COVID status to trigger possible contact tracing.
- iii) Participants must avoid overcrowding of any meeting room or other areas in the conference facilities.
- iv) All participants in the meeting rooms must remain seated; standing participation will not be permitted.
- v) The use of existing conference rooms in the UN complex will be limited to intergovernmental meetings, consultations and negotiations, and leadership dialogues.
- vi) Priority will be given to official meetings and negotiations; therefore, official and unofficial side events will be organized fully online, or in some cases in a hybrid format with high-level in person participation in the compound.

12) Subject to the availability of additional extrabudgetary in-kind or financial resources by Member States or member of Specialized Agencies, the following additional measures are being considered:

- a) COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests, to be distributed to all badged delegates for self-testing and self-administered online registration for the number of days participants are expected to attend official meetings, to be checked daily at the time of access to the UN compound, done in a manner similar to the application of this measure at UNFCCC COP16 in Glasgow. Further guidance will be made available should such rapid lateral flow tests become available.
- b) Temporary infrastructure on the compound that will allow for large receptions under safe conditions, respecting the guidance on physical distancing.
- c) Installation of acrylic dividers for each of the desks in Conference Rooms 1 and 2, including for the podium.

13) The above guidance will be regularly reviewed in the light of the future evolution and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and may be relaxed or tightened or complemented by additional specific guidance

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based on information provided by the host country Kenya and in view of evolving medical advice and scientific findings, under the advisement of the UNEA Bureau and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

- 14) In accordance with Rule 16 of the UNEA Rules of Procedure, each member of the Environment Assembly shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required. In accordance with Rule 17, the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting which the representatives are to attend. Accordingly, Member States are invited to send an advance scanned copy of their credentials, signed by either the Head of State or Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as other formal communications containing the names of representatives to UNEA-5 and UNEP@50 (such as a letter or a note verbale from the Permanent Missions) to the attention of Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor (unep-sgb@un.org). Credentials can be submitted specifically for UNEA-5 or UNEP@50. Alternatively, they can be submitted to cover both sessions. The original hard copy of the credentials and other communications shall be submitted to the Secretariat of Governing Bodies. Original credentials should be sent to: UNEP, P O Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.
- 15) UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 are open to the participation of representatives of Member States, members of specialized agencies, specialized agencies, United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations and regional economic integration organizations, as well as to representatives of accredited major groups organizations.
- 16) All participants are required to register online in advance of the meetings, by indicating to which meeting they intend to participate and if they will participate online or in person. Further detailed information will be provided on the registration platform [\[LINK\]](#), which will open in December 2021 and close on 10 February 2022.
- 17) In the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal number 5 – to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – all participating Member States and Stakeholders are encouraged to ensure a gender-balanced representation at all above mentioned meetings. Similarly, Member States are also encouraged to include youth representatives in their delegations.
- 18) All relevant information and documentation for UNEA-5.2 will be made available on the website of the Assembly: <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5>
- 19) All relevant information and documentation for UNEP@50 will be made available on the website of the special session: <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/unep-50>
- 20) All communications concerning UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 should be addressed to:

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