



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

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
First session**
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014

**Proceedings of the United Nations Environment Assembly of
the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session**

I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014.
2. The session was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 23 June 2014, by Mr. Hassan Abdelgadir Hilal, President of the Environment Assembly.
3. The President announced that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/213, at the current session the Environment Assembly would use its applicable rules of procedure and the applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly pending the adoption of new rules of procedure.
4. In line with rule 62 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations General Assembly, he invited the Environment Assembly to observe one minute of silence for reflection.
5. In his opening remarks, he welcomed all those present to the first session of the Environment Assembly, which he said represented a historic event in the evolution of UNEP. As the outgoing President, he thanked all stakeholders for their support and dedication to achieving tangible results in the field of sustainable development. It was only through collaborative efforts that UNEP would continue to forge the way forward. He expressed pride in the achievements of UNEP, thanked its staff and acknowledged particularly the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP. The Environment Assembly was the leading global authority on and advocate for environmental issues. Arid and semi-arid regions were particularly threatened by the destruction of ecosystems, biodiversity and human habitats; such fragility, coupled with other drivers of change, such as population growth, meant environmental issues required more urgent attention. Unified efforts to address those challenges had been carried out by entities including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The issues on the agenda for the current session, which included the post-2015 development goals, needed to be placed on an equal footing with objectives of peace and security. The Environment Assembly was well-placed to provide political guidance and serve as a scientific interface to foster sustainable development. Its wide reach into legislative and administrative arenas rendered it a ground-breaking platform, but the onus was on it to elaborate key actions in the performance of the tasks that lay ahead and to create a greener future that would create the conditions for poverty eradication and social and economic equality. In closing, he urged the Environment Assembly and its partners to work in a spirit of togetherness and to take bold decisions to shape responses to current environmental challenges.

6. Opening remarks were then delivered by Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; and Ms. Judy Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya.

7. In her statement, the Director-General said that the current session of the Environment Assembly marked a milestone in the implementation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) commitments and was a crucial step in the upgrading of UNEP. She recalled the historic founding of UNEP in Kenya in 1972, in response to the call for United Nations bodies to be located with regard for equitable geographic distribution in the name of the social advancement of all peoples. The trust placed in Kenya had been well-founded, as demonstrated through the progress made across the continent in respect of sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, the United Nations presence in Kenya had continued to grow to encompass such entities as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization global security section. The United Nations Office at Nairobi had been created in 1996 to provide a secretariat to assist and serve United Nations entities on the African continent. It was currently the third largest United Nations Office worldwide and a hub for all United Nations operations, and it would continue to support UNEP in advancing its agenda and serve as a voice for the promotion of sustainable development and environmental rule of law. The presence of participants at the current session affirmed the importance that the international community placed on global environmental management. Lastly, she expressed appreciation to the Government of Kenya for its support and its efforts to achieve a peaceful world for all.

8. The UNEP Executive Director began by thanking the leaders of Kenya, who had endowed the Environment Assembly with meaning and made UNEP and Nairobi the environmental capital of the world. The Assembly had received all the support it had requested and all involved had reason to feel proud. Many stakeholders had made the journey to witness history being made with the birth of the Assembly. Sometimes, he added, the importance of an event could only be grasped after it had taken place: participants at the Stockholm Conference in 1972, for example, might not have understood that their efforts would drive four decades of environmental governance and a more diverse membership of the United Nations. In that regard, he commended particularly the engagement of developing countries in UNEP. Drawing on the current World Cup, he emphasized that stakeholders in the Environment Assembly would learn not only to play but also to work together. He thanked the outgoing President of the Environment Assembly, who had offered guidance and trust and who could step down with pride, the UNEP staff and members of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly who had worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which had spent months preparing for the current session and committed itself to bringing together the international community to achieve their aspirations. UNEP was committed to its presence in Africa and to continuing to represent a United Nations family at its headquarters. He concluded by thanking those who had made the journey, despite security concerns, to attend the historic event, as well as Kenyans, declaring “Together we move forward”.

9. Ms. Wakhungu expressed her pleasure at being part of the first session of the Environment Assembly on behalf of the Government of Kenya. Welcoming the upgrading of the Governing Council to the Environment Assembly, she said that the current session of the Assembly followed up on the milestones of Rio+20. The Government of Kenya was committed to providing support for the work of UNEP. Kenya, she said, aimed to transform itself into a middle-income country through its economic initiative, Kenya Vision 2030; to that end, policies and programmes on lower carbon emissions and the creation of a climate-resilient pathway were being drawn up and heavy investments had been made in wind and solar power. Environmental problems underscored the relevance of UNEP, which was therefore expected to provide leadership for environmental policies. She urged the implementation of the Rio+20 commitments and, to enhance the advocacy role of UNEP, she called for an increased budget for UNEP. Growing challenges required urgent measures, and she called for all to consider all issues carefully and to cooperate closely, saying that only a global community could rise to the increasing environmental challenges facing the world.

II. Organization of work (agenda item 2)

A. Election of officers

10. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 23 June, the Environment Assembly adopted a draft resolution prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/EA/1/L.1, resolution 4, Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) providing that each of the five United Nations regions would be represented by two members in the 10-member Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

11. The Assembly then elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren (Mongolia)

Vice-Presidents:

Ms. Judy Wakhungu (Kenya)

Mr. Mahmoud Samy (Egypt)

Mr. Sargon Lazar Slewa (Iraq)

Mr. Attila Korodi (Romania)

Ms. Khatuna Gogaladze (Georgia)

Ms. Idunn Eidheim (Norway)

Mr. Chris Vanden Bilcke (Belgium)

Mr. Mariano Castro (Peru)

Rapporteur: Mr. James Fletcher (Saint Lucia)

12. In her acceptance remarks, Ms. Oyun said that she was honoured to have been entrusted with the task of chairing the first session of the Environment Assembly, which she said was a historic event that would not only define the future of UNEP but also support an institutional framework and programmatic platform for sustainable development that could enable the transformative changes required to address complex environmental challenges through collaboration and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

13. Outlining a number of items on the agenda for the session, she highlighted the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, including sustainable consumption and production, and illegal trade in wildlife as key priorities. On the former item, she said that it was important to recognize that every country started with a different baseline of challenges, needs, priorities and response capabilities in the context of universal sustainable development goals and to find the means to fully implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as sustainable consumption and production were a prerequisite of sustainable development. It was also essential to find the means to help countries to achieve a green and socially inclusive economy. Regarding illegal trade in wildlife, she said that tackling it would require, among other things, increased international cooperation and awareness raising. In closing, she urged representatives to engage positively throughout the session in order to reach their common objectives and meet the high expectations of the international community for the first session of the Assembly.

B. Adoption of the agenda

14. The Environment Assembly adopted the following agenda for the session, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.1/1 and Add.1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Amendments to the rules of procedure.
5. Policy issues:
 - (a) State of the environment;
 - (b) Emerging policy issues;
 - (c) International environmental governance;

- (d) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters;
 - (e) Coordination and cooperation with major groups;
 - (f) Environment and development.
6. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits, in particular the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and major intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly.
 7. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters.
 8. High-level segment.
 9. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
 10. Other matters.
 11. Adoption of the report.
 12. Closure of the session.

C. Organization of work

15. At its 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 23 June 2014, the Environment Assembly agreed to meet in plenary to decide on organizational matters, to adopt resolutions and to hold a high-level segment focusing on two themes that had global resonance: “Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production”; and “Illegal trade in wildlife”. It also agreed to take up agenda items 3, 10, 11 and 12 at its afternoon plenary meeting on the final day of the session.

16. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Assembly agreed, pursuant to rule 60 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, to establish a committee of the whole and a working party, which would be open-ended and would meet concurrently. The Committee of the Whole would consider agenda items 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10, and would be chaired by Mr. Fernando Lugris (Uruguay). The working party would be chaired by Ms. Julia Pataki (Romania) and would discuss amendments to the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly and the stakeholder engagement policy. In view of the heavy workload and time constraints for the session, the working party would begin its work as soon as the Committee had completed its general discussion of relevant subjects and would submit a report on its deliberations for consideration and adoption by the Environment Assembly at its closing plenary meeting on 27 June 2014. It was further decided that an open-ended friends of the President group would be formed to assist the President in preparing the outcome of the session. In accordance with rule 18, the chairs of the Committee of the Whole, the working group and the friends of the President group would be invited to brief the Bureau of the Environment Assembly on a regular basis.

17. The Assembly further agreed at its 1st plenary meeting, under rule 37, to establish a maximum time limit of five minutes for all statements by representatives of member States and three minutes for those of intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations.

D. Attendance

18. The following member States were represented at the session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia,

Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

20. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Interim Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, Ozone secretariat, 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, secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

21. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Maritime Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

22. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: European Union, Global Environment Facility, Global Green Growth Institute, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), League of Arab States, Task Force of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, Organization of American States, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme.

23. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented as observers. A full list of participants is set out in document UNEP/EA.1/INF/25.

E. Policy statement by the Executive Director

24. In his policy statement, the Executive Director traced the origins of international cooperation to the founding of the United Nations, which he said embodied the determination of humanity to create a peaceful future through collaboration and a common vision. Societies had on many occasions failed to live up to the aspirations of the United Nations, but those aspirations nevertheless remained valid. Sustainability and the environment, which had not been in the minds of the drafters of the United Nations Charter, were now at the forefront of the international agenda, thanks to landmark conferences that had begun to ask hard questions about how human beings could live together sustainably on Earth. The last such conference, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, had articulated a vision of the Environment Assembly as a platform for addressing such questions, which had become ever-more relevant as human beings had become a defining factor in the future of the planet.

25. The environmental agenda of the twenty-first century focused not just on protecting the environment, but also on the huge social inequalities and unsustainable development patterns that were at the root of the environmental crisis and, as evidenced by the far-reaching decisions adopted at Rio+20 and later, addressing the environmental dimension of sustainable development was not just a preoccupation of the rich, but a vital necessity for all.

26. Recognizing that the environmental dimension of sustainable development was not the sole purview of the environmental community, the Environment Assembly was a forum where all those who had an interest and a role in addressing it should participate. Thanking the wide range of participants attending the first session of the Assembly, the Executive Director said that the session took place at a critical moment for the United Nations, as the negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda would test its capacity to transform itself and become more relevant to both citizens and member States. Participants at the first session of the Environment Assembly had a unique opportunity to define the contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to the post-2015 agenda and show that it was about using the best science and policy not only to protect the environment but also to provide food, energy, health and livelihoods to billions of people. They would also be able to address illegal trade in wildlife, which threatened both wildlife and the

livelihoods, economies and security of many countries and communities; to engage with the judiciary and other legal practitioners; and to discuss how to mobilize the substantial resources needed to finance the green economy.

27. With regard to UNEP, its substantive work had continued even in the midst of governance reforms undertaken in response to the outcomes of Rio+20. Much of that work was summarized in the *UNEP Annual Report 2013* and the programme performance report for 2012–2013, as well as in the *2012–2013 Evaluation Synthesis Report*, which provided an honest assessment of UNEP performance and revealed both progress and shortcomings that UNEP was working to remedy. UNEP had invested considerable resources in delivering more detailed and results-oriented planning, performance and reports in response to the request by Member States that United Nations organizations become more results-oriented, and it was incumbent upon the Environment Assembly, as the governing body of UNEP, to embrace this approach. UNEP was also working to improve its efficiency and had achieved extraordinary productivity gains in the secretariat, as well as gender parity in all posts except at the D-1 and P-5 levels. These steps demonstrated that UNEP was in no way complacent about its expanded resources, mandate and status.

F. General statements by regional groups

28. Following the Executive Director's policy statement, representatives of regional groups of member States made general statements on the items on the agenda for the current session.

29. The representative of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the discussions on the environmental dimension of sustainable development by the Environment Assembly would enable ministers to adopt more informed positions on principles such as that of common but differentiated responsibilities in the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, and that the outcomes would set a course for UNEP in the crucial work of promoting sustainable consumption and production and advancing an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste. With regard to the latter, the special programme established to support implementation 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, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, was of particular importance. Expressing support for the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017, he called on all member States to provide the voluntary contributions needed to assist UNEP in achieving its goals, suggesting the use of an indicative table to guide Governments on their share of the burden, and suggested that the programme of work and budget should take into account earmarked contributions to ensure that related activities remained in line with the organization's overall strategic objectives.

30. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of African States, welcomed current efforts to strengthen regional and subregional offices and called for them to be adequately staffed and underpinned by a regional strategic delivery framework to ensure greater coherence and impact; the role of UNEP in mobilizing human and financial resources was crucial and the Environment Assembly must ensure that such priorities were fully reflected in the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Regarding the first of the two themes of the high-level segment, he said that the post-2015 development agenda must be member-State-driven in order to ensure its collective ownership, and the sustainable development goals must be accompanied by stable, predictable and accessible financing mechanisms, together with sound monitoring and reporting systems, to ensure that every country met its commitments. As for the second theme, he stressed the importance of developing a common global strategy to tackle the crime of illegal trade in wildlife by eliminating demand and strengthening laws and policies with deterrents, penalties and a zero-tolerance approach. On the matter of the stakeholder engagement policy, he reaffirmed the need to respect the intergovernmental nature of UNEP as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly, and he called for an accreditation mechanism that allowed for the participation of nongovernmental organizations from developing countries in the work of the Environment Assembly, with the necessary financial support. Finally, he reiterated the importance that his region attached to the consolidation of UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi. He concluded with a message of support on behalf of the African Union, which was concurrently holding its latest summit meeting in Malabo.

31. The representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean region, said that it was important to continue efforts to strengthen UNEP regional and subregional offices for the effective implementation of the decisions adopted at key forums at the regional and national levels; those efforts called for adequate resource allocation in the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Turning to the other matters on the agenda, she said that it was

necessary to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda was socially and economically inclusive, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities; that countries had the means to implement international agreements on the environment and sustainable development, including new, stable and predictable financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer; that institutional and technical capacities were strengthened for the sound management of chemicals and waste; and that developed countries agreed to lead efforts to develop models of sustainable consumption and production to which developing countries must, in turn, agree to adhere. A particular focus should be placed, among other things, on the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and their inclusion in the debates; on inputs for a draft global agreement on climate change to be presented at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and on the right of access to information, participation and environmental rule of law, which were crucial to the promotion of sustainable development.

32. The countries of her region proposed that Mr. Fernando Lugris (Uruguay) be named Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

33. The representative of Greece, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that despite efforts made since the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, much remained to be done to finalize the draft resolutions submitted for adoption by the Environment Assembly. Areas in need of particular attention included governance issues, such as the rules of procedure, the stakeholder engagement policy and the role of UNEP within the wider United Nations system, and environmental policy matters such as the science-policy interface, chemicals and waste, marine litter, ecosystem-based adaptation and air quality. Regarding the two themes of the high-level segment, he stressed the importance of UNEP in highlighting the role of the environment in sustainable development and as an enabler of poverty eradication and inclusive growth and prosperity. UNEP, as the leading United Nations authority on the environment, must prepare for its lead role in implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

34. The representative of Japan said that it was important to deliver a powerful message from the high-level segment that all countries needed to take action to achieve the sustainable development goals. Welcoming the preparation of draft resolutions on, among other subjects, chemicals and waste and air pollution, he urged participants to work together to ensure appropriate global management and emissions reductions under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. He also expressed regret at the recent demise of Mr. Matthew Gubb, Director of the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre and Coordinator of the early stages of the negotiations on the Minamata Convention.

35. The representative of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the joint coordination committee of the Non-Aligned Movement, drew attention to a range of declarations adopted at various events that covered many of the items on the agenda of the current session. The key test of the Assembly's ability to move away from a position of "business as usual" would, he said, be the approval of a budget that responded to the priorities of developing countries, especially in Africa, and the confirmation of assurances that UNEP headquarters would remain in Nairobi.

36. Following those group statements, one representative, saying that his country had long participated in international efforts to protect the environment and was increasing its contributions, financial and otherwise, to such efforts, said that degradation of the environment could only be averted through the combined efforts of every country and individual. The environmental dimension, he said, must be adequately reflected and prioritized in the sustainable development goals and UNEP must play a greater role in coordinating global efforts with member States, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and civil society, especially in the field of chemicals and waste management.

37. The representative of the major groups and stakeholders expressed satisfaction at the fact that the agenda of the first session of the Environment Assembly addressed the global challenges related to environmental rule of law, sustainable development goals and illegal trade in wildlife and timber, saying that it was important to ensure a rights-based approach to the Assembly's work and pay special attention to the needs of vulnerable indigenous peoples and communities. Experience, he said, had shown that UNEP could only deliver on its mandate by working in partnership with civil society, which called for the promotion of a robust and inclusive stakeholder engagement policy and the adoption of appropriate rules of procedure. He expressed profound concern at what he said was a risk of regression from good practices reflected, inter alia, in the United Nations General Assembly resolution establishing the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and over what he described as serious inadequacies in the UNEP access-to-information policy with regard to the grounds for refusal, the appeals panel's lack of independence and the lack of accountability in decision-making.

G. Report by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

38. Mr. Sunu M. Soemarno (Indonesia), Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, reported on the Committee's preparations for the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Particular attention had been paid to the structure and organization of the session; to amendments to the Assembly's rules of procedure; to the enhancement of stakeholder engagement in the work of UNEP; and to the 12 draft resolutions contained in document UNEP/EA.1/L.1. With regard to the latter, the Committee recommended that the resolutions be clustered and considered in a strategic manner, and it had accordingly decided to present them, where possible, in an omnibus format. Furthermore, it had engaged in an informal process to discuss the scope, format and content of a potential outcome document. A "zero draft" of such a document had been circulated to all delegations, regional groups and economic and political integration organizations. A summary of the informal process on the zero draft had been transmitted to the Bureau.

H. Work of the Committee of the Whole

39. The Committee of the Whole held six meetings, from 23 to 27 June 2014, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the afternoon of 27 June, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the Committee's work. The report on the proceedings of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

III. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

40. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the afternoon of Friday, 27 June, the President reported that 157 of the 193 States Members of the United Nations were represented at the current session. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of those Member States and had found them to be in order. The Environment Assembly approved the report of the Bureau on credentials.

IV. Amendments to the rules of procedure (agenda item 4)

41. As noted in section II.C. of the present proceedings, at its 1st plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly established a working party to discuss proposed amendments to the rules of procedure and the stakeholder engagement policy. At the 6th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 27 June, the chair of the working party reported on its work. The working party, she said, had reached agreement on amendments to the rules of procedure but had not finalized the stakeholder engagement policy. Agreement had yet to be reached on accreditation criteria and the accreditation process. At her suggestion, the Environment Assembly agreed that further consultations on the draft policy should be held in the period leading up to the second session of the Environment Assembly and that further consideration of the stakeholder engagement policy would be included on the agenda for that session. Resolution 1/2, amending the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, as agreed to by the working party, was subsequently adopted by the Environment Assembly.

V. Agenda items 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10

42. Agenda items 5 (Policy issues), 6 (Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits, in particular the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and major intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly), 7 (Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters), 9 (Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly) and 10 (Other matters) were considered by the Committee of the Whole. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the afternoon of 27 June, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the Committee's work. The report on the proceedings of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

VI. High-level segment (agenda item 8)

43. The 2nd to 6th plenary meetings, on the morning, afternoon and evening of 26 June and the morning and afternoon of 27 June, took the form of a high-level segment under item 8 of the agenda. The high-level segment consisted of opening ceremonies and ministerial plenary meetings featuring interactive dialogue on the themes "Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production" and "Illegal trade in wildlife".

A. Opening

44. The high-level segment was opened at 10.20 a.m. on 26 June by Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, (Mongolia), President of the Environment Assembly. During the opening ceremonies, remarks were made by dignitaries, who later posed with other high-level representatives for a commemorative group photograph. Following a performance by esteemed Senegalese musician Mr. Baaba Maal, Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, gave a presentation on the state of the environment and the science-policy interface. Ministers and other high-level representatives then made statements.

1. Opening remarks

45. Remarks were made by Ms. Oyun; the UNEP Executive Director; Mr. John Ashe, President of the General Assembly; His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco; and Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya.

46. Paying tribute to the late Nobel laureate Professor Wangari Maathai and to Kenya for hosting UNEP for over 40 years, Ms. Oyun said that the establishment of the Environment Assembly was a historic event for UNEP, for sustainable development and for the global environmental agenda. The world faced ever more complex challenges such as climate change, but there was a growing understanding that environmental conservation could enable rather than impede growth. Economies and societies could not grow and thrive within the means of the planet without environmental rule of law and the green economy, including sustainable consumption and production. The environment played a critical role in maintaining and improving the health of people and ecosystems. Clean air in cities would save many from death and disease and also save money. The high-level segment provided an opportunity to contribute to that by deliberating on important issues such as the sustainable development goals, the post-2015 development agenda and illegal trade in wildlife. Environmental crime should be tackled by maintaining political momentum, supporting international efforts against illegal trade, and awareness-raising. UNEP had pioneered the work to help define the green economy, which was recognized at Rio+20 as an important tool for addressing sustainable development. It was now time to deliver on those policies.

47. Her native Mongolia had a long and rich history of nomadism. Integrated with the natural world, its people suffered a disproportionate impact from climate change and desertification, pasture degradation and melting permafrost, which threatened their existence. Such daunting challenges could be tackled by combining environmental, social and economic opportunities to achieve mutually reinforcing outcomes for sustainable development. The post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals needed to take account of all concerns, with a universal ambition and common but differentiated responsibilities, recognizing each country's particular circumstances. The first session of the Environment Assembly had raised expectations, and she hoped that its outcomes would help strengthen UNEP as the leading authority setting the global environmental agenda. The Assembly bore a great responsibility to promote sustainable development for current and future generations. Working together with a shared purpose would help it to deliver on those expectations.

48. The Executive Director expressed pride in welcoming President Kenyatta to UNEP, which had grown from modest beginnings to become a major United Nations agency. Rio+20 strengthened and upgraded not only UNEP, but also the environmental dimension of sustainable development. He thanked Mr. Ashe, a steadfast supporter of UNEP who embodied modern-day environmentalism, for his participation in the current session.

49. The Environment Assembly was historic in terms of its membership, its operating methods, the sense of purpose of its member States and the active participation of major groups and stakeholders. Its first session was a convergence not only of the world of environment but also of others who played a key role, such as members of the legal profession participating in the UNEP symposium on the environmental rule of law. He highlighted the session's focus on combating illegal trade in wildlife, which was also a long-standing priority for Kenya, and the sustainable development goals, the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable consumption and production. Another key topic was raising finance for the transition to the green economy, all key topics on which UNEA would find its voice and make its contribution. Over the next two days, nearly 16 resolutions would be negotiated, including one on air pollution, the cause of 7 million premature deaths each year.

50. He concluded by thanking the President and people of Kenya for a 42-year journey together – the journey of the environment since 1972 – which was inextricably linked to the presence of UNEP in Kenya. UNEP was proud of that history and committed to carrying it through to the future.

51. Mr. Ashe said that for too long there had been arguments about environment and development as if they were separate. He hoped that the presence of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme would send a clear message that this was an artificial dichotomy that should

no longer exist. He expressed the hope that the three pillars of sustainable development would soon be intact and working together. One of the decisions emerging from Rio+20 was to strengthen institutional capacity for sustainable development, including through having a universal membership in the UNEP governing body. It was now for the Environment Assembly to capitalize on that opportunity by sending a clear message that it was planning for a future in which there was a single development agenda in the United Nations, namely, a sustainable one. The Rio process had also kick-started a number of developments, and he thanked the President of the Republic of Kenya, and his New York delegation, for shepherding the formulation of the sustainable development goals, which, under the leadership of the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, was soon to be completed.

52. Much of what the Environment Assembly would address was part of the post-2015 development agenda, and he had called upon the General Assembly to make that agenda the theme of its sixty-eighth session, leading to its adoption in September 2015. That would require several elements to be in place, and he expressed pleasure that the Environment Assembly would begin making its contribution to the process. One key element was a synthesis report by the United Nations Secretary-General that would be used as a basis for the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The report would be based on many inputs, and he urged the Assembly to capitalize on the historic opportunity of the current session to ensure that its outcomes were well reflected in the report.

53. His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, speaking as both a Head of State and as Chairman of the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Environment Commission, paid tribute to the late Professor Wangari Maathai as a champion of the empowerment of women, the environment and peace and as his co-patron of the UNEP Billion Tree Campaign.

54. The current session, he said, was an opportunity to take a significant step in protecting and preserving the planet's natural resources, laying the foundations of "the future we want" and mitigating the impact of uncontrolled development. It was also a chance to accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals and mark the fundamental role of the environment in the post-2015 development agenda.

55. Illegal trade in terrestrial and marine species jeopardized local communities, disrupted ecosystems, sustained criminal and terrorist networks, fed corruption and endangered those combating poaching. His Government and his Foundation were committed to fighting crimes against biodiversity and protecting flora and fauna by supporting relevant conventions and assisting Governments and non-governmental organizations in this regard. He commended UNEP for its vocal and successful defence of the environment over the past 40 years.

56. Respect for the environment was embedded in the philosophical foundation of the Olympic movement. The goal of social and economic development was mirrored in the sustainable development goals, which constituted a renewed commitment to the fundamental principles of sustainability, common purpose and common values. The International Olympic Committee and the Olympic movement as a whole had a direct interest in environmental issues and the Committee was using its global reach to support sustainable development and lessen the environmental impact of sporting events. Advances in recycling, building design, waste and water management, construction processes and other green innovations had become a regular feature at the Olympic Games, encouraging others to expand the frontiers of sustainable development.

57. It had been 20 years since the International Olympic Committee and UNEP had agreed to cooperate on projects to encourage environmental sustainability, and similar partnerships were continuing between UNEP and Olympic host cities. The Olympic Agenda 2020 initiative included discussions on ways to become even more effective in advancing sustainability. The Committee was also committed to working with the United Nations and other stakeholders to ensure that sport played a significant role in supporting the sustainable development goals, through measures such as building inclusive, safe and sustainable cities, promoting physical activity and a healthy life for all, and providing equitable and life-long learning opportunities through quality physical education. Sport could also be a cross-cutting tool for promoting gender equality and empowering girls and women, preventing conflict and building peace and could rally communities by engaging young people, bridging cultural divides and promoting non-violence, mutual respect and friendship. The International Olympic Committee, he concluded, was committed to serving the interests of the planet for future generations.

58. In his remarks, President Kenyatta welcomed the representatives to Kenya and expressed his pleasure at taking part in the first session of the Environment Assembly, which he said was a historic manifestation of global leaders' resolve to address the environmental challenges facing the world. At Rio+20, they had vowed that environmental sustainability would be at the heart of national and global

efforts to broaden prosperity. Among the achievements of that conference was the agreement that UNEP would be upgraded to play a pre-eminent global role in environmental matters, and the Environment Assembly was the fruit of that timely decision. There was now a realization that the pursuit of economic growth regardless of the environment would entail a high cost to society and that, in a peaceful and just world, growth depended on a balance between the economic, social and environmental pillars of development.

59. Regarding the rapid rate of urbanization, he emphasized the need to change patterns of consumption and production to meet the challenges of sustainability and to strengthen governance of urban spaces and cities. Those challenges had to be met together, with the spirit and solidarity seen in Rio de Janeiro. He urged ministers to show support for sustainable development as they began to work on the post-2015 development agenda by giving due regard to environmental matters.

60. He stressed the importance to Kenya of protecting and conserving wildlife and outlined the country's plans to eradicate poverty and inequality and to become a middle-income, newly industrialized nation by 2030, saying that its plans were ambitious because the opportunities were unprecedented; never before had technology, capital and demand for goods and services been so widely distributed. He forecast that by 2030 the developing world would account for 60 per cent of global gross domestic product. Trade with Kenya's traditional partners would be complemented by new exchanges with the emerging economies of the greater Indian Ocean rim and Latin America, building on its current position as a leading African hub for trade, services and innovation. Kenya was also investing in competitiveness and better rewards for producers. Under Kenya's constitution this development must be environmentally viable and accompanied by prudent management of natural resources. The Government was therefore taking concrete steps to green the economy, with an ambitious programme to revamp the five national water towers and a nationwide tree-planting exercise. It was also taking a stand against poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, with robust anti-poaching measures in stronger and more specialized legislation and enforcement, coupled with a resolve to ensure the survival of iconic species such as the elephant and rhinoceros. He emphasized that no country could defeat the illegal wildlife trade alone; strong global demand and ruthless poaching required a joint effort. He therefore expressed satisfaction that the high-level dialogue would address the issue and he urged the representatives to adopt decisions that would improve understanding and lead to focused and collaborative action to address demand, thereby protecting the prosperity and livelihoods of communities living near wildlife preserves.

61. Referring to the global community's past commitments, he encouraged the Environment Assembly to reaffirm the spirit of Rio de Janeiro and the importance of the environment in the context of sustainable development and the post-2015 agenda and to build on those commitments. A declaration on the environment would raise the Assembly's profile and proclaim to the world that the sustainable development highlighted in Rio was indeed possible. In the ministerial dialogues, the Assembly would be in a position to show leadership to complement work being done elsewhere. He concluded by reaffirming Kenya's commitment to the ideals of UNEP, pledging its support for their realization.

2. Presentation by the Executive Director

62. The Executive Director, in his presentation on the state of the environment and the science-policy interface, stressed that while there were grounds for optimism the situation was in some respects as serious as ever. Notwithstanding efforts to date, collective management of the planet's resources had fallen short of the commitments agreed in various global forums. The world's population had grown to around 7 billion, and an estimated 320–849 million hectares of natural grasslands and forests were at risk of being lost by 2050 to meet the growing demand for food, fibre and fuel; in addition, some 23 per cent of global soils and between 2 million and 5 million hectares of croplands were affected by desertification, sandstorms and flooding. On the positive side, an estimated 350 million hectares could be saved by 2050 through achievable reductions in food loss and waste, the delinking of biofuels and food markets, improved diets, better land management, the restoration of degraded land, and initiatives such as China's plans to afforest vast areas of low-yield farmland and barren land under its "grain for green" policy. Furthermore, 40 per cent of natural vegetation was legally protected by parks and indigenous reserves, which had had a positive effect on biodiversity, although such protection still covered less than 5 per cent of a quarter of the world's land and half of its marine areas.

63. On the subject of climate change, he said that surface temperatures in some parts of the world had risen by 2.5° Celsius, oceans were becoming more acidic and atmospheric hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) were increasing by 10–15 per cent per year. In regard to the latter, failure to phase down production of HFCs could lead to the accumulation of billions of tonnes of "waste banks", rising costs,

greater lock-in of carbon-intensive infrastructure, more extensive exposure to extreme events and degradation of the resilience of people, economies and ecosystems. Concerted action within the framework of comprehensive sustainable development strategies was crucial, especially for the poor and vulnerable populations of the small island developing States disproportionately affected by rising sea levels.

64. Another matter in urgent need of attention was what he described as the complex, multisectoral problem of marine debris, much of which stemmed from unsustainable consumption and production patterns and poor waste management, which caused the release of hazardous pollutants into the marine and coastal environments. Recent initiatives to tackle the problem included a solar and sea-powered system to transport marine plastics to shore devised by a young Dutch engineer.

65. On the subject of environment-related death and disease, he said that unhealthy living and working environments caused nearly a quarter of diseases and deaths; that as much as 90 per cent of wastewater in developing countries flowed untreated into rivers, lakes and coastal zones; and that some 2.5 million people still lacked access to sanitation. The single biggest environmental health risk, however, was air pollution, which caused 4.3 million premature deaths each year, with outdoor pollution from transport, energy production and industrial activities accounting for 3.7 million. The situation was particularly serious in developing countries where almost three billion people still used solid fuels and open fires for cooking and heating.

66. Unsustainable levels of energy consumption and significant carbon emissions and consumption of natural resources in cities, which were home to nearly half the world's population, was another key area of concern, together with the significant reliance of emerging and recovering economies on natural resources. Yet there was significant potential for commercially viable improvements in resource and energy efficiency across all sectors, including construction, agriculture, transport and industry, through innovation and the use of decoupling technologies. Such technologies could halve the increase in annual energy demand in developing countries within 12 years and make resource savings of up to \$3.7 trillion per year until 2030. In view of the increasing scarcity and price of some specialty metals, end-of-life recycling should be taken into account in the design of mobile phones and other electronic equipment. Meanwhile, carbon sequestration through financing initiatives such as the enhanced mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD-plus) was attracting increasing interest, and reduced deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, for example, had produced annual benefits of \$183 billion.

67. It was vital, he said, to include natural assets in national accounts through, for example, the environment economic accounting system, as well as to place an emphasis on policies that helped to sustain and enhance natural assets. The first global map of terrestrial and marine ecosystem assets had just been made available in the UNEP Live knowledge management platform, giving countries a baseline for monitoring changes in the status of their assets. Sharing efforts and information through policies that promoted open access would, he said, help to build and shape a "commonwealth of knowledge" that could serve to support the sustainable development goals and to assist political and social leaders in their stewardship of the world's natural capital.

3. Statements by high-level representatives

68. In the dialogue following the Executive Director's presentation, a number of representatives thanked the Executive Director for his leadership in helping to bring environmental issues to the forefront of the international development agenda, and there was general agreement with the significance of the issues highlighted in his statement. Several speakers expressed their views regarding the role that UNEP should play in ensuring that due attention was given to the environmental pillar of sustainable development and in promoting international environmental governance within the United Nations framework. A number highlighted the importance of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document in ensuring that a strengthened UNEP played a central role in that regard. One representative said that UNEP should work to ensure that all stakeholders, including from civil society, industry and other sectors, were given the opportunity to contribute to a broader and more inclusive environmental agenda. Several representatives emphasized the importance of the science-policy interface in presenting policy-makers with forward-looking advice based on sound scientific research and knowledge. One representative said that greater efforts should be made to improve evidence-based decision making, including through better utilization of scientific panels. A number of representatives expressed gratitude for the enhanced regional presence of UNEP, which would help it to implement its programme of work on the ground, although one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that further efforts were required to ensure a strong regional presence in Africa.

69. Within that broader context, several representatives drew attention to the historic importance of the current session, saying that it promised to play a pivotal role in shaping the future environmental agenda. There was praise for the universality of the new Environment Assembly, which one representative said symbolized the coming of age of the global environmental community.

70. A number of representatives highlighted particular global environmental issues, including marine litter, illegal trade in wildlife, desertification and chemicals and waste management. One representative said that the threat of marine litter, including plastics and microplastics, was a global issue of pressing concern, given the long period of decay of plastics, their potential for long-distance transport and their tendency to disintegrate into extremely harmful microparticles. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the threat to the African environment posed by illegal trade in wildlife and commended the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for its efforts to combat it. Another representative highlighted the environmental, social and economic challenges posed by desertification.

71. The post-2015 development agenda, and the key role that UNEP could play in promoting sustainable development, was a persistent theme of the dialogue. Areas where UNEP could effectively engage included sustainable consumption and production, the development of sustainable development goals, and the green economy, as well as other alternative development approaches. Several representatives said that UNEP should ensure that its voice was heard in the negotiations on the post-2015 agenda. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that developing countries faced particular challenges in promoting sustainable development, including the need to reduce poverty and inequity; enhance resource efficiency; combat erosion of the natural resource base; ensure inclusive economic growth; and build resilience in the face of various shocks. One representative said that an intergenerational dialogue was essential for sustainable development, requiring that children and young people be given an effective voice in shaping their future. Another representative urged countries to participate in the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns so that its benefits would be equitable and global. She added that the use of developing countries as dumping grounds for unwanted goods and materials was incompatible with the principles of sustainable development, and she urged producers to take greater responsibility in reducing the negative environmental impact of their products, for example through the principle of extended producer responsibility.

72. A number of representatives stressed that there was more than one pathway to sustainable development and said the right of individual countries to follow their own development paths, according to their own context and circumstances, should be acknowledged and supported. Cooperation at the regional level could support individual countries in their endeavours to apply the development trajectories most suited to their circumstances. Some representatives also mentioned the importance of South-South cooperation in providing assistance to developing countries. Several representatives highlighted initiatives that already existed in their regions to promote sustainable development. One representative said that such approaches were becoming compulsory for developing countries as overseas development aid continued to dry up.

73. A number of representatives said that there was still a strong need among developing countries for additional resources to enable them to pursue sustainable development, including through implementation of measures emerging from the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. Such resources could be in the form of additional financing, technology transfer, capacity-building or other measures. In that regard, the Rio principles remained relevant, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. One representative urged parties to ratify the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.

74. The representative of Brazil said that her country was pledging \$1 million for implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, in line with the principles of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of Rio+20. The representative of Norway said that her country was pledging \$1 million for a study to identify further measures and techniques for combating marine litter.

B. Ministerial plenary meeting on sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production

75. The ministerial plenary meeting on sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production, comprised two sessions. The first, on eradicating poverty and achieving prosperity within the Earth's safe operating space through

sustainable consumption and production, took place on the afternoon of 26 June and the morning of 27 June. The second, on ensuring a healthy environment, restoring natural assets and enhancing the durability of infrastructure for the needs of current and future generations, took place on the morning of 27 June.

76. Introductory remarks were made by Ms. Helen Clark, Chair, United Nations Development Group. She said that economic and social progress had to be pursued in harmony with environmental and ecosystem protection; that would require capacity-building, technical assistance, the exchange of experiences, money and, most important, a mindset that saw both the opportunities of sustainable development and the costs of inaction. The longer society failed to act, the higher the costs and the risks; in areas such as climate change, delay meant higher costs, and for wildlife it meant extinction, which posed a huge threat to biodiversity, including its economic benefits. Poverty was decreasing worldwide but still afflicted 1 billion people, and nearly that many were chronically hungry. These and other crises could be solved, and the public wanted action. Tackling them successfully, however, required both an inspirational post-2015 agenda and leaders capable of integrated decision-making and seeing the links between challenges and solutions: to save wildlife, for example, law enforcement had to be paired with increased economic opportunities for the poor and the involvement of citizens in decision-making. Operating in “silos”, tackling problems in isolation from one another, would not work, and solutions required all to take a “business unusual” approach. Clear and measurable targets were essential. The United Nations development system could play a key role, but its elements had to work together more intensely than they had previously in support of sustainable development. If they could achieve that, then they could in turn support countries in their efforts to make the transition to sustainable development. Given their great importance, she was glad to see the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals occupying a prominent place on the agenda of the first session of the Environment Assembly.

1. Eradicating poverty and achieving prosperity within the Earth’s safe operating space through sustainable consumption and production

77. Mr Erik Solheim, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, served as moderator for the session on eradicating poverty and achieving prosperity within the Earth’s safe operating space through sustainable consumption and production. Introducing the session, he said that the process of developing the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals was unprecedented: for the first time in history humanity was working together to formulate joint goals intended to benefit all and was seeking to join social and economic prosperity to environmental protection. The Environment Assembly, he said, should send a clear political message to those leading the process at United Nations Headquarters in New York on how environment and development could be combined in policies. For the current dialogue, he asked participants to give information on such policies in their own countries, citing as examples success stories in various countries that had managed to enhance both development and environmental protection at the same time. He drew attention to four questions that could stimulate discussion, which were set out in the annex to the scenario note for the first session of the Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.1/INF/20/Rev.2).

78. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives thanked the Government of Kenya for hosting the session, and provided examples of successful measures and initiatives undertaken in their countries to eradicate poverty and move towards a green economy and sustainable development.

79. Most of the representatives who spoke stressed the need for collective action at all levels and many called for a transformative development agenda to end extreme poverty and ensure prosperity for all within planetary boundaries. Poverty eradication was a prerequisite for sustainable development together with the promotion of sustainable consumption and production and the protection of the natural resource base. Several representatives emphasized the importance of the green economy and moving to a low-carbon or low-emission and climate resilient development pathway. Many representatives underscored the need to address the three pillars of sustainable development in an integrated manner, including the relationship between the three, and to live up to the commitments made at Rio+20. One representative emphasized the particular significance of the social and spiritual dimension of sustainable development, and another urged that the pursuit of individual interests be discarded in favour of the common good.

80. Many representatives said that the rational use of natural capital was fundamental to inclusive and equitable growth, economic and social development, increased productivity, reduced waste and food security. A number stressed the importance of decoupling economic growth from environmental impacts, resource efficiency, natural capital accounting, sustainable procurement, chemicals and waste management, product life cycle approaches, and the reflection of environmental and social costs in

prices. Several representatives said that there was a crucial need, especially in developing countries, for capacity-building, technology transfer, financial support and improving the education and skills of local communities.

81. Several representatives described sustainable consumption and production as an essential element in the transition to sustainable development, and others commended the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, saying that it represented a sound basis and major implementation tool for sustainable development. One said that models for sustainable development must aim to dispense with unsustainable consumption and production within a framework of common but differentiated responsibilities.

82. Many representatives welcomed the convening of the first session of the Environment Assembly, describing it as a historic moment and a timely opportunity to discuss poverty eradication and the sustainable development goals from an environmental perspective. Several representatives called on the Assembly at its first session to send a strong united political message to the world, including on the need for a balanced post-2015 development agenda and a new path for sustainable development that would provide opportunities and prosperity for all. One said that the message of the first session should be that the global environmental challenge should be tackled in the context of the “One United Nations” initiative. Another said that the Assembly should take ownership of the global discussion on sustainable development.

83. Representatives said that the Environment Assembly would catalyse action to address environmental challenges, enhancing coherence on the environment across the United Nations system and beyond. One representative said that the Assembly needed to make the case globally for environment as central to poverty eradication, inclusive, sustainable growth and prosperity for all and for the role of good governance and effective institutions. Another said that forums such as the Environment Assembly could not continue to make commitments in the resolutions and declarations they adopted without considering their means of implementation; political will, funding, technology transfer and capacity-building were all cited as important in that regard.

84. A number of representatives said that UNEP, as the leading global authority on environment, had a vital role to play in the post-2015 development agenda and in providing strategic policy advice to Governments. Several drew attention to the Programme’s strengths, including significant experience in policy development, implementation and monitoring and in mobilizing resources for capacity-building and institutional strengthening. UNEP assessment work was described as pivotal in providing an evidence base for decision makers.

85. Many representatives spoke about the responsibilities of Governments in achieving sustainable development, including through leading by example, ensuring sustainable public procurement, transforming markets, creating decent green jobs in environmentally friendly and resource-efficient industries and helping consumers to choose companies and industries to take advantage of the opportunities arising from sustainable consumption and production patterns. Several representatives spoke about the importance of sharing agendas for sustainable development among ministries of environment, finance, agriculture and others, ensuring the integration of the environment at all levels of decision-making. Others spoke of the need to stimulate public and private investment in sustainable sectors and activities, providing green employment and decent livelihoods. One representative said that there was no single model for the green economy but rather a range of principles and parameters to be used, including accounting for environmental costs in the costs of goods and services, reforming fiscal policies and providing incentives for sustainable development, redirecting public investment towards green purchases and supporting research and development.

86. A number of representatives said that the post-2015 development agenda offered a transformative opportunity for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Several representatives spoke of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and its work, saying that the Group had made good progress and that the proposed sustainable development goals provided a sound basis for moving forward and for making a positive paradigm shift. Several representatives stressed the importance of engaging actively in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals and breaking away from the “silo” mentality and approach. Many representatives called for the environment to be fully integrated into the sustainable development goals and several said that the goals should have clear, understandable and ambitious targets. One representative said that the successes of the Millennium Development Goals should not be forgotten and a number said that selected existing targets should be incorporated into the goals. Numerous representatives spoke of the importance of exploiting synergies and interlinkages with other mechanisms and processes and avoiding duplication of effort. The goals should address, among other things, climate change and the state of marine and land-based ecosystems and should

include targets on sustainable consumption and production, the sound management of chemicals and wastes and sustainable public procurement.

87. A representative of major groups said that the sustainable development goals should promote a transformative agenda, building on internationally agreed targets and standards and the principle of non-regression. She expressed satisfaction that the goals were to include a standalone goal on climate, which was of fundamental importance, and called on the Environment Assembly to clarify its role in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

88. One representative highlighted the particular vulnerability of small island developing States to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, especially sea-level rise and coastal erosion, which threatened their very existence. He expressed support for the call for a dedicated forum on small island developing States as part of UNEP. A few representatives underlined the importance of conserving the marine environment, including in the light of its role in climate resilience.

89. Another representative underscored the particular situation of countries affected by wars and conflicts, which stood in the way of their sustainable development, and appealed for capacity-building, resources and other support, including to assist them in honouring their commitments under multilateral environmental agreements.

2. Ensuring a healthy environment, restoring natural assets and enhancing the durability of infrastructure for the needs of today's and future generations

90. Opening the session on ensuring a healthy environment, restoring natural assets and enhancing the durability of infrastructure for the needs of today's and future generations on the morning of Friday, 27 June, the President of the Environment Assembly asked the participants to consider in particular how exposure to chemical and other hazards could be reduced; to showcase examples and best practices that demonstrated how effective management of natural resources could protect the environment while generating economic growth; and to consider how incentives for achieving greater durability of assets and products could be made an integral part of economic policies, consumer behaviour and business decisions. Participants were also invited to make further comments on the main themes considered during the first session.

91. The moderator, Mr. Rolph Payet, Minister for Environment and Energy, Seychelles, said that the planet did not have sufficient environmental resources to sustain the current costs of raw material abstraction and the production and distribution of goods and that there was an urgent need to address production and consumption patterns. While the problems were complex, the goal was clear: to achieve sustainable production and consumption through policies that encouraged the engagement of both businesses of all sizes and consumers and benefitted both rich and poor. Priority areas included marine litter, public transport and sound management of chemicals and wastes. Citing the example of the rare metals that were contained in end-of-life mobile phones, he said that recycling was a vital component of effective waste management and that producers should do more to facilitate it. Greater energy efficiency was also needed, and more focus should be placed on energy-efficient design of buildings.

92. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives highlighted the alarming and worsening state of the environment globally and offered suggestions as to how sustainable consumption and production could be achieved within the context of sustainable and environment-friendly development. One representative said that sustainable consumption and production should be at the heart of post-2015 efforts to transform the way the world used its natural resources. One representative said that greater ambition was needed in the post-2015 period, while another said that a complete change of mindset was necessary in decision-making that affected the environment. Several representatives said that peace and security were a prerequisite for sustainable development and protection of the environment.

93. One representative said that the formulation of sustainable development goals would help focus attention on major environmental issues; it was essential for ministers of the environment to highlight the importance of the environment to sustainable development, and indeed a whole-of-government approach was needed, given the range of issues under discussion. Another representative said that it was necessary to build on the achievements, and address the shortcomings, of the Millennium Development Goals in order to ensure continuity; the new goals, he said, must be adapted to the needs and conditions of individual countries or groups of countries with specific challenges, such as small island developing States. Several representatives said that it was important for the sustainable development goals to include indicators and targets measuring progress in terms not only of economic assets but also of social and natural assets. Representatives of several countries called for the mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and wastes (including pesticides

and insecticides) in the goals, as well as a standalone goal on sustainable consumption and production. Several also appealed for the integration and mainstreaming of climate change throughout the sustainable development goals.

94. One representative asserted that sustainable procurement was essential to facilitating green investments and implementing sustainable consumption and production and that even small and medium-sized enterprises should take account of environmental considerations in their operations. Several representatives called for more action on suppressing and eradicating wildlife trade, which required both international cooperation and also strong action at the local level. Two representatives called for a focus on green technology in the design and construction of cities, with particular emphasis on energy, transport and water efficiency. Other areas of focus mentioned by representatives included resource-efficient food production and freshwater management (with an emphasis on eco-innovation, research and development); and education and training, particularly for women.

95. Several representatives said that an emphasis on poverty eradication in the post-2015 development agenda was crucial to achieving the sustainable development goals. A number of representatives highlighted the need for financial and other support to developing countries to help them achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction, with several arguing that developed countries must accept their responsibilities in shaping the post-2015 agenda in line with the Rio principles, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Several representatives spoke of a need for exchange of experiences and best practices between countries using a variety of means, including partnership building, public-private partnerships, institutional strengthening, technology transfer and capacity-building. The value of both North-South and South-South cooperation was stressed. A number of representatives highlighted the promising work being undertaken under current initiatives, including REDD-plus and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

96. Several representatives reported on the continuing work in their own countries to move towards more sustainable development models. One representative said that there was need to mainstream the environment into national development planning in the shift to a green economy, while being mindful of the economic capacity of individual countries and the particular challenges they faced, including in the areas of water and energy supply. Another representative stressed the importance that his country attached to the management of forest resources as part of a strategy to restore ecosystem services, create green jobs and foster resilience in the face of climate change. Several representatives said that the green economy should benefit all and be socially inclusive. Another representative said that her country had introduced a national charter on sustainable development, pursuant to which all development projects had to demonstrate integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars of development. Another representative said that a number of innovative financing mechanisms had been introduced in his country in line with the 10-year framework of programmes, including community loans, green investment funds and tax exemptions for importers of equipment to combat pollution and promote energy efficiency. Several representatives stressed the importance of regional cooperation in devising plans and goals that might have relevance throughout a region, including in relation to trade.

97. Summing up the debate, the moderator said that it had been an enriching discussion, with a strong emphasis on integrating the three pillars of sustainable development into the sustainable development goals, with the environment taking prominence as a cross-cutting issue. He said that the comments had indicated a need for, among other things, national strategies supported by an all-of-government approach; a shift to green economy approaches, including green investments and green jobs; greater efficiency in energy and water provision and waste management; protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services; technical support and capacity-building to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development strategies; and education in the principles of sustainable development to enable improved decision-making.

C. Ministerial plenary meeting on illegal trade in wildlife

98. The ministerial plenary meeting on illegal trade in wildlife was held on the evening of 26 June. The meeting was opened by Ms. Oyun, who welcomed participants and expressed the hope that they would engage in a lively, focused and interactive dialogue.

99. Mr. Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF International, served as moderator for the discussion. Drawing attention to the questions suggested in document UNEP/EA.1/INF/20, he invited participants to reflect on the kinds of leadership, partnerships and integrated approaches that would be required to tackle the problem of illegal trade in wildlife effectively. Stating that the scale and impacts of the trade were unprecedented and required an urgent and coordinated response, he expressed the

view that the Environment Assembly had a unique opportunity to build a roadmap for catalysing action at the scale needed, as political momentum and public concern about the issue in many countries had never been greater.

100. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of many countries, one regional economic integration organization, the secretariat of one convention and major groups and stakeholders made statements. A President's summary of the discussion is set out in annex II to the present proceedings.

VII. Adoption of resolutions, decisions and the outcome document of the session

101. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 27 June, the Environment Assembly adopted the following resolutions, which are set out in annex I to the present proceedings.

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>
1/1	Ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
1/2	Amendments to the rules of procedure
1/3	Illegal trade in wildlife
1/4	Science-policy interface
1/5	Chemicals and waste
1/6	Marine plastic debris and microplastics
1/7	Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality
1/8	Ecosystem-based adaptation
1/9	Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water)
1/10	Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
1/11	Coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group
1/12	Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements
1/13	Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
1/14	Revised programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015
1/15	Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017
1/16	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
1/17	Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility

102. The Environment Assembly also adopted decision 1/1, on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and decision 1/2, on the provisional agenda, date and venue of its second session (agenda item 9).

103. During the adoption of the ministerial outcome document (resolution 1/1), which had been prepared by the friends of the President group, the representative of a developing country, speaking on behalf of several other developing countries, said that those countries understood the document to reaffirm all of the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including principle 7, on common but differentiated responsibilities, which was explicitly reaffirmed in paragraph 15 of the Rio+20 outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Two representatives said that the omission of an explicit reference to principle 7 was unacceptable, with one suggesting that the omission stoked the fear that developed countries were negating their responsibility for the generation of greenhouse-gas emissions. Another representative lamented the absence of an explicit reference to common but differentiated responsibilities but said that he could nevertheless support the outcome document in a spirit of consensus.

104. At the request of the President the representative of Mexico, who had facilitated the discussions in the friends of the President group, described those discussions. Acknowledging the importance of the comments made, he said that the group's objective over the course of more than 50 hours of discussions had been to produce a consensus outcome document that constituted a strong closing of the historical first session of the Environment Assembly. He stressed that the outcome document, in reaffirming the member States' "commitment to the full implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document and all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development", encompassed all of the Rio principles, including principle 7. He asked delegations to read the document as a whole and argued strongly that it in no way diminished the importance of any principle or any agreement adopted in the past, including principle 7. He suggested that this understanding be reflected in the present proceedings.

105. The President then proposed the adoption of the outcome document and declared it adopted by acclamation.

106. Subsequently, two representatives said that they opposed the adoption of the outcome document without an explicit reference to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, while another said that he was not in a position to support it fully. The Environment Assembly agreed that the views of the three representatives should be reflected in the present proceedings.

VIII. Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

107. At its 7th plenary meeting, on the evening of Friday, 27 June, the Environment Assembly adopted the present proceedings on the basis of the draft proceedings contained in documents UNEP/EA.1/L.2 and Add.1, on the understanding that they would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

IX. Closure of the session (agenda item 12)

108. During the closure of its first session, the Environment Assembly was addressed by Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya, and Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

109. In his remarks the Secretary-General thanked the President and people of Kenya for their unwavering support for the United Nations in Kenya. The Environment Assembly's journey had begun with the establishment of UNEP, when environmental concerns had been secondary to economic development. UNEP and its stakeholders had prompted a better understanding of the environmental cause. The next phase of the journey, which included the post-2015 development agenda and was based on the Rio+20 outcome document, had the strong voice it needed in UNEP, with all United Nations Member States and stakeholders represented in a single body with a shared goal. In its augmented role, the Assembly had the capacity to put environmental issues on an equal footing with peace, security and the economy, and issues discussed in Nairobi would be taken forward at the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York.

110. He thanked the Executive Director of UNEP for his leadership, which enabled the Programme to provide Governments with the tools they needed to mainstream environmental issues in policy making. UNEP and the Environment Assembly had a central role to play in raising awareness of the current unsustainable rate of consumption and the degraded state of the environment. Commitments made in the context of the post-2015 development agenda would have a profound impact on generations to come.

111. He urged attendance at the Climate Summit in September 2014, saying that joint efforts were needed to combat climate change and promote sustainable development. The Environment Assembly had the power to transform humanity's relationship with the planet, and while its task would be challenged by vested interests, inspiration could be drawn from the previous four decades of environmental advocacy and a sense of urgency based on the state of the environment. He congratulated all assembled at the current session, concluding that through united efforts a better world for all would be achieved.

112. In his remarks, President Kenyatta said that the presence of the Secretary-General at the current session demonstrated that the environmental agenda had achieved the prominence that it deserved, while the record levels of participation attested to the world's commitment to the ideals adopted at Rio+20 and to finding new answers to the pressing challenge of how to balance development with environmental protection.

113. The first session of the Assembly had built on the foundations laid in Rio+20 through the adoption of resolutions on a number of important matters, including on illegal trade in wildlife,

ecosystem-based adaptation, chemicals and waste and air quality, which Kenya would mainstream into its national development agenda in order to better protect the environment, create jobs, safeguard human health and promote equity. The Assembly had also constructively discussed the post-2015 development agenda, thus helping to provide clarity on how best to integrate environmental matters into the development agenda for the future. It was essential that the post-2015 agenda incorporate the lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, ensure continuity by incorporating the unfinished Millennium Development Goals and secure the means to implement the sustainable development goals. Expressing his appreciation to all those who had made the session possible, he gave special thanks to the Secretary-General and the Executive Director, as well as UNEP donors, stating that Kenya remained firmly committed to UNEP and its important work.

114. Following the remarks by the Secretary-General and Mr. Kenyatta and the customary exchange of courtesies, the President of the Environment Assembly suspended the closing plenary meeting for a ministerial dinner hosted by the Government of Kenya. The meeting reconvened at 9 p.m., at which time the Environment Assembly adopted the outcome document set out in the annex to resolution 1/1. The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme was declared closed at 10.55 p.m. on Friday, 27 June 2014.

Annex I

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session

Resolutions

1/1. Ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The United Nations Environment Assembly

Adopts the following ministerial outcome document:

Ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The ministers of environment and heads of delegation gathered at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi on 26 and 27 June 2014

Recall General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 establishing the United Nations Environment Programme, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000, the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, declaring the United Nations Environment Programme to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the integrated and coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as reinforced in the Nusa Dua Declaration of February 2010;

Also recall that, from the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, the adoption of Agenda 21, the adoption of the Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, we have increased our understanding of the importance of the environment in the context of sustainable development, we have strengthened our institutions and we have committed ourselves to action;

Reaffirm, therefore, our commitment to the full implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document, “The future we want”,¹ and all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and call for the implementation of section IV.C of “The future we want”, on the environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development, and paragraph 88, on strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme;

Emphasize, with the foregoing in mind, the historic importance of convening the first universal session of this lead forum and decision-making body to address global environmental challenges and provide overarching policy guidance within the United Nations system, recognizing the fundamental role of the Environment Assembly in promoting the full integration and coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and its potential to identify opportunities and advance solutions for the global environmental agenda;

Call on the international community, and reaffirm our commitment:

(a) To ensure the full integration of the environmental dimension, especially throughout the sustainable development agenda, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development;

(b) To achieve an ambitious, universal, implementable and realizable post-2015 development agenda that fully integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions of

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

sustainable development in a coherent, holistic, comprehensive and balanced manner, including comprehensive and action-oriented sustainable development goals, with the aim of eradicating poverty, protecting the environment and promoting inclusive social and economic development in harmony with nature;

(c) To accelerate and support efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through sustainable lifestyles and resource efficiency, and to accelerate actions, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, to implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns as a tool for action on sustainable consumption and production, including its section on means of implementation;

(d) To take action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, which has major economic, social and environmental impacts, contributes to damage to ecosystems and rural livelihoods, undermines good governance and the rule of law and threatens national security;

(e) To undertake urgent actions to address climate change, a persistent crisis that affects all countries, and undermines their ability, in particular developing countries, to achieve sustainable development, which requires cooperation by all countries, in accordance with the objective, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(f) To continue to work towards the adoption in 2015 of an ambitious outcome in the form of a protocol, other legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Framework Convention on Climate Change applicable to all parties in accordance with the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action;

(g) To ensure the full implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other international and regional environmental commitments in an effective and coordinated manner while promoting synergies among them, acknowledging their positive contribution to sustainable development;

(h) To reinforce efforts to halt biodiversity loss and combat desertification, drought and land degradation, including through the implementation of existing environmental agreements, and to ensure that ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide their services;

(i) To foster and encourage the development of genuine and durable partnerships to address environmental challenges faced by small island developing States, looking forward to the discussion that will take place at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Samoa in September 2014;

Underline the importance of the issues addressed in the resolutions adopted by the Environment Assembly at its first session, and invite the international community to join efforts, including those made by the United Nations Environment Programme, to implement such outcomes;

Welcome the richness of the debate that took place in the margins of the first session of the Environment Assembly and the contributions of the academic community and civil society experts in various forums to our understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing us, including with regard to the rule of law on the environment, gender, youth, the role of legislators and financing a green economy, and recommend the continuation of this practice;

Commend the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating intergovernmental negotiations on multilateral environmental agreements, including the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and highlight the important positive contribution of the sound management of chemicals and waste to sustainable development;

Acknowledge that a strengthened science-policy interface is of key importance to more efficient and effective policymaking on sustainable development at all levels and emphasize the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing coherent evidence-based knowledge and information on the state of the global environment for decision makers, including in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda;

Call on the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, within their respective mandates, to give appropriate consideration to the present outcome document and to take its messages further with a view to the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the United Nations and its Member States.

1/2. Amendments to the rules of procedure

The United Nations Environment Assembly

Adopts the following amendments to the rules of procedure:

1. Rule 2 as amended reads as follows:

1. Each regular session of the United Nations Environment Assembly shall be held, subject to the provisions of rule 3, at a date fixed by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its previous session in such a way, if practicable, as to enable the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to consider the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the same year.

2. When setting the date in a given year for the session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the dates of meetings of other relevant bodies, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, should be taken into account.

2. Rule 7 as amended reads as follows:

The Executive Director shall communicate the date of the first meeting of each session to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Chairpersons of subsidiary organs of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, the President of the General Assembly when the Assembly is in session, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the appropriate United Nations bodies, the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 68 below and the non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders referred to in rule 69 below. Such notification shall be sent:

(a) In the case of a regular session, at least forty-two days in advance;

(b) In the case of a special session, at least fourteen days in advance of the date fixed in accordance with rule 6 above.

3. The title of section IV: for “OFFICERS”, read “UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY BUREAU”.

4. Rule 18, paragraph 1: for “three Vice-Presidents”, read “eight Vice-Presidents”.

Replace paragraph 2 of rule 18 with the following paragraph:

In electing its officers, the United Nations Environment Assembly shall ensure that each of the five regions is represented by two members in the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

5. New rule, to be inserted after rule 18 and before rule 19, as follows:

Replacement of a Bureau member

1. During the session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, if a Bureau member, except the President, is unable to permanently carry out any of her or his functions, the Assembly may elect an alternate upon appointment by a member State or by the regional group to which that member belongs.

2. During the intersessional period, if a Bureau member resigns or is unable to exercise functions, the member State or the regional group to which that member belongs shall nominate a replacement for the remainder of the term. The Executive Director shall immediately upon receipt of the nomination inform all members of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the nomination in writing. If within one month no objections are received in writing, the nominee is elected. If a member State objects, the nominee is elected if a majority of member States responding support the nominee.

6. Rule 43 as amended reads as follows:

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and submitted to the Executive Director, who shall circulate copies to the members in all the official languages of the United Nations Environment Assembly. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all members not later than the day preceding the meeting. Subject to the consent of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals or amendments even though these proposals or amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated on the same day.

7. Title of section VIII: replace the current title with the following:

SESSIONAL OR INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

8. Rule 59 as amended reads as follows:

The United Nations Environment Assembly may establish such sessional or inter-sessional committees, working parties and subsidiary organs as may be necessary for the effective discharge of its functions.

9. Rule 64 as amended reads as follows:

1. All resolutions, declarations, recommendations and other formal decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as well as its reports to the General Assembly and other documents, shall be made available in the languages of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

2. The text of the resolutions, declarations, recommendations and other formal decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, its sessional committee and other subsidiary organs, if any, shall be distributed by the secretariat to all members of the United Nations Environment Assembly and any others participating in the session. The printed text of such resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions, as well as the reports of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the General Assembly, shall be distributed after the close of the session to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 68 below.

10. Rule 66 as amended reads as follows:

The meetings of the United Nations Environment Assembly, its sessional committees and working parties and subsidiary organs, if any, shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. If possible, such proceedings shall be broadcast to the wider public through electronic means.

11. Rule 68: insert new paragraph 3 as follows:

A regional economic integration organization may participate in the deliberations of the United Nations Environment Assembly with the same modalities as those applicable to its participation in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly.

Add a footnote against the term “regional economic integration organization” to read as follows: “That is the subject of General Assembly resolution 65/276.”

1/3. **Illegal trade in wildlife**

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the increasing scale of illegal trade in wildlife and its products, including forest products, including timber, and marine species, and its adverse economic, social and environmental impacts,

Recognizing that illegal trade in wildlife and its adverse impacts contributes to damage to ecosystems and rural livelihoods, undermines good governance and the rule of law and threatens national security and has a negative impact on sustainable utilization, including ecotourism and wildlife-based tourism,

Recognizing also the role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as the principal international instrument for ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival, and acknowledging the role of other conventions in the area, such as the Convention on Migratory Species,

Recalling paragraph 203 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in which it was recognized that firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides, taking into account the role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,

Recalling also Governing Council decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability, in which the Council noted, inter alia, that offences against the environment, in particular illegal trade in wildlife, including timber, are increasingly committed by organized criminal groups and recalled that international cooperation at all levels in accordance with international law, while respecting national jurisdictions, contributes to combating those offences more effectively,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40 on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora, in which the Council encouraged Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime, as defined in article 2, paragraph (b), of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Reaffirming also resolution 23/1 of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on strengthening a targeted crime prevention and criminal justice response to combat illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber, which encourages member States to make illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber, involving organized criminal groups a serious crime, as defined in article 2, paragraph (b), of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, where appropriate,

Reaffirming further General Assembly resolution 68/193, emphasizing that coordinated action is critical to eliminate corruption and disrupt the illicit networks that drive and enable trafficking in wildlife, timber and timber products, harvested in contravention of national laws,

Welcoming the outcome of the twenty-second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which encouraged the integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice to deal effectively with the challenge posed by emerging crimes that have a significant impact on the environment,

Welcoming also the commitments made by the ministers of tourism of Africa, the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the representatives of relevant national and international organizations at the African Tourism Ministers Meeting on Anti-Poaching held in Berlin on 6 March 2014,

Welcoming further the conferences on illegal wildlife trade held in Gaborone, Paris and London, among others,

Stressing the need to maintain the political momentum generated through those and other high-level international and regional initiatives,

Welcoming the adoption of the African Elephant Action Plan as a framework for the conservation and management of the African elephant across the species range and the subsequent establishment of the African Elephant Fund under the administration of the United Nations Environment Programme as a funding mechanism towards the implementation of the Action Plan,

Welcoming also the creation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, which includes the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization and the World Bank, as an important collaborative effort to strengthen enforcement,

Acknowledging the value of relevant United Nations Environment Programme activities for international efforts to combat illegal trade in wildlife more effectively, such as, but not limited to, the Green Customs Initiative, and the work of United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and as a partner in the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and the Global Forest Watch initiative,

Acknowledging also the crucial role played by Governments and all relevant stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, civil society and the private sector, in combating illegal trade in wildlife,

1. *Affirms* its strong determination to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, including timber and marine species, globally;
2. *Strongly encourages* member States and regional economic integration organizations to:
 - (a) Implement their commitments to fighting illegal trade in wildlife already taken in other forums;
 - (b) Provide leadership and mobilize resources, including for the African Elephant Fund and other wildlife-related funding mechanisms for strengthening the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, in particular by making sure that the evidence on the trends and extent of the illegal trade, and action being taken, is robust and up to date;
 - (c) Take targeted action to eradicate the supply and transit of and the demand for illegal wildlife products, including by raising awareness of illegal trade in wildlife and its impacts while respecting and protecting the legal and sustainable trade in wildlife products;
 - (d) Support work to reinforce the legal framework, including through deterrent measures, where necessary, and to strengthen capacity throughout the entire enforcement chain;
 - (e) Promote at all levels cross-agency cooperation to tackle the environmental, economic, social and security dimensions of the illegal trade in wildlife and their products;
 - (f) Initiate and promote action to further strengthen regional and international cooperation between source, transit and destination countries, including through additional support to wildlife law-enforcement networks;
 - (g) Promote and implement policies of zero tolerance towards all illegal activities, including corruption associated with the illegal trade in wildlife;
 - (h) Support the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected by the illegal trade in wildlife and its adverse impacts with the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing communities' rights and capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife and wilderness;
 - (i) Enhance cooperation for the timely and cost-efficient repatriation of live illegally traded wildlife, including eggs, as called for by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;²
3. *Urges* parties to effectively implement their obligations under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as well as other relevant multilateral agreements, acknowledging that the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, which includes the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Convention secretariat, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization and the World Bank, and other relevant international organizations can provide valuable assistance in that regard;
4. *Urges* all those engaged in efforts to combat illegal trade in wildlife to promote synergies, cooperation and coordination and avoid duplication;
5. *Calls upon* the General Assembly to consider the issue of illegal wildlife trade at its sixty-ninth session;

² Article VIII, para. 4 (b), and resolution Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15).

6. *Stresses*, in the light of the negative impact of wildlife trafficking on sustainable development, the importance of addressing the issue in the context of the post-2015 development framework;
7. *Underlines* the importance of keeping the issue of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products on the international agenda;
8. *Urges* all countries, within their capabilities, to assign and mobilize resources to combat illegal trade in wildlife in accordance with their national policies, priorities, plans and programmes, noting that such resources may include domestic funding through relevant policies, development strategies and national budgets, and bilateral and multilateral funding, as well as private sector involvement, and encourages donors and others in a position to do so, on an urgent basis, to mobilize and provide financial resources and assistance to support the efforts of developing countries to address illegal trade in wildlife, especially to create and strengthen national capacities;
9. *Calls upon* all countries to actively engage in and/or support on-the-ground-based activities on the part of International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime members to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of local enforcers and improve national and international cooperation;
10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme:
- (a) To provide, by the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, an analysis of the environmental impacts of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products;
- (b) To continue and to reinforce the relevant activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with member States and other relevant international, regional and national actors, to raise awareness about the problems and the risks associated with the supply and transit of and demand for illegal wildlife products;
- (c) To work closely with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Secretary-General's Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, notably with regard to core areas of United Nations Environment Programme expertise, such as environmental aspects of the rule of law, judicial training and information exchange about judicial decisions and practices;
- (d) To continue to support national Governments, upon their request, to develop and implement the environmental rule of law, and in that context to continue its efforts to fight the illegal wildlife trade and to continue to promote actions, including through capacity-building;
- (e) To take a proactive role in United Nations Environment Programme administration of the African Elephant Fund to ensure its contribution to the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan;
- (f) To report on the implementation of the activities listed in paragraph 10 (a)–(e) to be discussed at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;
11. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

1/4. Science-policy interface

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and, in particular, paragraph 88 of the outcome document, and recalling also Governing Council decision 27/2, paragraph 8,

Mindful of the functions and responsibilities of the United Nations Environment Programme as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, including to keep under review the world environmental situation, and recalling Governing Council decision 27/11 of 22 February 2013 on the state of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to meeting substantive environmental challenges,

Acknowledging the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular paragraph 90, calling for strengthened assessment activities and improved access to data and information, and noting the need to integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development and to disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information on critical and emerging economic, environmental and social issues,

Recalling Governing Council decision 27/11, section III, paragraph 3,

Recognizing the potential benefits of a scientifically sound and evidence-based detailed assessment of the state of the environment for awareness-raising, informed policy formulation and decision-making in the context of sustainable development,

Welcoming the progress made during the design and development of UNEP Live as a tool to significantly enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the future approach to keeping the world environment situation under review, including capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve their data collection and assessment efforts and ensure that data collected and information generated are made available to policymakers and the public,

Recalling paragraph 88 (f) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and paragraph 20 of Governing Council decision 27/2, calling for the enhancement of the operationalization of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,

Recognizing that there are gaps in our knowledge of the state of the environment resulting from a lack of current data and information generation and dissemination,

Noting that there is an urgent need for Governments to take action to bridge those gaps through the building of capacities, the strengthening of existing mechanisms, including those of the multilateral environmental agreements, for monitoring the state of the environment and producing policy-relevant environmental assessments, which should be based on the use of established comparable methods for data collection and analysis, paying particular attention to the needs and circumstances of developing countries,

Welcoming the continued support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the work of the intergovernmental scientific panels, bodies and processes,

Expressing appreciation for the work of the International Resource Panel, which contributes to the strengthening of the science-policy interface and knowledge base in key areas of resource use and knowledge management,

Welcoming the release of the third Africa Environment Outlook (AEO-3) report, which reveals important linkages between health and the environment in Africa,

Welcoming also the release of the *Arab Region Atlas of Our Changing Environment*, which examines the environmental changes that have taken place across the Arab region,

Science-policy interface

1. *Welcomes* the briefing on the science-policy interface by the Executive Director to the high-level segment of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and requests the Executive Director to continue to provide information from existing and ongoing assessments as well as on progress made towards previously agreed global environmental goals to guide future policy debates at the Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to further explore ways of communicating key scientific findings of the assessment work of the United Nations Environment Programme in all United Nations languages to citizens, policymakers, the media and the research community in order to support informed decision-making at all levels;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to promote a strong science-policy interface by expanding partnerships with centres of excellence and research programmes, promoting integrated and peer-reviewed environmental assessments and policy analysis and working closely with member States, business and experts to establish up-to-date quality-assured data flows;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Director to foster collaboration with multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, relevant United Nations agencies and programmes and scientific panels for joint efforts to strengthen the science-policy interface and provide tools for integrated approaches and informed decision-making;

5. *Reiterates* the request to the Executive Director to submit a gap analysis report on environmental data, information and assessments as well as recommendations on policy instruments for a strengthened science-policy interface to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session;

Strengthening the environmental dimension of sustainable development

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to provide expert input on the environmental dimension in relation to sustainable development goals in accordance with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director to work closely with relevant United Nations bodies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, on the production of the Global Sustainable Development Report;

Assessments

8. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the programme of work and budget, to undertake the preparation of the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6), supported by UNEP Live, with the scope, objectives and procedures of GEO-6 to be defined by a transparent global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation informed by document UNEP/EA.1/INF/14, resulting in a scientifically credible, peer-reviewed GEO-6 and its accompanying summary for policymakers, to be endorsed by the United Nations Environment Assembly no later than 2018;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consult with all United Nations Environment Programme regions regarding their priorities to be taken up in the global assessment;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director, within the existing programme of work, to contribute to the dissemination and outreach of the findings of relevant scientific panels, bodies and processes under the auspices of intergovernmental organizations in order to amplify diffusion among policymakers and the public to the maximum possible extent;

11. *Reiterates* the request to the Executive Director to strengthen the policy relevance of Global Environment Outlook reports by measuring the progress towards the achievement of the previously agreed global environmental goals and targets and to inform relevant global processes and meetings where progress towards these agreed goals and targets will be discussed;

UNEP Live

12. *Encourages* Governments, major groups and stakeholders, United Nations specialized agencies and programmes, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements and international and regional scientific bodies to engage in the future development of UNEP Live and share appropriate, credible and quality-assured data and information resources to support the environmental dimension of sustainable development assessment processes, which shall be accessible via the UNEP Live platform;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare, within the programme of work and budget and in consultation with Governments, United Nations agencies and programmes, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements and international and regional scientific bodies, a long-term plan for the development and use of UNEP Live, with particular reference to its contribution to future Global Environment Outlook reports, future assessment modalities, stakeholder engagement, institutional networking and partnership activities, content development, technology support and capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, taking into account the existing scientific work and processes of the United Nations Environment Programme, and to present the plan to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake, at the request of member States, capacity-building and technology support activities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve their data collection management and assessment, including strengthening indigenous and local knowledge systems and practices, as appropriate, for the implementation of the present resolution;

15. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide financial support for the implementation of the present resolution, in particular in the area of technology support, data infrastructure and capacity-building, so that developing countries can engage effectively and take advantage of the benefits of platforms such as UNEP Live;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

1/5. Chemicals and waste

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),³ internationally agreed goals, including environmental goals and objectives, the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288, in particular the aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment,

Considering that the sound management of chemicals and waste contributes significantly to the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling section VIII, on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, of Governing Council decision 27/12, and recalling also that sustainable and adequate long-term funding is a key element for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as expressed in paragraph 223 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the first joint meeting of the ordinary conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, held in Geneva in 2013,

Recalling Governing Council decision 27/12, and having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on its implementation,

I

Continued strengthening of the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term

1. *Recognizes* the continued relevance of the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;
2. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the country-led consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster⁴ and the outcome document of the process, entitled “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”;⁵
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to forward, for information regarding policies and actions, the outcome document referred to in paragraph 2, to:
 - (a) The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (b) The sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
 - (c) The second session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the fourth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
 - (d) The conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
 - (e) The Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;
4. *Emphasizes* the importance of complying with existing international chemicals- and waste-related commitments through appropriate implementation at the national, regional and international levels;

³ See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ UNEP/EA.1/5/Add.2.

⁵ *Ibid.*, annex.

II

Integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and waste

5. *Welcomes* an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, and underscores that the three components of an integrated approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels;
6. *Also welcomes* the revision of the Instrument made by the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility so as to include a focal area on chemicals and waste, and the increase in resources allocated to chemicals and waste by the sixth replenishment;
7. *Adopts* the terms of reference for a special programme, annexed to the present resolution, to be funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director, consistent with the terms of reference for the Special Programme, to establish and administer the Special Programme trust fund and to provide a secretariat to deliver administrative support to the Programme;
9. *Requests* the Executive Board of the Special Programme, in the light of the experience of the Programme and the lessons learned by recipient countries, to review the effectiveness of the operational arrangements for the Programme set out in its terms of reference and to provide a report on the review, to be considered by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session in 2018, with a view to its making adjustments, if necessary, to the operational arrangements for the Special Programme;
10. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit the terms of reference for the Special Programme to the conferences of the parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Open-ended Working Group of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for their information;
11. *Encourages* Governments in a position to do so, as well as the private sector, including industry, foundations, other non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to mobilize financial resources for the effective establishment and quick start implementation of the Special Programme;

III

Sustainable development

12. *Emphasizes* that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development and is of great relevance to the sustainable development agenda;

IV

Mercury

13. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury at the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries in Kumamoto, Japan, on 10 October 2013;
14. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate cooperation, as appropriate, between the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and others, to make full use of relevant experience and expertise that may assist countries in joining the Convention, subject to the availability of resources for this purpose;
15. *Notes with appreciation* the decision of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to express interest and signal their readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the Minamata Convention, and the reciprocal resolution of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury;

V

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

16. *Welcomes* the important contribution of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in facilitating action by all relevant stakeholders towards the sound management of chemicals and waste;
17. *Emphasizes* the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement;
18. *Also emphasizes* the need for the continued strengthening of the Strategic Approach;
19. *Invites* the Open-ended Working Group of the Strategic Approach at its second session and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth meeting to consider ways to improve the involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders and thereby also enable efficient and effective responses to new and emerging issues and challenges;
20. *Recalls* the lead role of the United Nations Environment Programme in arranging for an effective and efficient secretariat for the Strategic Approach, and requests the Executive Director to continue to support the Strategic Approach, including in the development of orientation and guidance to implement the 2020 goal;
21. *Invites* the Director-General of the World Health Organization to assume a leading role in the Strategic Approach and to provide appropriate staff and other resources to its secretariat, and requests the Executive Director to forward this invitation to the next meeting of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization;
22. *Invites* members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to consider ways to support the Strategic Approach secretariat, including possible staffing support;
23. *Calls upon* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry, civil society and other Strategic Approach stakeholders to support the implementation and further development of the Strategic Approach;
24. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry and others in a position to do so to make financial and in-kind contributions to the Strategic Approach, its secretariat and its implementation, including through the programme of work of the members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

VI

Lead and cadmium

25. *Recognizes* the significant risks to human health and the environment arising from releases of lead and cadmium into the environment;
26. *Welcomes* the upcoming third meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and the associated workshop focusing on the development of national legislation to phase out lead in paint, and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, in coordination with the World Health Organization, to continue to build capacity on lead paint through possible regional workshops;
27. *Looks forward* to the compilation of information on techniques for emission abatement and on the possibility of replacing lead and cadmium with less hazardous substances or techniques;

VII

Waste

28. *Requests* the Executive Director to consider the interlinkages between chemicals and waste policies in the global outlook on waste prevention, minimization and management, which is currently being developed;

VIII

Regional centres: mainstreaming and coordinated delivery

29. *Acknowledges* the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to support the implementation of those conventions and all relevant activities, as well as the role that they play in contributing to other chemicals- and waste-related instruments and in mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste;

30. *Invites* parties to those conventions and other stakeholders, including parties to the Minamata Convention and Strategic Approach stakeholders, to consider ways to promote an effective and efficient network of regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance under the conventions to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment;

31. *Requests* the Executive Director and invites the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international financial institutions, instruments and programmes, to consider opportunities for effective and efficient cooperation with the regional centres in implementing the regional sound management of chemicals and waste projects;

IX

32. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on progress on the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session.

Annex

Terms of reference for the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Recalling decision 27/12 on chemicals and waste management, part VIII, paragraphs 13 and 14 of the First Universal Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

I. Objective of the Special Programme

1. The objective of the Special Programme is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. Institutional strengthening under the Special Programme will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (hereinafter referred to as “the Instruments”).

II. Definition of institutional strengthening

2. For the purposes of the Special Programme, institutional strengthening is defined as enhancing the sustainable institutional capacity of Governments to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation, as well as to gain access to financial and other resources for effective frameworks for the implementation of the Instruments for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle.

III. Expected outcomes of institutional strengthening through the Special Programme

3. It is expected that strengthened national institutions would have the capacity to do the following:

(a) Develop and monitor the implementation of national policies, strategies, programmes and legislation for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

(b) Promote the adoption, monitoring and enforcement of legislation and regulatory frameworks for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

(c) Promote the mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and wastes into national development plans, national budgets, policies, legislation and implementation frameworks at all levels, including addressing gaps and avoiding duplication;

- (d) Work in a multisectoral, effective, efficient, transparent, accountable and sustainable manner in the long term;
- (e) Facilitate multisectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination at the national level;
- (f) Promote private sector responsibility, accountability and involvement;
- (g) Promote the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach;
- (h) Promote cooperative and coordinated implementation of the Instruments at the national level.

IV. Scope of the Special Programme

4. The Special Programme should avoid duplication and proliferation of funding mechanisms and associated administration, and should fund activities that fall outside the mandate of the Global Environment Facility.
5. The activities funded under the Special Programme may encompass the following:
 - (a) Identifying national institutional capacity, weaknesses, gaps and needs, as well as strengthening the institutional capacity to do so, where required;
 - (b) Strengthening institutional capacity to plan, develop, undertake, monitor and coordinate the implementation of policies, strategies and national programmes for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
 - (c) Strengthening institutional capacity to improve progress reporting and performance evaluation capabilities;
 - (d) Promoting an enabling environment to foster the ratification of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention;
 - (e) Enabling the design and operation of institutional structures dedicated to the promotion of the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle;
 - (f) Strengthening institutional capacity to promote measures to support all aspects of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including more specific nationally identified thematic areas covered by the Instruments.

V. Eligibility for support from the Special Programme

6. Support from the Special Programme will be available for developing countries, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States, and for countries with economies in transition, with priority given to those with least capacity.
7. Applicants will be eligible if they are party to any one of the relevant conventions or have demonstrated that they are in the process of preparing for ratification of any one of the conventions.
8. Applications will include identification of the associated domestic measures to be taken to ensure that the national institutional capacity supported by the Special Programme is sustainable in the long term.

VI. Governance arrangements for the Special Programme

9. An Executive Board will be the decision-making body and oversee the Special Programme with the support of a secretariat.
10. The Executive Board will reflect a balance between donors and recipients. The term of the representatives will be in a two-year rotation. The Executive Board will be composed of the following:
 - (a) Four representatives of recipient countries, reflecting equitable, geographical representation, drawn from the following United Nations regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Executive Board will have one representative from a least developed country or a small island developing State on a rotational basis;
 - (b) Five donor representatives, which are not also recipient countries.

11. The executive secretaries of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention, the Coordinator of the Strategic Approach and a representative of the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, as well as representatives of Governments and regional economic integration organizations, any implementing agencies and one representative from each of the Bureaus of the governing bodies of the Instruments may participate, at their own expense, as observers at the meetings of the Executive Board.

VII. Mandate and functions of the Executive Board

12. The Executive Board will have two co-chairs, one from recipient countries and one from donor countries.

13. The Executive Board will meet yearly and take its decisions by consensus wherever possible. If consensus cannot be reached, the Executive Board will, as a last resort, take its decisions by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting. The Executive Board will, as required, further develop its rules of procedure at its first meeting.

14. The Executive Board will take operational decisions regarding the functioning of the Special Programme, including the approval of applications for funding, and will endorse procedures for application, assessment, reporting and evaluation. The Executive Board will provide operational guidance on the implementation of the Special Programme and will provide advice on other matters as required.

VIII. Administering organization

15. As the administering organization, UNEP will provide a Special Programme trust fund and a secretariat to deliver administrative support to the Programme, including the allocation of human and other resources.

16. The secretariat will process application proposals for approval by the Executive Board, manage approved allocations and service the Executive Board. The Secretariat will report on its operations to the Executive Board and will be accountable to the Executive Director of UNEP for administrative and financial matters. The secretariat will submit an annual report to the Executive Board, which will also be sent to the governing bodies of UNEP and of the Instruments for their consideration.

IX. Operational arrangements for the Special Programme

17. The Special Programme will receive applications directly from national Governments. It will be easily accessible, simple and effective, and draw on experience from existing support mechanisms as appropriate.

18. Applications should be outlined within the context of an overall country approach to strengthening institutional capacity. The applications should contain proposed measures and performance targets, and information relating to long-term sustainability.

19. Applications should be submitted to the secretariat. The secretariat will appraise applications for consideration and decision by the Executive Board.

20. Cumulative allocations to a country should be decided by the Executive Board, based on the contributions received and the needs expressed in the applications submitted. Of that total, an amount not exceeding 13 per cent may be retained for administrative purposes.

21. Beneficiary countries will contribute resources equal to the value of at least 25 per cent of the total allocation. The Executive Board may reduce that percentage, commensurate with consideration of the specific national circumstances, capacity constraints, gaps and needs of the applicant.

22. Beneficiary countries shall submit annual reports on progress achieved. A final report and financial audit shall be submitted upon completion of each project, which shall include a full accounting of funds used and an evaluation of outcomes, as well as evidence as to whether the performance targets have been met.

X. Contributions

23. Contributions will be encouraged from all signatories and parties to the conventions and other Governments with the capacity to do so, as well as from the private sector, including industry, foundations, other non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

XI. Duration of the Special Programme

24. The Special Programme will be open to receive voluntary contributions and applications for support for seven years from the date it is established. On the basis of a satisfactory review and evaluation, and subject to a recommendation from the Executive Board to the United Nations Environment Assembly, the Special Programme may be eligible for a one-time extension, not to exceed an additional five years. Special Programme funds may be disbursed for a maximum of 10 years from the date the Programme is established, or eight years from the date it is extended, if applicable, at which point the Programme will complete its operations and close. The terms of reference of the above-mentioned review and evaluation are to be decided by the Executive Board.

1/6. Marine plastic debris and microplastics

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the concern reflected in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹ that the health of oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine pollution, including marine debris, especially plastic, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and nitrogen-based compounds, from numerous marine and land-based sources, and the commitment to take action to significantly reduce the incidence and impacts of such pollution on marine ecosystems,

Noting the international action being taken to promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and waste in ways that lead to the prevention and minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment,

Recalling the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities adopted by the Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which highlighted the relevance of the Honolulu Strategy and the Honolulu Commitment and recommended the establishment of a global partnership on marine litter,

Taking note of the decisions adopted by the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on addressing the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity,

Recalling that the General Assembly declared 2014 the International Year of Small Island Developing States and that such States have identified waste management among their priorities for action,

Noting with concern the serious impact which marine litter, including plastics stemming from land and sea-based sources, can have on the marine environment, marine ecosystem services, marine natural resources, fisheries, tourism and the economy, as well as the potential risks to human health,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the precautionary approach according to which lack of full scientific certainty should not be used for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation, where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage;

2. *Recognizes* the significant risks arising from the inadequate management and disposal of plastic and the need to take action;

3. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry and other relevant actors to cooperate with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter in its implementation of the Honolulu Strategy and to facilitate information exchange through the online marine litter network;

4. *Recognizes* that plastics, including microplastics, in the marine environment are a rapidly increasing problem due to their large and still increasing use combined with the inadequate management and disposal of plastic waste, and because plastic debris in the marine environment is steadily fragmenting into secondary microplastics;

5. *Also recognizes* the need for more knowledge and research on the source and fate of microplastics and their impact on biodiversity, marine ecosystems and human health, noting recent knowledge that such particles can be ingested by biota and could be transferred to higher levels in the marine food chain, causing adverse effects;

6. *Notes* that microplastics may also contribute to the transfer in the marine ecosystems of persistent organic pollutants, other persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances and other contaminants which are in or adhere to the particles;
7. *Recognizes* that microplastics in the marine environment originate from a wide range of sources, including the breakdown of plastic debris in the oceans, industrial emissions and sewage and run-off from the use of products containing microplastics;
8. *Emphasizes* that further urgent action is needed to address the challenges posed by marine plastic debris and microplastics, by addressing such materials at source, by reducing pollution through improved waste management practices and by cleaning up existing debris and litter;
9. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter launched in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012 and the convening of the first Partnership Forum in 2013;
10. *Also welcomes* the adoption by the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) at its eighteenth ordinary meeting, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 6 December 2013, of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management, the world's first such action plan, and welcomes the draft Action Plan on Marine Litter for the North-East Atlantic region awaiting adoption by the Commission of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic at its meeting in Cascais, Portugal, and encourages Governments to collaborate through relevant regional seas conventions and river commissions with a view to adopting such action plans in their regions;
11. *Requests* the Executive Director to support countries, upon their request, in the development and implementation of national or regional action plans to reduce marine litter;
12. *Welcomes* the initiative by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection to produce an assessment report on microplastics, which is scheduled to be launched in November 2014;
13. *Also welcomes* the work undertaken by the International Whaling Commission on assessing the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans and the endorsement by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at its tenth meeting of resolution 10.4, addressing the impacts of marine debris on migratory species;
14. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to undertake a study on marine plastic debris and marine microplastics, building on existing work and taking into account the most up-to-date studies and data, focusing on:
 - (a) Identification of the key sources of marine plastic debris and microplastics;
 - (b) Identification of possible measures and best available techniques and environmental practices to prevent the accumulation and minimize the level of microplastics in the marine environment;
 - (c) Recommendations for the most urgent actions;
 - (d) Specification of areas especially in need of more research, including key impacts on the environment and on human health;
 - (e) Any other relevant priority areas identified in the assessment of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection;
15. *Invites* the secretariats of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and relevant organizations involved in pollution control and chemicals and waste management and the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species and the regional seas conventions and action plans to contribute to the study described in paragraph 14 of the present resolution;
16. *Encourages* Governments and the private sector to promote the more resource-efficient use and sound management of plastics and microplastics;
17. *Also encourages* Governments to take comprehensive action to address the marine plastic debris and microplastic issue through, where appropriate, legislation, enforcement of international agreements, provision of adequate reception facilities for ship-generated wastes, improvement of waste management practices and support for beach clean-up activities, as well as information, education and public awareness programmes;

18. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders to share relevant information with the Executive Director pertinent to the study described in paragraph 14;

19. *Invites* those in a position to do so to provide financial and other support to conduct the study identified in paragraph 14;

20. *Requests* the Executive Director to present the study on microplastics for the consideration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session.

1/7. Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting the World Health Organization estimate, from the report adopted by its Executive Board in May 2014, that air pollution contributes to 7 million premature deaths each year globally, a burden of disease that may now exceed the burdens of malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS combined,

Recalling the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme as outlined in Governing Council decision 27/2, paragraph 2,

Recognizing that poor air quality is a growing challenge in the context of sustainable development, in particular related to health in cities and urban areas, and that efforts across sectors to improve air quality are needed,

Recognizing also that air pollution is an impediment to national sustainable development, impacting, among many other issues, the economy, worker productivity, health-care costs and tourism,

Aware that promoting air quality is a priority to protect public health and provide co-benefits for the climate, ecosystem services, biodiversity and food security,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in which all States Members of the United Nations committed to promoting sustainable development policies that support healthy air quality in the context of sustainable cities and human settlements and recognized that reducing air pollution leads to positive effects on health,

Aware that the nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a decision for a Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution,

Recalling with appreciation existing efforts to support actions at all levels to improve air quality, such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its eight protocols, the World Health Organization guidelines on ambient air quality, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, and the important contributions that initiatives such as UNEP Live, global environmental monitoring systems, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia and the Malé Declaration on the Human Dimension of Global Climate Change, have made to sharing information and best practices,

1. *Encourages* Governments to take action across sectors to improve air quality to protect human health and the environment, reduce negative impacts, including on the economy, and promote sustainable development;

2. *Also encourages* Governments to formulate action plans and establish and implement nationally determined ambient air quality standards, taking into account the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines and other relevant information and to establish emissions standards for their significant sources of air pollution;

3. *Encourages* Governments and intergovernmental, regional and international organizations to make air quality data more easily accessible and understandable to the public;

4. *Encourages* Governments to share with the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and member States the results and experiences of their efforts taken pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the present resolution prior to the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to be held in 2016;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director:

- (a) To undertake strengthened capacity-building activities on air quality, such as workshops and policy development assistance, to support Governments in their efforts to implement paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the present resolution;
- (b) To raise awareness of the public health and environmental risks of air pollution and the multiple benefits of improved air quality, including through public outreach campaigns as well as Global Environment Outlook assessment processes, in particular in the context of the discussions on sustainable development goals as part of the post-2015 development agenda;
- (c) To explore opportunities for strengthened cooperation on air pollution within the United Nations system, for example the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, including establishing linkages between UNEP Live, the World Meteorological Organization Information System, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, other relevant information management systems and programmes, and pertinent regional efforts and initiatives;
- (d) To facilitate the operation of existing United Nations Environment Programme-supported intergovernmental programmes on the assessment of air quality issues;
- (e) To undertake global, regional and subregional, as appropriate, assessments by 2016, if possible, focused on identifying gaps in capacity to address air quality issues, including monitoring and control, opportunities for cooperation, and air pollution mitigation opportunities, building upon existing global, regional and subregional cooperative efforts on air pollution, such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its eight protocols, and information provided by States members of the United Nations Environment Programme;

6. *Encourages* Governments that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the relevant global agreements addressing air pollution;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit and present a report on the information provided by Governments pursuant to paragraph 4 of the present resolution and to provide an update on progress made in implementing the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session.

1/8. Ecosystem-based adaptation

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Taking note of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which confirms that climate systems are warming and that global temperatures will continue to rise in the coming decades, if not centuries, even if emissions of greenhouse gases are stabilized, affecting natural systems on which humanity relies and highlighting the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 67/210, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expressed deep concern that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and emphasized that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority,

Recalling paragraph 190 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in which Heads of State and Government expressed concern that all countries are already experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change, which is threatening efforts to achieve sustainable development, eradicate poverty and achieve food security, and emphasized that adaptation to climate change is an immediate and urgent priority,

Mindful of decision X/33 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which parties and other Governments were invited, in accordance with national capacities and circumstances, to integrate ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation into relevant strategies, including adaptation strategies and plans, national action plans to combat desertification, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, poverty reduction strategies, disaster risk reduction strategies and sustainable land management strategies on biodiversity and climate change and the role of

ecosystem-based adaptation highlighted therein, and decision XI/15, in which parties were called on to mainstream ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, ecosystem restoration and invasive species management for human health and well-being into all island development and conservation plans and projects and build capacity in their application, inviting organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme, to support ecosystem-based adaptation,

Mindful also of the work of the Nairobi Work Programme of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the process to support the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans,

Acknowledging the dependence of all countries, particularly developing countries, on ecosystems for livelihoods, food production and well-being, including adaptation to the impacts of climate change,

Taking note of the United Nations Environment Programme technical report *Africa's Adaptation Gap*, which indicates that climate change will affect, among other sectors, biodiversity, water supply, human health and food production, and that it is likely to increase the number of people at risk of hunger as well as the proportion of malnourished people in a region where 22 per cent of the population already suffers from hunger,

Bearing in mind that adaptation and mitigation actions generate multiple co-benefits,

Noting with concern that the resilience of many ecosystems is already being exceeded by an unprecedented combination of climate change, associated disturbances and other drivers,

Recognizing the adverse impacts of climate change, among other drivers, on ecosystems and on their ability to meet the needs for local food production and national food security and, inter alia, water resources,

Conscious of the heightened vulnerability of developing countries, particularly the least-developed countries and the small island developing States, to the impacts of climate change,

Recognizing that ecosystem-based approaches should contribute to climate resilient sustainable development in synergy with other adaptation-relevant approaches in all sectors,

Recognizing also the sovereignty and stewardship of all countries over their ecosystems and natural resources, which are threatened by climate change and other drivers,

Recalling Governing Council decision 22/3, in which the Council decided that the United Nations Environment Programme should strengthen its role, within available resources and in the light of its programme of work, to support regional and national actions and programmes to reduce the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change,

Recognizing the ongoing work of the United Nations Environment Programme on ecosystem-based adaptation activities to reduce vulnerability to climate change and subsequent vulnerabilities in areas such as food security, water, health or biodiversity,

Recognizing also the role of civil society, scientific institutions and other relevant stakeholders in providing, inter alia, evidence, tools, case studies, monitoring and best practices in ecosystem-based adaptation,

Recognizing further the need to take into consideration the needs of and engage vulnerable groups and communities in the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation measures,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, within available resources and in the light of its programme of work, to continue providing and enhance support to developing countries, at their request, for the development and implementation of community-based, national and regional ecosystem-based adaptation programmes and activities through, inter alia, practical tools and pilot projects to demonstrate the use of those tools and other policymaking technical support;

2. *Encourages* all countries to include and improve ecosystem-based adaptation and community-based adaptation in their national policies, including those on climate change adaptation, food security and sustainable management of forests, according to their national circumstances and priorities;

3. *Invites* all countries, in the formulation and implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation and community-based adaptation measures, to consider in an integrated manner indigenous, local and traditional knowledge systems and practices, including, where appropriate, indigenous and

local communities' holistic view of community and environment, as a major resource for adapting to climate change;

4. *Also invites* all countries to take into consideration ecosystems in their development planning for all relevant sectors, including in their climate change adaptation policies and plans;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant institutions and organizations to integrate ecosystems as a key element in national adaptation planning processes, according to the guidelines of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, taking into account guidance developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
6. *Calls upon* countries in position to do so to continue to support the development and implementation of programmes, projects and development policies for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change that take into account ecosystems, especially of developing countries at their request;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

1/9. Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water)

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling paragraphs 120 and 124 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in which Heads of State and Government called for the adoption of measures to significantly reduce water pollution and increase water quality and made a commitment to the progressive realization of access to safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation,

Recognizing that good water quality and adequate water quantity are keys to sustainable development and human well-being, as well as an indispensable prerequisite for protecting biodiversity and the integrity of the planet's ecosystems,

Recalling Governing Council decisions 23/2, 24/16, 26/14 and 27/11, section VI, in which the Council set the stage for the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water), defined its mandate and invited member States to participate in the efforts to provide global water data and information,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Canada for having hosted and supported GEMS/Water in the past, acknowledges the achievements made, and welcomes the commitments by the Governments of Germany, Ireland and Brazil to support GEMS/Water in the future;
2. *Considers* the United Nations Environment Programme and GEMS/Water well suited to supporting the achievement of water quality and water-pollution-related targets which may be part of the post-2015 development agenda that is still to be decided upon, through the provision of data and information for relevant assessments;
3. *Emphasizes* that the World Water Quality Assessment Report, the water-related sustainable development goals and other assessments on the state of freshwater resources at different geographic scales will require timely, relevant and reliable data and information from the revitalized GEMS/Water programme in order to inform policymaking at the relevant levels;
4. *Underlines* the need to further improve the global coverage and consistency of water quality data as well as to expand the GEMS/Water network, and invites member States, relevant United Nations agencies, the international scientific community and other interested partners and stakeholders to cooperate with the GEMS/Water Global Coordination Unit, the GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre and GEMS/Water database (GEMStat) in building a reliable global freshwater monitoring and information system and to support relevant initiatives, including through financial and in-kind contributions to the GEMS/Water network, according to the country's national circumstances and priorities;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to collaborate closely with member States with the aim of identifying additional key elements of GEMS/Water, such as regional hubs, capacity development programmes, technology support and new services, as appropriate, and to ensure the necessary resources as reflected in the programme of work and budget for enabling the GEMS/Water

Global Programme Coordination Unit in the United Nations Environment Programme to effectively and efficiently operate as the interface between national focal points, GEMStat, the GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre, GEMS/Water regional hubs and relevant global partners;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to initiate discussions with member States, United Nations agencies and other relevant institutions and organizations that have done significant work developing water quality exchange standards on a common data policy, taking into account relevant national legislation that allows the exchange of water-quality-related data and metadata for the purpose of building a consistent database in GEMStat, supporting UNEP Live and informing sustainable development policies;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director to draft a revised GEMS/Water programme for adoption by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, including a budget, while linking it clearly to the next biennial programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

8. *Invites* GEMS/Water partners to support capacity development in providing standardization efforts for water-quality-related data collection, analysis, exchange and management, such as the Open Geospatial Consortium Best Practice WaterML-WQ (OGC 14-003) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency/United States Geological Survey Water Quality Exchange (USEPA/USGS WQX) standards for the presentation and exchange of water quality data and metadata, especially in developing countries, at their request, and to coordinate those efforts with relevant ongoing initiatives;

9. *Encourages* member States to approach GEMS/Water with the aim of supporting and customizing capacity development efforts, improving freshwater monitoring systems and exchanging technology that can support national, regional and global monitoring networks and assessments and to seek assistance for joining the GEMS/Water Network;

10. *Reaffirms* the mandate of GEMS/Water.

1/10. Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in particular paragraph 56, recognizing that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development,

Taking note of paragraph 39 of the outcome document, in which Heads of State and Government recognized that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, and noting also that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development,

Taking note also of paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 27/8, in which the Council acknowledged that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools developed by States Members of the United Nations in order to achieve sustainable development, and in this regard took note of the approach of Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth as a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development that can guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystems,

Welcoming the conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

Taking note of the declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China, “For a New World Order for Living Well”, adopted on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 15 June 2014,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide a report on the basis of the information resulting from paragraph 3 of Governing Council decision 27/8, and to submit the report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consider organizing a workshop at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly about different approaches, visions, models and tools for achieving sustainable development, noting the approach of Living Well in balance and

harmony with Mother Earth and that, in this context, the workshop will provide recommendations to the Executive Director for appropriate further steps and work;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to provide guidance and to facilitate, through UNEP Live, the visibility of different visions, approaches, models and tools for achieving sustainable development in accordance with paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 27/8;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to take into consideration the different visions, approaches, models and tools referred to in paragraph 3 of the present resolution during the consultation processes for the Global Environment Outlook and UNEP Live;

5. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the issue of harmony with nature in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Invites* countries that wish to do so to implement the Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth approach in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, according to their national circumstances and priorities.

1/11. Coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in particular its paragraph 88,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 67/213 of 21 December 2012, 67/251 of 13 March 2013 and 68/215 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling Governing Council decisions 26/11 of 24 February 2011, SS.XII/2 of 22 February 2012 and 27/2 and 27/5 of 22 February 2013,

Determined to strengthen its functions to provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII),

Expressing appreciation for the progress report prepared under the senior officials of the Environment Management Group at their nineteenth meeting and presented by the Executive Director,

Recalling the objectives of the Environment Management Group to assist the United Nations Environment Programme in carrying out its functions related to the promotion of coordinated approaches to environmental issues in the United Nations system and to enhance environmental perspectives, in particular analytical aspects in the work of other United Nations system organizations,

Recalling also Governing Council decision 24/1, recognizing the Environment Management Group as an instrument at the interagency level that assists the United Nations Environment Assembly in enhancing policy coordination across the environmental activities of the United Nations system,

I

Process to prepare a proposal for a United Nations system-wide strategy on the environment

1. *Reiterates* paragraph 3 of Governing Council decision 27/5, and requests the Executive Director, mainly through the Environment Management Group and in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, to develop system-wide strategies on the environment and to invite the engagement of the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate broad ownership in the United Nations at all levels;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare, in consultation with regions, as appropriate, and to submit to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, a report which includes proposals developed in conjunction with the Environment Management Group describing the integration of the outcome of the post-2015 development agenda into the environmental work of the United Nations;

II Environment Management Group

3. *Notes with appreciation* the continued efforts of the Environment Management Group to enhance interagency cooperation in mainstreaming environmental considerations into activities of the United Nations system at the policy, programme and management levels, in close cooperation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director as Chair of the Environment Management Group, in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Chief Executives Board, to identify possible measures to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the Group and to submit a report with recommendations to the United Nations Environment Assembly for consideration at its second session;

5. *Welcomes* the online mapping knowledge-management tool on biodiversity prepared by the Environment Management Group in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, as well as Group's approach to contributing to the midterm review process of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and considering ways to integrate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into country-level planning tools, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

6. *Notes* the contribution of the Environment Management Group to the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, by providing a United Nations Action Plan (2012–2018) for Coordinated Action in the Drylands;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Environment Management Group Issue Management Group on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste;

8. *Encourages* the Environment Management Group to continue to support efforts to promote sustainability in the work of the United Nations system, including in the areas of environmental sustainability management and environmental peer reviews;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the Environment Management Group, to provide a summary report at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the Group's work, highlighting issues that may require the particular attention of the Assembly;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the Environment Management Group, to transmit the summary report to the governing bodies of the members of the Group.

1/12. Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 29 of Governing Council decision 27/13 of 22 February 2013, in which the Executive Director was requested to provide, by 30 June 2013, a full report on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and those multilateral environmental agreements for which the Programme provides the secretariat and to provide the final report to the governing body of the Programme at its next session,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director of 30 May 2014 on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements,⁶

1. *Welcomes* the step taken by the Executive Director to establish a task team, which has commenced consultations on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and a number of multilateral environmental agreements;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts in these matters and to ensure that a final report is submitted to the next session of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, with a view to putting the issue before the United Nations Environment Assembly;

⁶ UNEP/EA.1/INF/8.

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit information on the progress made by the task team and its two working groups to the relevant conferences and meetings of parties to be held in the period before the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

1/13. Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Considering the document “The future we want”, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in particular paragraph 99, in which Heads of State and Government encouraged action at regional, national, subnational and local levels to promote access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate,

Recognizing that democracy, good governance and the rule of law in national and international programmes are essential to sustainable development,

Underlining that broad participation by the public and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings contribute to the promotion of sustainable development,

Recalling that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in February 2010 adopted the voluntary Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Bali Guidelines),

Recalling also decision 27/2 of the Governing Council as it relates to the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions, and the need to explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies,

Noting the achievements at the national and regional levels in strengthening rights of access to environmental information and justice and participation in decision-making, as well as outstanding challenges to their implementation and the particular circumstances of each country,

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by various countries of the region in the margins of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which gave rise to a process aimed at strengthening dialogue and cooperation among the countries of the region to explore the feasibility of adopting a regional instrument on rights of access to information, participation and environmental justice;

2. *Notes* the progress made in that process, coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its capacity as technical secretariat;

3. *Takes note* of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, acknowledging the importance given to broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and in regional and national regimes and processes;

4. *Encourages* countries to continue their efforts to strengthen international dialogue and cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, taking into account relevant advances, instruments, experiences and practices since its adoption and to work for the strengthening of environmental rule of law at the international, regional and national levels;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to further enhance access to information in future related policies.

1/14. Revised programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the approved medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 and the approved programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015,

Reaffirming Governing Council decision 27/13 on the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015,⁷ by which the Council approved appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 245 million United States dollars as indicated in the following table:

Environment Fund programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015

(Thousands of United States dollars)

A. Executive direction and management	7 794
B. Programme of work	209 394
1. Climate change	39 510
2. Disasters and conflicts	17 886
3. Ecosystem management	36 831
4. Environmental governance	21 895
5. Chemicals and waste	31 175
6. Resource efficiency	45 329
7. Environment under review	16 768
C. Fund programme reserve	12 500
D. Programme support	15 312
Total	245 000

Noting the approval by the General Assembly of 34.9 million United States dollars from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Approves* the revised programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015,⁸ which takes into account the implications of the level of resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. *Notes* that the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director, will carry out, and make publicly available, a review of the functions of United Nations Environment Programme staffing to redefine and recategorize its posts into three categories, management and administration, programme support and operational programme posts, in order to determine by April 2015 which posts should be financed from the regular budget of the United Nations and at the same time to consider the scope for efficiency savings in the numbers of staff posts.

1/15. Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the approved medium-term strategy for 2014–2017⁹ and the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017,¹⁰

Noting General Assembly resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012 and 67/213 of 21 December 2012, by which the General Assembly strengthened the United Nations Environment Programme,

⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/68/25), annex.*

⁸ UNEA/EA.1/7/Add.1.

⁹ UNEP/GC.27/9.

¹⁰ UNEA/EA.1/7.

Noting also the consideration given at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to, inter alia, chemicals and waste, ecosystem-based approaches, air quality, illegal trade in wildlife, marine litter, the science-policy interface, GEMS/Water and desertification,

1. *Approves* the programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017, taking into account relevant decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

2. *Also approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 271 million United States dollars, of which a maximum of 122 million dollars is allocated to defraying post costs for the biennium for the purposes indicated in the following table:

Environment Fund programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017

(Thousands of United States dollars)

A. Executive direction and management	9 500
B. Programme of work	231 500
1. Climate change	42 000
2. Disasters and conflicts	20 500
3. Ecosystem management	40 000
4. Environmental governance	25 000
5. Chemicals and waste	36 000
6. Resource efficiency	49 000
7. Environment under review	19 000
C. Fund programme reserve	14 000
D. Programme support	16 000
Total	271 000

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 programme of work and budget and the need for the timely scheduling of meetings and provision of information to allow the full participation of all member States throughout this process, and in this regard welcomes the progress made to date;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/32, and requests the Executive Director to ensure that the secretariat provides the documentation and information related to the medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget to member States and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at least four weeks in advance of the meeting at which it is to be considered;

5. *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, and requests the Executive Director to hold timely consultations on the preparation of all future programmes of work and budgets prior to their transmittal to other appropriate bodies;

6. *Stresses* the need for the programme of work and budget to be based on results-based management, and welcomes the progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategy for 2010–2013 as described in the performance report for the biennium 2012–2013;

7. *Notes* the progress made in increasing allocations from the Environment Fund to activities and operations in the programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017;

8. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate resources between subprogramme budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the subprogramme appropriation and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 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;

9. *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 with the approved level of appropriations;
10. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities for the biennium 2018–2019;
11. *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;
12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue his current emphasis on the achievement of results for the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;
13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to member States, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a yearly basis, and to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its biennial sessions, on 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 continue to report to member States, through the Committee of the Permanent Representatives, in a streamlined manner through the merging of progress reporting on administrative and budgetary matters with its programme performance reporting;
15. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to organize regular briefings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the programme and budget performance of each subprogramme, to enable the Committee to perform its monitoring task adequately;
16. *Further requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the delivery of the programme of work supports and brings together regional and national programmes and activities in the medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021 and the biennial programme of work and budget for 2016–2017 and takes into account regional priorities and regional frameworks, where they exist, and requests the Executive Director to include information on regional programmes and activities by region in the progress report on the implementation of the programme of work;
17. *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;
18. *Urges* all member States and others in a position to do so to increase voluntary funding to the United Nations Environment Programme, including to the Environment Fund, and requests the Executive Director, in the light of the universal membership of the United Nations Environment Programme, to continue efforts to broaden the donor base and mobilize resources from all sources, including stakeholders;
19. *Recalls* paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in which Heads of State and Government called for the United Nations Environment Programme to have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations, and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate, and invites the Secretary-General, in his budget proposals for an allocation from the United Nations regular budget for 2016–2017 to the United Nations Environment Programme, to take into account the need to continue implementing paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a)–(h), of the outcome document, as well as opportunities for increasing the efficient use of resources;
20. *Notes* that the work programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 is part of a continuing process and that the allocation of the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme will be approved by the General Assembly at its seventieth session;
21. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session on any implications of the latest information on funding on the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017;
22. *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 the light of the universal membership of the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with decision SS.VII/1 and any relevant subsequent decisions, and requests the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its next meeting, to be held in the third quarter of 2014, with options to secure the participation at the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and United Nations Environment Assembly delegates from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States with special vulnerabilities, with a view to informing the Executive Director's next request for regular budget resources through the appropriate channels;

24. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012, to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives with options to secure the servicing of the governing bodies in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 1972 with a view to informing the Executive Director's next request for regular budget resources through the appropriate channels;

25. *Further requests* the Executive Director to submit for consideration and approval by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021 and a programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

26. *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.

1/16. Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the requests that the United Nations Environment Programme carry out the functions of secretariats for other bodies and the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions,¹¹

Taking note of the decision entitled "Location and arrangements for the secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)", adopted at the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention, held in Ashgabat from 28 to 30 May 2014,

Taking note also of decision 1/6 of the First Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, in which the United Nations Environment Programme was requested to carry out the functions of the secretariat,

Taking note further of the outcome of the sixth Biodiversity in Europe Conference, held in Batumi, Georgia, establishing the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform and the request of States members of the Platform that the United Nations Environment Programme provide secretariat services,

Taking note of Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste,

I

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

1. *Welcomes* requests that the United Nations Environment Programme provide secretariats to service environmental agreements related to its programme of work;

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 costs;

¹¹ UNEP/EA.1/8.

3. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to carry out the functions of the Tehran Convention secretariat, as specified in article 23.1 of the Tehran Convention, on such mutually agreed terms as the Executive Director and the parties see fit and in accordance with the decision entitled “Location and arrangements for the secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)”, adopted at the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention;

4. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to carry out the secretariat functions specified in decision 1/6 of the first Conference of Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa on such mutually agreed terms as the Executive Director and the parties see fit and in accordance with decision 1/6 of the First Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the secretariat of the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform on such mutually agreed terms as the Executive Director and the Members of the Platform see fit and in accordance with the outcome of the sixth Biodiversity in Europe Conference, establishing the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform;

6. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council:

A. General trust funds

(a) PES: Trust Fund for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which was established in 2014 with no expiry date;

(b) PBL: Trust Fund for the Secretariat of the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform;

(c) 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;

(d) 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;

(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;

B. Technical cooperation trust funds

(f) CLL: Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which was established in 2013 with an expiry date of 31 December 2017;

(g) GRL: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia (EaP-GREEN) Programme, which was established in 2013 with no expiry date;

7. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds, subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

C. General trust funds

(a) AML: General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;

(b) CWL: General Trust Fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;

(c) MCL: General Trust Fund in Support of Activities on Mercury and its Compounds, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;

(d) SML: General Trust Fund for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;

(e) 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 and including 31 December 2017;

D. Technical cooperation trust funds

- (f) AFB: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Activities as Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund Board, which is extended through 31 December 2017;
- (g) BPL: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (financed by the Government of Belgium), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (h) CIL: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Remediation Activities Following the Toxic Waste Incident in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (i) GNL: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (j) IAL: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Ireland Aid Multilateral Environment Fund for Africa (financed by the Government of Ireland), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (k) IPL: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (l) MDL: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (m) 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 and including 31 December 2017;
- (n) SEL: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Sweden, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (o) SFL: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement between Spain and UNEP, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (p) VML: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer Under the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;

II

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

8. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council:

- (a) PCL: Trust Fund for the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention);
- (b) SMU: Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Secretariat of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, which was established in 2013 with an expiry date of 31 December 2015;

9. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

E. General trust funds

- (a) BEL: General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (b) BGL: General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (c) BHL: Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities of the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (d) BIL: Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties, in particular the Least Developed and the Small Island Developing States among them, and Parties with Economies in Transition (Biosafety Protocol), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (e) BTL: General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the European Bats Agreement, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (f) BYL: General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (g) 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 and including 31 December 2017;
- (h) 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 and including 31 December 2017;
- (i) CRL: Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (j) EAL: Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (k) ESL: Regional Seas 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 and including 31 December 2017;
- (l) MEL: Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (m) MPL: Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (n) MSL: Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (o) 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 and including 31 December 2017;
- (p) PNL: General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (q) 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 and including 31 December 2017;
- (r) 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 and including 31 December 2017;
- (s) SOL: General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observation for the Vienna Convention, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;

- (t) 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 and including 31 December 2017;
- (u) 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 and including 31 December 2017;
- (v) VCL: Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017;
- (w) WAL: Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of West and Central African Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2017.

1/17. Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling decision SS.IV/1 of 18 June 1994 on the adoption of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (hereinafter “the Instrument”),

Recalling also the approval in May 2014 by the Fifth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility of a number of amendments to the Instrument relating to the Facility being available to operate as one of the financial mechanisms of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, to replace the “ozone layer depletion” and “persistent organic pollutants” focal areas with a “chemicals and waste” focal area, to update the eligibility criteria for accessing Facility funding and to reflect the change of the name from GEF Evaluation Office to GEF Independent Evaluation Office,

Having taken note of the report of the Executive Director,¹²

1. *Adopts* the following amendments to the Instrument, pursuant to the decision of the Global Environment Facility Assembly in May 2014:

- (a) The amendment to paragraph 6 of the Instrument by which the Global Environment Facility shall serve as one of the financial mechanisms of the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
- (b) The amendment to bullets (a), (b), (c) and (d) of paragraph 6 of the Instrument in order to clarify, in an orderly fashion, the responsibilities of the Global Environment Facility under the conventions that it serves;
- (c) The amendment to paragraph 2 of the Instrument inviting the Global Environment Facility to revise its focal area structure and strategy to address the chemicals and waste agenda and replacing the “ozone layer depletion” and “persistent organic pollutants” focal areas with the “chemicals and waste” focal area;
- (d) The amendment to paragraph 9 of the Instrument, by which the eligibility criteria for access to Global Environment Facility funding is updated to accommodate updates to eligibility criteria in the World Bank on financing and in the United Nations Development Programme on technical assistance;
- (e) The amendment to paragraph 11 of the Instrument, by which the Global Environment Facility shall have an assembly, a council and a secretariat, including an independent evaluation office;
- (f) The amendments to paragraph 21 of the Instrument, by which the functions of the independent evaluation office are further clarified;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to consider ways of enhancing the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme, as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, to strengthen its role as implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to transmit the present resolution to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.

¹² UNEP/EA.1/9.

Decisions

1/1. Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 6 of Governing Council decision 27/2,

Decides that each of the five regions shall be represented by 2 members in the 10-member Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

1/2. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, 67/213 of 21 December 2012, 67/251 of 13 March 2013 and 68/215 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 57/283 B (paragraphs 9–11 of section II) of 15 April 2003, 61/236 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2006, 62/225 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2007, 63/248 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 24 December 2008, 64/230 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2009, 65/245 (paragraph 10 of section II A) of 24 December 2010 and 67/237 (paragraph 13 of section II A) of 28 January 2013,

Taking into account Governing Council decisions 27/1 and 27/2 of 22 February 2013,

Noting with appreciation the contribution by the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the elements of the provisional agenda for the second session of the Environment Assembly and comments provided at that meeting,¹³

1. *Decides* to hold the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its headquarters in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016;

2. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in consultation with the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, to contribute to the preparation of the draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Assembly.

¹³ See UNEP/CPR/127/2, sect. XI.A.

Annex II

President's summary of the ministerial dialogue on illegal trade in wildlife

1. The ministerial dialogue on illegal trade in wildlife was convened on the evening of Thursday, 26 June 2014. During the dialogue, representatives exchanged views on, inter alia, ways to address gaps and make progress in preventing the illegal trade in wildlife, on the role of the United Nations system and on effective measures to ensure an integrated response by the United Nations and other stakeholders to the illegal trade in wildlife.
2. The discussions were supported by an information note by the secretariat (UNEP/EA.1/INF/19), which provided the latest evidence on the scope and scale of the illegal trade in wildlife, including timber. It outlined the global nature and scope of the challenge of the illegal trade in wildlife and its environmental, social and economic consequences for sustainable development. It also highlighted the evidence that links the illegal trade in wildlife to threat finance and organized crime, providing a significant contribution to better-informed policy responses. Although the issue has been highlighted at a number of high-level sessions and conferences, on-the-ground implementation has failed to develop. A concept note containing guiding questions for the ministers and other participants was also made available.
3. During the discussion, ministers and other representatives provided their views on the challenges of the illegal wildlife trade and its consequences in terms of the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development, which, they observed, were exacerbating the impact of other global crises. It is estimated that resources worth between \$48 billion and \$153 billion are lost through the illegal trade of wildlife, including timber and fisheries, globally each year.
4. Governments and the international community have recently directed substantial attention to addressing the threats posed by the increased involvement of transnational organized criminal networks in the illegal trade of wildlife, and ministers said that those challenges could only be effectively tackled through the unified efforts of the international community to support national efforts.
5. The discussions were guided by a concept note made available to representatives, which considered three broad areas of discussion that were taken up during the ministerial dialogue: national and international action; a coherent and coordinated response from the United Nations system; and maintaining momentum – the road from the first session of the Environment Assembly.
6. In relation to national and international action, representatives highlighted the following issues during the dialogue:
 - (a) There is a need to establish appropriate and strengthened legal frameworks and incentives that will facilitate the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other international commitments. Such efforts will benefit from strong leadership by Governments in developing coordinated domestic strategies;
 - (b) Due to the multidimensional nature of the illegal wildlife trade, including links to peace, security, development and the fight against international organized crime, it can only be effectively tackled through the unified efforts of the international community, national Governments, police, law enforcement agencies and civil society;
 - (c) There is a need to address gaps in knowledge in relation to the impacts of the illegal wildlife trade and its links to other forms of crime, monitoring systems and research and the effectiveness of responses. Many representatives suggested that reviews of legislation should be continual and that further analysis was required to give a broad understanding of the dynamics behind demand. It was also recognized that the private sector could play a critical role in intelligence information gathering, such as the role of the banking system in tracking financial flows;
 - (d) A number of examples of South-South and North-South cooperation were provided during the dialogue, highlighting the importance of building the human and institutional capacity of developing countries to strengthen environmental legislation, compliance and awareness, and to fill the knowledge gaps on environmental jurisprudence;
 - (e) It was recognized that support from the international and bilateral donor community would be essential to facilitating national efforts and encouraging information sharing, forensic cooperation and zero tolerance on corruption and money-laundering practices;

(f) Many representatives stressed that consumer demand remained the most important driver of the illegal trade in wildlife, although they also recognized that poverty and corruption were important drivers. It was recognized that considerable efforts were required to reach out in source, transit and consumer States to raise awareness of the scope and consequences of the illegal trade in wildlife. It was suggested that civil society and the private sector could take an active part in developing and providing targeted information to raise public awareness and to educate the next generation on the adverse impacts of the illegal wildlife trade;

(g) The need to engage with local communities and develop alternative livelihoods was stressed by many representatives, and it was said that in many instances such efforts would require significant additional investment and further incentives if they were to be effectively scaled up;

(h) The need for domestic, bilateral and regional coordination to tackle the illegal timber trade was stressed by many representatives, as well as the need for coherence in legislation and the treatment of wildlife offences as serious crimes. In that regard, resolution 23/1, on strengthening a targeted crime prevention and criminal justice response to combat illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber, adopted by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in May 2014, was welcomed.

7. In relation to a coherent and coordinated response from the United Nations system, representatives highlighted the following issues:

(a) Many representatives said that, as a facet of strengthening the United Nations system's support for national Governments, there was a need to recognize the transboundary and global nature of the challenges and impacts of the illegal wildlife trade and to foster cross-border cooperation between source, transit and destination countries, including through additional support to wildlife law enforcement networks;

(b) Many representatives said that there was a need to strengthen the United Nations system-wide response, including by strengthening existing cooperation mechanisms, such as the Environment Management Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination as well as through individual programmes of the United Nations, to improve collaboration among entities, avoid duplication and support holistic national approaches to tackle the challenges of the illegal wildlife trade;

(c) It was stressed that the United Nations system should provide additional support for national efforts to implement existing international commitments, including those under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to assist member States in further identifying, developing and implementing the most appropriate responses to the illegal trade in wildlife;

(d) It was recognized that capacity-building and other support could be provided by the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to equip countries with tools to ensure improved environmental compliance and law enforcement, and to promote support in the development and implementation of the environmental rule of law;

(e) There was wide recognition of the importance of promoting synergies and avoiding duplication among the members of the United Nations system and with other partners, and in that regard there was encouragement for strong collaboration between UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime in, among other areas, supporting capacity-building, awareness-raising among members of the judiciary, the public and law enforcement officers, and systematic information sharing.

8. In relation to maintaining momentum – the road from the first session of the Environment Assembly, representatives highlighted the following issues:

(a) Many representatives welcomed the recognition of the importance of maintaining political momentum on the issue of the illegal wildlife trade, including through the convening of high-level conferences such as those held in Gaborone and Paris in December 2013 and in London in February 2014 and the announced African Union summit to be convened in Brazzaville in October 2014, the planned consideration of the issue at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Quito in November 2014 and the sixth World Parks Congress in Australia in November 2014, and the announcement by Botswana of a follow-up conference to the Gaborone and London events, to be held in March 2015. The meaningful actions that followed such conferences, such as the establishment of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the launch of the Biodiversity for Life initiative of the European Union and other commitments, were also

enthusiastically welcomed;

(b) There was broad support for a strong resolution by the Environment Assembly addressing the illegal trade in wildlife, as a sign of a joint commitment to maintaining international momentum, and for having the topic on the agenda of the second session of the Environment Assembly;

(c) Many representatives said that there was a need to ensure the implementation of commitments already made and that progress was made on the front lines to address the illegal trade in wildlife, but it was also said that the opportunity should be seized to address the illegal wildlife trade at the General Assembly, through a resolution being developed by the “Group of friends of the fight against the trafficking of endangered species” in New York. Some representatives suggested that a United Nations special envoy might be helpful in enhancing mobilization across the United Nations system;

(d) There was also widespread support for ensuring that the issue of the illegal wildlife trade was taken forward as a part of the post-2015 development agenda.

Annex III

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahmoud Samy (Egypt), Vice-Chair

I. Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its first session, on 23 June 2014, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established a committee of the whole to consider agenda items 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10. The Committee of the Whole was also to consider draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP and proposed for adoption by the Environment Assembly, which were contained in document UNEP/EA.1/L.1 and Add.1, and other draft resolutions proposed during the session.

2. In accordance with the decision of the Environment Assembly, the Committee of the Whole held seven meetings from 23 to 27 June 2014. As decided by the Bureau, the Committee was chaired by Mr. Fernando Lugris (Uruguay). The Committee elected Mr. Mahmoud Samy (Egypt) to serve as its Rapporteur.

II. Opening of the meeting

3. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the meeting at 3.30 p.m. on Monday, 23 June 2014. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP, made an introductory statement.

4. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director welcomed participants. Noting the progress that had been made over the years, since the establishment of UNEP and then through the two major conferences held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and 2012, in responding to global environmental challenges, he cautioned that a great deal remained to be done. Member States must address the task of identifying the characteristics of a truly sustainable world and pinpointing how the Environment Assembly could contribute to that endeavour. The establishment of the Assembly presented a significant opportunity to achieve that task, perhaps the greatest for the past 40 years.

5. Drawing attention to the key items on the Committee's agenda, the Deputy Executive Director highlighted in particular the responsibility borne by the international community to improve air quality and ecosystem management as well as sound chemicals management; to that end, he urged the Committee to find effective means of translating policies into effective action. The UNEP budget and programme of work were also before the Committee for its consideration and approval. Lastly, he called on the Committee to look beyond the details of its agenda to the bigger picture, which should guide its deliberations.

III. Organization of work

6. The Committee agreed to follow the proposed schedule of work circulated to members of the Committee at its 1st meeting in a conference room paper. Delegations were requested to submit any draft resolutions to the secretary of the Environment Assembly by the end of the afternoon meeting on Tuesday, 24 June. Draft resolutions would be discussed under the relevant agenda items.

7. In considering the items under its remit, the Committee had before it the documentation outlined for each item in the annotated agenda for the current session (UNEP/EA.1/1/Add.1/Rev.1, annex II).

8. The Committee agreed to establish a drafting group, chaired by Ms. Idunn Eidheim (Norway), to review and finalize draft resolutions for consideration by the Environment Assembly.

9. The representative of Chile drew attention to a draft resolution that his delegation had prepared together with the delegations of the Dominican Republic and Mexico, on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Guided by the belief that the best way to deal with environmental issues was by strengthening democracy at all levels, their countries proposed the development of a regional instrument, including a road map and plan of action, for the implementation of environmental initiatives at the regional level. The process already involved 18 member States representing more than 500 million people. The delegations requested that the draft resolution be taken up as part of the broader process of working towards environmental democracy. Information on the

Committee's consideration of the draft resolution is provided in section IV. N. of the present proceedings.

IV. Policy issues (agenda item 5)

A. Chemicals and waste

10. At the Committee's 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 23 June, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the documents pertaining to chemicals and waste, as listed in the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.1/1/Add.1/Rev.1, annex II), and introduced an omnibus draft resolution prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/EA.1/L.1, draft resolution 6). The draft resolution covered the issues of enhanced coordination and cooperation, the financing of chemicals and waste issues, the sound management of chemicals and waste and cadmium, lead and other substances.
11. In the ensuing discussion, one representative said that the sound management of chemicals and waste provided a good showcase for how the three pillars of sustainable development could be addressed and that the topic should be introduced during the high-level segment. Another representative said that the broad scope of the draft omnibus resolution on chemicals and waste reflected their high priority on the environmental agenda.
12. Several representatives commented on the significant achievement of the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. One representative said that the Convention needed to be implemented in an effective, efficient and comprehensive manner and that the key to doing so was to build on existing expertise and experience. Two representatives said that the engagement of Governments and other stakeholders was required to address lead and cadmium.
13. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed gratitude to the Global Environment Facility for its increased funding but suggested that additional funding was still required, as had been mentioned in the Executive Director's progress report on the implementation of decision 27/12, on chemicals and waste management. Another representative said that access to external financing was essential for developing countries. Another, however, expressed concern about the mention of the need for further funding in the report as his country had already provided extensive funding for the current programme of work.
14. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and supported by two other representatives, underlined the importance of the role of the regional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in supporting parties in the implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. One representative said that the regional centres had already begun to play an important role in coordinating the implementation of the various conventions.
15. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and supported by several others, said that stable financing was critical and welcomed the development of the special programme funded by voluntary contributions to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the chemicals conventions and the Strategic Approach. There was general support among the representatives for the integrated approach of the special programme, which one representative said would enable the mobilization of resources from a broad range of sources.
16. Turning to the terms of reference for the special programme, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that agreement on the terms was a clear priority. Another expressed appreciation for the efforts that had gone into the negotiation of the draft terms of reference at the country-led meeting in Bangkok in August 2013, saying that the result was a hard-fought compromise that should not be substantially changed. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that while it was important to value the efforts of the experts in Bangkok, the text needed to be finalized during the current session of the Environment Assembly. One representative said that the terms of reference were only relevant to the special programme and should not set a precedent for the implementation of other programmes.
17. Several representatives welcomed the report on the outcome of the consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster, with one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, saying that the document would provide a global base on which to build long-term policies and should be transmitted to a wide range of actors. Another representative said that the document had some favourable components for developing countries.

18. Several representatives said that developing countries lacked the capacity to manage chemical waste and that strong mechanisms for capacity-building, financing and technical support should be established by the Environment Assembly. Several representatives said that it was important for developed countries to meet their obligations.

19. One representative noted that while his country had for some years been implementing a legal framework on chemicals and waste, its focus has been on chemical safety and minimal attention had been paid to the proper management of chemical waste.

20. With regard to the draft omnibus resolution on chemicals and waste, many representatives expressed a willingness to work in a contact group on the issue. One representative said that the draft resolution needed to be streamlined, as what had been produced to date was a compilation of various views; the need for each paragraph should be considered. He also recalled a view expressed at the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held from 24 to 28 March 2014 in Nairobi that the Environment Assembly should adopt resolutions focused on key policy issues rather than past issues and in that context said that it was important to follow through on previous agreements.

21. One representative said that the outcome document referred to in section II of the draft resolution would set out a long-term vision for achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle and strategic elements for doing so, and his Government supported the proposal to submit it to the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group and to other interested groups.

22. Referring to the section in the omnibus resolution on an integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and waste, one representative suggested that the three elements of mainstreaming, industry involvement and external finance were not in balance and that it would be beneficial to have a standalone resolution on integrated financing.

23. The representative of Switzerland said that his Government would be willing to support the request by the parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako Convention) that UNEP provide secretariat services to that convention.

24. A representative of the workers and trade unions major group, speaking on behalf of her group as well as women, non-governmental organizations, farmers, local authorities, children and youth and indigenous peoples, expressed concern at what she said was slow progress on chemicals and waste. Many developing countries had a limited capacity to regulate the increasing number of chemicals on the market and their sustainable management of chemicals required the implementation of policies at all levels by 2020. A stronger focus was needed on access to information and transparency, and the current draft terms of reference for the special programme trust fund lacked any meaningful reference to civil society.

25. A representative of the business and industry major group expressed support for the multi-stakeholder approach and called upon all stakeholders to meet the commitments made at Rio+20 to strengthen the Strategic Approach as a key global approach to chemicals management. Countries that lacked the capacity to help themselves needed support and the group endorsed the proposed special programme to enhance institutional capacity at the national level. They also welcomed the Executive Director's report on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste and commended the country-led process for engaging non-governmental stakeholders in the preparation of the report.

26. A representative of the women's group said that the draft resolution on chemicals and waste was important and that better enforcement of chemicals legislation was needed, noting that 80 per cent of countries had no legislation at all. She said that the private sector should take more responsibility when putting chemicals on the market and that the onus should be on manufacturers to ensure that chemicals had no adverse effects. She agreed that more finance was needed for research but also for investment in innovation.

27. Following its discussion of chemicals and waste the Committee established a contact group, chaired by Mr. Alf Wills (South Africa), to discuss the draft resolution and the terms of reference for the special programme for institutional strengthening for the implementation of the conventions.

28. Following the work of the contact group the Committee, at its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 27 June, approved a draft omnibus resolution on chemicals and waste for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

B. Implementation of decision 27/2 with regard to strengthening the science-policy interface

29. At the Committee's 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 23 June 2014, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the documents pertaining to the implementation of decision 27/2, on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and to the state of the environment, as listed in the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.1/1/Add.1/Rev.1, annex II), and to a draft omnibus resolution on the science-policy interface (draft resolution 5 in the compilation of draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/EA.1/L.1)).

30. In the ensuing discussion, most representatives who spoke stressed the importance of the science-policy interface and many said that UNEP had an important role to play in maintaining and strengthening it. One representative said that the science-policy interface was at the very core of the UNEP mandate and one of the Programme's real strengths. Another representative said that the role of UNEP as a provider of knowledge was part of its core mandate.

31. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged UNEP to continue to support Governments in their policy discussions and called for greater efforts to strengthen partnerships with relevant United Nations entities, making use of the information contained in UNEP assessments and the work of scientific panels and multilateral environmental agreements. She said that UNEP was well placed to provide environmental information to other environmental processes and to support member States to ensure the integration of the environmental dimension in their sustainable development efforts, including the Global Sustainable Development Report.

32. Several representatives said that the definition of the scope, objectives and process for the development of the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) report by a transparent intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation was key to its credibility, and a number of representatives expressed the view that the global intergovernmental multi-stakeholder consultation on GEO-6 scheduled for October 2014 would provide an appropriate forum for carrying out those tasks. One representative expressed the hope that a process for the development of the GEO-6 report would be agreed upon at the current session of the Environment Assembly.

33. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that sufficient time should be allocated to the production of the GEO-6 report to ensure its quality, credibility and global ownership and that the global assessment should be based on regional and subregional assessments.

34. Another representative said that the GEO reports and their summaries for policymakers constituted one of the flagship products of UNEP. While the regional level was important, the global nature of the GEO process was fundamental, and it was important to continue to strengthen the policy relevance of the GEO reports by focusing on progress towards the achievement of global goals.

35. A number of representatives emphasized the importance and relevance of the GEO summaries for policymakers, and several said that such summaries should comprise negotiated text. One representative said that ministers should be involved in the development of the summaries; it was important for policymakers to provide feedback on whether recommendations were practical, plausible and specific to regions.

36. One representative said that the relationship between UNEP Live and the GEO reports should be clarified; the former was an important tool but the latter was irreplaceable as a flagship product of UNEP. Another representative said that the inclusion of the knowledge of local communities and indigenous peoples in GEO reports was crucial.

37. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the development and use of UNEP Live in global assessment processes and said that UNEP should highlight the potential benefits of the platform for countries. She also expressed support for the development of a long-term plan for the development of UNEP Live. Highlighting the pertinence of the ownership of data for knowledge-sharing platforms like UNEP Live, she said that it was not clear whether the UNEP access-to-information policy was sufficiently detailed in that regard. Another representative said that information on different types of knowledge, including that of local communities and indigenous peoples, should be disseminated and exchanged through UNEP Live.

38. One representative said that it was imperative to make progress and take steps to "de-westernize" the science-policy interface, taking into account the qualitative situations existing around the world and recognizing, strengthening and taking into account the local and traditional knowledge, practices and existence of indigenous peoples. Intercultural dialogue and understanding of different paradigms were key to strengthening the science-policy interface. The knowledge and

systems of knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities were key in linking science with policy and greater balance in that regard should be reflected in the draft resolution under review. He called for a broader vision of intercultural dialogue and requested the Executive Director of UNEP to disseminate widely the conceptual framework for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

39. Another representative concurred on the importance of a broader view of the science-policy interface and the need for a broad vision of the cultural diversity of sustainable development, as referred to in paragraph 41 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The future we want”, in which Heads of State and Government and other high-level representatives had acknowledged the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognized that all cultures and civilizations could contribute to sustainable development.

40. One representative expressed her country’s long-standing support for strengthening the science-policy interface in order to provide capacity at the regional and national levels for observation-based assessments that would lead to action to improve environmental health and protect human health.

41. Another representative said that the science-policy interface must be strengthened through transparent and standardized assessment procedures, building on experiences gained, including in the context of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Assessments needed to have a strong and diverse knowledge base, be politically relevant and avoid duplication of effort.

42. One representative requested that a link be made in the draft resolution on the work of UNEP and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and its mandate to ensure the strengthening of the science-policy interface.

43. A representative of the science and technology major group emphasized the importance of the GEO process in enhancing the understanding of the state of the Earth. Welcoming UNEP Live, he also suggested that the collection of scientific data could be enhanced by “citizen science” and the open dissemination of its results. He highlighted the need for strong participation by civil society stakeholders in the platform. Recalling the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration, he said that UNEP could not fulfil its mandate to keep the world environment situation under review without engaging with the science and technology community, including the active participation of civil society. He welcomed the increase in the allocation to UNEP from the United Nations regular budget, and increased funding to subprogramme 7, “Environment under review”, and to the development and dissemination of scientific data for policy implementation.

44. Following its discussion the Committee agreed to refer draft resolution 5 to the drafting group for further consideration.

45. Following the work of the drafting group the Committee, at its 6th meeting, on the evening of 25 June, approved a draft omnibus resolution on the science-policy interface for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

46. Also at the Committee’s 1st meeting the representative of Uganda introduced the draft resolution on ecosystem-based adaptation set out in the compilation of draft resolutions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/EA.1/L.1, draft resolution 7). She provided an overview of proposed changes to the draft resolution made since its consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its open-ended meeting in March 2014, including greater emphasis on food production, food security and the recognition of the sovereignty and stewardship of developing countries over their ecosystems and natural capital, which were threatened by climate change.

47. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the draft resolution and the changes made, saying that the draft resolution could be further improved – including by clarifying its financial implications – through paragraph-by-paragraph consideration.

48. Another representative, also welcoming the draft resolution, said that ecosystem-based adaptation should be better integrated into adaptation activities at the national level. He highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration with other actors working on adaptation and of maximizing synergies, including with multilateral environmental agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

49. One representative said that the Environment Assembly was not the appropriate forum for discussion of issues related to climate change. He stressed, however, that ecosystem-based adaptation should go hand-in-hand with community-based adaptation, and he highlighted the importance of traditional knowledge as a significant resource in climate change adaptation.

50. At the suggestion of the Chair, it was agreed that interested participants would consult informally to work further on the draft resolution.

51. Following the informal consultations the Committee, at its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of 27 June, approved a draft resolution on ecosystem-based adaptation for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

C. Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality

52. At the Committee's 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 23 June 2014, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality, which was set out in the draft resolution submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/EA.1/L.1, draft resolution 8). He recalled the findings of a recent study by the World Health Organization, which highlighted that more than seven million deaths in 2012 had been caused by poor indoor and outdoor air quality, making air quality the leading cause of premature mortality from environmental risks globally. Scientific advances had made it clear that the impacts of such pollution on human health, the environment and economic productivity, among other things, were far greater than had previously been understood. He provided an overview of proposed changes to the draft resolution since its consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its open-ended meeting.

53. One representative, expressing support for the draft resolution, called for its expansion to the global level, in particular because UNEP was the leading global authority on the environment, contributing to global instruments such as the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention.

54. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that air pollution constituted a major public health concern that was hampering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and would have a similarly negative impact on the proposed sustainable development goals. The issue should be linked to other environmental issues, such as sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

55. The Committee continued its consideration of the matter at its 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 June. One representative expressed appreciation to UNEP for the focus on air quality at the current session of the Environment Assembly and to the United States of America for introducing the draft resolution. Saying that there were strong linkages between air pollution and poverty and between industry and business, he said that it was necessary to address the issue in a holistic, integrated manner, and he proposed a number of amendments to the draft resolution.

56. A representative speaking on behalf of all major groups acknowledged the role and contributions of existing policy initiatives and good practices and called for the draft resolution to facilitate immediate actions at all levels of government with the active engagement and participation of all actors of civil society.

57. A representative of the non-governmental organizations major group drew attention to the impact of air quality on the Arctic region, asking that it be taken into consideration during the deliberations on the matter.

58. Following its discussion, the Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to the drafting group for further consideration in line with the discussions in the Committee.

59. Following the work of the drafting group the Committee, on the evening of 25 June, approved a draft resolution on strengthening the role of UNEP in promoting air quality for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

D. Marine plastic debris and microplastics

60. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 June, the representative of Norway introduced the draft resolution on marine plastic debris and microplastics set out in the compilation of draft resolutions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/UNE.A.1/L.1, draft resolution 9). She said that this increasing threat to marine life was being broadly highlighted but intersectoral cooperation was needed to effect needed improvements in a cost-effective manner, and she called for cooperation under the global partnership on marine litter, established under UNEP in 2012 as a follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome. Saying that microplastic particles were of particular concern, she noted that the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) was expected to release an assessment report on the subject in the next few months. Among other things, the draft resolution proposed a study that would build on the best available knowledge in this area, including the GESAMP assessment. She concluded by indicating her country's commitment to allocating funding for the proposed study as part of its contribution to UNEP.

61. In the ensuing discussion, all representatives who spoke said that marine litter was an important issue requiring urgent action and supported the proposal. Most, however, indicated that they would like to see minor changes. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that future work should be done through existing institutions, conventions and processes.

62. Two representatives made statements on behalf of major groups. Several major groups concurred that marine debris was an important issue requiring global attention and action by all stakeholders at the national and regional levels and supported efforts to reduce or eliminate marine debris from both ocean-based and land-based sources. The representative of the non-governmental organizations major group said in addition that the issue was especially serious for coastal countries and small island developing States and that other pollutants from land-based sources, including run-off of endocrine disrupting pesticides, should also be addressed. The business and industry major group representative suggested that the resolution should include all forms of marine waste, not only plastics, and echoed the need to take the results of the GESAMP assessment into account when considering future work on marine debris.

63. A representative of the Convention for Migratory Species of Wild Animals outlined the work done in the area by the parties to the Convention and asked that the Committee take it into account in its deliberations.

64. Following its discussion of the draft resolution the Committee agreed to refer it to the drafting group for further consideration in line with the discussion in the Committee of the Whole.

65. At the Committee's 6th meeting, on the evening of 25 June, the chair of the drafting group reported that the group had reached agreement on the draft resolution except with regard to extrabudgetary funding and paragraphs 12 and 14. The Committee agreed to send the draft resolution on marine plastic debris and microplastics for consideration by the working group on the programme of work and budget of the unresolved text in square brackets.

66. Following the work of the budget group the Committee, on the afternoon of 27 June, approved a draft resolution on marine plastic debris and microplastics for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

E. Global Environment Monitoring System water programme

67. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 June, the representative of the European Union and its member States introduced the draft resolution on the Global Environment Monitoring System water programme (GEMS/Water) set out in the compilation of draft resolutions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/EA.1/L.1, draft resolution 10). He said that GEMS/Water had an important role to play in improving global water quality, a key element of sustainable development and human wellbeing, and that the timing was right for the Environment Assembly to focus on GEMS/Water and provide political support and orientation for its future development. He noted that UNEP had been working to secure resources to ensure the continued development of GEMS/Water as a reliable global freshwater quality monitoring and information system, including through financial and in-kind contributions, and expressed the hope that many member States would respond to that effort.

68. All representatives who spoke expressed support for the draft resolution while suggesting that it could be further refined. One representative suggested that GEMS/Water was in a transition phase, with issues still being analysed and needing further discussion, and therefore requested that a new

programme of work for the system be discussed and adopted at the next session of the Environment Assembly in 2016, saying that it should have terms of reference for all entities and be clearly linked to the next UNEP biennial programme of work.

69. Another representative, while acknowledging the importance of the draft resolution and asserting his willingness to work to enrich the resolution text, said that important aspects needed to be highlighted to give direction to the Committee's work on GEMS/Water. They included the acknowledgement of people's right to access to water, the need to eradicate poverty, countries' sovereignty over water, and national circumstances and priorities for countries' policies with respect to water. It was also important, he said, to ensure that the monitoring system and the information to be disseminated not serve the interests of those looking to privatize and put a price on water and its management, which was against the interest of all people, especially the poorest.

70. Following its discussion, the Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to the drafting group for further consideration.

71. Following the work of the drafting group the Committee, at its 6th meeting, on the evening of 25 June, approved a draft resolution on GEMS/Water for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

F. Implementation of Governing Council decisions 27/2 and 27/5: enhancing the coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations system on environmental matters, a process to prepare a United Nations system-wide strategy on the environment and the work of the Environment Management Group

72. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat outlined a report of the Executive Director on a process to prepare a United Nations system-wide strategy on environment (UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.3), under which each United Nations organization would continue to work in accordance with its mandate while drawing on the system-wide strategy, coordinated by UNEP, based on a platform for consultation provided by the Environment Management Group and other coordination mechanisms. He also drew attention to a progress report on the work of the Environment Management Group in response to Governing Council decision 27/5 (UNEP/UNEA.1/3/Add.2) and to the draft resolution on coordination of the United Nations system in the field of the environment, set out in the compilation of draft resolutions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives for consideration by the Environment Assembly (UNEP/UNEA.1/L.1, draft resolution 3).

73. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the strengthened role of UNEP as the lead organization on environmental issues, saying that the system-wide strategy had been a key element of work on international environmental governance prior to Rio+20. It was essential, he said, that other United Nations entities participate actively in the preparation of the strategy, and he suggested that the preparation process be endorsed by the General Assembly to ensure broad ownership. The strategy should serve as a practical tool for internal work, building on environmental objectives agreed by Governments, providing overarching guidance and contributing to enhanced cooperation by clarifying the division of labour. He emphasized the role of the Environment Management Group as the only system-wide body on the environment, saying that it should be fully involved in the preparation of the strategy. His delegation looked forward to discussing the draft resolution.

74. Another representative recalled that his country had proposed amendments to the strategy in writing. He recommended using the same title for the draft resolution as had been used in previous years and said that the resolution should welcome the progress report of the Environment Management Group. The process for elaborating the strategy should be based on the relevant decision adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session, which called for making the best possible use of the Environment Management Group in accordance with its terms of reference, and should reflect the Group's objective, to assist UNEP in promoting coordinated approaches to environmental work, and Governing Council decision 24/1, on the implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance. He also called for discussion on how to improve links between the Environment Management Group and the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and suggested that the Executive Director be requested to report to the Environment Assembly at its next session and to other bodies on the work of the Environment Management Group.

75. One representative, supported by several others, said that the draft resolution was important but clarifications were needed to enhance the resolution and the mandate to draft a global strategy on the environment. The strategy, he said, should take full account of all issues and efforts by countries in diverse contexts, as well as negotiations in other forums.

76. Regarding the draft resolution, he supported the request for the Executive Director to continue the work on developing the strategy but said that member States must exercise leadership and take ownership in a highly participatory process. The strategy should also explicitly acknowledge the various means of achieving balanced sustainable development, avoiding any bias.

77. Another representative said that coordination had been a fundamental mandate of UNEP since its inception. Things had changed, however; the environment had become a global priority, and many other organizations in the United Nations system, including some with more resources and power, dealt with it; UNEP, and the Environment Management Group, therefore had to adapt. He cautioned against the development of a system-wide strategy that would be ignored and called instead for the Environment Management Group to mobilize the United Nations system to analyse the system-wide implementation thus far of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, on ensuring environmental sustainability, and to present a report on the matter at the Heads of State meeting to be held in 2015 and, following that, to mobilize the system to implement, beginning in 2016, any goal that had been agreed. That, he said, would be a concrete manner of doing business. The best thing UNEP could do, he said, was to work to enhance the capacity of the Chief Executives Board and the Secretary-General with regard to environmental matters; climate change should be used as a showcase to demonstrate how the Board, supported by the Environment Management Group, could mobilize the system to help countries needing assistance, starting in particular with the countries of Africa.

78. Another representative expressed gratitude for the secretariat's detailed report on the strategy. Her delegation favoured working in more detail on the issues outlined in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, postponing environmental governance until later, tackling current issues and gaining experience to develop tools for the future application of the overall strategy to all entities in the United Nations system. She stressed that the resolution adopted should provide for technological support and capacity-building for developing countries in line with the Rio+20 outcome document.

79. One representative expressed serious doubts about the value and utility of the draft resolution, which appeared to raise issues that he thought had been resolved during Rio+20. He voiced concern that under the strategy UNEP might overlap with the remits of other bodies. He also suggested that the proposed process for the development of the strategy was not a priority for UNEP and might distract it from its core mission. He advocated returning to the issue once further progress had been made on the negotiations on the sustainable development goals.

80. One representative said that as the Environment Management Group had been set up by a Governing Council decision it was in the interests of the Environment Assembly to ensure that it fulfilled the role planned for it and that there was a sense of ownership among those implementing the strategy.

81. A representative of the United Nations Forum on Forests emphasized the value of cooperation with UNEP, through secondments under the voluntary Collaborative Partnership on Forests, contributing to forest management and sustainable development worldwide.

82. Following its discussion, the Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to the drafting group for further consideration in line with the discussions in the Committee.

83. Following the work of the drafting group the Committee, at its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of 27 June, approved a draft resolution on coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group, for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

G. Relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements

84. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a report of the Executive Director (UNEP/EA.1/INF/8) on the institutional and administrative relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it served as secretariat or performed secretariat functions, which had been drafted in consultation with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements. A task team had been established by the Executive Director and was holding consultations, through two working groups, on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and those agreements, and the outcome of those discussions would later be reflected in a revised version of the report before the Environment Assembly.

85. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that since 2011 those countries had supported a strong relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements as the latter could benefit from, and contribute to, the UNEP programme, while those agreements that were administered by UNEP could yield economies of scale and benefit from UNEP administrative and managerial advice through closer cooperation. While the task force consultations that were under way were a positive development, it was regrettable that no resolution on the issue could be adopted at the current session, as it would delay possible action under multilateral environmental agreements on, inter alia, biodiversity and chemicals and waste. In order to ensure that momentum was maintained, she suggested that the Assembly adopt a procedural resolution on the issue, indicating that she would submit a proposal for consideration by the Committee on 25 June 2014.

86. Saying that he shared the concerns expressed, another representative voiced strong support for a robust relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements, saying that UNEP should provide overall policy guidance to those agreements and that a resolution to maintain momentum on the issue was desirable.

87. At its 5th meeting, on the afternoon of 25 June, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly a draft resolution submitted by the European Union and its member States on the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements.

H. Corporate memorandums of understanding concerning cooperation between UNEP and other bodies of the United Nations system

88. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat introduced a note by the Executive Director (UNEP/EA.1/INF/9) providing information on two corporate memorandums of understanding concluded in March 2014 between UNEP and, respectively, the United Nations Volunteers and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

89. One representative said that it would be beneficial for UNEP to cooperate closely with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, suggesting that such cooperation would help to advance UNEP efforts in the area of chemicals.

I. Contributions by major groups and stakeholders to the Environment Assembly

90. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat introduced an information document (UNEP/EA.1/INF/7) on the regional consultations with major groups and stakeholders held in preparation for the first session of the Environment Assembly, noting that the statements and recommendations presented reflected the views of major groups and stakeholders and not necessarily those of UNEP.

J. Different visions, approaches, models and tools for achieving environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

91. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of Bolivia introduced a draft resolution concerning different approaches to achieving environmental sustainability. He said that the draft resolution was based on paragraph 56 of the Rio+20 outcome document and set forth various approaches to the achievement of the three dimensions of sustainable development and poverty eradication in addition to the green economy. The validity of going beyond the green economy had been recognized, he said, at various important conferences, including Rio+20.

92. Several representatives said that they needed more time to consider the draft resolution given that they had received it that day. Two representatives expressed full support for the draft resolution.

93. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to the drafting group for further consideration.

94. Following the work of the drafting group the Committee, at its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of 27 June, approved a draft resolution on different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

K. Implementation of decision 27/2 with regard to stakeholder engagement

95. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of Romania, as Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, reported on the discussions on the proposed UNEP stakeholder engagement policy that had taken place in the Committee and in the run-up to the current session pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2, explaining that the proposed policy incorporated the input of major stakeholders. Progress had been made but there were still issues to be resolved on matters such as accreditation and access to information.

96. One representative, while welcoming stakeholder participation, said that final resolutions were the responsibility of member States and that stakeholder engagement should follow United Nations rules and regulations and should observe particularly the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council. Another representative said in response that the participation of stakeholders and civil society was of crucial importance.

97. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that although intensive work had been carried out on the policy, crucial points, especially the procedure for accreditation, remained to be discussed. The policy should set out details of accreditation, while the rules of procedure should deal with the manner of stakeholder participation. She added that the policy at hand and the policy regarding access to information were closely linked. Her group looked forward to constructive discussion and to a procedure on stakeholder engagement that fulfilled the Rio+20 mandate.

98. A representative of the non-governmental organization major group commended UNEP for its constructive collaboration with non-governmental organizations. He pointed out that the Rio+20 outcome document made reference to the integration of non-governmental organizations and civil society in all United Nations meetings. The United Nations had set standards regarding the involvement of civil society in processes, which was often a prerequisite to the successful implementation of agreements. The Rio+20 conference had been a crowning example of an intergovernmental summit process that had facilitated stakeholder participation and the sessions of the Environment Assembly offered a similar opportunity. Furthermore, mechanisms were in place that would allow for the full and flexible participation of stakeholders while respecting the United Nations Charter, such as the Arria formula developed in the context of the Security Council. The stakeholder engagement policy should enable maximum involvement of stakeholders at all levels.

99. The Committee agreed that the matter should be discussed further during the current session by the working party established in plenary. The results of the working party's discussions are described in section V of the proceedings of the first session of the Environment Assembly.

L. Implementation of decision 27/2 with regard to contributions by regional environmental forums for which UNEP serves as secretariat

100. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat introduced a report on the contributions of regional environmental forums for which UNEP served as secretariat (UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.2), prepared in response to Governing Council decision 27/2, saying that regional forums played a critical role in decision-making and establishing agendas and common positions. UNEP served as secretariat to five such forums.

101. One representative welcomed the report and expressed appreciation for UNEP support for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), particularly with regard to the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes. He called on UNEP to increase its technical and financial assistance for AMCEN. Regional forums informed the Environment Assembly of specific regional priorities, thereby contributing to the work of the Environment Assembly, and could also serve to monitor implementation of Assembly resolutions at the national and regional levels. He requested UNEP to include African regional priorities in its programme of work and to consider supporting the implementation of AMCEN decisions on matters such as the establishment of UNEP subregional offices in Africa.

102. One representative said that a recent regional forum held in Mexico had confirmed the role of the Latin American and Caribbean region in determining regional environmental issues and the role of UNEP in coordinating relevant actions and establishing a regional environmental agenda. The role of the UNEP regional office was increasingly important, particularly given that relatively few member States from Latin America and the Caribbean had representatives based in Nairobi, and it was vital that the regional office keep the region informed of UNEP work. The office, she concluded, should be adequately funded and staffed.

M. Implementation of decision 27/2 with regard to the UNEP access-to-information policy

103. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a report of the Executive Director on the UNEP access-to-information policy (UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.4), which had been prepared in accordance with paragraph 17 of decision 27/2 and was designed to respond to the need to make information on the organization's work available to stakeholders and the general public. A version of the policy was presented in the annex to document UNEP/EA.1/INF/23 and would come into effect for a period of one year, during which time consultations would take place to seek the views of member States and relevant stakeholders, and a final version would be produced by the end of June 2015.

104. In the ensuing discussion, two representatives, one speaking on behalf of a group of countries and the other on behalf of a major group, expressed concern over the possible impact of the new policy on effective stakeholder engagement. The first urged the Executive Director to review the policy document, suggesting that it focused more on restrictions than on access; that it mixed environmental information with personal, commercial and other kinds of information; and that it did not fully take into account the potential of UNEP Live to provide broad access to official national data, including environmental legislation; the second reiterated the concerns about the inadequacies of the policy previously expressed by the major groups and stakeholders. Another representative said that the consultation process must be inclusive and transparent and that Governments must be allowed to decide on the procedures pertaining to their countries.

105. The representative of the secretariat, pointing out that information belonging to member States and others could not be made available to the general public before it was cleared by its custodians, reiterated the fact that the current version of the policy would only be effective for one year and reassured the Committee that the consultation process would be highly transparent; that the comments received would be taken into account in its review; and that all relevant information would be posted in a timely manner on the UNEP website.

N. Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

106. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 June, the representative of Chile drew attention to an amended version of the draft resolution on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration presented the previous day during consideration of the organization of work (see para. 9, above), saying that it was important to consider the links with UNEP work on sustainable consumption and production and, more broadly, on education for sustainable development.

107. In the ensuing discussion, all who spoke expressed support for the draft resolution. One, however, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that more time was needed to assess the proposed amendment and that the draft resolution should be further amended to urge the Executive Director to implement principle 10 fully in the new UNEP access-to-information policy.

108. The Committee agreed to refer the amended version of the draft resolution to the drafting group for further consideration.

109. Following the work of the drafting group the Committee, at its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of 27 June, approved a draft resolution on the implementation of Principle 10 for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

O. Implementation of decision 27/2 with regard to the consolidation of UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi

110. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat, introducing the subject, drew attention to a report of the Executive Director (UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.5) describing the measures taken in response to Governing Council decision 27/2 to strengthen and upgrade UNEP, together with the key assumptions, criteria and definitions underpinning the discussions on the progressive consolidation of headquarters functions and key expected outcomes and recommendations.

P. Implementation of decision 27/2 with regard to international water quality guidelines for ecosystems

111. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat, introducing the subject, drew attention to a report of the Executive Director (UNEP/EA.1/3) describing the arrangements for the development of international water quality guidelines for ecosystems in response to Governing Council decision 27/2. The report included

information on prospective partners; the in-depth research and extensive consultations undertaken to date; and an outline of recommended guidelines and the next steps to be taken. A preliminary set of guidelines would be ready for review by the advisory group of policymakers and technical experts the following month.

112. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed support for the role of UNEP in monitoring water quality and called for the proposed guidelines to be voluntary and adaptable for use by sovereign Governments as a basis for national guidelines tailored to the geological conditions in their countries.

Q. Process for the mid-term review of the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, developments in the implementation of decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability and ratification and accession to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

113. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat, introducing the subject, drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the process for the mid-term review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV) and developments in the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability (UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.3). The secretariat was preparing to undertake a review of Montevideo Programme IV and would submit its findings at the next session of the Environment Assembly, together with a report on implementation of decision 27/9.

114. He also drew attention to a note by the secretariat on changes in the status of conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/EA.1/INF/10), which provided information on, inter alia, those instruments that had entered into force and been concluded in the reporting period from 1 January 2013 to 20 June 2014. Governments in a position to do so were encouraged to become parties to the instruments.

115. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed appreciation for the report of the Executive Director but said that its reference to the linkages between peace and security, human rights and development in the context of strengthening the rule of law and the nexus between human rights and the environment might risk encroaching on the mandate of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a major group, said that the participation of major groups and stakeholders in the mid-term review of Montevideo Programme IV could increase the Programme's chances of generating stronger outcomes in the next five years; that UNEP was best placed to promote a rights-based approach to the environmental rule of law; and that the Assembly should issue a strong statement on the importance of a healthy environment to the implementation of such an approach, to the preservation of ecosystems and to the achievement of sustainable development.

R. Illegal trade in wildlife

116. At the 4th meeting of the Committee, on the morning of 25 June, the representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the African group, introduced a conference room paper containing a draft resolution by African States and the European Union and its member States on illegal trade in wildlife. Saying that the draft resolution had support from many other delegations, he highlighted the magnitude of the problem of the illegal trade in wildlife and the significant amount of work on the problem that had already taken place in the context of various forums and international organizations. The draft resolution included provisions that would promote zero tolerance for illegal trade and sustainable livelihoods for affected communities; call on the General Assembly to consider the issue at its sixty-ninth session; request the Executive Director to work with international institutions to develop a joint framework to address the issue and to continue to lead work in the United Nations system to strengthen the environmental rule of law; and respect the mandates of organizations currently combating the problem while taking advantage of the UNEP mandate to advance the fight against illegal trade in wildlife. The representative of the European Union and its member States expressed support for the draft and invited all representatives to contribute to it, which he hoped would have the universal backing of source, transit and consumer countries. A lasting and concrete outcome from the Environment Assembly was desirable.

117. Representatives taking the floor expressed support for the draft resolution and many thanked the proponents of the resolution for their efforts.

118. A number of representatives spoke about the importance of broad cooperation at the international, regional and subregional levels, including through regional economic commissions, and the need for the Environment Assembly to express a global commitment to preserving wildlife and biodiversity. Many representatives emphasized the importance of avoiding duplication of effort and cooperating with existing national and international instruments and mechanisms, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

119. Several representatives said that the scale of illegal trade had increased dramatically over recent years and drew attention to the importance of strengthening legislation and law enforcement related to environmental crime and illegal trade at all levels, strengthening national criminal justice systems, taking concerted action in the implementation of legal agreements at all levels and building the capacity of customs officials, police officers and wildlife conservation authorities.

120. A number of representatives spoke of the need to tackle the demand for and supply of illegal wildlife products. One representative drew attention to the various stages in the wildlife trade – including trade, transit and processing – and emphasized the need to accord equal attention to each. The need to provide incentives and sustainable alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illegal trade was also highlighted. One representative said that among the many challenges were the considerable resources at the disposal of organized crime groups to carry out their illegal activities and, conversely, the lack of resources to fight crime in many of the countries most severely affected by the illegal trade.

121. One representative said that UNEP engagement on illegal wildlife trade was long overdue and of key importance. She said that the draft resolution should delineate a role for UNEP within its mandate and make a distinction between the responsibilities of member States and those of UNEP. She said that it was important not to commit the Environment Assembly to actions it was unable to undertake. Another representative said that UNEP should be careful to focus on activities relating to the environmental dimension of the illegal trade in wildlife, including awareness-raising.

122. A number of representatives requested the inclusion of specific elements in the draft resolution. Two representatives called for a reference to the illegal trade in marine species and fisheries. Two representatives requested specific mention of the illegal trade in timber, while one sought the inclusion of high value non-timber forest products. One representative requested that efforts made in the context of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization be reflected in the text.

123. One representative said that it was important to ensure that the draft resolution was in line with national legislation and capacities and called on member States to step up their commitments in terms of funding criteria, amounts, responsibilities and mechanisms. Another representative said that the draft resolution was balanced in terms of the main elements required to combat illegal trade but that it implied incorrectly that the main responsibility for illegal trade lay with developing countries.

124. Issues raised by individual representatives included the urgency of halting the wildlife trade in certain species, such as elephants, in order to avoid their extinction; the need for an awareness-raising campaign to dissuade individuals from owning and keeping wild animals in their residences and private zoos; and the particular significance of the draft resolution for the African continent.

125. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species, welcoming the interest of the Environment Assembly in the illegal trade in wildlife, invited the Assembly to take into consideration the work of the Convention. He drew attention to the work of the Convention on illegal trade and coordination with CITES in that regard, including a dedicated agreement for the conservation of elephants with over 10 African signatories.

126. A representative of major groups said that given the magnitude of the challenge the illegal trade in wildlife required a coordinated response combining strengthened responses. The Environment Assembly was the appropriate forum to call for such coordinated action. He called on member States to strengthen the draft resolution by making explicit reference to tackling illegal financial flows; ensuring due diligence, verification and certification in trade by companies and in public procurement; calling on the General Assembly to consider the advisability of adding a fourth protocol to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime; and including specific mention of poaching and illegal harvesting in several paragraphs of the draft resolution.

127. The representative of Kenya said that the proponents of the draft resolution had been acutely aware of the need to avoid duplication of effort and the creation of an additional mandate for UNEP.

128. Subsequently, following informal consultations among interested delegations, the Committee, at its 6th meeting, on the evening of 25 June, referred the draft resolution to the drafting group for further consideration, pending further informal consultations, including in regional groups.

129. Following the work of the drafting group and further informal consultations the Committee, at its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of 27 June, approved a draft resolution on the illegal trade in wildlife for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

S. Administration of the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform

130. At the 4th meeting of the Committee, on the morning of 25 June 2014, the representative of Switzerland introduced a draft resolution on the administration of the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, which was a successor to the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. He explained that the aim of the draft resolution was to authorize UNEP to function as the secretariat for the Platform, which would have no financial implications in terms of the Environment Fund as funding would rely on extrabudgetary contributions from members of the Platform. The resolution, he suggested, could be combined with a separate resolution relating to the provision by UNEP of secretariat services for the Bamako Convention. Regarding the latter suggestion, another representative, supported by two others, drew attention to a draft resolution on the Bamako Convention being discussed by the contact group on chemicals and waste. Saying that the resolution could have financial implications he suggested that a trust fund be established to fund relevant activities.

131. At the 5th meeting of the Committee, on the afternoon of 25 June 2014, the representative of the European Union verbally introduced a draft resolution on the provision of secretariat functions by UNEP and the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, which she said incorporated texts from three separate draft resolutions that requested UNEP to provide secretariat services to the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, the Bamako Convention, and the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention), the last of which had been part of the draft budget resolution. The proposed resolution would be best placed in the resolution on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, owing to the fact that carrying out secretariat functions for other bodies required the creation of new trust funds. At its 6th meeting, on the evening of 25 June, the Committee agreed to refer the text to the working group on the budget and programme of work for inclusion in the draft resolution on the management of trust funds.

V. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits, in particular the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and major intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly (agenda item 6)

132. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 June, the representative of the secretariat introduced the two relevant documents (UNEP/EA.1/INF/3 and Add.1), stating that the first highlighted resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, mainly at its sixty-eighth session, of relevance to UNEP, while the second outlined measures taken and the progress achieved by UNEP, as a non-resident organization of the United Nations system, in the implementation of resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system.

VI. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters (agenda item 7)

133. The Committee took up item 7 at its 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 June. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a number of documents relevant to the budget and programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017 and related issues. Referring first to the programme performance report for 2012–2013 (UNEP/EA.1/INF/6), he said that 94 per cent of expected accomplishments had been fully or partially achieved. The lessons learned in previous bienniums had contributed to that high level of achievement. Using the example of lead in fuels, he said it was important to realize that performance measurements should not be restricted to a single biennium, but often required much longer periods to allow an accurate assessment of success. Another important lesson learned was that there was a need to scale up through partnerships from the start of a

programme in order to improve delivery. Most budget contributions had been earmarked, which at times limited the ability of UNEP to make long-term decisions, and resources at times became skewed towards certain areas of focus, including mercury and integrated chemicals management. Trust funds had received limited funding for some purposes, making it difficult to practise full results-based management.

134. Turning to the revised biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015 (UNEP/EA.1/7/Add.1), he said that the General Assembly had approved United Nations regular budget resources for UNEP for 2014–2015 in the amount of \$35 million, significantly less than the amount requested by the Secretary-General, entailing changes to the programme of work and budget for the biennium. The proposed revised programme and budget also showed changes in accountability for the delivery of outputs in the programme of work resulting from changes in the structure of UNEP. He also drew attention to the proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2016–2017 (UNEP/EA.1/7), which covered the second half of the medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 and aimed to maintain continuity within that strategy. The programme of work included ambitious targets that could be achieved through ensuring stable capacity within the UNEP regional offices, strengthening inter-agency cooperation and coordination capacity and consolidating headquarter functions in Nairobi. Key principles included results-based management, greater predictability of funding and strengthening of indicators to measure changes and assess the global relevance of UNEP work.

135. He then introduced a report on the status of the Environment Fund and other sources of funding for UNEP (UNEP/EA.1/INF/5), which had been submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Governing Council decision 27/13. The financial statements of UNEP for the biennium 2012–2013 showed a prudently and effectively managed organization following the global financial crisis, when many member States had enacted austerity measures. The total resources available amounted to \$165.5 million, representing 87 per cent of the approved budget of \$191 million. Expenditures in 2012–2013 totalled \$156 million against the \$158 million allocation, giving a fund utilization rate of 98.7 per cent. Resources available for the biennium 2012–2013 from trust and earmarked funds directly supporting the UNEP programme of work totalled \$529.6 million, and a balance of \$302 million had been carried forward to the 2014–2015 biennium. A report on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions (UNEP/EA.1/8) showed that single-donor trust funds had relatively high transaction costs due to specific donor requirements with regard to monitoring and reporting, while multi-donor trust funds (including the Environment Fund) enhanced effectiveness by reducing transaction costs and mitigating the high risk levels inherent in the management of single-donor and earmarked trust funds. A note on the voluntary indicative scale of contributions for the biennium 2014–2015 (UNEP/EA.1/INF/17) provided information on how the scale had been adapted in the light of the universal membership of UNEP, pursuant to paragraph 26 of Governing Council decision 27/13. Other documents relevant to the discussion of the programme of work and budget included a report on the revision of the financial rules of UNEP (UNEP/EA.1/6); a report on amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (UNEP/EA.1/9); and a note providing information supplementary to the report of the Executive Director on amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (UNEP/EA.1/INF/21).

136. In conclusion, he drew attention to draft resolutions 1, on the revised biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015; 2, on the proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2016–2017; 11, on amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility; and 12, on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, in the compilation of draft resolutions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/UNEA.1/L.1).

137. In the ensuing discussion one representative acknowledged the work undertaken by the secretariat in using lessons learned to effect improvements through an iterative process in a number of areas, including the budgetary process, the strategic framework, evaluation and the quality of documentation. In addition, the discussions during the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives had resulted in agreement on the priorities for action by UNEP. Concerns remained, however, about the balance between the allocation of funding to administrative areas, including staffing and personnel, and programmatic activities. There was also a need for greater realism and clarity in budgeting, and estimates of the finances available to UNEP should include extrabudgetary funding in addition to the Environment Fund and the regular budget. In addition, while preliminary work had been undertaken to improve the management of trust funds, more was needed. There was also a pressing need to finalize the financial rules, which needed to be in place before the implementation of Umoja.

138. One representative said that the programme of work should be broad and inclusive and should offer support to all countries in line with their particular visions for and approaches to sustainable development, in accordance with the spirit of Rio+20. The “green economy” was only one tool of many available to individual countries, but it received undue emphasis in the programme of work and budget. Similarly, the focus on activities linked to the UN-REDD programme in the programme of work failed to acknowledge that alternative approaches were available and in need of budgetary support. Accordingly, the programme of work and budget, and the relevant draft resolutions, should be revised to accommodate a more democratic, inclusive and integrated approach.

139. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the work that had been carried out on the strategic framework and programme of work and budget for 2016–2017, which would enable UNEP to better target and measure the work it carried out. It was crucial, however, that in the future consultations be more transparent and effectively handled and that information be provided in a timely manner. While the Environment Fund had seen significant increases in line with the Rio+20 call for more secure, stable, adequate and increased funding for UNEP, it was vital to be realistic about the size of the fund in order to ensure that resources were secure and stable. Alternative projections were needed to enable UNEP to meet the objectives of the programme of work. In line with the universal membership of the Environment Assembly, it was vital that all members make contributions to the Environment Fund that reflected their capacity to contribute, given the present undesirable situation whereby over 90 per cent of the fund was provided by the 15 top donors. Finally, there was a need to review the functions of posts, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

140. One representative said that in order to increase the budget of UNEP, countries should ensure that they contributed in line with the voluntary scale of contributions. Several other representatives said that there was a need for a transparent dialogue aimed at developing more realistic projections of the budgetary resources available and encouraging a broader donor base. One representative expressed concern as to whether the proposed budgetary increases were sustainable and requested the secretariat to provide more detailed budgetary information to member States on each of the project areas. Another representative said that more funds should be dedicated to delivery of the core functions of UNEP, for example the science-policy interface, and that greater emphasis should be placed on the participation of major groups and stakeholders in the decision-making process of UNEP.

141. One representative welcomed the initiative by UNEP to invest in regional and subregional offices, in line with the Rio+20 call for a strengthened, more inclusive UNEP. There was still a need, however, to make more resources available to deal with the issues facing developing countries, particularly those in Africa. In that regard, efforts should be made to allocate budgetary resources regionally as well as thematically. Another representative requested that greater consideration be given in the programme of work and budget to the particular needs of small island developing States.

142. One representative said that the programme of work and budget for 2016–2017 needed to be forward looking and equip UNEP with the resources to enable it, by 1 January 2016, to support the international community in delivering the outcomes of the 2015 meetings outlining the new development agenda. The programme of work should therefore be designed not according to what had been achieved in the past, but taking into account the expected role that UNEP would play in supporting countries, especially developing countries, to implement measures in line with the new agenda. Further attention should be paid in the programme of work to emerging and pressing needs, including the need to combat desertification.

143. The Committee agreed to refer further consideration of the issues discussed to the working group on the programme of work and budget, chaired by Mr. Bart Ouvry (Belgium). The working group would address draft resolutions 1, 2 and 12, and would take cognizance of the relevant working documents and information documents in its deliberations.

144. The chair of the working group on the programme of work and budget reported on the deliberations of the group at the Committee’s 6th meeting, on the afternoon of 27 June. Announcing that the group had reached agreement, he noted that an information note prepared by the secretariat had been extremely helpful to the group in its discussions on the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017, and the members of the group were of the view that it should be reflected in the present proceedings. The information note is accordingly set out in annex IV to the present proceedings.

145. Following that report the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly a draft resolution on the revised biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015 and a draft resolution on the proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2016–2017. It also approved draft resolution text on the management of trust funds and earmarked

contributions, including the provision of secretariat functions by UNEP to specified multilateral environmental agreements for insertion in the draft resolution on the management of trust funds (UNEP/EA.1/L.1, draft resolution 12).

146. Following the Committee's approval of the draft resolutions on the programme of work and budget the representative of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and requesting that his comments be reflected in the present proceedings, said that on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, African States, the Arab League and the Chair of the Joint Coordination Committee of the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement, his country had submitted a paragraph on desertification, with special reference to Africa, for inclusion in the resolution on the 2016–2017 programme of work and budget. He said that although the Secretary-General had recently underscored the seriousness of desertification, in particular for African countries, the paragraph had met with objections from other representatives and, in a spirit of compromise, the proponents had not insisted on its inclusion. They hoped, however, that UNEP would give due attention to desertification, and to assisting African and other countries in combating it, in the implementation of the programme of work.

147. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 June, the chair introduced the draft resolution on amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility set out in the compilation of draft resolutions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/UNEA.1/L.1, draft resolution 11), recalling that the GEF Assembly had adopted a number of amendments to the GEF Instrument in May 2014. They included an agreement by the Global Environment Facility to serve as one of the financial mechanisms of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the establishment of a chemicals and wastes focal area to replace the ozone layer depletion and persistent organic pollutant focal areas. Following the Chair's introduction the Committee approved the draft resolution, without discussion, for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

VII. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (agenda item 9)

148. At the Committee's 5th meeting, on the afternoon of 25 June, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution proposed by the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, contained in a conference room paper, on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The draft resolution provided that the next meeting of the Environment Assembly would be held in May 2016.

149. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives favoured an earlier date for the meeting, for example February 2016, which would dovetail better with other related meetings. One representative noted that such a change would require an adjustment of the dates of the next open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

150. The Chair announced that the Bureau of the Environment Assembly would consider the matter further in the light of the discussion in the Committee.

151. Following consideration of the matter by the Bureau the Committee, at its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of 27 June, approved a draft resolution on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which provided, inter alia, that the session would take place from 23 to 27 May 2016 and that the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in consultation with the Bureau, would contribute to the preparation of the agenda for the session.

VIII. Other matters (agenda item 10)

152. The Committee considered no other matters.

IX. Adoption of the report

153. At its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of 27 June, the Committee adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report set out in documents UNEP/EA.1/CW/L.1 and Add.1–2, on the understanding that the report would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur in conjunction with the secretariat.

Annex IV

Information note by the secretariat

1. The proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) submitted by the secretariat to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session in June 2014 was developed in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, including at its open-ended meeting held in March 2014. The budget planning scenario includes a provision of \$285 million from the Environment Fund, and a total level of income of \$687 million for the period, including Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding.

2. The 2016–2017 funding strategy involves an effort to shift resources from earmarked contributions to non-earmarked resources of the Environment Fund. The entire pattern of income is illustrated in the figure below. At the request of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the secretariat has prepared an alternative scenario, showing a reduced budget for the Environment Fund. The second budget scenario represents a reduction of \$14 million compared with the original planning scenario of \$285 million. Table 1 shows the implications of such a scenario for the programme of work.

Table 1

Resource projections by budget component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	<i>Budget 2014–2015</i>	<i>Original budget 2016–2017 (total of \$285 million)</i>	<i>Revised budget 2016–2017 (total of \$271 million)</i>
A. Executive direction and management	7 794	10 041	9 500
B. Programme of work	209 394	243 983	231 500
1. Climate change	39 510	46 057	42 000
2. Disasters and conflicts	17 886	20 795	20 500
3. Ecosystem management	36 831	42 847	40 000
4. Environmental governance	21,895	25 443	25 000
5. Chemicals and waste	31 175	36 417	36 000
6. Resource efficiency	45 329	52 956	49 000
7. Environment under review	16 768	19 468	19 000
C. Fund programme reserve	12 500	14. 000	14 000
D. Programme support	15 312	16 975	16 000
Total	245 000	285 000	271 000

3. The rationale for the reductions is as follows: recent UNEP data indicate that additional extrabudgetary funds are likely to be secured for the climate change, ecosystem management and resource efficiency subprogrammes. The Environment Fund funding allocation for those subprogrammes was decreased at higher levels than for the other subprogrammes given that earmarked funding would appear to meet any shortfall in Environment Fund resources for those subprogrammes. Thus the budget reductions from the Environment Fund would be accompanied by a corresponding increase in extrabudgetary funding for those subprogrammes, which would enable a similar level of ambition for each of the subprogrammes. This scenario is, however, contingent on the approval by specific donors of funding for trust funds and projects which are aligned with the corresponding funding gap from the Environment Fund.

4. The Executive Director has encouraged the secretariat to achieve significant efficiency improvements in a number of areas by 2015. Owing to inflation, staff costs are expected to increase by 3 per cent per year during the biennium. Given that UNEP is maintaining a ceiling of \$122 million for staff costs, in line with the 2012–2013 staff costs, the implication is a 7 per cent increase in staff productivity, ensuring efficiency gains. Efforts are continuing to increase extrabudgetary funding for subprogrammes affected by a reduction in Environment Fund resources.

5. Executive direction and management and programme support could also be reduced with the aim of securing additional funding from efficiency gains. However, revised estimates from the United Nations on the new enterprise resource planning system, Umoja, show the costs of the system for UNEP rising very significantly to \$4.3 million in 2014 alone, including a cost of approximately \$1 million to the United Nations Office at Nairobi. With the phasing in of the various extensions of the system, these additional costs are expected to extend into 2016–2017, thus limiting the immediate prospects for further savings in this budgetary item.
6. The Fund programme reserve will be maintained at the level for the biennium 2014–2015, namely \$14 million, including a provision of \$1.5 million for the consolidation of the UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi.
7. In summary, these budgetary projections are consistent with the funding trends observed recently by the UNEP secretariat. Based on the assumptions set out above, they would enable UNEP to fully implement the 2016–2017 programme of work as approved by its member States, including the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, including its subparagraphs related to the consolidation of UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi and the strengthening of regional offices.
8. The reduced budget scenario assumes that the regular budget proposal of the Secretary-General will include the cost of finalizing the strengthening of the regional offices, along the lines of the second phase recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), together with the resources required to serve the governing bodies. This will require a prior review by the secretariat, as recommended by ACABQ, and is subject to ACABQ recommendation, review by the Fifth Committee and approval by the General Assembly at the end of 2015. Any variation in the approval of United Nations regular budget resources by the General Assembly will affect the programming of the Environment Fund in terms of staffing and other aspects, such as travel costs for participants in the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2016.
9. Table 2 and the figure below illustrate the pattern of income over recent years, showing a gradual strengthening of the UNEP financial base, including the acquisition of multi-year trust fund contributions.

Table 2

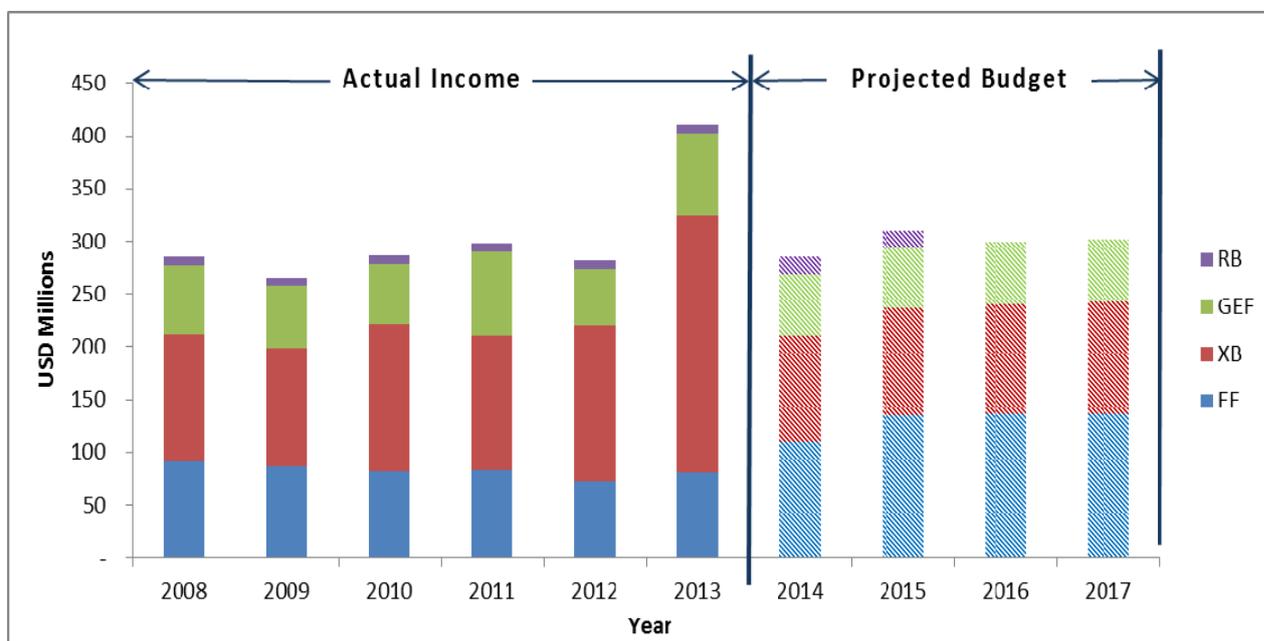
Income received, approved budget and proposed budget

(Millions of United States dollars)

Year	Actual Income Received						Projected Budget			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
EF	91	86	82	83	72	80	110	135	136	136
XB	121	113	140	128	148	244	101	101	104	107
GEF	65	59	56	79	53	78	57	57	59	59
RB	8	7	8	8	9	8	17	17	TBD	TBD
Total	285	265	286	299	282	410	285	310	TBD	TBD
Total (less RB)	277	258	278	290	273	402	268	293	299	302

Actual income received and projected budget

(Millions of United States dollars)



Note: For 2016 and 2017, the regular budget projection is to be determined and is not included in the projected budget total.