



United Nations

Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**Fifth session
(Nairobi (online), 22 and 23 February 2021)**

**General Assembly
Official Records
Seventy-sixth Session
Supplement No. 25**



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United Nations • New York, 2021

Note

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Chapter I

Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. Owing to the exceptional circumstances associated with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives decided, at their joint meeting held on 1 December 2020, that the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly would be held in two parts, comprising an online meeting, to be held on 22 and 23 February 2021, and a resumed in-person meeting, to be held in February 2022.
2. Accordingly, the online meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly was convened on 22 and 23 February 2021.
3. The online meeting of the fifth session was opened at 11 a.m. (Nairobi time (UTC+3)) on Monday, 22 February 2021, by Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, President of the Environment Assembly.
4. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya; Mr. Rotevatn; Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Hera Ali and Mr. Gyubin Hwang, representatives of the children and youth major group; Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations; Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.¹

¹ A fuller account of the discussions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session, including summaries of the opening and general statements and of the Assembly's deliberations on the substantive issues before it, is set out in the proceedings of the session ([UNEP/EA.5/25](#)).

Chapter II

Organization of work (agenda item 2)

A. Attendance

5. The following Member States were represented at the online meeting of the fifth session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

6. The following non-Member State was represented: Cook Islands.

7. The Holy See and the State of Palestine were represented as observers.

8. The following United Nations bodies, conventions and related secretariats were represented: Common Fund for Commodities, Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region Secretariat, Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention), Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, Global Environment Facility, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Ozone Secretariat, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Office at Vienna, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, United Nations System Staff College, United Nations University, United Nations Volunteers, World Food Programme.

9. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Organization for Migration, International Telecommunication Union.

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Development Bank, African Union Commission, European Commission, European Union, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, International Development Law Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Islamic World Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, League of Arab States, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, Southern African Development Community, Union for the Mediterranean.

11. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented as observers.

B. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

12. At the first plenary session of the online meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, the Chair of the Credentials Committee, Mr. Ado Lohmus (Estonia), reported that the Bureau had received and examined the credentials of Member States submitted in accordance with rules 16 and 17 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly. As at 22 February 2021, a total of 151 Member States had submitted copies of formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Executive Director of UNEP. A total of 42 Member States had not submitted any information regarding their representatives to the fifth session of the Environment Assembly. The Bureau recommended that the Assembly accept the credentials of the Member States.

13. The Environment Assembly took note of the report of the Bureau on credentials.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 2)

1. Adoption of the agenda

14. The Environment Assembly adopted the following agenda for the session, on the basis of the provisional agenda ([UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.1](#)).

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. International environmental policy and governance issues.
6. Programme of work and budget and other administrative and budgetary issues.
7. Stakeholder engagement.
8. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. 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.

10. High-level segment.
11. Provisional agenda and dates of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.
12. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
13. Election of officers.
14. Other matters.
15. Adoption of the report of the session.
16. Closure of the session.

2. Organization of work

15. The Environment Assembly agreed that, in the light of the exceptional circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Environment Assembly at the online meeting of its fifth session would undertake initial consideration of agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 15. The Environment Assembly would consider the remaining items on the agenda at the resumed in-person meeting of the fifth session, to be held in February 2022.

16. The Assembly further agreed that two identical sessions of a leadership dialogue would be held on the afternoon of Monday, 22 February, and the morning of Tuesday, 23 February, respectively, on the theme of “Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world”, in order to facilitate the participation of representatives from different time zones. A summary of the leadership dialogue is set out in annex III to the proceedings of the session ([UNEP/EA.5/25](#)).

Chapter III

Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (agenda item 4)

17. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, presented the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including the outcomes of the fifth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, held from 15 to 17 February 2021 ([UNEP/EA.5/INF/2](#)).

18. In particular, the Chair highlighted that the Committee had held all its meetings online since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and none had been postponed or delayed. The holding of meetings online, however, had not been without its challenges, ranging from those stemming from the digital divide to those associated with ensuring multilingualism. That was why the bureaux of the Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives had decided that the present online meeting of the fifth session should focus solely on urgent and administrative decisions and to postpone the preparation of substantive negotiated outcomes until in-person meetings were able to resume.

19. In closing, he thanked his fellow members of the Committee for their work, the secretariat for its support and the former Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Permanent Representative of Ghana to UNEP, who had led the Committee until June 2019, for her diligent leadership.

20. Further information about the fifth session of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives was available in the draft Chair's summary ([UNEP/OECPR/5/3](#)).

21. The Environment Assembly took note of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Chapter IV

Matters requiring the special attention of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

22. In its resolution [74/222](#) of 19 December 2019, the General Assembly of the United Nations welcomed the continued commitment of the Environment Assembly to contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner. The high-level political forum on sustainable development continues to offer a unique opportunity and an appropriate institutional framework to ensure such integration as well as follow-up to the collective decisions taken by the world's ministers for the environment at sessions of the Environment Assembly. Member States are invited to consider further actions to that end.

23. In its resolution [74/222](#) of 19 December 2019, the General Assembly also reiterated the ministerial declaration entitled "Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production", adopted by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session, and reaffirmed that embracing innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production are important elements for implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, Member States were encouraged to advance innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, in line with Environment Assembly resolution 4/1 of 15 March 2019.

24. At the online meeting of its fifth session, the Environment Assembly endorsed the outcome message of the online meeting of the fifth session entitled "Looking ahead to the resumed UN Environment Assembly in 2022: Message from online UNEA-5, Nairobi 22–23 February 2021", which is set out in annex II to the present report, without formal editing. In the message, the Environment Assembly identified several priority areas relevant to the agendas of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, including:

(a) Supporting a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that protects the planet, stimulates sustainable consumption and production, revitalizes our economies and creates decent and sustainable jobs, and makes real progress in eradicating poverty, while enhancing our future resilience to similar crises;

(b) Enhancing efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and reaffirming that urgent actions are required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Underscoring the crucial importance of making further progress in all multilateral forums for the environment, in particular those related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the negotiations on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the negotiations on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

25. The present report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, presents an excellent opportunity to further integrate the outcomes of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly into the work and discussions of the two bodies. The General Assembly is expected to consider the report of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly at its seventy-sixth session. In that context, Member States may wish:

- (a) To take note of the report, including the outcome message of the online meeting of the fifth session and the summary of key messages from the leadership dialogue at the fifth session;
- (b) To take note of the decisions adopted by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session, including on the medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023 and on the adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;
- (c) To reaffirm the need to ensure sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of UNEP to enable the Programme to fulfil its mandate;
- (d) To include in the provisional agenda of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme” to consider the outcomes of the in-person resumed meeting of the fifth session;
- (e) To recommend the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the in-person resumed meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, to be held from 28 February to 2 March 2022, in line with the spirit of integration and universality of the 2030 Agenda.

Chapter V

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 (agenda item 9)

26. At the last plenary session of the online meeting of the fifth session, the Assembly launched the commemoration of the creation of UNEP. Participants viewed a short video showcasing the achievements of UNEP over its 50-year history, following which statements were made by Mr. Stephen Stec, the lead of the major groups and stakeholders task force on UNEP at 50 (UNEP@50); the Executive Director; the President of the Environment Assembly; and Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya. A summary of the statements and the ensuing discussion is set out in section V of the proceedings of the session ([UNEP/EA.5/25](#)).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session (agenda item 12)

27. At the first plenary session of the online meeting of the fifth session, the Environment Assembly adopted by consensus the following decisions, which are set out in annex I to the present report and in annex I to the proceedings of the session ([UNEP/EA.5/25](#)):

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>
5/1	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
5/2	Medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023
5/3	Adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

28. The Environment Assembly had before it a conference room paper containing a draft outcome message of the online meeting of the fifth session, prepared by the President. Introducing the draft outcome message, the President stressed that it did not constitute a negotiated outcome of the online meeting and would not set a precedent for the in-person resumed meeting of the fifth session or for any subsequent sessions.

29. The Assembly endorsed the outcome message of the online meeting of the fifth session, which is set out in annex II to the present report and in annex II to the proceedings of the session ([UNEP/EA.5/25](#)), without formal editing.

30. A summary of statements delivered by representatives with regard to the outcomes of the session is set out in section VI of the proceedings of the session ([UNEP/EA.5/25](#)).

Chapter VII

Other matters (agenda item 14)

31. During the closing session, a statement was delivered by Mr. Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council, which was followed by presentations on various events held in connection with the online meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly.

32. Following Mr. Akram's remarks, the President of the Environment Assembly noted that many international organizations and treaty bodies had sent special video messages to the Environment Assembly at its fifth session, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the secretariats of various multilateral agreements and of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; the Special Rapporteur for human rights and the environment and the World Bank. Those messages were available on the webpage of the Environment Assembly.

33. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Joyce Msuya, reported on the leadership dialogue, which had been held on the afternoon of Monday, 22 February, and the morning of Tuesday, 23 February. A summary of the leadership dialogue is set out in annex III to the proceedings of the session ([UNEP/EA.5/25](#)).

34. Representatives also heard reports on the key outcomes of the nineteenth session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, the third session of the United Nations Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment and the Youth Environment Assembly, which had taken place in the weeks leading up to the online meeting.

Chapter VIII

Adoption of the report of the session (agenda item 15)

35. The Environment Assembly adopted the proceedings of the session on the basis of the draft proceedings that had been circulated, on the understanding that they would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

Chapter IX

Closure of the session (agenda item 16)

36. The online meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP was declared closed at 6.50 p.m. on 23 February 2021 and the fifth session was thus adjourned pending the resumed in-person meeting to be held in 2022.

Annex I**Decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
at its fifth session**

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>
5/1	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
5/2	Medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023
5/3	Adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Decision 5/1. Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director entitled “Information on implementation of decision 4/3 on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions,”¹

Recalling its decision 3/3, in which it requested 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 were established had 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 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 matters;

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 the United Nations Environment Programme, with no fixed expiry date;
 - (c) FIL – General Trust Fund to support the activities of the UNEP Financial Services Initiative on the Environment, with no fixed expiry date;²
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 United Nations Environment Programme Activities as Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), which is extended up to 31 December 2025;
 - (b) AML – General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), 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;

¹ [UNEP/EA.5/INF/5](#).

² Change of trust fund type to manage contributions in a pooled fund rather than in the grant fund that was originally established. This is a technical change to reduce workload in the enterprise resource planning system (Umoja).

(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 for the special programme in support to institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance implementation, of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which is extended up to 31 December 2025;

(f) ECL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Achievement of Contribution Agreement N° 21.0401/2011/608174/SUB/E2 – Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission – Directorate General of the Environment and – and the United Nations Environment Programme (covering ENRTP Priority 3.1 – Strengthening Environment Governance), which is extended up to 31 December 2025;

(g) ESS – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of 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 the United Nations Environment Programme (covering environment and sustainable management of natural resources, including energy (ENRTP) 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 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 to 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 Ninth Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, the Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia at their eighth meeting, and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at its thirteenth meeting, 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 (IOSEA), 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 requests 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 and its Protocols, 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 – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous Peoples 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 secretariat 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

(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.

Decision 5/2. Medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its commitment to contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and highlighting that the time frame of the proposed medium-term strategy and the proposed programme of work and budget coincide with the beginning of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,

Recalling also its encouragement to the Executive Director to take action, within the mandate, programme of work and budget of the United Nations Environment Programme, to enhance coordinated, coherent and integrated delivery within the United Nations system on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling further the coordinating mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme within the United Nations system and respecting the mandates and competences established by the multilateral environmental agreements,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and welcoming the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, that are in line with nationally determined contributions and priorities,

Noting that further action should be undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in its recruitment strategy with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the progress made by the United Nations Environment Programme in ensuring gender balance and parity in its recruitment strategy in line with the United Nations system-wide strategy on gender parity, and underlining that further action in that regard should be undertaken by the Programme,

Having considered the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023, as prepared by the Executive Director following consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, while recalling that some definitions and terminologies used therein have not been agreed intergovernmentally and should therefore not prejudice any future negotiations or agreements,

1. *Approves* the medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023;

2. *Also 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 transformation	14 000
Nature action	24 000
Environmental governance	26 000
Chemicals and pollution action	24 000
Finance and economic transformation	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 and programme of work and budget;

4. *Also 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 10 per cent of the subprogramme appropriations and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereof, and in duly justified exceptional circumstances to reallocate in excess of 10 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. *Also 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 income from other sources;

7. *Further 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 proposed 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. *Also 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. *Further 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. *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, encouraged by the universal membership of the United Nations Environment Assembly, 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 and 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 enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of, the Environment Fund, and requests the Executive Director to continue to adapt 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, to implement the strategy with a priority of broadening the contributor base from Member States and other partners;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to pay due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, in the recruitment strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme, and to submit a comprehensive report on human resources for consideration at the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake further action to ensure gender balance and parity in its recruitment strategy in line with the United Nations system-wide strategy on gender parity;

20. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to submit for consideration and approval by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025.

Decision 5/3. 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 of the United Nations Environment Programme, entitled “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”, by which the Environment Assembly decided to hold the fifth session of the Assembly at its headquarters in Nairobi from 22 to 26 February 2021,

Recalling also the theme of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, namely “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”,

Conscious of the fact that the restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have not allowed for representatives of Member States and stakeholders to meet in person at the online meeting of its fifth session, in February 2021,

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

Reaffirming that the Committee of Permanent Representatives is the subsidiary, intersessional and open-ended body of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, and also reaffirming its mandate and functions as set out in Governing Council decisions 19/32 and 27/2,

1. *Decides* to adjourn the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and to resume the session by convening at its headquarters in Nairobi from 28 February to 2 March 2022 to conclude the consideration of its agenda;

2. *Decides* that the Open-ended 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 that meeting;

3. *Calls upon* Member States, with the support of the secretariat as appropriate, to continue joint efforts to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and to follow up on relevant mandates emanating from the outcomes of previous sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

4. *Takes note* of the reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session on progress achieved in the implementation of resolutions of the Assembly, as listed in the annex to the present decision, and decides to review those reports at the eighth annual subcommittee meeting in 2021 and defer taking action thereon until the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly in February and March 2022;

5. *Decides* that the United Nations Environment Assembly shall, at the resumed meeting of its 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 and invites the General Assembly to consider the appropriate event for the adoption of such a declaration, including the option of adopting it as one of the outcomes of the special session of the Environment Assembly to be held to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the result of further consultations on the follow-up to General Assembly resolution [73/333](#);

6. *Also decides* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue to review the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Environment Assembly;

7. *Recommends* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives, at its 154th meeting, consider, in view of systemic problems and in a comprehensive manner, the cycle of the term of office of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in relation to that of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly;

8. *Decides* that the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the Environment 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;

9. *Strongly encourages* Member States, without prejudice to the rules of procedure, in particular rule 44, to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the Environment Assembly at the resumed meeting of the fifth session at an early stage, preferably at least eight weeks in advance of the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, to allow for a productive period between the online and resumed meetings of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, taking into account the limited time and resources available for the 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

10. *Decides* to convene a special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme, to be held in Nairobi for two days, on 3 and 4 March 2022, in conjunction with the resumed fifth session of the Environment Assembly, under the leadership of the Presidency and the Bureau of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.

Annex to decision 5/3: Reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session on progress achieved in the implementation of resolutions of the Assembly

[UNEP/EA.5/4](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/1 on innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production

[UNEP/EA.5/5](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/2 on promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste

[UNEP/EA.5/6](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/4 on addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices

[UNEP/EA.5/7](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/5 on sustainable infrastructure

[UNEP/EA.5/8](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/6 on marine plastic litter and microplastics

[UNEP/EA.5/9](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/8 on sound management of chemicals and waste

[UNEP/EA.5/10](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/10 on innovation on biodiversity and land degradation

[UNEP/EA.5/11](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/15 on innovations in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism

[UNEP/EA.5/12](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/17 on promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance

[UNEP/EA.5/13](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/18 on the poverty-environment nexus

[UNEP/EA.5/14](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/19 on mineral resource governance

[UNEP/EA.5/15](#): Availability of adequate funding to support implementation of the fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law pursuant to resolution 4/20

[UNEP/EA.5/16](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/22 on implementation and follow-up of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions

[UNEP/EA.5/17](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/23, entitled “Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the *Global Environment Outlook*”

[UNEP/EA.5/18](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/3 on contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development

[UNEP/EA.5/19](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/6 on managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development

[UNEP/EA.5/20](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/10 on addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems

[UNEP/EA.5/21](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 2/14 on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products

[UNEP/EA.5/22](#): Progress in the implementation of resolution 4/1 on the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021, resolution 2/20 on the proposed medium-term strategy for 2018–2021 and the programme of work and budget for 2018–2019, and resolution 1/15 on the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017

[UNEP/EA.5/23](#): Action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

[UNEP/EA.5/24](#): Providing options for the future of the *Global Environment Outlook*

Annex II

Outcome message of the online meeting of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly

Looking ahead to the resumed UN Environment Assembly in 2022 – Message from online UNEA-5, Nairobi 22–23 February 2021^{1,2}

The Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi,

Meeting online for the first part of the fifth session of the Assembly 22–23 February 2021, under exceptional circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

Acknowledge the urgency to continue our efforts to protect our planet also in this time of crisis,

Wish to strengthen our support for the United Nations and for multilateral cooperation and remain convinced that collective action is essential to successfully address global challenges,

Is deeply concerned about the devastating global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, creating new and serious health, socio-economic and environmental challenges, compounding existing ones especially in developing countries, undermining our common efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Realize more than ever that human health and wellbeing are dependent upon nature and the solutions it provides, and we are aware that we shall face recurring risks of future pandemics if we maintain our current unsustainable patterns in our interactions with nature,

Is deeply concerned by the continuing loss of biodiversity, especially through the degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats for wildlife; the threats to lives and livelihoods from climate change, as well as from pollution and poorly managed waste and chemicals, jeopardizing our environment and our overarching objective of sustainable development,

Reaffirms the mandate of the UN Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Welcomes the Medium-Term Strategy for UNEP for 2022–2025, as well as a work programme and budget for 2022–2023. We commend UNEP for its swift contribution to the environmental dimension of the socio-economic response to COVID-19,

Is dedicated to supporting a sustainable and inclusive recovery that protects the planet, stimulates sustainable consumption and production, revitalizes our economies and creates decent and sustainable jobs, and makes real progress in eradicating poverty, while enhancing our future resilience to similar crises,

¹ The message contained in this document does not constitute a negotiated outcome of the 5th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and shall not set a precedent for either its resumed 5th session or any of the Environment Assembly's subsequent sessions.

² The present message is presented without formal editing.

Will enhance our efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and reaffirm that urgent actions are required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Underscores the crucial importance of making further progress in all multilateral fora for the environment, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the negotiations on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the negotiations on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

Will reconvene in person for the resumed fifth session of UNEA5 in Nairobi in early 2022 to continue our joint efforts, to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and to make further progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions from previous sessions of the Environment Assembly, including on the future of the Global Environment Outlook, and on marine litter and micro plastics,

Is dedicated to commemorating the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP through General Assembly resolution 2997 of 1972, and to contribute to its impactful celebration in Nairobi in early 2022,

Urgently calls for collective, science-based and holistic action through our work and decisions in the fifth UN Environment Assembly, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

