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

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Performance of the programme of work and
budget, including implementation of the
resolutions of the Environment Assembly**

**Progress in the implementation of resolution 2/5 on delivering
on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to resolution 2/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, entitled “Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare a report for consideration by the Assembly at its third session, reporting on the Environment Programme’s contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a view to forwarding the report to the high-level political forum on sustainable development for its consideration.

The report provides a summary of initial progress, challenges and proposed recommendations with respect to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global, regional and national levels.

* UNEP/EA.3/1.

I. Introduction

1. The present report, prepared pursuant to resolution 2/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, provides a summary of initial progress, challenges and proposed recommendations with respect to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global, regional and national levels.

II. Progress in the implementation of resolution 2/5

2. The United Nations Environment Programme contributed to the preparation process for the 2016 and 2017 editions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. It also played an active role in the discussions that took place and organized a number of successful side events at the forum. In addition, it participated in the relevant segments of the sessions of the Economic and Social Council.

3. As part of the ongoing review across the United Nations development system aimed at repositioning the United Nations to deliver on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Environment Programme has been actively engaged in the review of the United Nations functions and capacities, as well as in the future of the resident coordinator system. A report that outlines areas where realistic changes can be implemented to better position the United Nations system is expected to be completed in December 2017.

4. The Environment Management Group has revised its terms of reference to strengthen and renew its modalities and procedures of work to better deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition to this, the Group prepared the first edition of the synthesis report on the United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and organized a series of nexus dialogues between April and July 2017 in which the Environment Programme also participated. The dialogues have contributed to a common understanding of the integrated goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (see UNEP/EA.3/22).

5. At the regional level, the Environment Programme continues to work very closely with both the regional coordination mechanisms and the regional networks of the United Nations Development Group. The Environment Programme also helped to organize and participated in the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Jordan in May 2016, and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the Economic Commission for Europe Region, held in Geneva in April 2017, by providing technical support in addressing the environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The Environment Programme also contributed to the development of the regional interagency paper "Building More Inclusive, Sustainable and Prosperous Societies in Europe and Central Asia".

6. The Environment Programme not only co-chaired the Programme Working Group of the United Nations Development Group, which led the preparation of new guidance on a new iteration of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, but also actively participated in the revision task team that developed guidance to promote an integrated approach to programming. Using the new guidance, the Environment Programme is providing technical support and capacity development for United Nations country team members and national counterparts in the integration of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including in the mainstreaming and acceleration of and policy support for the 2030 Agenda.

7. In addition to aligning its medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021 to the 2030 Agenda to provide an integrated approach across programmes and sectors, the Environment Programme is revising existing instruments, tools and services to better support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. To highlight how multilateral environmental agreements contribute to achieving the Goals, the Environment Programme-facilitated United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environment Agreements (available from www.informe.org) features a section on the Goals that includes an analysis of multilateral environmental agreements and their relationship to specific targets of the Goals. In May 2017, the Environment Programme issued a publication that assessed the linkages between Goal targets and indicators and those 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.

9. In strengthening environmental rule of law, the Environment Programme jointly organized with the United Nations Development Group a dialogue on human rights and the environment to guide

United Nations country teams and resident coordinators in supporting environmental rights and the work towards the achievement of the Goals at the country level. The outcomes of the dialogue informed discussions at the Human Rights Frontiers 2030 Forum, in 2016. In addition, the Environment Programme has facilitated engagement with judiciaries on environmental constitutionalism to examine the development, implementation and effectiveness of incorporating environmental rights, procedures and policies into constitutions around the globe.

10. The Environment Programme is strengthening and streamlining policy and procedures to develop, accelerate and scale up private sector involvement. This includes working within the processes of the United Nations Global Compact to improve the quantity and quality of strategic alliances, joint actions, data sharing, standard setting and measurement.

11. To support the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, the Environment Programme, in partnership with national statistics offices and relevant ministries, is continuing to develop capacity and deploy resources in countries across all regions to collect information on indicators and other data. As a result, there has been a steady increase in the number of countries that have put in place mechanisms and processes to strengthen the collection of environmental data and information. As a custodian agency for 26 indicators under the global indicator framework, the Environment Programme supported the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators by providing input on the development of metadata, supporting the development of methodologies and contributing to the development of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals.

12. Consistent progress has been made in the development of the *Global Environment Outlook* to incorporate the 2030 Agenda and the Goals and targets into its structure, analytical framework and content. Author meetings for the preparation of the sixth edition were held in February 2017 in Italy, May 2017 in Thailand and October 2017 in China.

III. Recommendations and suggested action

13. The United Nations, Governments, the private sector, major groups and other stakeholders should strengthen institutional arrangements, policies and capacity for integrating environmental dimensions into plans, programmes and budgets.

14. There is a need to promote longer-term integrated visioning that takes into account sustainability and resilience in programming and budgeting processes.
