



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

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

**Fourth session**

Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019

**Proceedings of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its  
fourth session**

1. The fourth 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 11 to 15 March 2019.

**I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)**

2. The session was opened at 10.35 a.m. on Monday, 11 March 2019, by Mr. Siim Kiisler, President of the Environment Assembly.

3. At the invitation of the President, the United Nations Environment Assembly observed a minute of silence in memory of all those, including delegates, interpreters and United Nations staff members, who had lost their lives in an aeroplane crash while travelling from Addis Ababa to Nairobi the previous day.

4. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Kiisler; Ms. Joyce Msuya, acting Executive Director of UNEP; Ms. Maimunah Mohamed Sharif, acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and Mr. Keriako Tobiko, Minister for Environment, Kenya.

5. In his statement, Mr. Kiisler said that, with UNEP about to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 2022, it was time to take stock of the progress made in shaping the future global environmental agenda. He paid tribute to the secretariat, both past and present, for its tireless efforts in assisting Member States to take action to protect the environment and reverse the degradation of the planet. He thanked Ms. Msuya for her leadership as acting Executive Director of UNEP and welcomed Ms. Inger Andersen as the incoming Executive Director, at a time when the organization needed to become more agile, effective and robust in order to quickly respond to the most pressing environmental challenges seen in generations. The deliberations at the present session of the Environment Assembly, and its outcomes, including the ministerial declaration to be approved by ministers during the week, would contribute to the ambitious global agenda for moving towards sustainable and resilient societies. Lastly, he urged all present to work in a spirit of commitment and understanding to deliver on the expectations of the international community.

6. In her opening statement, Ms. Msuya stressed the urgency of the global situation; with planet Earth having reached its limits, action could no longer be deferred. Humankind must tackle the consequences of its growth without delay. The most recent science was compelling in that regard; a transformation in people's ways of living and producing, and in their everyday choices, was critical. Fortunately, there were numerous examples of innovation around the world which demonstrated that

people were not willing to wait for others to change the collective future of humankind, but were themselves challenging the very basis of the world's prevailing economic model. The path towards transformation would involve, first, moving quickly to a low-carbon, green economy that reduced fossil fuel use by 80 per cent by 2050; second, reducing the environmental impact of food production by two thirds from current levels; and third, achieving a circular economy that produced near zero waste by 2050.

7. In her opening remarks, Ms. Sharif said that success in tackling mounting environmental challenges depended on changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production through innovation and creative approaches – turning bold ideas into impactful action. In the context of the roll-out of the reform agenda across the United Nations system, the United Nations Office at Nairobi would play its part as the primary service provider to UNEP in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. In his statement, Mr. Tobiko began by expressing his condolences to all those who had lost loved ones in the aeroplane crash the previous day. He welcomed participants to Kenya and congratulated Ms. Inger Andersen on her appointment as Executive Director of UNEP.

9. Applauding the choice of theme for the current session, he said that innovation was pivotal in moving towards sustainable production and consumption; indigenous, local and traditional knowledge would have an important role to play in enabling innovation to be adapted to varying societal needs. He stressed the need for enhanced action for the reduction of single-use plastics and reversal of marine plastic pollution worldwide, which must be coupled with much-needed innovative, affordable and ecological alternative materials. The human right to a healthy environment was a central theme of the current session and included a fundamental responsibility to ensure that economic activities protected the environment and human well-being. In closing, he urged the Environment Assembly to consider how the human right to a healthy environment could lead to innovative solutions that resulted in truly sustainable consumption and production.

## **II. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 2)**

### **A. Adoption of the agenda**

10. The Environment Assembly adopted the following agenda for the session, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.4/1/Rev.1).

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. International environmental policy and governance issues.
6. Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues.
7. Stakeholder engagement.
8. Contributions to meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.
9. High-level segment.
10. Provisional agenda and date of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly.
11. Adoption of the outcomes of the session.
12. Election of officers.
13. Other matters.
14. Adoption of the report.
15. Closure of the session.

### **B. Organization of work**

11. In accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, the Environment Assembly agreed to establish a committee of the whole for the consideration of various items of its agenda. The Assembly also agreed, in accordance with the recommendations of the Bureau, that the Committee of the Whole

would be chaired by Mr. Fernando Coimbra (Brazil), that Mr. IB Putera Parthama (Indonesia) would serve as rapporteur and that it would consider items 5, international environmental policy and governance issues, and 10, provisional agenda and date of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly.

12. The Assembly further agreed that a leadership dialogue on “Environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security and halting biodiversity loss” would be held on 14 March 2019, followed by a multi-stakeholder dialogue on spearheading innovative solutions for sustainable consumption, and that two leadership dialogues would be held on Friday, 15 March, on the themes of “Life-cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, and chemicals and waste management” and “Innovative business development in a time of rapid technological change”.

### C. Attendance

13. The following 173 Member States were represented at the session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

14. The following non-Member States were represented: Holy See, Niue, Sovereign Military Order of Malta, State of Palestine.

15. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants; Department for General Assembly and Conference Management; Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Department of Public Information; Executive Office of the Secretary-General; Global Environment Facility; Green Climate Fund; Human Rights Council; International Resource Panel; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; 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 for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna; secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat; secretariat of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region; secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians; secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Sustainable Development Solutions Network; United Nations Children’s Fund; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations

Development Programme; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction; United Nations Office at Geneva; United Nations Office for Project Services; United Nations Population Fund; World Food Programme.

16. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; International Civil Aviation Organization; International Finance Corporation; International Labour Organization; International Maritime Organization; International Organization for Migration; International Telecommunication Union; International Trade Centre; Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Bank Group.

17. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Africa Institute; African Development Bank; African Union; Arab Organization for Agricultural Development; Asian Development Bank; Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Biodiversity; Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission; Centre for International Forestry Research; East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency; East African Community; Economic Community of West African States; European Commission; European Investment Bank; European Union; Group on Earth Observations; International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development; International Centre for Research in Agroforestry; International Chamber of Commerce; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Network for Bamboo and Rattan; International Olympic Committee; International Union for Conservation of Nature; Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; League of Arab States; New Partnership for Africa's Development; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development; Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme; Southern African Development Community; South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme; Union for the Mediterranean.

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

## **D. General statements by regional groups**

19. Following the opening of the session, representatives of the regional groups of Member States made general statements on the items on the agenda for the current session.

### **1. European Union and its member States**

20. The representative of Romania spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, noting that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine also aligned themselves with his statement. The European Union pledged to work constructively to help the Environment Assembly fulfil its mandate of providing global environmental leadership at its fourth session, including through an ambitious outcome document that reflected the urgency, underlined by the best-available science, of addressing climate change and plastics effectively. He particularly welcomed proposed resolutions on women and the environment, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in environmental governance, and on stepping up global action against deforestation. It was imperative to place sustainable resource management at the centre of relevant policies; greater resource efficiency and a move towards a circular economy were needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and other multilateral environmental agreement objectives. He called on environment ministers to communicate clearly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the wider global public the urgency of shifting the global economic system towards greater sustainability and circularity and catalysing concrete global action to achieve that shift.

### **2. African States**

21. In his statement on behalf of the African States, the representative of Ethiopia acknowledged food insecurity, environmental displacement and migration, poverty, energy insecurity, biodiversity loss and pollution as challenges affecting society, the economy and the environment in his region. It was time for national Governments, the international community, the private sector and civil society to find innovative solutions for growth and development. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment had discussed the theme of the current session of the Environment Assembly at its meeting in September 2018. Poverty eradication remained a priority in the region; innovative solutions that did not support poverty eradication would not be able to power the much-needed transformation

required for Africa's sustainable development or achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Effective means of implementing resolutions were also required; the region was calling for balanced implementation and monitoring of all the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Environment Assembly and was sponsoring a resolution on the matter. Lastly, he stressed the importance of producing a negotiated ministerial outcome document that would influence the global environmental agenda.

### **3. Asia-Pacific States**

22. The representative of Oman made a statement on behalf of the States of the Asia-Pacific region. He reported on the outcomes of preparatory meetings held in the months leading up to the fourth session of the Environment Assembly. Key issues and opportunities identified by the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific in relation to innovative solutions and sustainable consumption and production included: using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a framework for work on sustainable consumption and production; integrating sustainable consumption and production into national development and strategy frameworks; addressing plastic waste through the creation of demand for substitutes for plastics; elaborating national road maps that stressed plastic and plastic waste and better plastic waste tracking systems; and ensuring that the anticipated massive investment in infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region was directed towards sustainable growth. Two draft resolutions on solid waste management had also been developed by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment at its extraordinary session, held in January 2019, for consideration by the Environment Assembly. Member States in the region understood the urgency of taking action on integrated and innovative solutions, policies, financing, technology, business models and behaviour change, and remained committed to delivering outcomes of the current session that would have a positive impact on peoples' lives, choices and behaviour.

### **4. Latin American and Caribbean States**

23. The representative of Argentina gave a statement on behalf of the ministers of the environment of the Latin American and Caribbean States and delegations participating in the twenty-first meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires from 9 to 12 October 2018. She reiterated the commitment of the ministers and other participants in that meeting to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; welcomed the theme of the present session of the Environment Assembly, on sustainable consumption and production; stressed the importance of implementing resolution 3/5, on investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; maintained that innovative solutions should explore strategies for efficient management of resource use; and stressed the need for a gender perspective in environmental issues. In closing, she highlighted the need to ensure adequate financing and technology transfer to the Latin American and Caribbean region in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C, following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the guidelines of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

### **5. Arab States**

24. The representative of Oman made a statement on behalf of the Arab States. The theme chosen for the fourth session of the Environment Assembly was particularly important to the Arab States given the specific challenges in their region. In addition to pollution and climate change, the region faced armed conflict, with social and economic impacts that presented severe threats to infrastructure, peace and security and the environment. Increased regional and international efforts were needed to put an end to such conflicts and prevent their harmful effects. The Arab States were committed to working with all States, as well as regional and international organizations, to achieve the goals of the Environment Assembly.

## **E. Work of the Committee of the Whole**

25. The Committee of the Whole held six meetings to consider the agenda items assigned to it, concluding its work on the evening of Wednesday, 13 March 2019. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the work of the Committee. The report on the work of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

## **III. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)**

26. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the afternoon of Friday, 15 March 2019, the Chair of the Credentials Committee, Mr. Felix Wertli (Switzerland), reported that

the Bureau had received and examined the credentials of Member States submitted in accordance with rules 16 and 17 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly. As of 14 March 2019, 96 Member States had submitted formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Executive Director of UNEP. Since then, formal credentials had been received from one further Member State. A total of 75 Member States had communicated information on the appointment of their representative to the Environment Assembly by means of a cable or telefax from the Head of State or Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs, a letter or note verbale from the mission concerned, or another form of communication. A total of 22 Member States had not communicated any information regarding their representatives to the Executive Director. Since the Bureau's adoption of its report on credentials, four Member States had submitted credentials informally. The Bureau recommended that the Assembly accept the credentials of the Member States.

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

#### **IV. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (agenda item 4)**

28. Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Permanent Representative of Ghana and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, presented the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, held from 4 to 8 March 2019, immediately preceding the Environment Assembly session. The Open-ended Committee had endorsed the draft ministerial declaration for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, without prejudice to the rights of Member States to propose adjustments and improvements at the high-level segment of the Assembly. The Open-ended Committee had, under items 5 to 7 of its agenda, considered and taken note of all the official reports of the Executive Director to the Environment Assembly, as well as several information documents. It had also considered a record number of draft resolutions and decisions submitted by Member States.

29. The representative of the European Union and its member States requested, with regard to document entitled "Possible options for the future of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: An analysis" (UNEP/EA.4/INF.14), that reference be made in the Chair's report on the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the present proceedings to the road map and timeline for the final decision on the Global Programme of Action, indicating that consultations at the Open-ended Committee meeting, the Environment Assembly session and the next meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives could lead to the convening of an extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action in order to take a decision on the future of the programme.

30. The President informed the Assembly that the following decision and resolutions had been recommended by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives for adoption by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session: a decision on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, and resolutions on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities; sustainable coral reefs management; sustainable peatland management for tackling climate change; sustainable nitrogen management; fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V); and the implementation of and follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions.

31. The Assembly agreed to defer the adoption of the above-mentioned decision and resolutions to the closing plenary on 15 March 2019.

32. The Assembly also agreed to allocate to the Committee of the Whole the task of finalizing and endorsing the remaining draft decisions and resolutions.

#### **V. International environmental policy and governance issues (agenda item 5)**

33. Agenda item 5, and the draft resolutions and decision related to it, was considered by the Committee of the Whole. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the work of the Committee. The report on the work of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

## **VI. Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues (agenda item 6)**

34. Agenda item 6, and the draft resolutions and decision related to it, were considered by the Committee of the Whole. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the work of the Committee. The report on the work of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

35. The Assembly took note of the report of the Committee of the Whole.

## **VII. Stakeholder engagement (agenda item 7)**

36. Ms. Khawla Al-Muhannadi, representative of the major groups and stakeholders, provided an overview of the outcomes of the eighteenth Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, held in Nairobi on 7 and 8 March 2019. Of major concern was the new wave of resolutions before the present session of the Environment Assembly, when the majority of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly at its third session remained unimplemented and unmonitored. Additional funding was needed to ensure that the implementation of the agreed actions was continuous and monitored. Overarching, strategic planning was also required to identify and act on the root causes of environmental degradation in a holistic manner. Fundamental policies and accountability mechanisms were needed to counteract the lack of ambition and resolve to combat the overconsumption that was driving the depletion of natural resources. She called on Member States to act in accordance with the non-regression principle contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The future we want”.

37. In response, the President expressed appreciation for the contribution of the major groups and stakeholders to the work of the Environment Assembly, and their role as fundamental partners in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

## **VIII. Contributions to meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (agenda item 8)**

38. At its 7th plenary meeting, the Chair recalled that, at its fourth meeting, the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives had requested the Executive Director to revise the document entitled “Contributions of the UN Environment Assembly to the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development: responses to the questions raised by the President of the Economic and Social Council” (UNEP/EA.4/INF/15), on the basis of written input submitted by Member States.

39. The Environment Assembly agreed that the secretariat would finalize the draft document and submit it to the Economic and Social Council by the stipulated deadline, and that the Committee of Permanent Representatives would subsequently consider it at its next meeting on behalf of the Assembly, in accordance with Environment Assembly resolution 3/3.

## **IX. High-level segment (agenda item 9)**

40. The high-level segment opened at 12.20 p.m. on 14 March 2019 with a performance by the United Nations choir. Following the performance, opening statements were delivered by key high-level speakers.

### **A. Opening remarks**

41. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Siim V. Kiisler, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly; Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya; Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France; Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka; Mr. Andry Rajoelina, President of Madagascar; Mr. Edouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda; Ms. Amina J. Mohamed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, Interim President of the World Bank; and Ms. Joyce Msuya, acting Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

42. In his remarks, Mr. Kiisler said that a shift in consumption and production patterns was needed in all countries in order to put the planet on a sustainable path and achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While progress in building more resilient and sustainable economies was being reported around the world, many challenges were threatening to derail that progress. The previous four years had been the warmest on record, and humanity was degrading the land and polluting and destroying natural resources at an unmanageable and unsustainable rate.

Major scientific assessments such as the sixth Global Environment Outlook report showed that humanity was at a crossroads, with a major species extinction event under way, compromising the integrity of the earth and its capacity to meet human needs. Action was needed to reverse such trends and to protect human and environmental health. The decision by the Environment Assembly to take on the most pressing environmental challenges demonstrated the political will and strong commitment of Member States to seeking a sustainable path for future generations and innovative sustainable consumption and production policies to improve resource efficiency and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

43. In his statement, Mr. Kenyatta suggested that, in the face of record levels of environmental degradation, food insecurity, poverty and unemployment, countries must embrace a culture of innovation and invest in education and capacity-building to facilitate the transition to a “knowledge society”. The 2030 Agenda called for urgent action towards poverty eradication for sustainable development and required strong linkages to be built between environmental and socioeconomic goals. It was necessary to delink socioeconomic development from environmental degradation and escalating resource use, and to tackle climate change, which posed a major threat to sustainable development worldwide and disproportionately affected the poor and the vulnerable. The current session had given prominence to two major global challenges. The first was finding ways to reverse unsustainable agricultural practices and transform the way food was produced and consumed in order to minimize waste and promote resource and energy efficiency, which were prerequisites for food security and access to nutritious and affordable food. The second was improving waste management, for instance by adopting innovative approaches to convert industrial waste into energy in a circular economy. The session had also showcased the contributions of indigenous groups to the sustainable use of natural resources, and the role of traditional and spiritual leaders in environmental conservation. Stressing that Kenya remained committed to re-energizing and strengthening the headquarters functions of UNEP in Nairobi, he expressed support for calls for stable, adequate and increased financial resources for UNEP.

44. In his remarks, Mr. Macron emphasized the enormous responsibility of the current generation to take concrete action to address the world’s environmental challenges, including the interrelated challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Regarding climate change, it was critical that countries adopt specific national strategies to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and mobilize financial resources to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Such resource mobilization for climate action would require a deep transformation of the global market economy and the prevailing economic model to enable the integration of environmental criteria. Action was also needed to protect nature and biodiversity, which also presented a huge opportunity to achieve sustainable development and combat climate change, including through nature-based carbon sequestration. The biodiversity agenda, like the climate change agenda, required a radical change in productive systems and the creation of a truly circular economy that avoided waste and mobilized action to tackle major pollutants. The actions required of governments and businesses would undoubtedly cause disruption, including the elimination of certain categories of jobs and the creation of others, but they were necessary to create a healthy planet for all.

45. In his remarks, Mr. Sirisena said that it was the responsibility of Governments to ensure that the right to a safe environment was enjoyed not just by humankind, but by all life on earth. In that regard, climate change provided myriad opportunities for innovation, and he welcomed the timely theme of “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production” selected for the current session. Sri Lanka had adopted a range of innovative measures to address the environmental harm caused by humans, including the construction of “green cities”, a sustainable consumption and production policy – the first of its kind in South Asia – and the banning of polyethylene products.

46. In his address, Mr. Rajoelina said that despite being one of the world’s least polluting countries, Madagascar suffered the effects of climate change keenly and had often been overlooked in environmental projects. However, the country had recently transitioned to democracy and was ready to address the issue, harnessing its rich biodiversity to drive growth. The measures planned by his Government included the construction of infrastructure to produce green energy; the distribution of solar energy kits in isolated communities; and the promotion of ethanol-based heat sources for cooking, in Madagascar and across Africa, to reduce dependence on wood and charcoal, thereby combating deforestation.

47. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ngirente said that humanity found itself at a critical juncture in its relationship with nature. The environment was subject to hitherto unparalleled pressure, and economies around the world were struggling to compensate for the effects of global warming. It was therefore essential to define a new model for economic activity that was clean and climate-friendly,

and that would complement other global strategies already in place, such as the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. To date, 69 States had ratified the Kigali Amendment, which aimed to reduce the production and use of hydrofluorocarbons by 80 per cent over a 30-year period and thereby avoid a 0.5°C rise in mean global temperature by the end of the twenty-first century. He encouraged States that had yet to ratify the Amendment to do so and Member States in Africa to work with UNEP and with each other through the African Circular Economy Network.

48. In her statement, Ms. Mohamed spoke of the need to move from words to action. With the planet at an unprecedented turning point, the current session provided an opportunity to change from a trajectory of impact and loss to one of solutions and action. With respect to consumption and production, she said that the world was living with the shortcomings of a linear economic model based on “take, make and dispose”. The solution was to change the perception that economic progress required the depletion of natural resources, to focus on creating lasting products with few components and support the regrowth of all renewable resources to ensure that they would be available for future generations; in short, to create a circular economy. Biodiversity loss was linked to unsustainable consumption and production habits: the Global Resources Outlook 2019 report showed that the extraction and processing of resources was responsible for 90 per cent of biodiversity loss and water stress globally, yet solutions were available to safeguard ecosystems and biodiversity. Over everything loomed climate change, also linked to unsustainable consumption and production habits: 53 per cent of emissions were caused by resource extraction and processing. With only 12 years left to change course and avoid irreversible consequences, it was time to take an ambitious leap. In September 2019, the Secretary-General would convene a climate action summit, to which leaders were urged to bring their plans to reduce emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade and reach zero net emissions by 2050. In closing, she stressed the importance of partnerships in strengthening efforts, urging national Governments to illuminate and scale the groundswell of action on climate and the environment and to bring city leaders – at the level of government closest to citizens – into policymaking decisions, so that cities could act as innovation laboratories for national solutions.

49. Ms. Georgieva said that in 2018, World Bank shareholders had increased the bank’s capital by 50 per cent, the largest increase ever, also granting record levels of funding for the bank’s Fund for the Poor. Explaining what that would mean for the bank’s work, she said that it assessed the economic impact of actions, including the consequences of degrading ecosystems. The cost of environmental degradation globally was 5–10 per cent of gross domestic product. The bank examined, on a country-by-country basis, the causes of degradation and possible solutions, and directed its investments accordingly. It also looked carefully at what constituted good policies, and it promoted a shift from harmful subsidies, which damaged the environment, to a use of subsidies that supported sustainability. The bank had also been on the front line of promoting a shift in national accounting, away from counting pollution as a plus and toward valuing things like land restoration and reforestation. It planned to invest substantially in ecosystem services and their economic value, and representatives were encouraged to increase their knowledge of their countries’ natural capital and its role in their economies before the next session of the Environment Assembly.

50. In her remarks, Ms. Msuya offered five ideas for change: first, discontinuing reliance on fossil fuels to power economic growth by embracing circularity; second, resetting the relationship between humans and nature by safeguarding wild places and valuing the environment in financial accounting and infrastructure decisions; third, rethinking how cities functioned and engaging in urban planning; fourth, ensuring that all people had access to clean refrigeration for safe storage of medicines and food; and fifth, drastically accelerating the race for renewable energy. In closing, she invited all representatives to work together and to use the shrinking window of opportunity available to reflect on what ambitious climate action looked like and what they could bring to the table for the sake of people, the planet and the future.

## **B. Statements by representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations**

51. Ministers and other high-level representatives of countries, and representatives of United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and major groups and stakeholders, delivered statements addressing the theme of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly: “Innovative solutions to environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”.

52. A number of representatives expressed appreciation to all those who had worked hard to prepare for and organize the present meeting, and to the Government and people of Kenya for hosting the meeting. Ms. Inger Andersen was welcomed as the incoming Executive Director of UNEP, and

Ms. Joyce Msuya was thanked for her work as acting Executive Director during recent months. Many representatives expressed their condolences in relation to the aeroplane crash in Ethiopia on the Sunday preceding the fourth session of the Environment Assembly, which had resulted in the deaths of many United Nations staff members and people travelling to Nairobi to attend the session.

53. There was broad recognition of the many environmental problems still afflicting the planet, and the daunting challenges faced in addressing the threats to environmental and human health. The negative impacts of climate change and global warming – including sea-level rise, greater incidence of hurricanes, dust storms and forest fires, desertification and glacier melting – were being experienced by many countries. Natural disasters were increasing in frequency and intensity. Coral reefs and other marine ecosystems were suffering the effects of ocean warming and acidification. Many species of plants and animals were at risk of extinction. The inadequate management of natural resources, including through overexploitation and unsustainable use, had resulted in soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, environmental pollution, deforestation and food insecurity. Evidence from the latest global assessments indicated the growing pace of global warming, pollution of all kinds (air, water, soil, marine), and biodiversity loss. Rapid urbanization and industrialization, rising income levels and irresponsible application of modern technologies were all components of the rise in consumerism that was driving unprecedented levels of resource depletion and waste generation. Several representatives highlighted the particular challenges facing certain vulnerable countries, including small island developing States, which were threatened by inundation. In addition, conflict and unrest, and the resulting tide of international refugees and migrants, presented considerable difficulties for sound environmental governance and for the realization of human rights, including the right to a healthy environment.

54. Given that reality, the role of UNEP, and of the United Nations Environment Assembly, was of critical importance to the future of the planet. Some representatives said that the issues being discussed at the present session – including the poverty–environment nexus, pollution in all its forms, protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, and integration of gender issues – were of pressing significance. There was concern, however, at the proliferation of resolutions and decisions put forward at successive sessions of the Environment Assembly, while the actual implementation of the resolutions adopted was less than impressive. Binding policy frameworks that held governments and polluting companies accountable for their actions were still lacking. Coordinated follow-up was required, supported by a monitoring mechanism to track and assess the status of implementation of resolutions. UNEP, through the Environment Assembly, remained the primary global catalyst for galvanizing action on environmental stewardship. In doing so, it should ensure that it worked with and through other international organizations and forums, avoiding duplication of effort.

55. The theme of the current session was particularly relevant, given the severe environmental challenge posed by unsustainable consumption and production, and the urgent need for innovative solutions. Fundamental changes in production and consumption patterns were needed in order to achieve sustainable development. One representative said that mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production should be at the forefront of development planning and policy formulation. Another said that there was a need for a paradigm shift, not only in priorities, but also in the mindsets and consequential behaviour of all citizens. The innovative solutions required must have a positive impact on the economy, on society and on the environment. “Business as usual” was no longer an option. One representative said that economic growth should not be considered an enemy of ecology and the environment; there were ways to achieve prosperity in a sustainable manner. Several representatives alluded to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The future we want”, as the model and guideline for action on sustainable consumption and production. Several representatives said that the ministerial declaration being discussed by the Environment Assembly would send a strong message regarding Governments’ commitment to accepting their responsibilities and to undertaking the necessary measures to achieve sustainable consumption and production, and urged its adoption at the current session.

56. Various models for sustainable consumption and production were gaining prominence. A circular or green economy based on a life-cycle approach, efficient use of energy, water and other resources, cleaner production methods and waste recycling could reduce the negative impacts of wasteful resource use without compromising the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Components of such an approach would include the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources, increased water productivity and conservation, and soil management programmes to improve land use efficiency. Several representatives said that the transition to a low-carbon, climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy required a holistic approach embracing governments, communities, industry, science, technology and other sectors. Governments could assist by putting in place a strong policy and legal framework to support sustainable options; target-setting to encourage implementation; instigation of innovative financing mechanisms to promote green and blue

investments; financing research and development projects; encouraging cooperation between research and business; removing subsidies that supported environmentally harmful activities, such as the use of fossil fuels and overfishing; and undertaking reforestation programmes.

57. Several representatives said that a change in consumer mentality was required to combat the definition of status in terms of material wealth and overconsumption, and to move from the concept of “ownership” to the concept of “utilization”. Curriculum change could help encourage more responsible consumerism from an early age. Industry too should realign its approach to embrace principles of equity and extended producer responsibility.

58. Example of innovative solutions included a national Sustainable Development Goal innovation laboratory; “green deals” to stimulate engagement of private partners in the circular economy; incentives for green businesses that recycle waste and reduce the production of wasteful products, such as single-use plastic bags; pilot projects to demonstrate the feasibility of decarbonization of industry and climate-neutral production; the creation of an observatory of sustainable finance to encourage the involvement of the financial sector in sustainable production; innovative systems to increase water reuse, and use of reverse osmosis for water desalinization; improved connectivity between information systems to allow environmental authorities to track waste streams and provide citizens with waste disposal options; and a green credit card programme that incentivized the purchase of eco-friendly options. Global mechanisms to support innovation included the Green Climate Fund under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which promoted energy-efficient technologies at the national level; and relevant meetings and conferences, such as those of the World Circular Economy Forum.

59. Some areas were highlighted as particularly relevant to sustainable consumption and production. The first was food production and consumption. Food wastage by a relatively small proportion of the world’s population was a manifestation of inequity, when many vulnerable groups were unable to meet their basic nutritional needs. The representative of a major group said that modern farming methods often led to environmental degradation and reduced biodiversity, and the domination of the global food market by transnational corporations contributed to violations of human rights. In addition, the industrial model of agricultural production and perverse subsidies was adversely affecting the livelihoods of small-scale food producers. An agroecological approach could help in achieving a better balance of environmental, economic and societal demands, in line with the three pillars of sustainable development.

60. A second area of focus was waste management. A number of representatives said that their countries had waste management policies and regulations in place pertaining to the reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal of waste, and the prevention of its production. The intersectoral and wide-ranging nature of the problem required a holistic approach engaging all stakeholders. Some waste streams demanding particular attention included packaging, tyres, electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and light bulbs. Of major concern was the global trade in e-wastes, chemicals and other potentially harmful products, necessitating the strengthening of global governance frameworks. A circular approach that placed a value on waste and incentivized waste reduction, minimization of waste at source, and recycling should be promoted at the national policy level. Consumer sensitization should also be encouraged, for example through labelling of products in order to inform purchasing decisions.

61. Thirdly, plastic and microplastic wastes had in recent years become a major area of global concern. Marine plastic pollution was abundant and was threatening the biodiversity of the world’s oceans. The impact was keenly felt by coastal communities, particularly small island developing States, whose economies were dependent on tourism and fishing. Other threats to the marine environment included ocean acidification and coral bleaching, runoff containing agricultural nutrients and industrial wastes, and invasive fishing practices. The UNEP Clean Seas campaign was addressing the issue of marine pollution, as were various regional forums and measures, including the Pacific Islands Forum, the Framework of Action on Marine Debris of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Marine Litter Action Plan for the Black Sea. Some representatives expressed the need for a new international convention or framework on marine litter and microplastics. At the national level, many countries had introduced, or were introducing, legislative controls on single-use plastic bags and other plastic utensils, and promoting the production and use of environmentally friendly alternatives.

62. Several representatives painted a broader picture, framing sustainable production and consumption within the overarching agenda of the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Environmental policies needed to be mainstreamed into the development agenda. One representative referred to the promotion of harmonious coexistence between productive activities

and the conservation of natural capital, with biodiversity valued as a strategic asset of a nation. Another said that healthy ecosystems were a prerequisite for economic growth, food security and disaster resilience; nature and biodiversity therefore needed to be valued by all sectors as key to prosperity. Another representative noted that, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in 2020 the international community would decide on new biodiversity targets for 2030, presenting an opportunity for synergistic action to preserve, protect and restore natural habitats.

63. Partnership was an essential component of such an approach, from global partnerships between States and international actors, including through multilateral environmental agreements, to local partnerships at the community level. Such partnerships must be inclusive and multisectoral, with significant contributions from government, United Nations entities, academia, civil-society actors, development partners and the private sector. One representative said that the complex, multi-causal and cross-boundary nature of environmental problems required innovative solutions that were beyond the means of individual countries; in that regard, close collaboration was needed between the United Nations Environment Assembly and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Another representative said that knowledge-sharing, partnerships and dialogue through global platforms would help to accelerate the generation of new ideas, adoption of innovative environmental solutions and implementation of collaborative projects.

64. A number of representatives attached importance to models of cooperation that recognized the different capabilities and needs of countries. Several representatives said that developed countries should support and assist developing countries in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Funding needed to be allocated fairly and equitably, for example to support sustainable forest conservation, not only reforestation in reaction to depletion of woodland resources. One representative spoke of the need for adequate international climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to support the transition to climate-resilient, low-emission development and attainment of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. One representative of a major group emphasized the value of scientific exchange and rapid technology transfer from the North to the South, and of South–South mobility of scientists to promote the exchange of experience.

65. A number of representatives stressed the social and equity implications of sustainable development. A major commitment of the 2030 Agenda was to leave no one behind, and the human right to a healthy environment had been enshrined in international agreements for many decades. Sustainable development therefore required a human-rights-based approach founded in inclusiveness, empowerment, gender equity, fair treatment of minorities and equity for all vulnerable and marginalized groups. One representative of a major group said that greater efforts should be made to improve the participation of the major groups and stakeholders in the work and deliberations of the Environment Assembly. Another representative of a major group highlighted the challenges faced by indigenous peoples, including loss of their territories and resources, and the undermining of traditional and indigenous knowledge. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said that the inequitable distribution of wealth posed a considerable threat to human rights, including the right to food.

66. Many representatives described actions being taken at the national level to promote environmentally sensitive development, including sustainable consumption and production. A wide range of innovative measures were being undertaken, from overarching government legislation and policy development to local, community-led initiatives. Examples included legislation on extended producer responsibility; integrating environmental considerations into all decision-making; the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency; the prioritization of clean production technologies; media campaigns to promote plastics-free, low-waste consumer behaviour; fiscal measures to incentivize environmentally friendly production; certification of green businesses; green public procurement; promoting research into alternative technologies; public-private partnership for environmental protection; digitalization of data collection and record-keeping; and green finance initiatives. Long-term planning and target setting synchronized with the 2030 Agenda, and cross-cutting, intersectoral action aligned with the circular economy, were features of the approach adopted in many countries.

67. Lastly, at the international level, a growing number of organizations, initiatives, programmes, agreements and other measures were focusing on environmental protection and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, the United Nations Forum on Forests sought to combat illicit trade in wildlife and forest products and to foster responsible consumption and production of forest resources in line with Sustainable Development Goal 12. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat had introduced the Wetland City Accreditation to recognize pioneer cities that had taken steps to safeguard their urban wetlands as part of their sustainable urbanization programmes. The Inter-Parliamentary Union was cooperating with

UNEP to build the capacity and knowledge of parliamentarians on climate change and promote national implementation of the Paris Agreement.

68. In conclusion, many representatives reiterated the commitment of their countries to the work and vision of UNEP as the United Nations body mandated to deal with environmental issues, and to the collective action undertaken through the United Nations Environment Assembly, including to promote sustainable consumption and production. Many representatives stressed the importance of full implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly in assisting to secure a sustainable, equitable and environmentally responsible future for the planet.

### C. Wrap-up plenary session

69. The wrap-up plenary session, which took place at the 7th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 15 March 2019, began with presentations of the key messages from the leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues by one of the moderators of the leadership dialogues, Mr. Felix Dodds, adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina, and the moderator of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, Ms. Leyla Acaroglu, founder of Disrupt Design. Summaries of those key messages are available on the website of the fourth session of the Environment Assembly (<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly>).

70. Five people from various backgrounds then each delivered a special message to the Environment Assembly: Ms. Joyeeta Gupta, lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report on global warming of 1.5°C, who called upon state leaders to “dare to lead, care, share, regulate and change” based on the evidence from the sixth Global Environmental Outlook; Mr. Shady Rabab, the 2018 Young Champion of the Earth for Africa, who spoke about his work helping children make and play music together on instruments made from trash; Ms. Wanjiru Waithaka, a Nairobi-based architect, manufacturer and educator, who called for a circular economy that incorporated traditional, less wasteful practices; Ms. Solitaire Townsend, founder of Futerra, who talked about optimism and the power of positive storytelling; and United Nations youth delegate Ms. Rebecca Freitag, who conveyed the messages of the school strikes for climate being held around the globe that same day, 15 March 2019.

71. Mr. Jian Liu, Chief Scientist and Director of the Science Division, UNEP, and Mr. Harry Verhaar, Head of Global Public and Government Affairs of Signify (formerly Phillips Lighting), reported on the outcomes of the second global session of the United Nations Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment. At its second session, the Forum had transformed itself from an incubator to a platform that supported the UNEP programme of work. Two new initiatives had been launched: the science–policy–business working group on big data and frontier technologies, which was intended to deliver high-quality, timely, disaggregated data for evidence-based decision-making and Sustainable Development Goal accountability; and the green technology start-up initiative, which was designed to create an environment conducive to green innovation and the scaling-up of solutions for the environment through partnership, policy support and innovative finance. UNEP had also committed to supporting the work of the Citizen Science Global Partnership by building and hosting the first independent citizen science online platform on the environment. In addition, forum participants were calling for government commitment to three sustainable energy initiatives. Lastly, the forum had launched a sustainable food system work stream to help drive the agricultural transition, which would see the forum participants work together with the relevant United Nations entities, business associations, scientific communities and organizations focused on food.

72. Mr. Marcin Krupa, Mayor of Katowice, Poland, presented the outcomes of the Cities Summit, held in the margins of the fourth session of the Environment Assembly, on 15 March 2019. The representatives of local and national governments and the private sector at the summit had recognized the important role of local action, both because cities were responsible for 70 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions and resource use and because 70 per cent of the infrastructure that would exist in 2050 was yet to be built. Participants had spoken about the many efforts under way, indicating that progress was being made, but not yet fast enough or at the scale needed. Private-sector participants had made it clear that they had the required technologies and stood ready to cooperate in public-private partnerships. The discussions had underscored the need for integration. The International Resource Panel report entitled *The Weight of Cities: Resource Requirements of Future Urbanization* showed that reductions of up to 55 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions and resource use could be achieved by optimizing technical systems and synergies. Integration was also needed within Governments, however, with each actor making the best use of its jurisdiction, in close coordination with both the policy and planning levels, where integration of infrastructure and land-use planning and full use of nature-based solutions were needed, and the finance level, where public and private streams of finance needed to be combined. The factors identified as critical for success were: a strong vision and

ambitious targets based on data and estimates; community and private-sector engagement in planning and policymaking and the involvement of local governments early in national policy and strategy processes; support for the capacity of local governments to structure bankable projects; and new financial instruments such as green bonds and grants to bridge gaps in credit or financing. The concrete ideas that had emerged during the summit would be further explored prior to the Secretary-General's climate summit in September 2019.

73. During the session, representatives also heard a video message from the President of the General Assembly, Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa, and viewed a video presentation of the session's highlights.

74. A candle-lighting ceremony was held in memory of the victims of the aeroplane crash in Ethiopia.

#### **D. Adoption of the ministerial declaration**

75. Following the wrap-up session, the President drew attention to the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as endorsed by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and amended during the current session.

76. The Assembly adopted the ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, entitled "Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production". The text of the declaration is published as document UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1 and is also referenced as part of the outcomes of the fourth session of the Assembly in section XI of the present proceedings.

77. Following the adoption of the declaration, the President stressed that, by adopting it, Member States had made a commitment to going back to their respective countries and acting on the priorities set out therein, taking into account their national circumstances, and to deliver tangible results for their people that could be communicated, measured and reviewed in their respective countries in the years to come.

78. The representative of the United States said that while his Government recognized the need for urgent action to reduce the release of plastics into the environment and was pleased to see the problem of plastic pollution, particularly in the marine environment, being taken so seriously, it disassociated itself from the language used in the declaration. Similarly, the United States disassociated itself from the reference in the ministerial declaration to "low-carbon economies", because it believed that the declaration should cover all types of emissions, including major air pollutants such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides.

#### **X. Provisional agenda and date of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly (agenda item 10)**

79. Agenda item 10 and the draft decision related to it were considered by the Committee of the Whole. The report on the work of the Committee of the Whole is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

80. At its 7th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted decision 4/2 on the provisional agenda, date and venue of its fifth session, as amended.

#### **XI. Adoption of the outcomes of the session (agenda item 11)**

81. At its 7th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted the ministerial declaration entitled "Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production" (UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1).

82. Also at its 7th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted by consensus the following resolutions and decisions. The individual resolutions are available in documents UNEP/EA.4/Res.1–UNEP/EA.4/Res.23. They are also available on the website of the Environment Assembly (<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly>) together with decisions 4/1, 4/2 and 4/3.

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>
4/1	Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production
4/2	Promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste
4/3	Sustainable mobility

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>
4/4	Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices
4/5	Sustainable infrastructure
4/6	Marine plastic litter and microplastics
4/7	Environmentally sound management of waste
4/8	Sound management of chemicals and waste
4/9	Addressing single-use plastic products pollution
4/10	Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation
4/11	Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities
4/12	Sustainable management for global health of mangroves
4/13	Sustainable coral reefs management
4/14	Sustainable nitrogen management
4/15	Innovations in rangelands and pastoralism
4/16	Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands
4/17	Promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance
4/18	Poverty-environment nexus
4/19	Mineral resource governance
4/20	Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V): delivering for people and the planet
4/21	Implementation plan “Towards a pollution-free planet”
4/22	Implementation and follow-up of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions
4/23	Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook
4/1	Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021
4/2	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
4/3	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

83. Midway through the adoption of the above-mentioned resolutions and decisions, the representative of the United States, requesting that his statement be reflected in the present proceedings, clarified his position regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2020 and the New Urban Agenda, which were mentioned in several of the outcome documents of the Environment Assembly at its fourth session. While his Government supported the spirit of the 2030 Agenda as a framework for development, it was of the view that the 2030 Agenda did not entail a commitment to provide new market access for goods or services and did not seek to interpret or alter any decisions or agreements of the World Trade Organization, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. As for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, he expressed the view that its reaffirmation in Environment Assembly documents had no standing in ongoing Trade-Related negotiations, and that the United Nations should respect the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including trade negotiations, and not involve itself in the decisions or actions of other forums such as the World Trade Organization. Lastly, while the United States championed the empowerment and meaningful engagement of women and girls in environmental matters and appreciated the work done at the current session on the resolution on promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance, it disassociated itself from that resolution because it included outdated language and references to international instruments and organizations with which the United States had fundamental disagreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the For All Coalition, and resolution 37/8 of 22 March 2018 on human rights and the environment, adopted by the Human Rights Council, on which the United States had previously issued an explanation of position.

84. Following the adoption of the remainder of the above-mentioned resolutions and decisions, many representatives expressed satisfaction regarding the outcome documents of the fourth session,

drawing attention to the significance of specific resolutions and expressing their commitment to implementing them.

85. Many representatives expressed regret that, due to the opposition of some Member States, no agreement had been reached at the current session on the draft resolution on geoengineering and its governance, which would have requested UNEP to collect information and prepare a factual report on the risks, potential and governance challenges of geoengineering technologies, in line with its mandate of keeping Member States apprised of emerging environmental issues. Several reports suggested that certain geotechnologies could pose a risk of severe environmental impacts, so more information was needed to enable Member States to have an informed discussion on the issue. Some representatives conveyed their expectation that, despite the lack of agreement on the draft resolution, the issue of geoengineering and its governance would remain on the agenda of the Environment Assembly, noting that they looked forward to discussing it at future sessions of the Assembly and in other relevant venues. One representative suggested that the draft resolution on geoengineering and its governance should be resubmitted for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session.

86. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also lamented the fact that, due to the opposition of a number of Member States, no agreement had been reached on the draft resolution on deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains (UNEP/EA.4/L.15), which would have addressed the critical issue of deforestation as part of sustainable forest management and sustainable consumption and production, and pledged to continue working on the issue to ensure that the important challenge of deforestation and commodity supply chains was fully addressed.

87. The representatives of Kenya, South Africa and Uganda, asking that their statements be reflected in the present proceedings, said that in a spirit of compromise they had agreed to the adoption of the decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, but that in their view the decision unjustifiably combined the procedural issues of the agenda, date and venue of the fifth session with governance-related issues that went beyond the subject matter indicated in the decision's title, and that should be kept separate through the introduction of a subtitle in the resolution, as had been agreed during the negotiations.

88. At the closing plenary of the session, a representative of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact made a statement on behalf of the major groups and stakeholders except business and industry. He noted with regret the abandonment of proposed resolutions on deforestation, agricultural supply chains and the strengthening of geoengineering governance and the dilution of other resolutions, which would mean, *inter alia*, a lack concerted action on and resources for implementation. Major groups intended to enhance their engagement in work programmes with the inclusion of indigenous traditional knowledge and practices and to continue to work on a global governance framework for addressing plastic pollution.

## **XII. Election of officers (agenda item 12)**

89. At its 7th plenary meeting, in accordance with rule 18 of its rules of procedure, the Environment Assembly elected by acclamation the following officers to serve at its fifth session:

President:	Mr. Ola Elvestuen (Norway)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez Echandi (Costa Rica)
	Mr. Winston Lackin (Suriname)
	Mr. Goran Trivan (Serbia)
	Ms. Brune Poirson (France)
	Mr. Mohammed Bin Daina (Bahrain)
	Ms. Laksmi Dhewanthi (Indonesia)
	Mr. Ado Lõhmus (Estonia)
	Mr. Batio Bassière (Burkina Faso)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Nomvula Mokonyane (South Africa)

90. Mr. Elvestuen expressed his condolences to the victims of the aeroplane crash that had taken place shortly before the start of the Assembly and of a terrorist attack that had occurred earlier in the day in Christchurch, New Zealand. He paid tribute to the President and the Bureau of the fourth session of the Environment Assembly, noting that collective action, both within the United Nations

system and through a wide variety of partnerships, would be crucial in reversing the current negative environmental trends. Only by working together would Member States be able to take the decisions expected of them by their citizens at the fifth session of the Environment Assembly.

### **XIII. Other matters (agenda item 13)**

#### **Commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

91. At its 1st plenary meeting, the President, noting that 2019 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, drew attention to the achievements of the Convention, which had been instrumental in promoting the sound management of wastes by focusing on the prevention, minimization and recovery of hazardous wastes and other wastes. The Basel Convention had demonstrated its ability to adjust to new global developments and needs with regard to waste management, as demonstrated by its consideration of amendments that would allow it to address plastic waste in an effective manner.

92. Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, gave a presentation on the achievements of the Basel Convention. He said that the large global increase in the quantities of hazardous waste, including marine litter and microplastics, demonstrated the continued relevance of the Convention, and he called on all stakeholders to maintain their efforts to ensure its successful implementation.

### **XIV. Adoption of the report (agenda item 14)**

93. At its 7th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted the present proceedings on the basis of the draft proceedings (UNEP/EA.4/L.31 and UNEP/EA.4/L.31/Add.1), on the understanding that they would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

### **XV. Closure of the session (agenda item 15)**

94. Following a presentation and water ceremony by a group of children, a video message from the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa, and brief closing remarks by the President, the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly was declared closed at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 15 March 2019.

## Annex I

### Outcomes adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session<sup>1</sup>

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>
4/1	Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1)
4/2	Promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste (UNEP/EA.4/Res.2)
4/3	Sustainable mobility (UNEP/EA.4/Res.3)
4/4	Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices (UNEP/EA.4/Res.4)
4/5	Sustainable infrastructure (UNEP/EA.4/Res.5)
4/6	Marine plastic litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.4/Res.6)
4/7	Environmentally sound management of waste (UNEP/EA.4/Res.7)
4/8	Sound management of chemicals and waste (UNEP/EA.4/Res.8)
4/9	Addressing single-use plastic products pollution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.9)
4/10	Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation (UNEP/EA.4/Res.10)
4/11	Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (UNEP/EA.4/Res.11)
4/12	Sustainable management for global health of mangroves (UNEP/EA.4/Res.12)
4/13	Sustainable coral reefs management (UNEP/EA.4/Res.13)
4/14	Sustainable nitrogen management (UNEP/EA.4/Res.14)
4/15	Innovations in rangelands and pastoralism (UNEP/EA.4/Res.15)
4/16	Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands (UNEP/EA.4/Res.16)
4/17	Promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance (UNEP/EA.4/Res.17)
4/18	Poverty-environment nexus (UNEP/EA.4/Res.18)
4/19	Mineral resource governance (UNEP/EA.4/Res.19)
4/20	Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V): delivering for people and the planet (UNEP/EA.4/Res.20)
4/21	Implementation plan “Towards a pollution-free planet” (UNEP/EA.4/Res.21)
4/22	Implementation and follow-up of UNEA resolutions (UNEP/EA.4/Res.22)
4/23	Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook (UNEP/EA.4/Res.23)

#### *Declaration*

Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session: “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production” (UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1)

<sup>1</sup> The resolutions and ministerial declaration adopted by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session are issued as stand-alone documents under the symbols listed above. The decisions adopted by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session are set out in annex II to the present proceedings.

## Annex II

### Decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session

#### Decision 4/1. Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Having considered* the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021,

1. *Approves* the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021;

2. *Also approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 200 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 2020–2021**

(thousands of United States dollars)

A. Policymaking organs	<b>4 000</b>
B. Executive direction and management	<b>7 200</b>
C. Programme of work	
1. Climate change	22 200
2. Resilience to disasters and conflicts	15 600
3. Healthy and productive ecosystems	28 000
4. Environmental governance	26 200
5. Chemicals, waste and air quality	23 400
6. Resource efficiency	28 400
7. Environment under review	23 000
D. Fund programme reserve	<b>10 000</b>
E. Programme support	<b>12 000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 000</b>

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 programme of work and budget, including initiatives of a significant, substantive and strategic nature that could require substantive resources affecting existing priority programmes or the outreach of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the need for timely scheduling of meetings and the provision of information to allow the full participation of all Member States throughout the consultation process, and in that 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 programme of work and budget to Member States and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at least four weeks in advance of its annual subcommittee meeting and other meetings 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 continue to hold timely consultations on the preparation of all future programmes of work and budgets prior to their transmittal to other appropriate bodies, and continue to work expeditiously towards increasing transparency and accountability on costs and budgets to enable the Committee to provide guidance on implementation;

6. *Stresses* the need for the programme of work and budget to be based on results-based management;
7. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate resources between subprogramme budget lines up to a maximum of ten per cent of the subprogramme appropriations and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and in duly justified exceptional circumstances to reallocate in excess of 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;
8. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of Environment Fund allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations, while taking into account expected incomes from other sources;
9. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities, to implement the programme of work for the biennium 2020–2021;
10. *Decides* that overall staffing of the executive office may not exceed 30 posts in the biennium 2020–2021, unless otherwise authorized by the Committee of Permanent Representatives;
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 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;
13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to improve the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of oversight, review and independent evaluation;
14. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States through the meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its biennial sessions, on evaluation findings and the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations;
15. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States through the quarterly reports of the Executive Director to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in a streamlined manner through the merging of progress reporting on administrative and budgetary matters with programme performance reporting;
16. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in that regard, to include in the reporting to the Committee of Permanent Representatives information on how the United Nations Environment Programme has implemented the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
17. *Requests* the Executive Director to undertake an assessment of internal policies, guidelines and regulations that need to be adjusted in order to implement the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 71/243 and 72/279, to present a plan with timelines for their implementation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 146th meeting, to present an update for consideration at the annual subcommittee meeting and to reflect the findings of the assessment in the implementation of the approved medium-term strategy and programme of work as well as in the design of future planning documents;
18. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to organize, in a timely and predictable manner, regular briefings to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the programme and budget performance of each subprogramme, to enable the Committee to adequately perform its monitoring task;
19. *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 and the biennial programme of work 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 in the progress report on the implementation of the programme of work;

20. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue implementing the programme of work and budget at the regional and subregional levels, including by supporting regional ministerial conferences and forums for which the United Nations Environment Programme serves as secretariat;

21. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that all the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme at the country level are aligned with and included in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, where applicable, as the most important instrument for planning and implementation of United Nations development activities in each country, and are reported on to the respective United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a regular basis;

22. *Further requests* the Executive Director to ensure that all earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme are used to fund activities that contribute to the effective implementation of the programme of work, apart from those funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of other intergovernmental bodies;

23. *Urges* Member States and others in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, notably the Environment Fund, taking into account the universal membership of the Environment Assembly;

24. *Notes* the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions in broadening the base of contributions to and enhancing the predictability of the voluntary financing of the Environment Fund and requests the Executive Director to continue adapting the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, inter alia, in accordance with Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 and any relevant subsequent decisions;

25. *Encourages* the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to further improve the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy and requests the Executive Director, in accordance with the partnership policy rules and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to mobilize increased voluntary funding to the Programme from all Member States and others in a position to do so, and to continue to broaden the contributor base;

26. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop robust and transparent due diligence procedures prior to accepting funds from sources other than Member States and to keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed about the procedures and their application;

27. *Welcomes* the indication in the programme of work and budget of core activities for the subprogrammes and requests the Executive Director to provide adequate priority to those activities when implementing the programme of work;

28. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that South-South, South-North and triangular cooperation initiatives are effectively implemented in the spirit of accountability and transparency;

29. *Expresses concern* that some projects, partnerships and new initiatives, including those affecting the Programme's nomenclature, which potentially negatively affect its reputation and distract from its core mandates as contained in the programme of work, were undertaken and launched without prior consultation with Member States;

30. *Requests* the Executive Director, in the spirit of transparency and inclusivity and in a proactive manner, to fully utilize the existing governance structures and processes in order to address the concerns raised in paragraph 29 of the present decision;

31. *Also requests* the Executive Director, further to the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 72/266 of 24 December 2017, on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations, to revise the strategic planning cycles and format, in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and in accordance with resolution 72/266, which includes the development of an annual budget and performance document;

32. *Further requests* the Executive Director to submit for consideration and approval by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and building on lessons learned from previous bienniums,

a results-oriented and streamlined medium-term strategy and programme of work that is in line with General Assembly resolution 72/266;

33. Takes note of the information contained in the report on funding implications of the policymaking organs in the context of the programme of work and budget 2020–2021,<sup>1</sup> and further notes the funding gap for the provision of conference services, information technology and communication services, security and medical services at sessions of the Environment Assembly since its first session and welcomes the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in its resolution 73/260 entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”, to make proposals, as appropriate, concerning the sustainability, predictability, and stability of the funding of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme.

## **Decision 4/2. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth 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, 68/215 of 20 December 2013, 69/223 of 19 December 2014, 71/231 of 21 December 2016 and 73/260 of 22 December 2018,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (para. 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 57/283 B (paras. 9–11 of section II) of 15 April 2003, 61/236 (para. 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2006, 62/225 (para. 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2007, 63/248 (para. 9 of section II A) of 24 December 2008, 64/230 (para. 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2009, 65/245 (para. 10 of section II A) of 24 December 2010, 67/237 (para. 13 of section II A) of 28 January 2013, 71/262 (para. 27 of section II and para. 102 of section V) of 23 December 2016, 73/270 (para. 29 of section II) of 22 December 2018,

*Taking into account* Governing Council decisions 27/1 and 27/2 of 22 February 2013, as well as United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/2 of 27 June 2014 and 2/22 of 27 May 2016 and decision 3/2 of 6 December 2017,

*Recognizing* the importance of the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”, welcoming progress made, including the establishment of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and stressing the importance of continued action,

*Emphasizing* that improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the existing governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme plays an important role in delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Deeply concerned* about the lack of progress in several areas in the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

*Reiterating* the commitment made in Environment Assembly resolution 3/11 on the implementation of subparagraphs 88 (a)–(h)

of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Decides* to hold the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its headquarters in Nairobi from 22 to 26 February 2021, in accordance with paragraph 3 of its decision 3/2 of 6 December 2017;

2. *Also decides* that, in accordance with paragraph 10 of Governing Council decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013 and paragraph 2 of its resolution 2/22 of 27 May 2016, the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will take place from 15 to 19 February 2021, without prejudice to decisions on further meetings of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, and requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to discuss, in consultation with the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and decide on the format and agenda of the meeting;

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/EA.4/INF/10.

3. *Approves* the provisional agenda for the fifth session as follows:
  1. Opening of the session.
  2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
  3. Credentials of representatives.
  4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
  5. International environmental policy and governance issues.
  6. Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues.
  7. Stakeholder engagement.
  8. Contributions to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  9. High-level segment.
  10. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.
  11. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
  12. Election of officers.
  13. Other matters.
  14. Adoption of the report.
  15. Closure of the session.

4. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in consultation with the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to contribute to the preparation of the annotations to the provisional agenda set out in paragraph 3 above;

5. *Requests* the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to define a theme for the Environment Assembly no later than 31 December 2019;

6. *Strongly encourages* Member States to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session preferably at least eight weeks in advance of the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into account the theme of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly and the limited time and resources available for the negotiation of the resolutions during the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, without prejudice to the rules of procedure, in particular rule 44;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit draft decisions for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session at least eight weeks in advance of the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare, in consultation with Member States, the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, making use of contributions from relevant stakeholders;

#### **Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

9. *Requests* the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in close consultation with the President of the Environment Assembly, to present to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its deliberation and decision at the sixth annual subcommittee meeting a consolidated proposal outlining a consensual process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, with a view to providing concrete proposals for the improvement of their efficiency and effectiveness, for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session;

10. *Decides* that the scope of the consideration during the review process will be:

(a) The preparation, working arrangements, and scheduling of sessions of the Environment Assembly and the objectives, preparation, working arrangements and the scheduling of meetings of its

subsidiary body, namely the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the regular and annual meetings of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

(b) The respective roles and responsibilities of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including those related to interactions with their respective constituencies;

(c) Criteria, modalities and timing for presenting and negotiating draft resolutions and decisions;

(d) Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme of work and budget and of the resolutions of the Environment Assembly;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to conduct a mapping exercise and provide an input paper on the topics specified in paragraph 10 of the present decision at least three weeks ahead of the sixth annual subcommittee meeting;

12. *Decides* that the review process will be open, inclusive and transparent and provide the opportunity for the submission of written input by Member States and stakeholders throughout the duration of the process, and also decides that it will be co-chaired by two members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, one from a developing country and one from a developed country;

13. *Requests* the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to hold a stock-taking meeting, not exceeding two days in duration, under the framework of the seventh annual subcommittee meeting, with the goal of considering the endorsement of the progress achieved at that time;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit an action plan for the implementation of subparagraphs (a)–(h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be submitted for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session, and invites the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to contribute to the development of the plan in respect of the implementation of subparagraph (g) concerning the headquarters functions of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi.

### **Decision 4/3. Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions**

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the request made in its decision 3/3 to the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant parties and/or donors, as appropriate and in accordance with the terms of the respective agreement/fund, to decide on reassigning the balances in inactive trust funds when the activities for which they have been established have ended, with a view to supporting the implementation of appropriate subprogrammes of the agreed programme of work before the end of 2019,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the implementation of decision 3/3 through the closure of the inactive trust funds and the reassignment of the balances to the relevant activities;

2. *Notes* that, in line with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme carries out the functions of the secretariat must be based on the principle of cost recovery when it comes to administrative costs;

#### **I**

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

3. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds:

(a) CBL – Trust fund for the “Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency Fund” of the Global Environment Facility;

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/EA.4/INF/5.

- (b) GPS – Trust fund in support of the Secretariat functions and the organization of meetings and consultations for the Global Pact for the Environment;
- (c) GPP – Trust fund for assisting the delegates from the developing countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in attending the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group for the Global Pact for the Environment;
4. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director's receiving requests to do so from the appropriate authorities:
- (a) AFB – Technical cooperation trust fund for United Nations Environment Programme activities as a multilateral implementing entity of the Adaptation Fund Board, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (b) AML – General trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (c) CLL – Trust fund to support the activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (d) CML – Trust fund to support implementation of a special programme on chemicals and waste, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (e) IAL – Technical cooperation trust fund for the Ireland Aid Multilateral Environment Fund for Africa (financed by the Government of Ireland), which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (f) IEL – Technical cooperation trust fund for priority projects to improve the environment in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (financed by the Government of the Republic of Korea), which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (g) MCL – General trust fund in support of activities on mercury and other metals, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (h) MDL – Technical cooperation trust fund for UNEP implementation of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (i) REL – Technical cooperation trust fund for the promotion of renewable energy in the Mediterranean region (financed by the Government of Italy), which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (j) SML – General trust fund for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (k) WPL – General trust fund to provide support the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to promote its activities, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

## II

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

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

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

- (a) CAL – Support of the Mediterranean Action Plan (financed by the Government of Greece), which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (b) MEL – Trust fund for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;
- (c) QML – Support of the Mediterranean Action Plan, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

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

(a) BCL – Trust fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

(b) BDL – Trust fund to assist developing countries and other countries in need of technical assistance in the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

(c) ROL – General trust fund for the operational budget of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

(d) RVL – Special trust fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

(e) SCL – General trust fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

(f) SVL – Special trust fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

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

(a) QAC – Support of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region, which is extended up to 31 December 2020;

(b) WAL – Trust fund for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Atlantic coast of the West, Central and Southern African region, which is extended up to 31 December 2020;

**D. Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians**

(a) CAR – Trust fund for the core budget of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related protocols, which is extended up to 31 December 2020;

(b) CAP – Trust fund for the core budget of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related protocols, which is extended up to 31 December 2020;

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

(a) AVL – General trust fund for voluntary contributions in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

(b) AWL – General trust fund for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

(c) BTL – General trust fund for the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, which is extended up to 31 December 2022;

(d) QFL – General trust fund for voluntary contributions in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, which is extended up to 31 December 2022;

(e) SMU – Trust fund to support the activities of the secretariat of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

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

(a) EAL – Regional seas trust fund for the Eastern African region, which is extended up to 31 December 2022;

(b) QAW – Support of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, which is extended up to 31 December 2022;

**G. Trust funds administered by the regional coordinating unit for the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region**

(a) QNL – Support of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, which is extended up to 31 December 2023;

(b) 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 31 December 2023;

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

(a) ESL – Regional trust fund for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, which is extended up to 31 December 2022;

(b) QEL – Support of the Eastern Asian Seas Action Plan, which is extended up to 31 December 2022;

**I. Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

(a) BBL – Trust fund for the core programme budget for the Nagoya Protocol, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

(b) BGL – General trust fund for the core programme budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

(c) BYL – General trust fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to 31 December 2021;

**J. Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

(a) CTL – Trust fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is extended up to 31 December 2022;

(b) QTL – Support of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is extended up to 31 December 2022.

## Annex III

### Report of the Committee of the Whole

**Rapporteur: Mr. IB Putera Parthama (Indonesia)**

#### Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its fourth session, on Monday, 11 March 2019, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme established a committee of the whole to consider the draft resolutions and draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under agenda items 6 and 10 that remained to be finalized for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

2. In accordance with the decision of the Environment Assembly, the Committee of the Whole held 6 meetings between Monday, 11 March, and Wednesday, 13 March 2019. As decided by the Environment Assembly, the Committee was chaired by Mr. Fernando Coimbra (Brazil) and Mr. IB Putera Parthama (Indonesia) served as Rapporteur.

#### I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

3. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the meeting at 12.45 p.m. on Monday, 11 March 2019.

4. The Committee adopted its agenda, on the basis of the draft provisional agenda (UNEP/COW.4/1).

#### II. Organization of work

5. In accordance with the document entitled “Structure of the Committee of the Whole of UNEA 4, 11–13 March 2019”, the Committee agreed to establish two working groups and three contact groups with a view to finalizing, by Wednesday, 13 March 2019, the outstanding draft decisions and draft resolutions for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session.

6. It was agreed that the co-chairs and the work of the working groups and contact groups would be as follows:

(a) Working group 1, to be co-chaired by Ms. Koleka Anita Mqulwana (South Africa) and Mr. Marcus Davies (Canada), would address the draft resolutions on promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste (UNEP/EA.4/L.3); enhancing environmental sustainability through sustainable business practices (UNEP/EA.4/L.5); sustainable infrastructure (UNEP/EA.4/L.6); environmentally sound management of waste (UNEP/EA.4/L.8); sound management of chemicals and waste (UNEP/EA.4/L.9); and the sustainable blue economy (UNEP/EA.4/L.18).

(b) Working group 2, to be co-chaired by Ms. Julia Pataki (Romania) and Mr. Agus Justianto (Indonesia), would address the draft resolutions on innovations on biodiversity and land degradation (UNEP/EA.4/L.11), deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains (UNEP/EA.4/L.15), innovations in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism (UNEP/EA.4/L.17) and geoengineering and its governance (UNEP/EA.4/L.20), and a resolution on promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance (UNEP/EA.4/L.21).

(c) Contact group 1, to be chaired by Ms. Tita Korvenoja (Finland), would address the draft resolution on innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production (UNEP/EA.4/L.2).

(d) Contact group 2, to be chaired by Mr. Martin Gronda (Argentina), would address the draft resolutions on marine plastic litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.4/L.7) and addressing single-use plastic products pollution (UNEP/EA.4/L.10).

(e) Contact group 3, to be chaired by Mr. Lukas Pokorny (Czechia), would address the draft resolution on keeping the world environment under review (UNEP/EA.4/L.27), as well as the

draft decisions on the proposed programme of work and budget for 2020–2021 (UNEP/EA.4/L.28) and on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.4/L.29).

### III. International environmental policy and governance

7. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 11 March 2019, the Chair recalled that the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, at its fourth meeting, held from 4 to 8 March 2019, had endorsed seven draft resolutions and one draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly, which would therefore not need to be considered by the Committee of the Whole. The seven draft resolutions related to the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (UNEP/EA.4/L.12), sustainable management for global health of mangroves (UNEP/EA.4/L.13), sustainable coral reefs management (UNEP/EA.4/L.14), sustainable nitrogen management (UNEP/EA.4/L.16), conservation and sustainable management of peatlands (UNEP/EA.4/L.19), the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) (UNEP/EA.4/L.24) and implementation and follow-up of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions (UNEP/EA.4/L.26). The draft decision was on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions (UNEP/EA.4/L.30).

8. The co-facilitators of the five working groups established by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives at its fourth meeting provided an overview of progress achieved during the two days of consultations preceding the fourth session of the Environment Assembly in finalizing the outstanding draft resolutions and draft decisions for consideration and possible adoption by the United Nations Environment Assembly. During those consultations, the working groups had finalized four draft resolutions, which related to sustainable mobility (UNEP/EA.4/L.4), the poverty-environment nexus (UNEP/EA.4/L.22), mineral resource governance (UNEP/EA.4/L.23) and the implementation plan “Towards a pollution-free planet” (UNEP/EA.4/L.25).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee of the Whole approved the finalized draft resolutions set out in documents UNEP/EA.4/L.4, UNEP/EA.4/L.22, UNEP/EA.4/L.23 and UNEP/EA.4/L.25 for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

10. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on the evening of Monday, 11 March, the Committee approved the finalized draft resolution on innovations in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism (UNEP/EA.4/L.17) for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

11. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 12 March, the Committee approved five finalized draft resolutions, on innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production (UNEP/EA.4/L.2), sustainable infrastructure (UNEP/EA.4/L.6), environmentally sound management of waste (UNEP/EA.4/L.8), sound management of chemicals and waste (UNEP/EA.4/L.9) and promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance (UNEP/EA.4/L.21), and one draft decision, on the proposed programme of work and budget for 2020–2021 (UNEP/EA.4/L.28), for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

12. At its 4th plenary meeting, on the evening of Tuesday, 12 March, the Committee approved the finalized draft resolution on addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices (UNEP/EA.4/L.5) for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

13. At its 5th plenary meeting, on the morning of Wednesday, 13 March, the Committee approved finalized draft resolutions on promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste (UNEP/EA.4/L.3) and innovations on biodiversity and land degradation (UNEP/EA.4/L.11) for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

14. Following an adjournment, at the same meeting the Committee approved the finalized draft resolutions on marine plastic litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.4/L.7) and addressing single-use plastic products pollution (UNEP/EA.4/L.10) for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

15. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the evening of Wednesday, 13 March, the Committee approved the finalized draft resolution on keeping the world environment under review (UNEP/EA.4/L.27) for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

#### **IV. Provisional agenda and date of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly**

16. At its 5th plenary meeting, on the morning of Wednesday, 13 March, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly the finalized draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.4/L.29).

#### **V. Adoption of the report**

17. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the evening of Wednesday, 13 March, the Committee adopted the report of the rapporteur subject to verification of the list of draft resolutions and decisions and entrusted the rapporteur and the secretariat with the completion of the report.

#### **VI. Closure of the meeting**

18. After expressing his gratitude to all those involved in the meetings of the Committee, in particular Ms. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m. on 13 March 2019.

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