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

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Second session
Nairobi, 23–27 May 2016**

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

I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at the headquarters of UNEP in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016.
2. The session was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 23 May 2016, by Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, President of the Environment Assembly.
3. In line with rule 62 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations General Assembly, she invited the Environment Assembly to observe one minute of silence for reflection. Thereafter she introduced a film presentation entitled “Welcome to UNEA”, in which Mr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNEP, gave an overview of the environmental threats facing the planet, inviting viewers to act to address those threats.
4. Opening statements were delivered by the Executive Director of UNEP; Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, on behalf of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; and Ms. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya.
5. In his opening remarks, Mr. Steiner welcomed participants to the second session of the Environment Assembly, at a time when prodigious breakthroughs had recently been achieved. The focus of discussions at the session would be on delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the inextricable link between environment and human health. At the Science-Policy Forum, held on 19 and 20 May 2016, preceding the session, some 300 of the world’s leading scientists had discussed the most pressing environmental challenges and the manner in which policies could respond to those challenges, while around 250 participants had engaged in constructive dialogue during the sixteenth session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum held on 21 and 22 May 2016. Notable side events taking place during the Environment Assembly would include the Sustainable Innovation Expo, which aimed to bring together the spheres of technology and science, and the business dialogue for environmental sustainability convening under the Expo, during which policymakers, scientists, technology entrepreneurs and leaders from civil society would meet with a view to forging new alliances and taking advantage of new ideas and opportunities. In addition, a new global campaign would be launched by UNEP, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,

* Reissued for technical reasons on 28 September 2016.

to end the illegal trade in wildlife. In closing, he expressed his appreciation to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi for the work undertaken in preparation for the second session.

6. In his statement read by the Deputy Executive Director, the Secretary-General said that he had been honoured to participate in the first session of the Environment Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, comprising all 193 Member States of the United Nations and involving major stakeholders from business and civil society. The establishment of the Assembly had marked a coming of age for UNEP and for global environmental governance and was a testimony to the growing recognition that efforts to reduce poverty, improve global health and secure enduring peace and stability required careful management of the environment. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015 and the Paris Agreement on climate change in December 2015, the second session of the Environment Assembly represented an important step towards the implementation of those landmark agreements and ensuring a sustainable future for all.

7. Noting that the issues on the agenda of the second session were critical to global sustainable development, he urged representatives to approach their responsibilities with courage and wisdom and in the knowledge that their decisions would have profound consequences in terms of how the international community understood and delivered on the environmental dimension of sustainable development. Business and investments were critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda, and innovation from the private sector would be key to addressing the many interlinked challenges of global development, while creating huge opportunities for responsible companies to deliver solutions. The hard work of turning ambitions into reality would begin in 2016 and would require all sectors and nations to work together to combat climate change and promote sustainable development. Those taking part in the second session of the Environment Assembly had both the power and the responsibility to promote a global transformation of attitude and practice.

8. In her statement, the Director-General expressed the hope that the Environment Assembly at its second session would make a vital contribution towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, while confirming the role of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority. The United Nations Office at Nairobi would continue to do its utmost to support UNEP as it pursued its mission to advance the global environmental agenda and promote the integration of the environmental dimension in sustainable development efforts. She acknowledged the role of Mr. Steiner over the previous decade in strengthening UNEP, helping it to fulfil its critical mandate and making Nairobi the "environmental capital of the world". As he concluded his tenure as Executive Director of UNEP, she expressed appreciation for his energy, hard work and collaboration. Lastly, she thanked the Government of Kenya for its assistance with the organization of the second session of the Environment Assembly and for its continued support to the United Nations' presence in Kenya.

9. Ms. Wakhungu welcomed participants to Nairobi and to the second session of the Environment Assembly. Their presence, she said, was a reflection of the significance of the Environment Assembly as the universal body for championing environmental matters. The Government of Kenya was fully committed to supporting the work of the United Nations and to maintaining Nairobi as the global multilateral hub for the environment. Expressing her satisfaction at the theme of the second session "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", she called on representatives to review progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; to promote the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; and to address the nexus between environmental health and human well-being in the light of the 2030 Agenda.

10. In her statement, the President of the Environment Assembly said that the current generation had a historic responsibility; it would not be measured by future generations according to its commitments, agendas and policies, but rather according to how it delivered on them. Concrete solutions were required to address the many pressing issues, challenges and opportunities contained in the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, representatives had the opportunity at the present session to equip the Environment Assembly and UNEP to play their critical roles in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, to reduce the negative impact of conflict on the environment and to enhance the role of education and training in the promotion of sustainable development. Having had the privilege to represent the Environment Assembly in various forums over the previous two years, she expressed the hope that it would continue to work with high-level political forums, other international forums and regional ministerial forums as complementary mechanisms to achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda. In closing, she thanked the Executive Director for his efforts in taking UNEP to new heights and she expressed appreciation to the outgoing Bureau of the Environment Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the secretariat for the roles they had played in the preparation of the second session.

II. Organization of work

A. Election of officers

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

President:	Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta (Costa Rica)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria)
	Mr. Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon)
	Mr. Jassim Humadi (Iraq)
	Mr. Ramon J.P. Paje (Philippines)
	Mr. Vladislav Smrž (Czechia)
	Mr. Nebojša Kaludjerović (Montenegro)
	Mr. Denis Lowe (Barbados)
	Mr. John Matuszak (United States of America)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Roxane de Bilderling (Belgium)

12. In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Gutiérrez expressed appreciation for the trust placed in him to preside over the Environment Assembly, saying that he hoped to contribute to facilitating a dialogue that would promote the change required for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. He thanked the outgoing President for her commitment and efforts to achieving consensus and consolidating the Environment Assembly as a universal voice for the environment. He emphasized the need to agree at the second session on action to tackle such important challenges as the elimination of extreme poverty by 2030. The session presented an opportunity to consolidate the integration of environmental, economic and social policies and to establish environmental actions to implement the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. He expressed appreciation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for drafting the resolutions and decisions that would be considered by the Environment Assembly; to the regional groups and the secretariat of UNEP for their contributions to the preparations for the session; and to the UNEP Executive Director for his efforts to advance international environmental governance. He called on representatives to reach consensus on priority global issues and emerging topics, recognizing the limits of the planet and acknowledging that only through integrated efforts could universal human well-being be achieved.

13. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on the evening of 25 May, the Assembly agreed, pursuant to rule 60 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, to establish a working party to consider an amendment to rule 18 of the rules of procedure in order to change the timing of elections of bureau members at regular sessions of the Environment Assembly. The working party would be co-chaired by Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile) and Mr. Jolyon Thomson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). In order to ensure balanced participation, all regional groups were invited to nominate at least two representatives to participate in the working party. The working party was mandated to prepare a proposal for an amendment to rule 18, paragraph 1, to change the timing of the election of the bureau members in order that it be held at the end of each regular session; recommend transitional arrangements prior to the entry into force of the proposed amendments; prepare a draft decision on the above; and submit its report to the Assembly as soon as it completed its work, but no later than the evening of Thursday, 26 May 2016.

B. Adoption of the agenda

14. The Environment Assembly adopted the following agenda for the session, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.2/1/Rev.1 and Add.1/Rev.1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.

4. International environmental policy and governance issues:
 - (a) Illegal trade in wildlife;
 - (b) Science-policy interface;
 - (c) Chemicals and waste;
 - (d) Marine plastic debris and microplastics;
 - (e) Air quality;
 - (f) Ecosystem-based adaptation;
 - (g) Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme;
 - (h) Sustainable development and poverty eradication;
 - (i) Emerging and other relevant issues;
 - (j) Coordination across the United Nations system on environmental issues;
 - (k) Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (l) Synergies among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (m) Environmental law.
5. Medium-term strategy, programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues:
 - (a) Revisions to the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017;
 - (b) Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018–2021;
 - (c) Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019;
 - (d) Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions;
 - (e) Other administrative and budgetary issues.
6. Stakeholder engagement.
7. High-level segment.
8. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the third session of the Environment Assembly.
9. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Other matters.
12. Closure of the session.

C. Organization of work

15. In accordance with the recommendations of the Bureau contained in the scenario note for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEP/EA.2/INF/3), the Environment Assembly agreed to establish a committee of the whole. The Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Ms. Idunn Eidheim (Norway) and would consider agenda items 4, 5 and 8 at its meeting on the afternoon of Monday, 23 May 2016. It was further decided that an open-ended friends of the President group would be formed to assist the President in preparing the outcome of the high-level segment.

16. The Assembly also agreed that after the opening ceremony of the high-level segment, there would be a ministerial dialogue on Thursday, 26 May 2016, on the overarching theme of “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, followed by the introduction of the global thematic report entitled “Healthy environment, healthy people” (UNEP/EA.2/INF/5) and a thematic session consisting of both plenary and parallel round-table ministerial dialogues on Friday, 27 May 2016.

17. A multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme “Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” would take place on Friday, 27 May 2016. The Environment Assembly

would address agenda items 3, 6, 10, 11 and 12 at its afternoon plenary meeting on Friday, 27 May 2016.

18. In accordance with rule 18, the chairs of the Committee of the Whole and the friends of the President group would be invited to brief the Bureau of the Environment Assembly on a regular basis. The Environment Assembly further agreed, under rule 38 of its rules of procedure, to establish a maximum time limit of five minutes for all statements by representatives of Member States and three minutes for those of representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

D. Attendance

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

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

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

22. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, 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, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 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 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office at Nairobi, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations University, World Food Programme.

23. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Labour Organization, World Bank, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

24. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Union, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Economic Cooperation Organization, European Union, Intergovernmental

Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Organization for Migration, League of Arab States, Task Force of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, New Partnership for Africa's Development, OPEC Fund for International Development, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of American States, Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA), Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme.

25. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented as observers. A full list of participants is set out in document UNEP/EA.2/INF/29.

E. Briefing by the Executive Director

26. In his remarks, the Executive Director welcomed the incoming President and Bureau and expressed his appreciation to the outgoing President and Bureau and to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and its Chair for the work they had undertaken in preparation for the current session. The challenge for the current session was to establish the Environment Assembly as a forum not only where strategic decisions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were adopted, but also, in line with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), where science was translated into policies that would help the world to address the unprecedented challenges the planet was facing. He urged representatives to rise to that challenge by overcoming their differences and focusing on their common objectives, asking them to embrace the vision of the United Nations as a unifying force that enabled Governments and their partners to take meaningful action for the sake of future generations. In closing, he said that the secretariat stood ready to assist representatives in their deliberations to help them produce an outcome of which they could all be proud and which they could deliver to the world, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly of the United Nations, as well as to their families and communities.

F. Report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

27. In her presentation, Ms. Julia Pataki, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Permanent Representative of Romania, drew attention to a note by the Executive Director on a report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP (UNEP/EA.2/INF/25). Since the first session of the Environment Assembly, the Committee had focused on the preparations for the current session with the aim of positioning the Assembly as a key player in the implementation of major international agreements adopted by Member States in 2015 and strengthening UNEP as the world's leading environmental authority. The Committee had engaged in inclusive and constructive negotiations on key policy issues under the guiding principles of the Rio+20 outcome document to devise global solutions to global environmental problems. Highlights of the Committee's work included the development of a road map and theme for the current session; the consideration of an unprecedented number of draft resolutions for submission to the Assembly for its consideration; the preparation of options for changing the cycle of Environment Assembly sessions from even to odd years; and the identification of key messages to be included in the outcome document of the high-level segment of the second session, whatever its format. She also drew attention to challenges faced by the Committee in its work, including difficulties in communication with, and the inclusion in the negotiation process of, Member States without permanent missions in Nairobi; the reopening of discussions on paragraphs that had already been agreed upon and the need to set deadlines for the translation of draft resolutions into the six official languages of the United Nations. In order to improve preparations for the third session of the Assembly, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, recommended that an analysis be undertaken of those paragraphs of the rules of procedure of the Assembly which, if amended, could increase the efficiency of negotiations in the intersessional period, including with regard to setting deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions or increasing the efficiency of Assembly sessions by nominating a chair of the committee of the whole prior to the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

28. Representatives at the current session had a duty to further strengthen the Assembly as the leading global environmental authority by having the courage to launch new initiatives and generate new theories, policies and projects. In closing, she expressed deep appreciation to the members and Bureau of the Committee, to the UNEP secretariat and staff for the incredible amount of work they had undertaken in the lead-up to the current session, and to the Executive Director, whose legacy, she said, would be historic.

G. General statements by regional groups

29. Representatives of regional groups of Member States then delivered statements on items on the agenda for the current session.

30. The representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the current session would help to position the Environment Assembly as a truly universal environmental forum, given its broad participation, and to build on the foundations of the major international agreements adopted by Member States in 2015. UNEP had a crucial role to play in supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets at the national, regional and global levels, and such implementation would require the consideration of different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect for national policies and priorities. The eradication of poverty in all its forms and sustainable development through an integrated approach in which its three dimensions were addressed in a balanced manner were key, as were the recognition that there were different visions, approaches and models to achieve environmental sustainability, and the inclusion of means of implementation in the global environmental agenda. She stressed the need to accord UNEP a major role in mobilizing human capacity and financial resources, which was required to enable developing countries to meet their environmental obligations. In closing, she said that the outcome document of the high-level segment of the current session should capture the deliberations held by ministers and high-level representatives and pave the way for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda while upholding the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities.

31. The representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine, said that at the current session Governments and relevant stakeholders had a unique opportunity to demonstrate that they stood ready to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in an integrated, coordinated and effective manner and to produce an outcome that gave UNEP and the Environment Assembly a key role in such implementation. Given the serious challenges facing the international community, such as a significant proportion of the global burden of disease being attributed to environmental risk factors, it was crucial that the Assembly convey a sense of urgency about the need for global action for a healthier planet. Priority actions included ensuring waste prevention and the sound management of chemicals and waste, actions to improve the marine environment, and promoting sustainable consumption and production, which could demonstrate how the transition to a circular economy could contribute to sustainable economic growth and job creation. Other priorities for the session included the adoption of the UNEP stakeholder engagement policy and the development of partnerships between UNEP and the wide range of actors whose active participation would be required to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, including partnerships to make the financial system more sustainable and to mobilize investments in sustainable development.

32. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of African States, said that achieving sustainable development and alleviating poverty remained a top priority for African States, which had adopted regional strategies and measures to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development, including by sustainably harnessing Africa's environmental assets and reversing natural capital losses. With regard to UNEP and the Environment Assembly, he said that there was a need to give clear mandates to regional ministerial forums in the work of the Assembly to, among other things, promote linkages between the global environmental agenda on the one hand and regional and national agendas on the other, and to enhance cooperation among regions to address global environmental challenges; to further strengthen the regional presence of UNEP in Africa to support the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through the implementation of national and subregional projects; and to ensure that negotiations on the outcome document of the high-level segment of the current session were transparent and inclusive and took into account the different priorities and levels of development of Member States. The outcome document should be a concise political declaration based on consensus that was founded on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and acknowledged the importance of providing means of implementation, capacity-building, technology transfer and financial support to developing and least developed countries.

33. The representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, expressed the hope that the discussions at the current session, including during the high-level segment, would carefully examine the role that UNEP should play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recognize the importance of promoting different approaches, visions, models and instruments for achieving sustainable development, taking into account national circumstances and priorities. The current session should contribute to the implementation at the national, regional and global levels of sustainable development commitments made by Member States, and result in

outcomes that respected the mandate of UNEP and preserved the intergovernmental nature of the Environment Assembly. The UNEP regional and subregional offices should be further strengthened to enable them to engage not only in the preparations for Environment Assembly sessions but also in the implementation of and follow-up to the Assembly's decisions and resolutions. In closing, she requested that no more than two meetings be held in parallel to plenary meetings to ensure that small delegations had the opportunity to participate in all the Environment Assembly discussions.

34. The representative of Sri Lanka, speaking on behalf of the Group of Fifteen, a group of developing countries, welcomed the theme of the current session, which would enable relevant actors to identify concrete tools for an integrated and universal approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including those related to critical issues such as air quality, healthy ecosystems, marine debris, and chemicals and waste, in order to develop strategies and multi-stakeholder partnerships to address ongoing and emerging environmental issues. Nearly half the 17 Sustainable Development Goals focused on the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources. UNEP therefore had an important role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its environment-related targets. He called for greater cooperation in capacity-building and technology transfer, in particular for the promotion of clean technologies and renewable energy. The use of renewable energy could improve the security, diversity and overall reliability of national energy systems, particularly in developing countries, where it could also provide sustainable development solutions such as electrification and economic security, energy access and job creation, contributing to healthy environments and healthy people.

H. General statements by representatives

35. Following the regional group statements, various representatives took the floor to air their views on the work ahead, expressing robust support for UNEP as the leading global environment authority and their commitment to continuing that support, and emphasizing the key role of UNEP in addressing global environmental challenges, whether existing, new or emerging. UNEP was recognized as fulfilling its important mandate with regard to providing the scientific information needed to understand those challenges; providing overarching policy guidance and advancing the political framework to address them; and promoting and stimulating the implementation of the necessary policies. Representatives recognized that it had a key role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a role that should be clarified by the Assembly, said one representative, bearing in mind that UNEP was best placed to contribute to the further development of relevant indicators and to report on the state of the environment and the environmental dimension of sustainable development. Several representatives paid tribute to the Executive Director for his visionary leadership of the institution and for his personal commitment to raising the global profile of environmental issues, including through the development of important new policy instruments such as the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

36. With UNEP as the anchor institution of international environmental governance and policy, the second session of the Environment Assembly was a major step in the process towards strengthening that governance. Representatives stressed that at its second session, the Assembly should build on the strong foundation provided by the achievements of the first session, working in a smart and innovative way towards the implementation of the new development agenda and synergizing its efforts to that end. Effectiveness in tackling environment issues was seen to be inseparable from such factors as strong political support and commitment, multi-layered partnership and collaboration, good governance, the promotion of science-based policy, and the availability of sound technology and resources, all of which should consequently guide common efforts to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

37. Representatives expressed appreciation for the work already carried out, in particular by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to streamline the draft resolutions to be presented for consideration by the Assembly. It was to be hoped that a constructive, positive and solution-oriented approach would be adopted with a view to forming a unified stance and achieving successful outcomes by building consensus on those resolutions, which were designed to address many of the significant environmental challenges described by various representatives, some of whom also outlined measures and actions taken on that score at the national level, with others calling for technical, financial, capacity-building and emergency assistance on account of their limited resources.

38. In addition to the immediate substance of the draft resolutions before them, representatives drew attention to other issues, including the need for, inter alia, institutional structures to facilitate coordination within and between different sectors and stakeholders in order to achieve sustainable natural resource use and maintain ecosystem balance; demand-driven agricultural and other related research to answer the concerns of people in all countries, including rural inhabitants; and the

promotion of science-based policy at the local, regional and global levels in order to build resilience. Ongoing support for more coordinated reporting under the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements was also advocated, as was the provision of guidance for the Global Chemicals Outlook process and the continuation of the important work on lead and cadmium.

39. Concerning the outcome document of the second session, one representative said that a Chair's summary would more effectively capture and convey the multiplicity of views and concerns than a political declaration, which was favoured by others as a way of sending a clear and strong message from the Assembly about the priorities it had identified and its common vision and commitment with regard to the environment. One representative said that he had no preference concerning the format of the outcome document but insisted that it should include a reference to the problem of sand and dust storms.

40. With regard to the cycle of the Assembly, one representative suggested that the benefits of changing to odd years might be outweighed by the financial cost of holding an additional Assembly session in 2017, particularly as the funding situation remained unclear. Other suggestions were that the Assembly session could be held in February or March instead of in the generally busy period of May; that the Bureau of the Assembly should be elected at the end of each session so as to facilitate its preparation of the next session; that a thorough analysis should be conducted to bring the cycle into line with the biennial budget of the United Nations; and that the third session of the Assembly should optimize the existing regular budget allocation.

41. Individual representatives expressed appreciation for the efforts made to overcome Umoja-related problems, the expectation being that the new system would eventually provide greater transparency, accountability and efficiency, which was seen as critical to performance; expressed the hope that further information on the financial status of UNEP would soon be available, particularly concerning non-earmarked contributions to the Environment Fund, as the donor base had not apparently widened as a result of universal membership; and welcomed the introduction of results-based budgeting and outcome mapping approaches.

42. One representative said that the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements must be mutually supportive rather than competitive; that UNEP was ideally positioned to provide the secretariat functions for such agreements and thus provide strength, vision and political visibility in the multilateral system; and that UNEP support to those agreements should be adequate, efficient and effective and provide real added value. UNEP could provide support in the form of scientific information and awareness-raising and strengthen multilateral environmental agreements by anchoring them in the United Nations system.

43. One representative expressed concern over what she perceived as a bias in certain working documents and draft resolutions towards the so-called green economy, saying that she had strong misgivings about a price being put on the components of Mother Earth and about the use of payments for environmental services as the only solution to problems of environmental degradation. She also urged respect for the outcome document of Rio+20 and Environment Assembly resolution 1/10, specifically their recognition that there were different visions, approaches, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, for achieving environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Another representative called for interpretation facilities and the translation of all working documents into the six official languages of the United Nations in order to facilitate work and ensure inclusiveness.

44. Concerning the draft stakeholder engagement policy, representatives emphasized that it should be progressive and ensure broad participation in the work of the Assembly, civil society being a key partner in the implementation of environmental commitments. The resources offered by the ever-growing numbers of new actors were, moreover, of system-wide relevance and should be utilized effectively. A representative of major groups and stakeholders, underscoring the critical role of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum in the process of the Environment Assembly, applauded the spirit of good faith and compromise shown in the efforts to develop the stakeholder engagement policy, but said that more work was needed to respond to paragraph 88 of "The future we want".

I. Work of the Committee of the Whole

45. The Committee of the Whole held seven meetings from 23 to 27 May 2016 to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the evening of Friday, 27 May, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the Committee's work. The report on the proceedings of the Committee is set out in annex II to the present proceedings.

III. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

46. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the evening of Friday, 27 May 2016, the Rapporteur reported that 162 of the 193 States Members of the United Nations were represented at the current session. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of those Member States and had found those of 149 to be in order. Those Member States whose credentials had been found not to be in order were treated as observers without the right to vote for the purposes of the current session. The Environment Assembly approved the report of the Bureau on credentials. Together with one additional Member State whose credentials were found to be in order at the 6th plenary meeting, a total of 150 Member States with valid credentials were represented at the second session of the Environment Assembly.

IV. Agenda items 4, 5 and 8

47. Agenda items 4 (international environmental policy and governance issues), 5 (medium-term strategy, programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues) and 8 (provisional agenda, date and venue of the third session of the Environment Assembly) were considered by the Committee of the Whole. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the evening of 27 May, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the Committee's work. The report on the proceedings of the Committee is set out in annex II to the present proceedings.

V. Stakeholder engagement (agenda item 6)

48. At its 1st plenary meeting, the President of the Assembly announced his intention to convene informal consultations among interested representatives of the regional and political groups on the proposal contained in the report of the Executive Director on a policy on stakeholder engagement (UNEP/EA.2/18), which presented the outcome of the informal open-ended consultations held by the President of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly with Member States on such a policy. The policy had been prepared pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2 on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its first universal session, held in Nairobi from 18 to 22 February 2013. The aim of the informal open-ended consultations was to assess the positions of Member States regarding the outstanding elements of the new UNEP policy on stakeholder engagement, including the definition of a stakeholder; accreditation process and criteria; access to pre-session and in-session documents; and meetings of accredited major groups and stakeholders with the Bureau of the Environment Assembly. Following the informal consultations among interested delegations, it was recognized that in the absence of an agreement by Member States on a intergovernmentally sanctioned accreditation process, wide consensus existed on recognizing that the current rules, mechanisms and practices for stakeholder engagement observed by the secretariat of UNEP and compiled in the *Handbook for Stakeholder Engagement*, were sufficiently inclusive and open to motivate broad and continued stakeholder engagement.

VI. High-level segment (agenda item 7)

49. The 3rd to 5th plenary meetings on the morning and afternoon of 26 May, and the morning of 27 May, took the form of a high-level segment under item 7 of the agenda. The high-level segment consisted of opening ceremonies and ministerial plenary meetings featuring an interactive dialogue on the overarching theme of "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", followed by the introduction of the global thematic report entitled "Healthy environment, healthy people", a thematic session consisting of both plenary and two parallel round-table ministerial dialogues, and a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme "Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" on Friday, 27 May 2016.

A. Opening

50. The high-level segment was opened at 10.20 a.m. on 26 May by Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta (Costa Rica), President of the Environment Assembly. During the opening ceremonies, remarks were made by dignitaries, who later posed with other high-level representatives for a commemorative group photograph. Following a performance by the Kenyan Boys Choir, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, gave a briefing on the state of the global environment.

1. Opening remarks

51. Opening remarks were made by the President of the Environment Assembly; the UNEP Executive Director; Mr. Salaheddine Mezouar, President of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco; Ms. Ségolène Royal, President of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and Minister of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs, and Responsible for International Climate Relations, of France; Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya.

52. In his opening remarks, Mr. Espeleta expressed his appreciation to the people and Government of Kenya for hosting the second session of the Environment Assembly, and to the UNEP staff, led by the Executive Director, for the work undertaken in preparation for the session. He expressed the hope that representatives would strive to reach consensual results that would have the greatest possible impact, making a clear contribution towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Drawing attention to the SIDs Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, he said that such instruments set the path for environmental sustainability and played a pivotal role in human development.

53. He emphasized the importance, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, of measuring progress and quantifying goals. In general terms there had been some satisfying results, he said, but much remained to be done. Highlighting the linkages between efforts to conserve the environment and those aimed at combating poverty, he called on representatives to make robust decisions and develop ambitious proposals at the second session. Stressing the need for the whole United Nations system to work in a coherent and coordinated manner, he highlighted the significant contribution the Environment Assembly could make to the global agenda through cooperative action at all levels with the active participation of society as a whole. In closing, he emphasized the importance of multilateralism and the urgent need to generate a renewed world alliance for the sake of future generations.

54. The Executive Director, in his statement, welcomed participants to the second session of the Environment Assembly and congratulated them on having responded to the call of the Heads of State and Government at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for a truly universal assembly for the environment to usher in a new era in environmental governance. As it was the last time he would address the Environment Assembly as the Executive Director of UNEP, he expressed his deep appreciation to Mr. Kenyatta for what his country had done – and would do in future – for UNEP and the United Nations as a whole.

55. In his opening remarks, Mr. Mezouar expressed his appreciation to the Government of Kenya for its warm welcome to a country that provided an example of dynamic renewal in Africa. He congratulated Mr. Steiner for all that he had accomplished over the past decade as Executive Director of UNEP, and Mr. Solheim on his appointment to that position. In the light of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, there was a clear need for a paradigm shift to promote a more open and balanced civilization for the sake of humanity, to bring an end to exclusion and poverty and to increase solidarity, commitment and determination to move towards a more harmonious and balanced world.

56. He expressed the hope that the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Marrakech in November 2016, would constitute one of the initial steps towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Noting that proposals presented at the session would focus on the most vulnerable populations worldwide, he underlined the need to establish a sound financing mechanism to ensure that sustainable development projects were given the backing they needed. He concluded by saying that Morocco was looking forward to welcoming representatives to Marrakesh for the twenty-second session and expressed the hope that they would make an active contribution to consolidating global efforts to combat climate change.

57. In her opening remarks, Ms. Royal said that she was honoured to participate in the second session of the Environment Assembly, an important landmark following the adoption of the Paris Agreement at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. She expressed her particular satisfaction at visiting Kenya so soon after the recent destruction of a stockpile of over 100 tons of elephant ivory and rhino horn, a powerful signal to the entire world. Thereafter, she had signed a ministerial decree prohibiting the import of ivory into France and she called upon other members of the European Union to follow that example. The

adoption of the Paris Agreement represented a major turning point for the world and representatives at the second session of the Environment Assembly had a responsibility to contribute to its implementation. The Agreement had already been signed by a record 177 countries and she called on representatives to urge their Governments to ratify the Agreement in a timely manner, thereby ensuring its entry into force during the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties.

58. Mr. Eliasson began his statement by emphasizing the importance of the Environment Assembly as the foremost decision-making body on the environment. The second session would be critical to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, he said, urging representatives to move decisively from aspiration to action through the mobilization of partnerships and to move beyond the false notion that there was a need to choose between economic growth and environmental protection. He called on them to approach their responsibilities with courage, wisdom and foresight and in the knowledge that their decisions would have lasting consequences. It was time, he said, to mediate peace with nature. In that regard, he commended the Government of Kenya for organizing the largest public burning of ivory and rhino horn stockpiles in the history of the fight against poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife, which were increasingly linked to organized crime and non-State armed groups. Lastly, he called on representatives to redouble their preventive efforts to combat climate change, to build resilience and to address potential conflicts before they reached a tipping point. Stressing that the environment had been elevated to its rightful place in international policymaking, he urged representatives to seize the moment to work together and to deliver a sustainable future for people and for the planet.

59. Mr. Kenyatta, in his statement, welcomed participants to Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya and home of UNEP, and expressed his country's pride in hosting the Environment Assembly and acting as a partner in efforts to protect the planet and prosperity of all. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the outgoing Executive Director of UNEP for his commendable work at the helm of the Programme, saying that Mr. Steiner's wisdom and devotion to duty had strengthened UNEP and had helped the world to make significant progress in addressing its environmental challenges, adding that he would be greatly missed and would always have a home in Kenya. To the incoming Executive Director, Mr. Erik Solheim, he said that he looked forward to a warm and productive partnership and assured him of his Government's unequivocal support. The current session of the Environment Assembly, he said, was part of a rapidly growing global consensus on the pre-eminence of environmental issues, as evidenced in the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the participants, by their presence, were adding momentum and lending credibility to the worldwide movement against perceptions of the environment as a tertiary concern and the tendency to consider the building of a sustainable, shared, future an afterthought. He expressed appreciation to the Environment Assembly for leveraging the influence and resources of its members to safeguard the environment and for the fact that that was being done in Africa.

60. African countries, he said, were in some ways the biggest stakeholders in efforts to secure sustainability, as they had the most to lose from environmental degradation and the negative effects of climate change and the most to gain from meeting the challenges of poverty and food insecurity. Increasing numbers of African countries would hopefully prioritize the environment and receive the necessary support through the Environment Assembly to invest appropriately in areas such as legislative and policy frameworks, civic education and the creation of a more sustainable energy infrastructure. Kenya, for its part, had continued to contribute to efforts to ensure a sustainable, resilient, planet by, among other things, making significant investments in renewable energy; signing the Paris Agreement on climate change; adopting a green economy strategy and implementation plan; and taking a strong stand against poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. In regard to the latter, Kenya, in collaboration with other African States, had sent a message to the world that ivory was worthless once removed from elephants by torching 105 tonnes of ivory and 1.3 tonnes of rhino horn, and he expressed appreciation for the overwhelming support received from Ms. Royal, as President of the Bureau of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as from the European Union; the United States of America; the presidents of Gabon and Uganda; the elephant range countries; and even from the countries providing the markets for wildlife products. In addition, he called for support for the total ban on ivory trade that Kenya intended to seek at the upcoming seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

61. Environmental protection required multi-stakeholder initiatives and continued cooperation between differing interests, the public and private sectors and United Nations entities, Governments and non-governmental organizations was crucial to accelerating progress. The world, he said, would benefit from finding more ways to interconnect initiatives and outcomes and he urged the Environment Assembly to leverage support for the United Nations Conference on Housing and

Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) as an opportunity to adopt an all-inclusive, integrated, comprehensive and transformative agenda on human settlements that complemented the 2030 Agenda. In conclusion, he wished the participants fruitful deliberations, adding that he looked forward to supporting the actionable outcomes agreed by the Environment Assembly and reiterating his Government's commitment to the ideals of UNEP and to working closely with UNEP to facilitate the smooth implementation of its mandate.

2. Presentation by the Executive Director

62. The Executive Director, in his briefing on the state of the global environment, began by paying tribute to the memory of Mr. Maurice Strong and Mr. Mostapha Tolba who, as the first and second Executive Directors of UNEP, had been the true leaders and mentors of the worldwide environmental community. As to the way ahead, the future looked bright in the light of the major milestones achieved in 2015, as reflected in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The environmental community, however, faced the daunting challenge of testing the ambitions embodied in those and many other international agreements, which would call for changes of an unprecedented scale in a relatively short period of time, such as eradicating poverty and decarbonizing national economies within the coming 50–60 years. That, in turn, called for a wealth of new approaches and initiatives that could not be developed overnight.

63. In considering that challenge, the international community needed to acknowledge past efforts to change a prevailing narrative that regarded the environment and social equity as the inevitable losers in the face of industrialization. Many lessons had been learned over the previous 40 years and a body of international conventions and protocols had been developed to address the most pressing priorities in areas such as illegal trade in wildlife, threats to wetlands, chemicals and waste and the depletion of the ozone layer. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, for example, was a universal legal instrument supported by UNEP in the national ozone offices of all developing countries and was poised, after fulfilling its core mandate by bringing science, policy, technology and finance together under the auspices of the United Nations, to help to address the much larger problem of increased greenhouse gas emissions through another potential milestone: the “Dubai pathway on hydrofluorocarbons”.

64. Some things were worse, however, such as air pollution. According to the World Health Organization, air pollution caused an estimated 7–8 million premature deaths globally, and there was a lack of consensus on prioritizing action to tackle the issue and on who should take the lead, which, he said, was simply immoral. Air pollution could be reduced by creating access to clean energy for rural households; making the automotive industry deliver on its promise to clean up its vehicles; and enabling countries such as Kenya to render their energy systems 100 per cent reliant on renewable energies by 2050.

65. Those and other targets, such as reducing food wastage, he said, were eminently achievable. They called for action by rich and poor countries alike and for recognition of the current “age of the anthropocene”, where things were going wrong on a scale and at a rate such that they could no longer be addressed through an issue-specific institutional structure. He therefore urged ministers at future sessions of the Environment Assembly to pave the way for sustainable development by switching to systemic solutions. The conservation, climate change and chemicals and wastes communities, meanwhile, also needed to cease working in isolation.

66. The challenge for environment ministers, he said, was to unify the knowledge and the science, to lead a transparent, public debate on the choices and possible solutions and to align societies with the approaches to implementing these solutions. He urged the ministers to reflect on their duty as members of one of only two United Nations assemblies with universal membership – and the only such body authorized to serve as the leading authority on environment – and on the need to promote the “unity in diversity and diversity in unity” required to rise to the challenge. The Environment Assembly, beyond its role as the governing body of UNEP, had a mandate to address and provide guidance to other high-level forums throughout the United Nations system while UNEP, for its part, continued to serve as the science-policy interface. That role had been strengthened by, among other things, the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Global Environment Outlook reports, and by an almost 100 per cent increase in funding from Member States and partners over the previous decade. He was proud that the funds had been used to implement the programme of work and not, as in other United Nations entities, to increase the size of the secretariat. He was also proud to be leaving to his successor as Executive Director, Mr. Erik Solheim, an outstanding secretariat of committed, enterprising individuals who had been allowed the freedom to innovate. UNEP was now a

streamlined organization capable of meeting most of the needs of its Member States, based on the understanding that an environmental problem might, in scientific terms, be the same in two different cities on opposite sides of the world while the solutions and approaches might be very different.

67. In considering the work of UNEP on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, it was important to regard environment ministries not as a burden on the taxpayer but as an investment that would yield returns. It was also important to recognize that the solutions to most environmental challenges lay in the expertise, knowledge and understanding to be found in other sectors. The role of a modern environmental organization, he said, must be to empower the actors in those sectors to perform better within the framework of collective action.

68. In conclusion, he expressed appreciation to all those who had helped him to arrive at his current position: his predecessors, whose struggles had enabled UNEP to grow into an entity capable of securing \$10 billion in the Paris climate change negotiations so that millions of African people could have access to clean energy within the coming four years; the Member States that had allowed him and his team to transform the business and strategy of UNEP, together with the civil servants whose hard work made them the backbone of the world's environmental governance system; the much maligned environmental community, some of whose members had lost their lives for the cause and were in need of government protection; the United Nations Secretary-General and others who had helped him to understand the workings of the system; and, last but not least, Mr. Kofi Annan, who had persuaded him to move to Kenya in the first place.

B. Ministerial dialogue: Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

69. The ministerial dialogue on “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development” was convened on the morning of 26 May. During the dialogue, ministers and other high-level representatives exchanged views on two broad questions. The first question related to how to promote complementarities in the implementation of existing international agreements to contribute to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The second question pertained to policy, institutional and other arrangements needed to ensure the integrated and effective delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and to speed up implementation of the Agenda at the global, regional and national levels. Representatives had before them an information note by the Executive Director entitled “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (UNEP/EA.2/INF/4), as well as a note by the secretariat with the same title outlining a number of questions to stimulate discussion.

70. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Amina Mohammed, Minister for the Environment of Nigeria. The discussion was framed by short presentations by two speakers, Mr. Didier Dogley, Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Seychelles, and Ms. Anyaa Vohiri, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia. During the discussion, additional input was provided by a panel of five members: Mr. Wu Hongbo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; Mr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; Ms. Inger Andersen, Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; and Mr. Robert Glasser, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction; who responded to questions posed by Ms. Mohammed.

71. In his remarks, Mr. Dogley addressed three questions. Regarding the fostering of cooperation and coordination among institutions to deliver the 2030 Agenda more effectively, he first noted that transforming development and shifting the world economy onto a more sustainable trajectory would require massive investment. Specific avenues for improving coordination and cooperation included creating opportunities for organizations and members of multilateral environmental agreement bureaux and secretariats to hold discussions; strengthening channels of communication within forums such as the Environment Assembly, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the various multilateral environmental agreements; and reviewing existing reports to assess and map out commonalities and duplication and identify potential partnerships. Turning to the question of how existing processes could foster integration within the United Nations system, he said that the High-level Political Forum should be the primary vehicle for ensuring coordination and collaboration at all levels, while the United Nations General Assembly could provide political guidance and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs could help to coordinate the contributions made by the various United Nations entities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support system could also be used more effectively at the local and national level. Finally, UNEP could help strengthen stakeholders' sense of collective ownership of the 2030 Agenda by building partnerships with key stakeholders at the global, regional and national levels; increasing channels of communication; making better use of regional organizations to build capacity and share knowledge; working with Member States to build awareness and support consultative and participatory processes at the local and national levels; supporting countries with new and existing development programmes; engaging the private sector and civil society at the national and international levels; and ensuring support for developing countries.

72. Ms. Vohiri offered her thoughts on the Sustainable Development Goals and how to align them with environmental protection efforts. The environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals was critical, and it encompassed the social and economic dimensions. To achieve the goals, everyone had to get on board strategically, politically and financially; things had to be considered holistically. That meant changing the usual practice of working in silos, a change of mindset and thinking outside the box. Successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals required leadership with vision, passion for the environment and the knowledge to make the right decisions.

73. Mr. Hongbo said that at the national level, fostering of cooperation and coordination among institutions for more effective delivery of the 2030 Agenda would require a change in mindset, with a clear understanding of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, economic growth, social justice and environmental protection; high-level political leadership; and the development of long-term national strategies that integrated the Sustainable Development Goals. At the international level, the mandates of international organizations had to be aligned and synergies built.

74. Addressing the question of what actions could be taken at the regional level and how such actions could support the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, Mr. Friis Bach recommended creating opportunities for environment ministers to meet; producing good data and making it available to citizens, for which he recommended making use of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention); improving environmental assessment, including through greater use of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention); and tackling transboundary issues. He noted that all the regional commissions were currently working on building the regional forum for sustainable development, which would provide an opportunity to assess regional-level progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

75. Responding to the question of how best to reach out to those who had an impact on the environment, Ms. Andersen recalled that they were not UNEP, ministers of the environment or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, but rather businessmen, bankers, indigenous peoples, farmers, fishermen, women, the engineers who planned the infrastructure and young people. After seventy years, all the indicators were still headed in the wrong direction because the way the conversation was taking place needed to change. A broader spectrum of society needed to be involved, and the Environment Assembly had to transform from a governing council into a forum for ideas.

76. Asked to speak about solutions to accelerate the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, Mr. Glasser said that the key challenge was to embed the decisions taken the previous year in the formal structures in countries and in the investments countries were making. He suggested that risk, particularly disaster risk, was an important element in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as it provided an opportunity for dialogue between environmental agencies and ministries and the more powerful finance ministries that controlled the budget process. The process consisted of estimating the historical costs of climate change, using a risk profile to anticipate how they would change, and then bringing them into a discussion with finance ministries, leading to better investments for the future.

77. The final panelist, Mr. Lopes, summed up the discussion as he heard it into three messages: Member States were eager to show that they were responding to the major challenges ahead; the discussion had shifted to implementation; and there had been a repeated plea for attention to the environment as though the environmental dimension had not yet been acknowledged by other major players. The dynamic among the three pillars of sustainable development had to change, and the key was to demonstrate that the economy itself had to change. For Africa, ensuring the structural transformation of economies and achieving Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, meant increasing agricultural productivity, integrating a formal service economy and industrializing. It would require leapfrogging, not only with regard to technology, but also with regard to methodologies, processes and learning how to integrate social policy into economic discussions.

78. Several representatives speaking on behalf of regions and groups then intervened. The representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, acknowledged the cardinal role of UNEP in working to narrow the gap between developed and developing countries,

saying that the Environment Assembly provided an opportunity to build with commitment on the foundations laid by the international community, notably in 2015, through its resolutions and decisions that were in keeping with the UNEP mandate. UNEP had a crucial part to play in supporting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, taking into account different national realities and capacities while also respecting national policies and priorities. Suggesting that the challenges of promoting economic prosperity, social equity and environmental sustainability were best addressed with solidarity and in a holistic manner, he said that UNEP must work to strengthen its regional and subregional presence, all forms of international cooperation and its support to developing countries in the design of transparent indicators of progress for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals beyond per capita income. It must also recognize the multidimensional nature of poverty. Expressing support for UNEP activities in a broad range of areas, he called on ministers to deliver a strong message from the Environment Assembly on the basis of fruitful discussions conducted in a constructive spirit with a view to achieving consensus.

79. A representative speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States said that sustainable development would be achieved only if its environmental aspects were taken into account and if planetary boundaries were respected. To that end, he identified what he said should be the main areas for action by the Assembly: advocacy for integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development across implementation plans at the global, regional and national levels; collaboration with partners working in other relevant areas for delivery on that dimension; the engagement of civil society, the scientific community and the private sector in those efforts; and regular review of progress in delivery, as well as reporting of key recommendations to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. For its part, UNEP should work for the full integration of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda into United Nations system support for implementation at the country and regional levels; promote coherent system-wide implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development; ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders and explore new mechanisms for promoting transparency and effective civil society engagement, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships; and foster partnerships with the private sector in order to boost innovation, highlight effective technologies, create synergies and leverage investment. UNEP should furthermore play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, including by providing input to the global follow-up and review process.

80. A representative speaking on behalf of African States said that the African continent would remain engaged in the global efforts to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty, which were among its most pressing challenges. Those efforts would furthermore be supported by Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, adopted by the African Union as a strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Africa had a wealth of natural capital that should be effectively developed and managed for the benefit of its populations, yet a substantial part of it was lost annually to unregulated and illegal activities, which undermined its potential to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty. Indeed, the monetary value of those activities, including transnational organized environmental crime, was enough to transform Africa. In that context, at its recent sixth special session, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment had adopted a decision relating to the contribution of natural capital to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, in which African environment ministers had agreed to a series of measures for sustainably and optimally managing the continent's natural capital and reversing environmental losses. The Environment Assembly, he said, offered a unique platform for discussing ways of tackling that huge task.

81. There followed comments by representatives of individual Member States. Regarding the first question, representatives drew attention to the connection that existed between the 2030 Agenda and the multilateral environmental agreements, including those dealing with climate change, biodiversity, desertification and chemicals and waste, and each of which was related to several Sustainable Development Goals and related targets. The achievement of environmentally sustainable development would require the integrated implementation of such environmental agreements at the national and international levels, and the 2030 Agenda could facilitate and encourage such integrated implementation.

82. Several representatives said that the integrated implementation of international environmental commitments to advance the 2030 Agenda would present a number of challenges to countries, including the need to review and update national legal regulations and standards related to the environment and sustainable development; to adopt or update development plans, policies and strategies aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda and promote solutions to environmental problems; to achieve greater integration between ministries and national institutions dealing with environmental issues; for environment ministers to play a pioneering role in establishing programmes, networks and

projects that advanced environmental protection in areas such as agriculture, health, education and energy; to ensure the coordinated implementation of environmental protection in development projects and programmes; and to measure the economic impact of environmental degradation and develop national indicators to measure progress in achieving goals. They also emphasized the need for financial resources, the importance of environment ministries maintaining a close relationship with statistical authorities to ensure that sustainable development indicators were harmonized with international indicators and that statistical data were disseminated, and the need to promote science-based policymaking through the promotion of science, technology and innovation.

83. With regard to the role of UNEP in advancing the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, representatives said that it was important that UNEP continue to support countries by strengthening its regional presence, including by increasing the capacity and resources of its regional and subregional offices; that it explore innovative arrangements in order to enable Member States that were not represented in Nairobi to participate in its work on a more continuous basis; and that it contribute to the implementation of the “SAMOA Pathway”.

84. On possible arrangements through which the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda could be delivered at the national level, representatives shared experiences, thoughts and ideas on specific arrangements through which this might be achieved. A number of representatives outlined efforts made by their countries to integrate the 2030 Agenda into their sustainable development strategies, including through the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national sustainable development plans, as well as legally binding environmental targets, and the development of quantitative indicators to assess progress in the implementation of such plans.

85. With regard to how cooperation and coordination among institutions could be fostered to deliver more effectively on the 2030 Agenda, one representative said that to achieve this at the national level would require a clear understanding of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, economic growth, social justice and environmental protection; the establishment of adequate high-level coordination mechanisms; and the development of long-term national strategies that integrated the Sustainable Development Goals. At the international level, such coordination and cooperation would require an examination of the mandates of international organizations in order to streamline those mandates so as to reduce overlaps and duplication and build synergies.

86. Mr. Joan Clos, Secretary-General of Habitat III and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), emphasized the role of UN-Habitat in addressing environmental and climate change issues, in particular through the New Urban Agenda to be considered for adoption at Habitat III, to be held in Quito in October 2016. Now growing at a faster rate than populations, urbanization was considered a means to prosperity in developing countries, whereas in reality it often failed to produce the expected benefits because of its informal and unplanned nature, which caused serious problems and also exacerbated poverty. In order to change that situation, public policymaking must be focused on urban planning and design; urban development must be regulated through legislation and robustly enforcement; consideration must be given to physical design and function in the urban context; and adequate financial resources must be made available for ensuring that urbanization achieved its potential for making a valuable contribution to national economies.

87. Ministers and other high-level representatives of countries also delivered prepared statements on the theme of the ministerial dialogue. A number of representatives expressed appreciation to Mr. Steiner for his contribution to the work of UNEP during his tenure as Executive Director, and for his leadership role in placing the organization at the forefront of the global environmental agenda, and wished him all the best in his future endeavours as he neared the end of his second term.

88. A number of representatives spoke of the activities already being undertaken in their own countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including with regard to national planning and strategy formulation; improving coordination between ministries and other national actors; legislative and other measures to limit environmental degradation, control pollution and encourage green growth; introducing renewable energy and low-carbon options; sectoral integration, including transport, agriculture, energy and industry sectors in synergistic planning; gender mainstreaming; awareness-raising and education; ensuring food security and alleviating malnutrition; and aligning national policy and governance structures with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

89. There was general recognition of the huge scale of the task faced in fulfilling the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and that a change in focus from policy formulation to actual implementation was needed. It was acknowledged that delivering on the 2030 Agenda would require commitment at the highest political level and would entail the involvement of all actors, including Governments, civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and research institutes,

United Nations entities and other global organizations. Partnership at all levels was seen as key to achieving sustainable development, and a number of representatives urged ministries to forgo a “silo” mentality and cooperate in ensuring that the environment was mainstreamed in national and sectoral development plans.

90. Several representatives spoke of the role of UNEP and the Environment Assembly in the new environmental and developmental agenda that had been given structure by the 2030 Agenda. The Assembly had achieved a large degree of success in promoting the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and it now needed to take strong measures aimed at implementation of the environment-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. There was widespread acknowledgement of the valuable programmatic work being undertaken by UNEP in guiding and stimulating the global environmental agenda, and of the support given at the national level to assist countries to comply with international environmental commitments. Some representatives said that UNEP should keep its environmental mandate at the forefront of its activities, reflecting its role as the leader on environmental matters both globally and within the United Nations system. Synergies with multilateral environmental agreements, while recognizing their autonomy and freedom to operate within their own mandates and avoiding duplication of activities, were vital.

91. Many representatives commented on the relationship between UNEP and other global initiatives, with several pointing to 2015 as a year of pivotal importance, with outcomes including the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. The threat of climate change was particularly highlighted by representatives of small island developing States, whose very existence was threatened by sea-level rise. Several representatives said that for developing countries it was vital that adaptation to climate change be considered as important as mitigation.

92. A number of representatives spoke of the immense financial and technological challenges faced in making progress towards the “green economy” or other models of development, and in achieving poverty eradication. Many representatives, especially those from developing countries, said that the mobilization of additional resources, whether financial or technological or in the form of capacity-building, was essential if resource-poor countries were to make progress in achieving global development goals at the national level. A number of representatives highlighted challenges being faced at the national and regional levels, including desertification, land degradation and misuse, erosion of natural capital, deforestation, natural disasters, marine litter, climate change, chemicals and waste management and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, and stressed the need for support to enable them to combat those threats. Some drew attention to the significant new investment needed to realign infrastructure with the new sustainable development agenda.

93. In a broader context, several representatives considered how the ambitious global agenda for sustainable development, with a strong environmental dimension, could actually be achieved. There was consensus that any feasible solutions to the challenges facing the planet could only be realized by a complete change of mindset, involving innovative approaches by which financial markets viewed development in a completely different, holistic way, rather than from a purely economic perspective. Some representatives spoke of a need to give prominence to the “blue economy”, embracing the oceans and other water resources, as well as a “green economy”. The importance of sustainable consumption and production was also highlighted.

94. The representative of Norway said that his Government pledged \$1 million to UNEP to support strategic action to combat marine litter and microplastics.

95. The representative of Nicaragua, asking that his statement be recorded in the present proceedings, said that the Environment Assembly should respect its statutes and could not act as an administrative body in the interests of certain blocks of countries. In accordance with rules 37, 44, 48 and 49 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, the Government of Nicaragua would not support any draft resolution being considered during the current session of the Assembly.

C. Healthy environment, healthy people

1. Ministerial policy review session

96. The ministerial policy review session on the theme of “Healthy environment, healthy people: delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was convened on the morning of 27 May 2016. The session comprised a plenary meeting during which several representatives delivered introductory remarks, followed by two parallel round-table meetings during which representatives discussed the theme in a smaller setting.

97. In the plenary meeting, introductory remarks were delivered by the President of the Environment Assembly; the Executive Director of UNEP; Ms. Mary Robinson, former President of

Ireland and United Nations Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate; Ms. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization, via videoconference; and Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Mr. Andrew Haines, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, made a scientific keynote presentation.

98. In his remarks, Mr. Gutiérrez drew attention to the thematic report prepared for the second session, entitled “Healthy environment, healthy people” (UNEP/EA.2/INF/5), which he said provided evidence that the environmental burden of disease was increasing and that a healthy environment was a precondition for human health. Ministers and other stakeholders must therefore identify policy actions that addressed the linkages between the environment and human health and well-being and thereby reduced the environmental burden of disease, for instance by tackling air and water pollution, by reducing human exposure to toxic chemicals in products and in sectors such as agriculture, mining and waste management, and by promoting the coordinated implementation of the chemical and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements and the 2030 Agenda. Such policy actions must be premised on the four principles that underpinned the UNEP approach to delivering on the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and were embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals, namely, universality, which required the involvement of all relevant stakeholders; integration, which required addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated, balanced manner; respect for human rights and equity, which entailed a more even distribution of wealth and resources, equal access to opportunities, information and the rule of law, and the development of new approaches to delivering capacity-building at all levels; and innovation, which involved the transfer and use of technologies drawing on science, traditional knowledge and common sense.

99. In his remarks, the Executive Director said that the thematic report was the product of a joint effort by UNEP and the World Health Organization, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and other experts, including from UNEP and from other United Nations entities. The theme of “Healthy environment, healthy people” had been chosen for the ministerial policy review session because the interface between the environment and human health and well-being, which encompassed the health impacts not only of pollution but also of ecosystem degradation and other environmental changes, provided an excellent example of how the 2030 Agenda could be implemented and demonstrated that achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals would require truly systemic, integrated solutions. For instance, over 60 per cent of human infectious diseases were of zoonotic origin, which meant that they were linked to wildlife and to environmental change and that the solution could not be found in a merely pandemic response, which might call for the eradication of all migratory birds. In closing, he said that he took pride in the strong collaboration between UNEP and WHO, which showed how entities could work together to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

100. In her intervention, Ms. Robinson said that the threat of climate change not only encompassed weather-related phenomena but was also an insidious threat to health and development that cut across nearly every sector of public policy. The human health impacts of climate change, documented by the 2015 Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change, included an increase of vector-borne diseases, mental illness and food and nutrition insecurity, and many countries were already experiencing some of these effects in a world that had already in 2015 reached a global warming of 1°C above pre-industrial levels. The Paris Agreement was therefore also a health agreement: one of the most effective actions that could be taken to protect human health was to limit global warming to 1.5°C. In devising responses to climate change, it was essential that the Sustainable Development Goals be seen holistically and that solutions be based on equity and fairness, given that those most impacted by climate change were often those who were most vulnerable and who had done the least to contribute to the problem. For instance, the distribution of clean cook stoves to rural households in developing countries led to health improvements, avoided deforestation, caused a reduction of carbon emissions and improved incomes, as they enabled women to spend more time engaged in income-earning activities. In closing, she urged policymakers, as well as UNEP, to create or expand channels of communication with those who were most affected by climate change, as they were often the people developing the most innovative solutions to cope with the problem. She further suggested that there was a need to integrate climate change into international instruments; to consider the health and environmental dimensions of climate change in all responses to climate change; and to get into a “1.5°C global warming mindset”, saying it was essential that the most ambitious target of the Paris Agreement be achieved, including by ensuring that existing fossil fuel reserves were not extracted.

101. In her message, Ms. Chan said that, as major infectious diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria continued to decline, the harm caused by air pollution and exposure to hazardous chemicals in the environment was a “new epidemic” that demanded greater attention in the era of sustainable development. The numbers were staggering: WHO estimated that 12.6 million people died

each year from exposure to hazards lurking in the environment, with some 7 million such deaths being attributable to air pollution, which was now the single largest environmental risk to health. Air pollution was also contributing to the striking rise in non-communicable diseases and was responsible for one-third of deaths worldwide from lung cancer, strokes and respiratory diseases. The problem was of such a magnitude that the public health sector could not deal with it by using conventional tools such as vaccines and medicines, so WHO and UNEP had developed a solid platform for joint action. The full engagement of the energy, transport and financial sectors would also be needed. In closing, she thanked the Environment Assembly, as the supreme governing body of environmental affairs, for making a strong link between a healthy environment and healthy people, wishing them fruitful discussions.

102. In his remarks, Mr. Taalas said that urbanization and economic and population growth were all contributing to air pollution, especially in Asian countries such as China and India. Outlining the numerous services that WMO provided to national meteorological and hydrological services, including air quality monitoring and forecasting, seasonal predictions to plan for and contain outbreaks of weather-related diseases, weather services to reduce natural disaster-related casualties and monitoring of greenhouse gases to support climate action, he said that WMO was eager to provide such services to a much larger number of countries with the support of development partners. The services that WMO provided were not only useful to protect human health, but were also important for agriculture and food security and for the implementation by countries of their commitments under the Paris Agreement. Global warming was close to reaching 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and was expected to reach 2°C by 2030, while the implementation of current commitments under the Paris Agreement were expected to lead to a global warming of 3°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century, and up to 8°C by the same date if fossil fuel reserves were extracted. Temperature increases would have very significant health impacts worldwide, including a growing number of refugees owing to the inability of people to produce food in certain areas, so it was essential that action be undertaken as soon as possible; to that end, WMO was eager to build partnerships with UNEP, WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme and to receive additional donor support to promote weather, climate and health services at the national level.

103. In his keynote presentation, Mr. Haines drew attention to some of the contributors to the health burden of environmental disease, including air pollution, which was particularly intense in household environments in low-income countries but continued to be a worldwide problem in cities across the world, with WHO data suggesting that outdoor air pollution had increased by 8 per cent worldwide over the last five years; weather-related disasters, which had injured or otherwise affected around 4.1 billion people over the last 20 years; less-known factors such as poor waste management; and unsustainable environmental trends, including climate change, water shortages, forest coverage loss, ocean acidification and biodiversity loss. The health impacts of environmental change included heat overload, which would affect the ability of farmers or outdoor labourers to work outside and would therefore reduce their income opportunities and affect economic development, and an increase in malnutrition and non-communicable diseases due to the loss of pollinator species that were vital for the production of crops that were key to human health and nutrition, and to a reduced availability of fruits and vegetables.

104. Key strategies that could be used to improve the environment and human health and well-being included decoupling economic development from environmental degradation, which would require lifestyle changes for many people; detoxifying the economy through a reduction of pollutants; decarbonizing the economy to reduce dangerous climate change; enhancing ecosystem resilience to protect vulnerable populations from environmental changes. Examples of solutions included developing sustainable and healthy cities; conserving watersheds; reducing emissions of short-lived climate pollutants; promoting more sustainable agricultural and food systems and healthier and more sustainable diets; moving towards more sustainable economies; conserving forests; protecting natural buffers such as wetlands and mangroves to increase resilience in the face of disasters; protecting ecosystems such as coral reefs; and creating more resilient and adaptive ecosystems that could withstand environmental stresses.

105. In closing, he urged representatives to take into account the economic benefits of interventions that addressed environment and health linkages, which usually exceeded abatement costs, and to acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals provided a framework to address environmental and health challenges in an integrated way and that decisions taken by the Environment Assembly would have profound implications for the health and well-being of current and future generations.

2. Ministerial round tables

106. Two parallel ministerial round tables on “Healthy environment, healthy people” were convened on the morning of Friday, 27 May 2016, following the opening of the ministerial policy review session on the same subject.

(a) First round table

107. The first ministerial round table was co-chaired by Ms. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Head of its Environment Protection Organization, and Mr. Daniel Ortega Pacheco, Minister of Environment of Ecuador. Keynote statements were given by Mr. Omar Abdi, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF; Mr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and Mr. Leonardo Trasande, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Medicine of the New York University School of Medicine. The discussions were supported by the thematic report entitled “Healthy environment, healthy people” (UNEP/EA.2/INF/5).

108. In her introductory remarks, Ms. Ebtekar expressed her appreciation to the secretariat of UNEP for addressing the linkages between the environment and human health and well-being at the second session of the Environment Assembly, and commended the Executive Director for all that he had achieved for the global environment over the past decade. She said that there was an urgent need for greater recognition at the international level of the nexus between the environment and health and well-being, and she expressed the hope that UNEP and the World Health Organization would continue to work together and with other international bodies in that regard. Although regional coalitions were taking shape, she said that more international mechanisms were required to address the health impact of environmental pollutants and to exchange information and best practices. Following a description on the manner in which pollutants could cause autoimmune diseases and cancer by interacting with proteins, biological mediators and cell receptors in the human body, she said that questions were being raised over whether air pollution should be categorized under the theme of climate change or whether it should be addressed separately.

109. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Ortega reported on the transformative experiences that were under way in his country to address the linkages between the environment and human health and well-being, particularly with regard to the proven impact of climate change. He explained that Ecuador had established a new development model that sought to ensure human and social well-being in harmony with nature. Investments had led to a reduction in poverty levels, the provision of free access to healthcare for all and a decrease in environmental pollution as a result of tax incentives and biological infrastructure. In the context of a rapidly increasing population in urban areas, Habitat III, to be held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, would focus on a new urban agenda and the notion of the right to a clean, sustainable city. He stressed the importance of establishing a universal declaration on the rights of nature, a global legal system that emphasized the connection between human rights and environmental rights, and a framework for environmental governance that would bring about the transformational shift needed to prevent a rise in global temperatures and thus ensure that the international community was better positioned to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

110. Both Mr. Abdi and Mr. Trasande focused on the particular vulnerability of children to environmental risk factors. Mr. Abdi pointed out that children consumed more air, water and food per unit of body weight and therefore bore the brunt of the impact of pollution, and were more likely to be denied care in the aftermath of disasters such as those caused by climate change. He identified opportunities to make the transition to a healthy environment, including addressing air pollution, and particularly limiting children’s exposure to it, through initiatives like the Every Breath Counts coalition; accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals to reduce death from diarrhoeal diseases, including making progress toward zero open defecation; designing child-sensitive policies that put children at the centre of climate change efforts; and promoting climate-resilient development that helped communities mitigate the effect of disasters. Mr. Trasande followed up on Mr. Abdi’s remarks with a discussion of the importance of phasing lead out of paint as a way of limiting disruption to childhood development from exposure to environmental hazards.

111. Mr. de Souza Dias described some of the many linkages between biodiversity and human health and well-being, calling for more partnerships between health organizations and environmental organizations. Environmental degradation was a common cause of negative effects on both biodiversity and human health. While there was a need to fight the resulting illness and disease, he emphasized the importance of prevention of such degradation and the strengthening of partnerships between the health and environmental sectors. Some of the many relevant aspects were good nutrition, a healthy interlinkage with microorganisms, proper use of antibiotics, and the development of healthy immune systems, as well as the mental health benefits derived from exposure to the natural

environment. More information could be found in a report called *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health*, published in 2015 by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Health Organization.

112. During the ensuing discussion, representatives focused on a number of themes, including the policies and linkages needed at the national level to ensure an integrated response to health and environmental issues, and the activities being undertaken at national and subnational levels to facilitate transformative change with regard to the environment-health nexus. There was general consensus on the timeliness and relevance of the overarching theme of healthy environment, healthy people. A number of representatives said that the fact that the World Health Assembly was meeting in Geneva concurrently with the present session of the Environment Assembly in Nairobi was an important and good sign of the convergence of the agendas of both sectors, but that the discussion would benefit from enhanced synergy between the health and environmental agendas. Several representatives placed the issue in a wider developmental context, highlighting the relevance of environment and health to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Assembly, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve greater equity in the allocation and use of resources.

113. Several representatives spoke of the value for human health and well-being of a healthy environment, including through the positive effects of biodiversity and natural capital. On the other hand, many examples were provided of negative impacts on health as a consequence of lack of care for the environment, including exposure to toxic substances such as lead, mercury and asbestos; exposure to air, water and soil pollution; and the propensity for zoonotic diseases to affect humans. One area highlighted was marine pollution, including through microplastics, with one representative drawing attention to the particular vulnerability of small island developing States to marine pollution. The effect of climate change on human health was also considered important, including through the spread of disease vectors for malaria and other diseases, and sea-level rise. Several representatives noted that the poor and vulnerable sections of society bore the brunt of environment-related diseases and destruction of the natural resource base, including through deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

114. A number of representatives highlighted improved air quality as a major global and national priority, with one representative commending UNEP for taking up, in its programme of work and budget, the resolution on air quality adopted by the Environment Assembly at its first session. There was some discussion of the relationship between air pollution and climate change, with some representatives noting the work of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition in addressing that linkage.

115. On the matter of zoonotic diseases, one representative said that increasing contact between humans and domestic and wild animals increased the chance of transfer of pathogens. Several representatives said that the overuse of antimicrobials, including in the livestock industry, and the related presence of pharmaceutical products in the environment and water supply, had greatly increased the incidence of antimicrobial resistance worldwide.

116. There was consensus that addressing the aforementioned challenges was not easy, given their complexity and the powerful international forces that were resistant to change. Several representatives said that cooperation between major international partners, including the multilateral environmental agreements and WHO, was central to addressing issues around the environment-health interface, with each organization or institution adding value based on its core competencies. Some alluded to the Minamata Convention on Mercury as an example of how international cooperation could lead to global action to combat a major threat to environmental and human health. Several representatives highlighted the synergistic approach adopted by the 2030 Agenda as a model for dealing with the complex interlinkages that characterized the modern world. One representative highlighted the role of UNEP in sharing information and building capacity to make national responses more effective, and praised the initiative of UNEP in effecting action through the promotion of partnerships, as exemplified by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. One representative, taking the interlinkages inherent in Sustainable Development Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) as an example, said that it was important to adapt the system to the Agenda, rather than letting the Agenda take second place to the system. One representative spoke of the benefit of sharing data between countries and other stakeholders on environmental and health issues.

117. Several representatives said that the multifaceted nature of environment-health issues required intersectoral cooperation at the national level, involving relevant ministries and departments, as well as the private sector, civil society, academia and others. One representative, stressing the political and social dimensions of unsustainable consumption and production, as well as the environmental dimension, said that equitable, sustainable development required a fundamental reassessment of and

change in the developmental paradigm, involving an ecosocialist approach through the empowerment of citizens and communities.

118. A number of representatives drew attention to actions being undertaken in their own countries to link the health and environment agendas, in recognition of the positive impact of environmental protection on human health. Those included policy and legislative measures; infrastructural solutions, such as investment in water treatment plants; organizational solutions, such as establishment of an air quality network; and technical solutions, such as improved quality of fossil fuels and adoption of renewable energy technologies.

119. In closing, Mr. Ortega thanked the participants for their contributions. It was clear, he said, that much progress had been made in addressing the theme of healthy environment, healthy people at the national and international levels, and that the Environment Assembly was an important platform for exploring the best ways to address the linkages between environment and health. Lastly, he stressed the role of synergies and multisectoral action as a means of identifying and implementing cost-effective and efficient solutions to challenges in the environment-health arena.

(b) Second round table

120. The second ministerial round table was co-chaired by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany, and Ms. Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs of South Africa.

121. During the round table, ministers and other high-level representatives engaged in two sequences of discussion, the first relating to examples of existing policies and experiences that were already delivering in an integrated manner to address environmental and health linkages, and the second relating to ways and means of enabling scaled-up actions for delivering on the 2030 Agenda. In addition to the global thematic report “Healthy environment, healthy people” (UNEP/EA.2/INF/5), representatives had before them a background note, which built on that report and included a number of questions for guiding the discussion.

122. With a view to generating interaction, the round-table discussion was framed by short presentations given by three keynote discussants: Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN-Women; Ms. Tina Birmpili, Executive Secretary, Ozone Secretariat; and Ms. Jane Nishida, Chair of the Advisory Group of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

123. In his remarks, Mr. Glemarec provided examples of initiatives supported by UN-Women that illustrated the fact that gender equality and women’s empowerment offered solutions to the greatest challenges of the present day, saying that the millions of premature deaths from air pollution caused by solid fuel cooking could be prevented by universal access to electricity and modern cooking fuel. With existing trends indicating, however, that it would take many decades to achieve such access, he suggested that the means to accelerating the process was through the leverage of women’s entrepreneurship, as championed by a global programme implemented by UN-Women, in cooperation with UNEP, to promote access to sustainable energy. He added that the falling cost of renewable energy and the rapid uptake of mobile technology had together enabled the introduction of new business models for the decentralization of renewable energy, which could be much more swiftly deployed than any centralized power generation solution and which, if promoted at scale, could bring about universal access to electricity by 2030. The key challenge was to create a rural decentralization network and to ensure repayment, spheres in which women entrepreneurs had a demonstrable comparative advantage. Another pertinent example of synergies between health, gender and energy was UN-Women’s work with UNEP to establish a women’s enterprise platform aimed at overcoming such other barriers to rapid sustainable energy development as women’s access to finance, information, technology and markets.

124. Giving a further example, he said that addressing the gender gap in agriculture would increase productivity, with positive effects on food security, poverty alleviation, health and climate, and also offset the potential trade-off between food security and valuable negative emissions technologies, notably biological carbon capture and sequestration, in which women engaged through such activities as tree-planting. Activities for closing that gender gap would, he added, simultaneously promote climate-smart agriculture not only for women but for everyone.

125. Ms. Birmpili, suggesting ways and means for enabling scaled-up actions for delivery of the 2030 Agenda on the basis of the experience of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, noted that much past environmental policy had ultimately been aimed at protecting people rather than the inherent value of the environment. She said that the Vienna Convention and its Protocol set the standard for explicit

recognition of the central place of health and that the ozone treaties, albeit dealing with something intangible and invisible, had achieved success in multiple sectors while addressing the specific issue of the restoration of the ozone layer owing to their treatment of many issues other than just the evident link between the environment and health and well-being.

126. She outlined those successes with respect to the global environment, climate change mitigation, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, the green economy, technology transfer, contribution to gross domestic product and health, saying that such achievements demonstrated a systemic approach that was also relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. The implementation of the latter called for a profound transition in the approach to working for development through, inter alia, striving to improve both health and life conditions; determining not only the environmental areas on which the Assembly could deliver in decarbonizing and detoxifying economies but also the method for doing so; considering the funding and institutional capacity needed for enabling delivery at scale; and transforming complicated scientific information into policy-relevant action, as well as policy action into action relevant to people's lives. It also called for dedicated individuals at the national level, as in the case of heads of national ozone units who believed in the cause and had given flesh to the ozone treaties. In short, the Montreal Protocol had been focused on the way that countries worked together and on mobilizing resources for development; ensuring the planet's sustainability through the restoration of the ozone layer; leveraging the power of public-private partnerships; making decisions based on sound science; strengthening data availability and scientific expertise; and facilitating follow-up and review.

127. In her presentation, Ms. Nishida said that the "Healthy environment, healthy people" report highlighted the dangers and risks of chemical pollution, including by citing statistics relating to deaths caused directly or indirectly by chemicals. Noting that many thousands of people died annually or suffered severe health impacts from exposure to lead, with lead in paint now the major source of such exposure, she said that those impacts could be tackled successfully through concerted efforts similar to those exerted to remove lead from fuel. There were affordable alternatives to lead in paint, which was a threat to human health and the environment and especially dangerous for children, affecting all aspects of their growth. The solution lay in the enactment and enforcement of laws banning lead paint in all countries worldwide.

128. A voluntary partnership led by UNEP and WHO, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, was working for the removal of lead from all paint by 2020, in which context she drew attention to two tools launched at the present session of the Environment Assembly, specifically: the UNEP *Global Report on the Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint*, which provided an overview of existing lead-paint-related legislation, and an interactive online map showing the enormous economic cost of childhood exposure to lead in all countries, amounting in many cases to more than they received in official development assistance. Those tools, she said, would assist Governments to tackle the challenge and avoid the health, environment and economic costs associated with the use of lead paint.

129. Among the major risk factors, challenges and vulnerabilities, representatives highlighted air quality and air pollution as a major cause of premature deaths and risk to human health, both from outdoor pollution and household air pollution, as well as a major factor for an increase in health expenses. Vehicle fleet, industry-related pollution and agriculture were identified as priorities to tackle. Other major risk factors mentioned included water pollution – linked to poor sanitation, pollution of water sources, unsustainable water use and leading to a high prevalence of waterborne diseases; poorly managed waste; negative impacts of biodiversity loss on human health; transboundary environmental issues resulting from forest fires and pollution of transboundary water resources.

130. In order to achieve a healthy environment for healthy people, some representatives highlighted the need to make the transition to a circular economy, making use of resources more efficiently, preserving natural resources and enhancing ecosystem resilience; the importance of supporting innovative approaches, technologies and models such as climate-smart agriculture, decentralized energy systems, rainwater harvesting and integrated water resource management in water-scarce areas, the use of geospatial information, eco-disaster risk reduction and ecosystem-based adaptation; the contribution of enabling frameworks through laws, standards, regulations and policies involving all stakeholders, and of enhanced capacity-building and means of implementation through international cooperation; the key role of the multilateral environment agreements, including the Montreal Protocol which had successfully enabled ozone layer restoration, increased investment in more sustainable and non-depleting technologies and, as a result, was preventing cataracts, cancers and other adverse health impacts; the need to address the gender gap as women suffered the most from a lack of access to information, markets and education. The importance of finding alternatives to support more sustainable markets and to make the transition to a more sustainable and diversified agriculture and more sustainable food systems was also mentioned.

131. Existing best practices and actions at the national and local levels were shared, including accident and risk prevention plans on the use of chemicals; emissions trading schemes, the promotion of sustainable urban transport and clean vehicle fleets; transboundary fire prevention; standards on pollutants in ambient air; laboratories and technologies for monitoring air quality; biodiversity prevention measures.

132. A number of representatives highlighted the central role of the Environment Assembly in calling for action and promoting behavioural change, and supporting the establishment of key development frameworks to mainstream environment into all economic sectors and their implementation (e.g., the Samoa Pathway). The role of UNEP in engaging all stakeholders, promoting networks, deploying guidelines and tools and building multi-stakeholders partnerships at the global and regional levels was also raised. The importance of cooperating with multilateral environmental agreements to promote public health and ecosystem protection, and the need for countries to sign and ratify all such agreements and the Paris Agreement were stressed, as well as the need to work in close cooperation with other international organizations and forums, as well as civil society, the private sector, research institutions and academia.

D. Multi-stakeholder dialogue on “Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

133. The multi-stakeholder dialogue was convened on Friday, 27 May, in accordance with Governing Council decision 27/2, on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, under the main theme “Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” Ministers, high-level representatives and representatives of major groups and international organizations participated in the open dialogue. Contributors to the dialogue included representatives of the business community, indigenous peoples, grassroots organizations, chief executive officers of large international non-governmental organizations and the judiciary.

134. The dialogue was moderated by Ms. Sharon Dijksma, Minister for Environment of the Netherlands and Mr. Andrew Steer, Chief Executive Officer of the World Resources Institute. The dialogue provided an opportunity for participants to discuss how multi-stakeholder partnerships with the aim of restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems can contribute to successfully delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, and the role of the Environment Assembly in catalysing such partnerships.

135. During the course of the dialogue, participants presented multi-stakeholder partnership success stories that underlined the potential of partnerships for sustaining and restoring healthy ecosystems.

136. Presenting the conclusions of the dialogue, the moderators drew attention to the following main messages: (a) the Environment Assembly and UNEP provided appropriate forums for brokering and nurturing new and unconventional multi-stakeholder partnerships and the Environment Assembly could build on the considerable experience of UNEP in that regard; (b) partnerships often worked best when organizations that did not habitually collaborate were brought together in working towards a common objective; (c) major groups and stakeholders, including the business community, had a crucial role to play in implementing political decisions adopted in intergovernmental forums – it would be impossible to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals without their participation; (d) partnerships should not, however, replace or dilute robust regulatory frameworks; (e) in order to restore and sustain healthy ecosystems, it was crucial that long-term partnerships included local and indigenous communities on an equal footing with other stakeholders.

VII. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session (agenda item 9)

137. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the evening of Friday, 27 May, the Environment Assembly adopted by consensus the following resolutions, which are set out in annex I to the present proceedings:

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>
2/1	Amendments to the rules of procedure
2/2	Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities
2/3	Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training
2/4	Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
2/5	Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2/6	Supporting the Paris Agreement
2/7	Sound management of chemicals and waste
2/8	Sustainable consumption and production
2/9	Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste
2/10	Oceans and seas
2/11	Marine plastic litter and microplastics
2/12	Sustainable coral reefs management
2/13	Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication
2/14	Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
2/15	Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict
2/16	Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being
2/17	Enhancing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions
2/18	Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats
2/19	Midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV)
2/20	Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018–2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018–2019
2/21	Sand and dust storms
2/22	Review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
2/23	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
2/24	Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands
2/25	Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

138. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the evening of 27 May, which continued through to the early morning of Saturday, 28 May, the Environment Assembly considered a draft resolution on a field-based environmental assessment of the Gaza Strip, set out in a conference room paper. One representative, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution, which was co-sponsored by another Member State that did not belong to the same group, had been proposed following consultation with other political groups in an effort to reach consensus. She said that the resolution sponsored by the Group of 77 and China was of a technical nature and called for an analysis of the environmental impacts of hostilities in the Gaza Strip. Expressing the view that it would set a very negative precedent if the resolution were put to a vote at the current session, she asked for guidance from the President as to how to proceed, saying that the parties involved had made every effort to reach consensus but one party had been intransigent. Another representative, speaking on behalf of another group of countries, also requested that the resolution submitted by the Group of 77

and China be adopted by consensus, saying that it had been a desire to achieve consensus that had prompted the withdrawal of a similar earlier draft resolution in favour of the less controversial one presented by the Group of 77 and China. He recalled that the Governing Council of UNEP had adopted a decision on the same topic at its twenty-fifth session.

139. After the presentation of the draft resolution on a field-based environmental assessment of the Gaza Strip, one representative of a Member State called for a vote on the proposal. Another representative, agreeing with the view that putting the resolution to a vote would set a bad precedent in the Assembly, said that all the parties that had engaged in discussions on the draft resolution had done so in good faith and it had not been the case that a single party had been intransigent, but rather that no consensus had been reached. He therefore requested the proponents of the draft resolution to consider withdrawing it.

140. Following consultations, the representative of the Group of 77 and China reported that agreement had been reached not to withdraw the draft resolution. Another representative therefore requested that, prior to voting on the substance of the resolution, a procedural vote be held on whether or not to hold such a vote.

141. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of rule 55 of the rules of procedure, a procedural vote was then held on whether to vote on the substance of the resolution. Following the vote, it was revealed that the number of Member States of the Environment Assembly present at the time of voting had not totalled a majority of those States, as required by rule 32 of the rules of procedure. The Environment Assembly could not, therefore, proceed to vote on the draft resolution owing to the lack of a quorum. Subsequently, the draft resolution was set aside and no further action was taken on the matter by the Environment Assembly.

142. Several representatives expressed reservations and disappointment at the fact that a vote on the draft resolution on the Gaza Strip had been held at such a late stage in the process of negotiation. One representative suggested that in the future, all draft resolutions should be considered earlier in the session in order to avoid similar situations arising. Following consultations, the Secretary of Governing Bodies, requesting that his remarks be reflected in the present proceedings, apologized to Members for the lack of preparedness to respond in a timely manner to the wish of many Member States to adopt a resolution on a field-based environmental assessment of the Gaza Strip.

143. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized that the resolutions adopted constituted the main achievement of the second session of the Environment Assembly as they dealt with crucial environmental issues. Their implementation would contribute to strengthening UNEP, the Assembly and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and had been the product of arduous work undertaken by Member States both prior to and during the second session.

144. In their concluding remarks on the item, representatives expressed their appreciation to the President of the Environment Assembly for his leadership and guidance throughout the second session, offering him the full support of their Governments during the remainder of his presidency.

145. Many representatives also expressed their deep appreciation to the Executive Director of UNEP for his extraordinary leadership over the previous decade and for his tireless efforts for the Programme and global environmental governance, wishing him all the best in his future endeavours.

146. The Executive Director expressed appreciation to all the representatives for their comments and for their hard work throughout the second session. He noted that he had hoped for a different outcome with regard to the draft resolution on a field-based environmental assessment of the Gaza Strip given his belief that United Nations entities should be able to fulfil their mandates and help people regardless of their location. He expressed gratitude for the commitment exhibited by all the representatives and said that he trusted that patience, mutual respect and a spirit of compromise would continue to prevail in years to come, further strengthening both the Environment Assembly and UNEP.

VIII. Date and venue of the third session of the Assembly

147. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Environment Assembly heard a report by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole presenting, among other things, a draft decision, set out in a conference room paper, on the provisional agenda, date and venue of its third session. The draft decision recommended that the third session of the Environment Assembly be held in Nairobi and, on an exceptional basis, over a three-day period, from 4 to 6 December 2017, as set out in resolution 2/22 on the review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP. In order to ascertain the feasibility of the proposed dates, the President of the Assembly deferred action on the proposal upon the recommendation of the secretariat.¹

IX. Adoption of the report (agenda item 10)

148. At its 6th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted the present proceedings on the basis of the draft proceedings (UNEP/EA.2/L.1), on the understanding that they would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

X. Other matters (agenda item 11)

149. The Committee did not consider any other matters.

XI. Closure of the session (agenda item 12)

150. The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP was declared closed at 4 a.m. on Saturday, 28 May 2016.

¹ Subsequently, on 24 June 2016, the Member States of the Assembly confirmed, on the basis of no objection, the date and venue of the third session of the Assembly in the light of the confirmation by the Executive Director of the feasibility of the proposed dates with regard to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations.

Annex I

Resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its second session

- 2/1 Amendments to the rules of procedure
- 2/2 Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities
- 2/3 Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training
- 2/4 Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- 2/5 Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 2/6 Supporting the Paris Agreement
- 2/7 Sound management of chemicals and waste
- 2/8 Sustainable consumption and production
- 2/9 Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste
- 2/10 Oceans and seas
- 2/11 Marine plastic litter and microplastics
- 2/12 Sustainable coral reefs management
- 2/13 Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication
- 2/14 Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
- 2/15 Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict
- 2/16 Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being
- 2/17 Enhancing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions
- 2/18 Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats
- 2/19 Midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV)
- 2/20 Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018–2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018–2019
- 2/21 Sand and dust storms
- 2/22 Review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
- 2/23 Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
- 2/24 Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands
- 2/25 Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Resolutions

2/1. Amendments to the rules of procedure

The United Nations Environment Assembly

1. *Adopts* the following amendments to its rules of procedure:

(a) Rule 18 as amended reads as follows:

During the final meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Environment Assembly shall elect a president, eight vice-presidents and a rapporteur from among its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Bureau shall assist the president in the general conduct of business of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The chairpersons of such sessional committees or working parties as may be established under rule 61 below shall be invited to participate in meetings of the Bureau.

(b) Rule 20 as amended reads as follows:

The president, the vice-presidents and the rapporteur shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall commence their terms of office at the closure of the session at which they are elected and remain in office until the closure of the next regular session. Subject to the provisions of rule 18, they shall be eligible for re-election. None of them may hold office after the expiration of the term of office of the member of which the officer concerned is a representative.

2. *Decides* that the above amendments shall take effect at the beginning of its third session. Therefore the Bureau elected for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly shall remain in office until the closure of its third session.

2/2. Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling decision 27/2 of the Governing Council, taken at its twenty-seventh and first universal session, held in Nairobi from 18 to 22 February 2013, to strengthen the regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme in order to assist countries in the implementation of their national environmental programmes, policies and plans,

Recalling also Governing Council decisions 13/6 of 1985 on the African environmental conference and 11/7 of 1983 on the Regional Programme for Africa, inviting the Governments of the region to convene, in cooperation with regional organizations and institutions, an African environmental conference to discuss national environmental priorities and identify common problems worthy of a regional programme of action to deal with serious environmental problems in Africa and requesting the Executive Director to provide the secretariat services for the conference through the Regional Office for Africa,

Recalling further Governing Council decision 20/11 of 1999 on support for cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme through the regional offices for West Asia and Africa, requesting the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the goals and aims of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the regional offices for West Asia and Africa and to establish an appropriate mechanism with a view to supporting the implementation and coordination of regional programmes in the Arab region,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 10/V of 1982 recommending to the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean that they periodically convoke intergovernmental regional meetings on the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to establish policies and a strategy for the region in this field and requesting the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to lend the support of the permanent secretariat for these intergovernmental regional meetings, through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Welcoming the progress and achievements of regional forums of environment ministers to which the United Nations Environment Programme provides support, and recognizing those forums as

important platforms for strengthening the engagement of countries in the preparation of and follow-up to sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledging with appreciation the First Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok on 19 and 20 May 2015, co-hosted by the Government of Thailand,

Noting the request of the First Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to hold regular sessions of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific,

Expressing appreciation for the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment through its Regional Office for Africa,

Acknowledging the ongoing work of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and taking note of the outcomes of the twentieth meeting of the Forum, held in March 2016 in Cartagena, Colombia,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in accordance with the programme of work and budget, to support and to facilitate convening and/or strengthening the existing regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities;
2. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to support and to facilitate convening new regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities upon the request of the regions, through the intergovernmental process, with all countries in the respective regions, and subject to the availability of financial resources;
3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to provide an update on progress made in implementing the present resolution through intersessional work relevant to the United Nations Environment Assembly as appropriate.

2/3. Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, which the General Assembly took note of in its resolution 69/211 of 19 December 2014, as a follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development after 2014, and as endorsed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-seventh session,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, which includes, inter alia, a commitment to promoting education for sustainable development and to integrating sustainable development more actively into education beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,¹

Recognizing the key role of environmental education and training in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Taking note of the Tbilisi Declaration on environmental education, the outcome of the first Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education, held in Tbilisi in October 1977, and of the Tbilisi Communiqué, the outcome document of the Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development held in Tbilisi in September 2012,

Noting the rapid growth of the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability since its launch in 2012, in the lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

¹ See General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 233.

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop innovative educational tools and methodologies, including massive open online courses, for disseminating its knowledge base,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building through access to environmental education, training and capacity-building opportunities, including increased capacity development to help Member States, upon request, to integrate the environmental dimension into their relevant curricula in line with the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition as appropriate;
2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to promote cooperation and interaction between the United Nations Environment Programme and the higher education community in mainstreaming environment and sustainability across education and training;
3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to enhance cooperation with all relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations University, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other international institutions, for better implementation of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development;
4. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so and other relevant stakeholders to support the work of the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance environmental education and training;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly.

2/4. Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/202 of 1 December 2015, which reaffirmed the Declaration of Barbados² and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ the Mauritius Declaration⁴ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁵ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁶ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁷ including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 on the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want,” in which the General Assembly, among other things, called for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States,

² *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁴ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁵ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁶ Resolution 69/15, annex.

⁷ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Taking into account that Member States called for the strengthening of the United Nations system to support small island developing States in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States in achieving sustainable development,⁸

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, in which the General Assembly endorsed the SAMOA Pathway, adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which inter alia reaffirms that “small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development” and recognizes “the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges”, while stressing that, “in the absence of international cooperation, success will remain difficult”,

Recalling the outcome document of the ministerial segment of the first United Nations Environment Assembly for the institutional strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 adopting the outcome document of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Government and the people of Samoa for hosting the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 and for providing all necessary support;
2. *Acknowledges* the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/2 on the strengthening of the regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme through the establishment of new Programme subregional offices for the Caribbean and for the Pacific, and encourages further efforts in that respect;
3. *Encourages* Member States to support, both actively and effectively, the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, particularly through partnerships in North-South, triangular and South-South cooperation on issues of importance to small island developing States such as financing, trade, technology transfer, capacity-building and institutional support;
4. *Also encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to contribute as appropriate to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and requests the Executive Director:
 - (a) To incorporate into the medium-term strategy and its ongoing programme of work, and clearly identify, actions that assist small island developing States in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, with an emphasis on partnerships, technology transfer, capacity-building, institutional support, monitoring, reporting and evaluation;
 - (b) To enhance the provision of strategic and targeted support in areas covered by the environmental dimension of the SAMOA Pathway, including, inter alia, sustainable tourism;
 - (c) To facilitate learning, exchange of information, and North-South and South-South cooperation between small island developing States, regions and other developing countries, particularly with regard to how they have adapted and implemented approaches such as sustainable consumption and production patterns and resource efficiency;
 - (d) To build national and subregional capacity for reporting against the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals, linking it to United Nations Environment Programme international environmental reporting platforms such as UNEP-Live and utilizing the Programme Indicator Reporting Information System for reporting under multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to support small island developing States in actions to implement the SAMOA Pathway that will also contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
6. *Recognizes* that it and its subsidiary bodies can serve as an important forum for facilitating, and sharing information on, the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SAMOA Pathway by highlighting areas that need more action and directing attention and resources towards them as well as contributing to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

⁸ “The future we want”, para. 179.

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to it on progress in the implementation of the present resolution, with an emphasis on programme activity outputs and impacts.

2/5. Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 adopting the outcome document of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, on the “Format and organizational aspects of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development”,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the role of the high-level segment of the United Nations Environment Assembly in line with Governing Council decision 27/2 in setting the global environmental agenda and providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges,

Recalling also the outcomes of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including its commitment to ensuring the full integration of the environmental dimension throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its request that the Executive Director develop system-wide strategies on the environment and promote a strong science-policy interface,

Recalling further the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 27/9 on “Advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability”,

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,

Recalling also paragraph 40 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes that the means of implementation targets under Goal 17 and under each Sustainable Development Goal are key to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are of equal importance with the other Goals and Targets; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, supported by the concrete policies and actions as outlined in the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, welcomes the endorsement by the General Assembly of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recalling further paragraph 41 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development deals with the means required for implementation of the Goals and targets, the need to mobilize financial resources as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, and that public finance, both domestic and international, plays a vital role in providing essential services and public goods and in catalysing other sources of finance, and acknowledging the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's report on the follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Taking note of the Executive Director's report on coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group,

Acknowledging the significant contributions to sustainable development made by multilateral environment agreements,

Acknowledging also that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an agenda for all and its successful implementation requires the involvement of all relevant stakeholders,

Stressing the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting human rights and gender equality and recognizing the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

I

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. *Commits* to contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, through setting the global environmental agenda, providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges, undertaking policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences, and fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization;

2. *Also commits* to conveying the main messages of its sessions to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to support its function in the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

II

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the leading global environmental authority, to enhance its activities, in cooperation with other United Nations entities, in support of the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national, regional and global levels, taking into account the recommendations of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

4. *Welcomes* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and its support and requests the Executive Director to continue the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to operationalize the six programmes of the framework, thus facilitating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Encourages* the Executive Director, within the mandate, programme of work and budget of the United Nations Environment Programme, to take action to enhance coordinated, coherent and integrated delivery within the United Nations system on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by, inter alia:

(a) Fostering partnerships and other means of cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies;

(b) Engaging with regional coordination mechanisms, as appropriate;

(c) Actively promoting the integration of the environmental dimension into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework at the country level;

(d) Enhancing institutional and human capacity-building at the national, regional and international levels;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session on progress in the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the Environment Management Group effectiveness report and the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment for the United Nations system and to invite the members of the Environment Management Group to report to their respective governing bodies on the progress of the Group's work;

7. *Invites*, as appropriate, the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to continue their support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Environment Management Group effectiveness report as well as the system-wide framework of strategies on the environment;

8. *Encourages* the Executive Director to support Governments' efforts to enhance institutional and human capacities, as well as policy and legal frameworks, upon request, towards effectively integrating and implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9. *Underlines* the key role that cities and human settlements play in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and therefore calls on the United Nations Environment Programme to support the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable urban development in close cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and other relevant United Nations entities, to continue to play an active role in the preparation of the Habitat III Conference and its follow-up;

10. *Encourages* the Executive Director to further promote, at the national, regional and global levels, synergies between multilateral environmental agreements, recognizing the institutional independence of the governing bodies of those agreements, with a view to increasing efficiency, effectiveness and inclusiveness and avoiding duplication of effort;

11. *Invites* multilateral environmental agreements to take into account relevant targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in their reporting obligations under those agreements;

III

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to initiate new multi-stakeholder partnerships, where appropriate, and within available resources, and strengthen existing ones, including with the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to promote activities that contribute to delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to continue to consult international financial institutions and the private finance sector, building on the report of the United Nations Environment Programme inquiry, *The Financial System We Need*, with regard to issues at the intersection of finance and the environment in support of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

14. *Welcomes* the co-coordinator role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, which is an important part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, noting that there is an opportunity to promote coordination, coherence and cooperation to enhance synergies and efficiencies, in particular to enhance capacity-building initiatives of environmentally sound technologies and innovation as well as science, technology and innovation in other sectors in order to reduce harmful impacts on the environment;

IV

Follow-up and review

15. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, has an important role in the follow-up to and review of progress in implementing the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including the provision of policy-relevant information through assessment processes such as the Global Environment Outlook, as a contribution to the Global Sustainable Development Report and to the annual Sustainable Development Goals progress report, all of which should support the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

V

Science-policy interface

16. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, in a manner that avoids duplication, on indicators to support monitoring the delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

17. *Invites* the Executive Director to continue to raise awareness about environmental policies that have been proven effective in achieving sustainable development, in a manner that ensures the integration of its three dimensions;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the science-policy interface regarding the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by:

- (a) Using data, disaggregated where applicable, and information from a wide range of sources across all relevant areas and strengthening cooperation with partners beyond the environment community, building on existing national and international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks;
- (b) Continuing to collaborate with other relevant United Nations bodies and to facilitate the work of scientific panels that provide integrated assessments to support policymaking, especially those for which United Nations Environment Programme is secretariat, such as the International Resource Panel and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
- (c) Increasing the visibility and impact of such assessments by presenting them to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and facilitating their dissemination to a wide range of audiences;
- (d) Continuing to provide policy-relevant information, including the Global Environment Outlook assessments, to track progress regarding the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as information on trends in global sustainability, and to present them to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to support informed decision-making with regard to strengthening implementation;
- (e) Providing relevant reports and assessments that contribute to the development of the Global Sustainable Development Report, which shall inform the meetings of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly;

VI

Assessments and early warning

- 19. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the Global Environment Outlook process, products and thematic assessments, which include assessments of the state of, the trends in and the outlook for the environment, and cover the internationally agreed environmental goals, take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;
- 20. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the early warning activities of the United Nations Environment Programme support relevant decision makers, as well as the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, through the provision of information on emerging issues and risks that may have an impact on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

VII

UNEP Live

- 21. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that UNEP Live, which already covers the internationally agreed environmental goals, provides credible, up-to-date information to support the follow-up to and review of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, at all levels, by establishing a long-term plan for the maintenance of the programme and the relevance of its content and ensuring good traceability of the data and information made accessible through it;

VIII

Link with the programme of work, the budget and the medium-term strategy

- 22. *Reflects* in the programme of work, the budget and the medium-term strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme its contribution to the 2030 Agenda, which can be achieved by building synergies across the subprogrammes, by dedicating resources and by working with others towards that objective;

IX

Progress report

- 23. *Requests* that the Executive Director prepare a report for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session, reporting on the Programme contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a view to forwarding the report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development for its consideration.

2/6. Supporting the Paris Agreement

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, which undermines the ability of all countries, especially those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Welcoming the adoption of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Welcoming also the signature of the Paris Agreement by more than 170 countries at a ceremony held on 22 April 2016 in New York as well as the ratification of the agreement by 17 Parties to date,

Urging all Member States to ratify, accept or approve the Paris Agreement,

Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the main international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and that the global nature of climate change calls for international cooperation without duplication of work,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, welcoming also the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and taking note of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

Commending the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing the global challenge of climate change through its climate change subprogramme,

Recalling its resolution 1/8, on ecosystem-based adaptation,

Noting the importance of the global mobilization of relevant stakeholders to combat climate change and acknowledging with appreciation the results of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of pre-2020 global efforts to address the challenge of climate change by:

- (a) Strengthening efforts in the areas of education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and cooperation;
- (b) Reinforcing and stepping up the United Nations Environment Programme participation in partnership programmes and initiatives;
- (c) Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant United Nations bodies and other relevant stakeholders on work related to adaptation, mitigation and the transition to a sustainable future in a manner that reinforces synergies, avoids duplication and maximizes efficiency and effectiveness;
- (d) Accelerating support to countries, especially developing countries, for building national readiness capacity to implement the Paris Agreement, implementation capacity and capacity to access finance and technology;
- (e) Strengthening United Nations Environment Programme support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- (f) Strengthening United Nations Environment Programme support for and contributions to global climate-change-related assessments;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

2/7. Sound management of chemicals and waste

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste, and previous decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on that matter,

Recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is one of the essential requirements for sustainable development and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents an opportunity to ensure increased political attention and effective implementation of actions in this area,

Welcoming the work undertaken in follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, notably its annex entitled “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”,

Welcoming also the cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and waste cluster, and recognizing the need to continue such cooperation and coordination in order to make full use of relevant experience and expertise in areas of mutual interest, with a view to fostering policy coherence and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels, as appropriate,

Recognizing that waste management is a serious challenge and a priority, as well as the need to undertake further focused and coordinated actions to assist developing countries in their efforts to ensure the environmentally sound management of waste,

Recalling the mandate and the focal role of the International Environmental Technology Centre, including on environmentally sound technologies, for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on waste management, as reflected in Governing Council decisions 16/34 and 27/12,

Welcoming the Global Waste Management Outlook as a tool for providing an overview analysis and recommendations for policies and actions for environmentally sound management of waste and mindful that, according to the *Outlook*, at least three billion people worldwide still lack access to controlled waste disposal facilities and two billion people worldwide still lack access to solid waste collection,

Highlighting the importance of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal in the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other waste, including the ongoing work on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes,

Highlighting also the role of the regional centres of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in assisting the regions in the implementation of these conventions, and in other relevant work relating to the multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster in the countries they serve,

Deeply concerned about the health and environmental impact of waste lead-acid battery recycling, in particular through activities in the informal sector in developing countries, and the lack of adequate infrastructure needed to recycle the rapidly growing number of waste lead-acid batteries in an environmentally sound manner in certain developing countries, and noting the need to further reduce releases, emissions and exposures and to increase workers’ safety and protection, including through the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,

Recognizing the significant risks to human health and the environment arising from releases of lead and cadmium into the environment,

Recalling the request to the Executive Director, in Governing Council decision 27/12, section I, paragraph 4, to continue work on the Global Chemicals Outlook, particularly in areas where data were found to be lacking or inadequate, to assess progress towards the 2020 goal,

Welcoming the outcomes of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session, including the adoption of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue and of highly hazardous pesticides as a new issue of concern for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste,⁹

I

Meeting the 2020 goal and beyond

1. *Welcomes* the decisions taken at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which include overall orientation and guidance as key elements to facilitate urgently needed coordinated actions by all stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels to meet the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management objective and the 2020 goal as defined in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and as incorporated in target 12.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals;
2. *Calls on* Member States that have not yet done so to reflect the sound management of chemicals and waste as a priority in their national sustainable development planning processes, poverty eradication strategies and relevant sector policies, taking into account their development and capabilities and the national ownership of sustainable development strategies;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to, within available resources:
 - (a) Coordinate with relevant international stakeholders and support Member States, as appropriate, on policies and actions for the sound management of chemicals and waste for the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets;
 - (b) Work with other United Nations agencies on the development of relevant data, including supplementary indicators, in support of the indicators developed under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission;
 - (c) Issue, by the end of 2017, an overview for policymakers on policies and actions that could be adopted, as appropriate given national needs and priorities, in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;
4. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention, and in due course that of the Minamata Convention, to consider opportunities to report in a coordinated manner on how the respective conventions contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030, taking into account applicable procedures;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director, given the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme as a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, to proactively participate in and support the intersessional process agreed on at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to prepare recommendations on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, inter alia, to foster the active involvement of relevant industry stakeholders;
6. *Invites* the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and those Environment Management Group members that have not yet done so to take measures to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, including actions planned within their own mandates to meet the 2020 goal and the 2030 Agenda;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to support countries, particularly developing countries, in the implementation of the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste, keeping in view national circumstances and noting the importance of the approach for the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular capacity-building activities to mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste;
8. *Calls on* the private sector, in accordance with this integrated approach, to play a significant role in financing, as well as to build the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises for the sound management of chemicals and waste within relevant industrial sectors;
9. *Requests* the Executive Director to consider how successive updates of the Global Waste Management Outlook and the Global Chemicals Outlook could be accorded in timing and approach;

⁹ UNEP/EA.2/6/Add.3.

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with Governments, with the private sector, including industry, and with other non-governmental organizations to continue work on lead and cadmium;

II Waste

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure full integration of environmentally sound management of waste, including the prevention of waste generation, in the programme-wide strategies and policies of the United Nations Environment Programme;

12. *Invites* all stakeholders engaged in environmentally sound management of waste to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in order to implement the necessary policies, incentives and procedures to promote waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery, and to enhance co-benefits for climate, health and oceans;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen and enhance the work of the International Environmental Technology Centre as a global centre of excellence for waste management, particularly work on a knowledge platform which can be accessed by all stakeholders, capacity-building for national- and municipal-level waste policies, strategies and action plans, as well as in delivering that assistance through partnerships, notably the Global Partnership on Waste Management, in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations agencies and regional centres and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Director to issue an update of the Global Waste Management Outlook by the end of 2019, including a summary for policymakers, and ensure complementarity with the update of the Global Chemicals Outlook as appropriate and with the ongoing process for regional waste management outlooks, with a view to addressing, inter alia:

(a) The interlinkages between chemicals and waste, as requested in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, paragraph 28;

(b) Options for implementation of actions to achieve relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Strategies for increasing waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery leading to overall reduction of final disposal, including landfilling, and ensuring that such strategies address the need to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner, particularly so that harmful substances are properly separated from waste streams and adequately treated, and producers are encouraged to put more sustainable products on the market and support recovery and recycling schemes;

15. *Invites* Governments, relevant intergovernmental organizations, Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders to support the Global Partnership on Waste Management and, where appropriate, to take the lead in partnerships in core areas of environmentally sound management of waste;

16. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt control measures such as the following:

(a) To develop national strategies inter alia by encouraging extended producer responsibility to collect waste lead-acid batteries, so as to ensure that those batteries are recycled in an environmentally sound manner;

(b) To adequately address releases, emissions and exposures from waste lead-acid batteries, including recycling, through, for example, appropriate standards and criteria;

17. *Invites* Member States, in particular Member States in which a small amount of waste from waste lead-acid batteries is generated, to cooperate in collecting such batteries for processing at regional or national recycling facilities in accordance with relevant provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and relevant regional conventions, such as the Bamako Convention;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to strengthen and enhance national, subregional and regional implementation of environmentally sound management of waste, notably by:

- (a) Preparing regional waste management outlooks to enhance the availability of information, including on environmentally sound technologies related to integrated waste management, through the Knowledge Hub, as appropriate, and taking into account the Global Waste Management Outlook;
 - (b) Facilitating capacity-building and technology demonstration projects, in particular in urban areas, to promote the “3R” (reduce, reuse and recycle) approach by waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery;
 - (c) Providing access to available information on best available techniques and technologies for the environmentally sound management of waste;
 - (d) Developing work in the field of technology assessment through tools such as a methodology for sustainability assessment of technologies to enable decision makers to select the most appropriate technologies for achieving the environmentally sound management of waste;
 - (e) Providing capacity-building, with a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement regulatory frameworks and programmes for the recycling of waste lead-acid batteries, including the role of the private sector therein;
19. *Emphasizes* the importance of the elaboration under and application of existing instruments to further environmentally sound management of waste, including waste prevention, minimization and recovery, to address the underlying causes of marine litter;

III Chemicals

20. *Invites* countries, international organizations and other interested stakeholders, including the private sector, having relevant experience with the issue of sustainable chemistry to submit to the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat, by 30 June 2017, best practices, indicating how these may enhance the sound management of chemicals, inter alia through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and chemicals- and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements;
21. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report in the first quarter of 2018 analysing the information received to assist the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in considering the opportunities presented by sustainable chemistry, including linkages to sustainable consumption and production policies, and the possibilities that sustainable chemistry may offer of contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda;
22. *Welcomes* ratifications to date of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and invites other States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the necessary domestic measures to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;
23. *Requests* the Executive Director to:
- (a) Submit by the end of 2018 an update of the Global Chemicals Outlook, including a summary for policymakers, addressing inter alia the work carried out particularly in relation to lacking or inadequate data to assess progress towards the 2020 goal, the development of non-chemical alternatives, and the linkages between chemicals and waste, in coordination with the Global Waste Management Outlook, and providing scientific input and options for implementation of actions to reach relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets up to and beyond 2020;
 - (b) Solicit feedback from countries and other stakeholders on the proposed plan for updating the Global Chemicals Outlook as outlined in UNEP/EA.2/INF/20, and ask the Global Chemicals Outlook steering committee to consider this feedback and to consider possible adjustments to the proposed plan, as appropriate, at its first meeting;
 - (c) Ensure that the updated Global Chemicals Outlook addresses the issues which have been identified as emerging policy issues by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as well as other issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment;
 - (d) Given the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme as a member of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, work with the Director-General of the

World Health Organization to enhance that organization's engagement with the emerging issue of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, particularly through strengthening the science base;

24. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders to provide appropriate forms of assistance, within their capabilities, for the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session.

2/8. Sustainable consumption and production

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in particular those paragraphs relevant to sustainable consumption and production, and recognizing that fundamental changes in the way societies consume and produce are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and acknowledging Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, and considering that the objective of sustainable consumption and production is reflected in other goals and targets,

Recalling further the importance of moving towards sustainable consumption and production, and noting that all countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, and taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries, and acknowledging, when appropriate, that different approaches, including systems-based approaches such as sustainable materials management, the material-cycle society concept and a circular economy approach, at the national and regional levels as appropriate, contribute to sustainable consumption and production,

Recalling its resolution 1/1, on the outcome of its first session, in particular paragraph (c) of the fifth operative paragraph reaffirming the commitment of ministers to accelerating and supporting efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through sustainable lifestyles and resource efficiency, and to accelerating actions, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as a tool for action on sustainable consumption and production, including its section on means of implementation,

Noting that efforts towards striving to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world and urban sustainability are important for supporting healthy ecosystem functions and services, and for enhancing food security,

Highlighting the commitment set out in paragraph 28 of General Assembly resolution 70/1 to making fundamental changes in the way that our societies produce and consume goods and services, including calling upon relevant stakeholders to contribute to changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, including through the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance to strengthen developing countries' scientific, technological and innovative capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production,

Reaffirming the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, supporting its objectives and goals, and acknowledging the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework and as an implementing partner in all its programmes,

Acknowledging that the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns is a global framework for action to support regional and national initiatives to move towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries in order to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems, by endeavouring to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes, and reducing resource depletion, pollution and waste,

Emphasizing the need to further strengthen programmes, partnerships and frameworks, such as the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, relevant to sustainable consumption and production to replicate and scale up sustainable consumption and production policies and good practices, respecting national ownership of countries' development strategies,

Welcoming efforts at various levels to promote sustainable consumption and production through regional frameworks and forums and other initiatives,

Highlighting the importance of promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, taking into account national capabilities and priorities to ensure sustainable provision and utilization of natural resources and materials throughout the value chain while also maintaining and rehabilitating ecosystems and their services/functions and contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and noting the importance of tools for facilitating and scaling up investments,

Acknowledging that further action is needed to address challenges posed by management of nutrients and their impact on the environment,

Recognizing the importance of evolving science and knowledge in terms of sustainable use of natural resources in the context of coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the work of the International Resource Panel,

1. *Encourages* Member States to take the necessary steps to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 12 and related targets in other Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account national capabilities and priorities recognizing the objective of moving towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, while improving global resource efficiency and endeavouring to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, with developed countries taking the lead;

2. *Encourages* all Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to move towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, while taking into account national development priorities, policies and strategies, and to collaborate to:

(a) Promote life-cycle approaches, including resource efficiency and sustainable use and management of resources, as well as science-based and traditional-knowledge-based approaches, cradle-to-cradle design and the "3Rs" concept (reduce, reuse and recycle), and other related approaches, as appropriate;

(b) Facilitate actions including by exchange of experiences and capacity-building with regard to the life-cycle approach for materials, goods and services in order to use resources more efficiently;

(c) Promote the integration of sustainability into each stage of the life cycle of goods and services;

(d) Improve the availability of information that enables consumers, investors, companies and Governments to make informed decisions;

(e) Invite companies to adopt sustainable practices and to continue enhancing the reporting of sustainability information consistent with evolving international standards;

(f) Strengthen the enabling conditions for the creation of sound and equitable markets for secondary materials;

(g) Design and implement national sustainable consumption and production policies and action plans or broader sustainability strategies having sustainable consumption and production as a part, in accordance with national priorities and conditions;

(h) Integrate sustainable consumption and production into education and training to promote the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in all countries;

3. *Also encourages* all countries and relevant stakeholders to take ambitious action to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and to achieve goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that are related to sustainable consumption and production, including by using the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns as a tool for implementing the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Further encourages* all countries to promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme continues and strengthens its work to facilitate coordinated efforts in all regions to ensure sustainable consumption and production and implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that are relevant to sustainable consumption and production, including through continued efforts to provide support, analyses and data;
6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue and strengthen the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate implementation of all programmes of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, taking into account national strategies, capabilities and priorities, including through:
 - (a) Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships within and between the thematic programmes, including through strategic linkages with other global initiatives that showcase best practices, business cases, innovation and new business models for resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, and that facilitate implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;
 - (b) Broadening the funding resources for the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;
 - (c) Establishing implementing measures for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (d) Monitoring and evaluating progress towards implementing the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns through the indicator framework;
 - (e) Supporting statistical capacity-building in developing countries for adequate measurement, follow-up and review of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, including through the agreed indicators for Sustainable Development Goal targets related to sustainable consumption and production;
7. *Encourages* Member States and stakeholders, engaging both public- and private-sector interests, to collaborate to initiate partnerships and alliances in order to find innovative ways of achieving resource-efficient societies;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director in particular to initiate and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships within available resources to facilitate sharing and implementation of best practices of sustainable consumption and production across relevant sectors;
9. *Invites* Member States to further develop and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote resource efficiency and resilience and respectively align sectoral policies such as transport, energy, waste and wastewater management and sustainable buildings and construction, including making use of opportunities from digitization, and requests that the Executive Director explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation in promoting sustainable urban development at the city level within the United Nations system and with other relevant stakeholders;
10. *Notes* that sustainable consumption and production approaches and policies at all levels, such as good practices, public-private partnerships and economic incentives, can be useful tools for improving sustainability in different areas, including urban planning, natural resource conservation, resources management, land use management and nutrient management, which can be promoted through regional frameworks and forums and other initiatives;
11. *Requests* that the Executive Director facilitate sharing of information and best practices within and between the programmes and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance good practices and generate multiple benefits of sustainable consumption and production in different areas;
12. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue to provide scientific and expert support through the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, in cooperation with relevant organizations, programmes and forums, to increase understanding of sustainable consumption and production patterns in the different regions and the effectiveness of policies, programmes and strategies in promoting sustainable consumption and production;
13. *Invites* the International Resource Panel and other relevant scientific and expert groups to make available reports relevant to this resolution, including on the state, trends, and outlook of

sustainable consumption and production, to a future meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly, but not later than 2019;

14. *Encourages* Member States, and others in a position to do so, to mobilize voluntary contributions from multiple sources to support the Trust Fund of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns to develop sustainable consumption and production programmes in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.

2/9. Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Concerned that roughly one third of food produced globally for human consumption is wasted or lost, as is the vast quantity of scarce resources such as land, energy and water that are used to produce food that is later lost or wasted,

Recognizing the negative environmental, social and economic impact of food that is lost or wasted, including the vast quantities of scarce resources – such as land, energy, and water – that are used to produce and transport food that is later lost or wasted, and that food waste enters often over-burdened waste management systems,

Recognizing also the international community's fundamental priority of achieving food security and nutrition and ending hunger caused inter alia by the adverse environmental effects of climate change and desertification,

Recognizing further that in developing countries food waste and losses occur mainly, but not exclusively, at early stages of the food value chain,

Recognizing the waste management hierarchy, which addresses both organic and inorganic components of solid waste, and prioritizes in rank order prevention, minimization, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery, and final disposal,

Recognizing also that effective management of food waste would prioritize source reduction to reduce volume by prevention and minimization of food lost and wasted, reuse of safe and nutritious food suitable for human consumption that otherwise might be wasted, recovery of lost and wasted food residues for animal feed, where safe to do so, and diversion of food loss and waste from landfill disposal to beneficial use in industry, including energy recovery,

Recognizing further the role that market-based incentives may play in reducing food loss and waste, taking into account differing national circumstances,

Noting the particular roles and opportunities of relevant governmental institutions, including environment ministries, national institutions with environmental responsibilities, international organizations, agricultural ministries and other relevant ministries and their partners with responsibility for food security, in contributing to solving food loss and waste problems, with their particular orientation towards addressing socioeconomic, environmental and public health problems, while promoting sustainable-development-oriented solutions and opportunities,

Recognizing with appreciation the work of the United Nations Environment Programme to raise awareness of this important matter through the joint "Think.Eat.Save" initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as the recent launch of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme under the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, which was developed through a strategic partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization,

Welcoming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes, inter alia, Sustainable Development Goal target 12.3 to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels by 2030 and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, and recognizing the positive impact that target 12.3 can have on the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 2,

1. *Invites* Governments, taking into account differing national circumstances:

(a) To implement programmes including, when appropriate, market-based incentives that reduce the amount of food lost and wasted, and to promote at all stages of the food value chain reuse of edible food that might otherwise be wasted in order to increase the amount of nutritious and healthy food available for human consumption, especially to the most food- and nutritionally insecure populations, and to reduce the amount of usable food that is disposed of as waste;

(b) To work cooperatively with international organizations and institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders to develop programmes to prevent and reduce food loss and waste along the whole food value chain and promote the environmentally sound management of food loss and waste, including the inedible parts of food, for uses such as animal feed, where safe to do so, and subject to prevailing health regulations, industrial applications, composting and energy production, while respecting the waste management hierarchy;

(c) To participate in existing international efforts regarding improved methodologies to better measure food loss and waste generation and the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of achieving efficient and sustainable food systems;

(d) To engage in international cooperation with the objective of reducing and/or eradicating food loss resulting from contamination at the production stage by sharing technical knowledge and good practices that have proven to be effective in this regard and that contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to, within available resources and in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations:

(a) Support the development of multi-stakeholder initiatives that focus on food waste reduction and prevention along the whole food value chain, including contamination at the production stage, food reuse, and diversion of food loss and waste from landfill disposal to other productive uses, making full use of existing partnership programmes related to food waste, and collaborate with other international organizations and institutions – for example, through the “Think.Eat.Save” initiative – as well as with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders such as those involved in the recently launched Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

(b) Enhance cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations agencies, with the purpose of supporting communities of practice that focus on food loss and waste reduction;

(c) Continue to participate in ongoing international initiatives to improve the measurement of food loss and waste, including those aimed at quantifying the socioeconomic and environmental benefits;

(d) Strengthen efforts, such as those being made by the International Environmental Technology Centre, to disseminate information on waste management in forums such as the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, including information on the technologies available to prevent food loss and enable the reuse of food waste as a productive economic resource, and explore opportunities to collaborate with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to expand use of the products of food loss and waste as feedstock for biogas generation and composting;

(e) Continue to raise awareness of the environmental dimensions of the problem of food waste, and of potential solutions and good practices for preventing and reducing food waste and promoting food reuse and environmentally sound management of food waste, and to identify regional and subregional hubs of expertise, including by engaging the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme to advance these objectives;

(f) Report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session on progress made in implementing the relevant provisions of the present resolution.

2/10. Oceans and seas

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that the marine environment, including the oceans, seas and adjacent coastal areas, forms an integrated whole that is an essential component of the global life-support system and an asset presenting important opportunities for sustainable development,

Gravely concerned about threats to the health of our oceans, coastal areas, wetlands and islands, as reflected, inter alia, in the first global integrated marine assessment (World Ocean Assessment I) of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, acknowledged in United Nations General Assembly

resolution 70/235, the fourth *Global Biodiversity Outlook* report¹⁰ and the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,¹¹ and about their probable increase in the foreseeable future,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 calls for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”,

Recalling also the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcoming the inclusion therein of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its commitment on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, while recognizing also the connections between healthy and productive oceans and other Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015, entitled “United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, and welcoming in particular the decision therein to convene the high-level conference in Fiji in June 2017,

Recognizing the contribution in accordance with international law of the regional seas conventions, regional action plans and regional fisheries management organizations to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other relevant related Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level, as well as to regional follow-up and review, including through the regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms to be developed for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Recognizing also the important contribution of many multilateral environmental agreements to delivering on the oceans-related Sustainable Development Goals and contributing to their follow-up and review processes,

Recalling that the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, reaffirmed the commitment contained in Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on area-based conservation measures, including marine protected areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information as a tool for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components,¹² and that target 14.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls for the conservation, by 2020, of at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas,

Recalling also the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and noting with concern the assessment in the fourth *Global Biodiversity Outlook* report, that, while there is significant progress towards meeting some components of the majority of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the rate of progress in most cases will not be sufficient to achieve the targets by 2020 unless additional action is taken,

Recalling further Governing Council decision 27/6 on oceans, which urged countries to take the necessary steps to implement relevant and existing commitments, as well as commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, maintain biodiversity, and effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in their management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment, in order to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development,

Acknowledging the United Nations Environment Programme contribution to tackling emerging issues and activities adding to pressure on the marine environment, and to increasing knowledge on issues such as marine litter, ocean acidification, hypoxia, and marine and coastal carbon sinks and reservoirs,

Recognizing the contribution of area-based management measures for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components under international instruments, such as particularly sensitive sea areas established by the International Maritime Organization, vulnerable

¹⁰ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 4: A Mid-Term Assessment of Progress towards the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*, Montreal, 2014.

¹¹ *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. Working Group II Contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, New York, Cambridge University Press.

¹² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 177.

marine ecosystems identified by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the work on marine protected areas under the regional seas conventions and action plans and other area-based management measures taken by regional fisheries management organizations, to reaching the target of Sustainable Development Goal 14 to, by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information, and acknowledging related scientific and technical work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other global initiatives,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a crucial step towards limiting the climate-change-related impacts of warming and acidification of the oceans and of sea level rise and reducing the adverse consequences for marine and coastal ecosystems and coastal residents worldwide, including for small island developing States and other vulnerable States,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/292 of 19 June 2015 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Taking into account the contribution which the United Nations Environment Programme can make, upon request by the concerned States, to assist them in the protection and preservation of the marine environment, including in helping to achieve their objectives under relevant international law,

Acknowledging the challenges involved in enhancing cooperation and coordination among international organizations and forums relevant to marine issues, and highlighting the value of the cooperation and coordination of the United Nations Environment Programme with these organizations and forums to contribute to coherent delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the three priority source categories for work (nutrients, marine litter and waste water) under the 2012 Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Noting the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017–2020 adopted at the seventeenth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to include oceans-related aspects of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in United Nations Environment Programme activities, in cooperation and coordination with relevant global and regional forums, agreements and organizations, consistent with international law, and to report on that work to the Environment Assembly at its next session;

2. *Calls* for continued cooperation and coordination on marine issues among all relevant global and regional forums and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the International Seabed Authority, the International Whaling Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, in order to deliver coherently on Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its interrelated targets;

3. *Invites* the Executive Director to provide the necessary input for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development, to be organized in June 2017, as appropriate;

4. *Calls on* Member States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, to promote its rapid entry into force;

5. *Invites* Member States and regional seas conventions and action plans, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other relevant organizations and forums, such as regional fisheries management organizations, to work towards the implementation of, and reporting on, the different ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to step up its work, including through its Regional Seas Programme, on assisting countries and regions in the application of the ecosystem approach to managing the marine and coastal environment, including through enabling intersectoral cooperation in integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning;

7. *Also requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to provide, upon request by the Member States, technical advice on the designation, establishment and active management of marine protected areas and on the application of other spatial management measures in cooperation with competent international and regional forums and organizations, including, as appropriate, multilateral environmental agreements and regional fisheries bodies;

8. *Encourages* Member States, individually and jointly and also within regional bodies, to designate and actively manage marine protected areas and take other effective area-based conservation measures, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information, with a view to achieving the related global targets, in particular where significantly less than 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are so far being conserved, or where protected areas lack effective and equitable management, connectedness or ecological representativeness;

9. *Also encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to participate in the process initiated by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of the marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;

10. *Notes* the document on the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017–2020 and requests the Executive Director to communicate the Strategic Directions to conferences of the parties, intergovernmental meetings or other governing bodies of the relevant regional seas conventions and action plans;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director, through the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Seas Programme, to reinforce cooperation, coordination, communication and sharing of best practices and information among the existing regional seas conventions and action plans across different geographical areas, in line with the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017–2020;

12. *Invites* Member States that have not done so to consider becoming parties to and/or members of regional seas conventions and action plans, and encourages the United Nations Environment Programme, through its Regional Seas Programme, to support initiatives by such Member States in that regard;

13. *Encourages* the contracting parties to existing regional seas conventions to consider the possibility of increasing the regional coverage of those instruments in accordance with international law;

14. *Acknowledges* and expresses support for the strategic partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization in the context of the 2030 Agenda, particularly for the implementation of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

15. *Supports* the United Nations Environment Programme contribution to marine ecosystem restoration activities, and in particular to ecosystem management and restoration in coastal regions, nature-based solutions to climate adaptation and the creation of sustainable jobs and livelihoods in coastal regions, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme to provide scientific support, in cooperation with relevant organizations, programmes and forums, to increase understanding of – and thus help in avoiding – abrupt, accelerating or irreversible environmental changes with potentially significant global consequences – for example, thawing of the permafrost of the seabed and melting of sea ice and glaciers;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director to assess the effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme 2011 marine and coastal strategy and, on the basis of that assessment, submit a proposal for its updating, revision or replacement, for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its next session.

2/11. Marine plastic litter and microplastics

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

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

Recalling also the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which highlighted the relevance of the Honolulu Strategy and the Honolulu Commitment for the prevention and management of marine debris and called for the establishment of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, which was subsequently launched at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and hosted by the Global Programme of Action,

Noting the increased knowledge regarding the levels, sources, negative effects of and possible measures to reduce marine plastic debris and microplastics in the marine environment, as summarized in, among other sources, the 2016 study “Marine plastic debris and microplastics: global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change”, on marine plastic debris and microplastics, the preparation of which was mandated by the Environment Assembly in its resolution 1/6,

Noting also that the report of the First World Ocean Assessment points to the emerging issue of the smallest microplastic particles, which are nano-sized, and expresses concern about the ability of microplastics to enter marine food chains and the potential risk for the environment and human health,

Noting with concern that plastic and microplastics may be transported through freshwater systems such as rivers and are found in all compartments of the marine environment; that their input is rapidly increasing; that the plastics in the marine environment degrade extremely slowly; that the plastics contain and can adsorb and emit chemicals, such as persistent organic pollutants, and can contribute to their distribution and the spread of harmful organisms; and that all this has negative effects on marine life, ecosystems and ecosystem services, including fisheries, maritime transport, recreation and tourism as well as local societies and economies,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recalling Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its target 14.1, which seeks, by 2025, to “prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”, and recognizing the importance of other relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets, as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for effective implementation,

Noting that the General Assembly in its resolution 70/235 of 23 December 2015, on oceans and the law of the sea, expressed concern regarding the negative effects of marine debris and microplastics and urged States to take action,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and conventions and international instruments related to preventing and minimizing marine pollution from waste, including marine plastic litter, microplastics and associated chemicals and their adverse effects on human health and the environment, such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

1. *Recognizes* that the presence of plastic litter and microplastics¹³ in the marine environment is a rapidly increasing serious issue of global concern that needs an urgent global response taking into account a product life-cycle approach, and acknowledging that the levels and sources of marine plastic litter and microplastics, and the resources available to tackle the issue, can vary between regions, and that measures need to be taken and adapted as appropriate to local, national and regional situations;

2. *Recalls* its resolution 1/6, “Marine plastic debris and microplastics”, and urges all States that have not yet done so to implement fully all its relevant recommendations and decisions, including through national measures and regional, international and cross-sectoral cooperation;

¹³ Plastic particles less than 5 millimetres in diameter, including nano-sized particles.

3. *Welcomes* the activities of the relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization, which act in coordination with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics; encourages the active contribution of all stakeholders to their work; and acknowledges the importance of cooperation and information sharing between the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Maritime Organization, as well as the cooperation under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, on this matter;

4. *Acknowledges* the regional action plans on marine litter under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region; welcomes the ongoing development of such plans for the Black Sea, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution; welcomes the Group of Seven¹⁴ action plan to combat marine litter; and urges other Governments and regions to collaborate to establish such action plans where relevant;

5. *Welcomes* the work under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Whaling Commission and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals on impacts of marine debris on marine biological diversity, and under the aegis of the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region on pollution from vessels and from land-based sources, and calls for the coordination of that work with other relevant work in the framework of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter;

6. *Also welcomes* the report¹⁵ of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Assembly's resolution 1/6 on marine plastic debris and microplastics, takes note of the Executive Director's recommendations, and urges that they be evaluated, and possibly implemented as relevant and appropriate, including through strengthened national, regional and international measures, cooperation and action plans, prioritizing important sources and impacts and cost-effective measures, cooperation with industry, civil society and other stakeholders to reduce the input, level and impact of plastic debris and microplastics in the oceans;

7. *Stresses* that prevention and environmentally sound management of waste are keys to long-term success in combating marine pollution, including marine plastic debris and microplastics, calls on Member States to establish and implement necessary policies, regulatory frameworks and measures consistent with the waste hierarchy, and in this context stresses the importance of providing capacity-building and that Member States should consider financial assistance to developing countries, least developed countries and in particular small island developing States for the realization of these objectives;

8. *Welcomes* the United Nations Environment Programme massive open online course on marine litter; the United Nations World Ocean Day 2016 with the theme "Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet"; and the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which in 2016 will focus on marine debris, plastics and microplastics, and notes, in this regard, the report of the Secretary-General prepared for the meeting;¹⁶

9. *Recognizes* that surface runoff, rivers and sewage outfalls are important pathways for litter transfer from land to the sea; also recognizes the need for measures to combat the littering of freshwater courses, including measures to adapt to extreme storms, flooding and other relevant effects of climate change; and encourages international cooperation on transboundary watercourses in that regard, where relevant;

¹⁴ Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

¹⁵ UNEP/EA.2/5.

¹⁶ A/71/74.

10. *Also recognizes* that education, capacity-building, knowledge transfer and awareness-raising regarding sources and negative effects of and measures to reduce and prevent marine plastic debris and microplastics, as well as environmentally sound waste management systems and clean-up actions, are crucial;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director, within available resources, to assist Member States, especially developing countries, with emphasis on small island developing States and least developed countries, upon their request, in the development and implementation of national or regional measures and action plans; invites those in a position to do so to support such action; and recognizes that targeted measures in regions that are the largest sources of marine litter are especially important for the global reduction of marine plastic debris and microplastics;

12. *Recognizes* the need to identify transport and distribution pathways and hotspots of marine litter, to cooperate regionally and internationally to clean up such hotspots where appropriate, and to develop environmentally sound systems and methods for removal and sound disposal of marine litter; stresses that removal is urgent in areas where it poses an immediate threat to sensitive marine and coastal ecosystems or marine-based livelihoods or local societies; and recognizes that removal actions should, as far as possible, be risk-based and cost-effective, following best available techniques and environmental practices and the polluter pays approach;

13. *Encourages* Governments at all levels to further develop partnerships with industry and civil society and establish public-private partnerships, including with regard to environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic packaging and deposit refund systems; to raise awareness of the sources and negative effects of and possible measures for reducing marine plastic debris and microplastics; to promote change in individual and corporate behaviour; and to cooperate in the prevention and clean-up of marine plastic debris; and, in that regard, invites initiatives for the development of sustainable tourism, including through the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

14. *Recognizes* the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and regional fisheries bodies and management organizations to mitigate and clean up abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, and encourages Member States and Governments at all levels to include such measures in national and regional action plans to combat marine litter, as relevant, noting that cost-effective technologies and practices are available;

15. *Underlines* the need for the sharing of knowledge and experience on the best available techniques and environmental practices for reducing littering from the fishing industry and aquaculture, and for implementation of pilot projects where appropriate, including in respect of deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and recovery, in particular through prevention and, reduction, reuse and recycling (the “three Rs”);

16. *Recognizes* the role of the International Maritime Organization in mitigating marine litter; recalls annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; and agrees on the need to reduce illegal dumping of litter in the sea, including through the establishment and use of effective port reception facilities, the identification and, as appropriate, recovery of costs related to the disposal of garbage and waste, including through harbour fees, and consideration of other incentives and innovative approaches;

17. *Acknowledges* the findings of the 2016 study of the United Nations Environment Programme on marine plastic debris and microplastics¹⁷ on the most important global sources of and possible measures for avoiding microplastics entering the marine environment, and recognizes that Governments need to further identify the most significant sources, as well as important and cost-effective preventive measures at the national and regional levels; invites Governments to undertake such prioritized measures nationally and through regional and international cooperation and in cooperation with industry, as appropriate, and to share their experiences; and urges the phasing out of the use of primary microplastic particles in products, including, wherever possible, products such as personal care products, industrial abrasives and printing products, and their replacement with organic or mineral non-hazardous compounds;

18. *Encourages* product manufacturers and others to consider the life cycle environmental impacts of products containing microbeads and compostable polymers, including possible downstream impacts that may compromise the recycling of plastic waste; to eliminate or reduce the use of primary

¹⁷ *Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics: Global Lessons and Research to Inspire Action and Guide Policy Change*, UNEP, 2016.

microplastic particles in products, including, wherever possible, products such as personal care products, industrial abrasives and printing products; to ensure that any replacement products are environmentally sound; and to cooperate in the environmentally sound management of such plastic waste;

19. *Also encourages* the establishment of harmonized international definitions and terminology concerning the size of, and compatible standards and methods for the monitoring and assessment of, marine plastic debris and microplastics, as well as the establishment of and cooperation on cost-effective monitoring, building as far as possible on ongoing related monitoring programmes and considering alternative automated and remote sensing technology where possible and relevant;

20. *Underlines* that, while research already undertaken provides sufficient evidence of the need for immediate action, more research is needed on marine plastic debris and microplastics, including associated chemicals, and especially on environmental and social impacts – including on human health – and on pathways, fluxes and fate, including fragmentation and degradation rates, in all marine compartments and especially in water bodies and sediment deposits of the coastal and open ocean, as well as on impacts on fisheries, aquaculture and economy; and urges Governments at all levels and Member States in a position to do so to support such research;

21. *Requests* the Executive Director, in close cooperation with other relevant bodies and organizations, to undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking into consideration the relevant international, regional and subregional regulatory frameworks and identifying possible gaps and options for addressing them, including through regional cooperation and coordination, and to present the assessment to the Environment Assembly at its next session, within available resources for this purpose;

22. *Invites* States, in cooperation with industry and other stakeholders, at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, to organize and/or participate in annual campaigns for awareness-raising, prevention and environmentally sound clean-up of marine litter, including in coastal areas and oceans, to support and supplement the civil-society-driven beach clean-up days;

23. *Invites* those in a position to do so to provide financial and other support for follow-up to the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Environment Assembly at its third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

2/12. Sustainable coral reefs management

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting that the General Assembly in its resolution 65/150 of 20 December 2010, entitled “Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development”, urged States, within their national jurisdictions, and the competent international organizations, within their mandates, given the imperative for action, to take all practical steps at all levels to protect coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development, including immediate and concerted global, regional and local action to respond to the challenges and to address the adverse impact of climate change, including through mitigation and adaptation, as well as of ocean acidification, on coral reefs and related ecosystems,

Noting also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, which states, “We also recognize the significant economic, social and environmental contributions of coral reefs, in particular to islands and other coastal States, as well as the significant vulnerability of coral reefs and mangroves to impacts, including from climate change, ocean acidification, overfishing, destructive fishing practices and pollution. We support international cooperation with a view to conserving coral reef and mangrove ecosystems and realizing their social, economic and environmental benefits as well as facilitating technical collaboration and voluntary information-sharing”,¹⁸

Considering the World Food Summit Plan of Action adopted in Rome in 1996, as well as the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security identified in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security of 2009,

¹⁸ Endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012.

Considering also Aichi Biodiversity Target 10, which aims to minimize the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification so as to maintain their integrity and functioning, and deeply concerned that the 2015 deadline has not been met,

Bearing in mind the outcome document of the 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in particular paragraph 14, which, inter alia, acknowledges that increases in global temperatures, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States, and also bearing in mind Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 65/150 reaffirms that the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizes its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Acknowledging the Manado Ocean Declaration, adopted by the World Ocean Conference on 14 May 2009, and the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity of 1995, as well as decision XII/23 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as well as the International Coral Reef Initiative Continuing Call to Action and Framework for Action 2013, which provide a meaningful basis for advancing ocean issues, as well as other international and/or regional entities related to the management of ocean and marine biodiversity,

Recalling the International Coral Reef Initiative resolution adopted in October 2014 on promoting an integrated approach to community-based coral reef conservation and management emphasizing land-sea connectivity,

Noting the Manado Communiqué, adopted at the World Coral Reefs Conference on 16 May 2014, which recognized the importance of continued cooperation among Governments and the United Nations Environment Programme as well as with other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and communities towards the sustainable management of coral reefs, and that such cooperation may be advanced by countries through the United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that, as is stated in General Assembly resolution 65/150,¹⁹ millions of the world’s inhabitants depend on the health of coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development, as they are a primary source of food and income, add to the aesthetic and cultural dimensions of communities and also provide protection from storms, tsunamis and coastal erosion,

Welcoming regional cooperation and initiatives, including the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape Project, the Western Indian Ocean Partnership, the West African Conservation Challenge and the Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs in the Americas,

1. *Calls* for national, regional and international initiatives, cooperation and commitments to conserve and sustainably manage coral reefs, including cold-water coral ecosystems, and mangrove forests, which contribute to food security and nutrition for peoples’ livelihoods;
2. *Stresses* the need to develop environmentally sustainable economic opportunities and inclusive sustainable growth to improve the livelihoods of the local community-level beneficiaries of coral reefs;
3. *Recognizes* that education, capacity-building and knowledge transfer with regard to the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including cold-water coral ecosystems and mangrove forests, the threats to these ecosystems and recommended measures to ensure their protection and sustainable use, are crucial, and invites Governments in a position to do so to support such action;

¹⁹ Preambular para. 10.

4. *Encourages* Governments to further develop partnerships with industry, including fisheries, aquaculture and tourism, and civil society, and the establishment of public-private partnerships to raise awareness of the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including cold-water coral ecosystems and mangrove forests, the threats to these ecosystems and recommended measures to ensure their protection and sustainable use; encourages Governments to cooperate in the protection and sustainable management of these ecosystems; and in this regard invites initiatives for the development of sustainable tourism, including through the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production;
5. *Also encourages* Governments to formulate, adopt and implement integrated, ecosystem-based and comprehensive approaches for the sustainable management of coral reefs, cold-water coral ecosystems, mangrove forests and related ecosystems;
6. *Calls*, in this context, on countries to undertake the priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 on coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems;
7. *Encourages* Governments to prioritize coral reef conservation and sustainable management, including through the establishment and active management of marine protected areas, as well as through other spatial and relevant sectoral approaches, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information, with a view to enhancing climate change resilience and securing continued coral reef ecosystem services provision;
8. *Invites* Governments and donors to provide technical and financial support for the conservation and management of coral reefs, including in developing countries;
9. *Recognizes* the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and affirms the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs;
10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular through the Coral Reef Unit and in cooperation with other relevant international organizations and initiatives, within the programme of work and available resources, to contribute to raising awareness through public outreach campaigns as well as the Global Environment Outlook assessment processes of the importance of the sustainable management of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including cold-water coral ecosystems;
11. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within available resources and in cooperation with Governments and stakeholders in a position to do so, to strengthen capacity-building, knowledge transfer and the development of relevant planning tools to avoid, minimize and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and human-based threats on coral reefs and related ecosystems, as well as to support the improvement and maintaining of the resilience of coral reefs and related ecosystems;
12. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in particular through the Coral Reef Unit and in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, forums and initiatives, to, within available resources, assist Governments, including those of small island developing States, least developed countries and other developing coastal States, upon their request, in the development and implementation of national and regional measures and action plans in this regard;
13. *Requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with the International Coral Reef Initiative, other relevant international organizations and other relevant partners to prepare, by 2018, an analysis of global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms related to the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs;
14. *Also requests* the Executive Director to support the further development of coral reef indicators and regional coral reef assessments as well as the preparation of a global report on coral reef status and trends through the International Coral Reef Initiative Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, in collaboration with existing regional initiatives, and taking into consideration ongoing regional and global assessments;
15. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

2/13. Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recalling also paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 27/8 and resolution 1/10 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, which acknowledge that United Nations Member States have developed different approaches, visions, models and tools in order to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Acknowledging that natural capital is a concept whose meaning is still under discussion, and that, for the purposes of this resolution, natural capital assets have different intrinsic values and are subject to national jurisdiction and sovereignty,

Mindful that sustainable management of natural capital will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Mindful also of the importance of integrating information and data relating to natural capital into economic analysis, national planning and decision-making for sustainable management and use of these resources,

Taking note of the fact that natural capital and natural resource valuation and accounting mechanisms can help countries to assess and appreciate the worth and full value of their natural capital and to monitor environmental degradation,

Acknowledging the challenges faced by Member States in accurately valuing their natural capital and factoring it into their economic analyses, decision-making, national accounts and development planning processes,

Welcoming the agreement by the United Nations Statistical Commission on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting as a statistical standard and its decision to encourage the application and further refinement of the System’s Ecosystem Accounts,

Noting that efficient, responsible, inclusive institutions, appropriate policies and laws, and implementation of relevant international instruments, including the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, can contribute to the promotion of good governance in the sustainable management of natural capital,

Noting also that sustainable harnessing of natural capital in a manner that ensures the protection of ecosystems and mitigates environmental degradation can help countries add value to their environmental assets and thereby contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

Taking note of outcomes related to discussions of natural capital, including the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held under the theme of “Managing Africa’s natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication”; the International Conference on Valuation and Accounting of Natural Capital for Green Economy (VANTAGE) in Africa; the eighth African Development Forum; the Summit for Sustainability in Africa, held in Gaborone in 2012; and the Natural Accounting Regional Workshop for the Europe and Central Asia Region, held in Istanbul in 2015 with a focus on natural capital accounting, among other issues,

Stressing that research and development, innovative technology, finance mobilization, capacity-building and knowledge sharing among countries are important for sustainably managing their natural capital,

1. *Invites* Member States to take measures to promote sustainable management of natural capital, including protection of ecosystem services and their functions, as part of the contribution to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of integrated, holistic and balanced natural capital approaches for enhancing the capacity for management of natural resources and for promoting sustainable development and poverty eradication in a coordinated and effective manner. These approaches shall aim to:

(a) Increase awareness on appreciation and value addition of natural capital resources;

- (b) Build capacities to integrate the valuation and accounting of natural capital and natural resource contributions into national planning and decision-making for sustainable development;
- (c) Promote public- and private-sector partnerships to support capacity-building and develop innovative approaches and technologies for promoting value addition to natural capital;
- 3. *Invites* Member States to incorporate information and knowledge on natural capital analyses into national accounts, development planning and decision-making, especially through implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting among others, in order to improve the sustainable use of natural resources for sustainable development;
- 4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in partnership with Member States, to continue to strengthen efforts led by the United Nations Environment Programme, including, among others, the Poverty-Environment Initiative, the Green Economy Advisory Services and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, that seek to:
 - (a) Assess and monitor the status and trends of natural capital;
 - (b) Consider integrating natural-capital-related data, information, and knowledge into policy development and decision-making;
 - (c) Build capacity in Member States to apply, among others, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, consistent with Member States initiatives such as the Gaborone Declaration;
- 5. *Also requests* the Executive Director in partnership with United Nations agencies and other partners to support countries, upon request and subject to availability of resources, in promoting:
 - (a) Awareness of natural capital and respect for nature, and their contribution to the sustainable development of countries and the wellbeing of their populations;
 - (b) Capacity-building mechanisms for sustainable management of natural resources and natural capital accounting;
 - (c) Public and private partnerships to promote sustainable management of natural capital, value addition and accounting, and reversing environmental degradation and biodiversity losses;
 - (d) Research and development and technological innovations, as well as the technical capacity to sustainably manage national natural capital;
- 6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly no later than in 2019.

2/14. Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 69/314 of 30 July 2015 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife,

Emphasizing the need to implement the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly to transform our world,

Recognizing the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as the primary mechanism for regulating international trade in species of wild fauna and flora listed in its appendices and the work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime in supporting interventions to address illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife,

Recognizing also that cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels is an essential tool for preventing, combating and eradicating illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, including through the use of relevant international legal instruments and resolutions of multilateral bodies,

Fully aware of the adverse environmental, economic and social dimensions of illegal trade in wildlife and its products, as well as its impacts on undermining progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging that illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife can have negative impacts on public health,

Recognizing the important role that the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife can play in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in addressing illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife, inter alia, through the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illegal trade in wildlife and its adverse impacts,

Noting with concern that illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and its products and other forms of crime that have a significant impact on the environment are increasingly committed by transnational organized criminal groups,

Taking note of the adoption of the African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the European Union Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, and other relevant commitments to date by Member States to addressing the growing challenges of illegal trade in wildlife,

Welcoming the efforts by the United Nations system, under the guidance of the Secretary-General, in enhancing its collaborative and coherent response to illegal trade in wildlife and its products, fulfilling the request to further improve the coordination of activities undertaken,

Welcoming also the report of the Executive Director on the environmental impact of illegal trade in wildlife and its products and the *World Wildlife Crime Report* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Deeply concerned that illegal trade in wildlife and its products continues to take place, affecting a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora across all continents, despite global efforts to address this problem,

1. *Stresses* its commitment to implementing fully and without delay the commitments undertaken in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/3 and General Assembly resolution 69/314;
2. *Urges* Member States to take further decisive steps and action at the national level and through regional and international cooperation, including with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime²⁰ and other partners, to prevent, combat and eradicate the supply, transit and demand related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, including by:
 - (a) Developing, adopting, and implementing appropriate strategies and action plans addressing illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products at the national and regional levels adapted to specific challenges and contexts;
 - (b) Strengthening their wildlife trade governance systems, including strengthening institutions, and cooperation across relevant government ministries and agencies, and stepping up anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering efforts as they relate to illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products;
 - (c) Providing support to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and the African Elephant Fund for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan, as well as international, regional (such as the Action Plan of the African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora), national and local initiatives that aim to support the implementation of related action plans to combat illegal trade in and trafficking of wild fauna and flora and their products;
 - (d) Supporting the development of sustainable alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illegal trade in wildlife and its adverse impacts with the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing communities' rights and capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife;
3. *Calls on* Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime, in accordance with their national legislation and article 2 (b) of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
4. *Recognizes* the important role that non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the private sector can play in action against illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife;

²⁰ The members of the Consortium are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization.

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to collaborate with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and other partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and relevant United Nations entities to support Member States in implementing their commitments, including by:

- (a) Advancing knowledge to underpin informed actions, including through the continuation of the assessment of the environmental impacts of illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and its products;
- (b) Supporting efforts to raise awareness and promote behavioural change in consumer markets for illegally traded wildlife and its products, including flora and fauna;
- (c) Providing regular updates to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the report mandated under its resolution 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife;
- (d) Continuing to support the activities of the African Elephant Action Plan by mobilizing more contributions to the African Elephant Fund and raising awareness of the role of the Fund in the implementation of the Action Plan;
- (e) Facilitating, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly, an analysis of international best practices with regard to involving local communities in wildlife management as an approach to addressing the unsustainable use of and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to support national Governments, upon their request, in facilitating the development and implementation of national legislation related to illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife, including through capacity-building for, inter alia, prosecutorial investigations;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to work with other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations to ascertain and document the current status of knowledge of crimes that have serious impacts on the environment, including illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and its products, in particular in terms of their environmental impacts, and identify interlinkages between these crimes, and to report thereon to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution at the third session of the Environment Assembly.

2/15. Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Mindful of the importance of safeguarding the natural environment in times of armed conflict for the sake of future generations and to consolidate efforts for the protection of our common environment,

Recognizing the role of healthy ecosystems and sustainably managed resources in reducing the risk of armed conflict,

Expressing its deep concern about environmental damage inflicted by certain means and methods of warfare, in particular during armed conflict,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals listed in General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/37, entitled “Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict”, which urges States to take all measures to ensure compliance with the existing international law applicable to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict, to consider becoming parties to the relevant international conventions, and to take steps to incorporate such provisions into their military manuals; and General Assembly resolution 56/4, entitled “Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict”,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 50/70, entitled “General and complete disarmament”; General Assembly resolution 53/242, entitled “Report of the Secretary-General on

environment and human settlements”, which reaffirms that, in accordance with its mandate, the United Nations Environment Programme should not become involved in conflict identification, prevention or resolution; and General Assembly resolution 57/337, entitled “Prevention of armed conflict”, which recognizes the need for mainstreaming and coordinating the prevention of armed conflict throughout the United Nations system and calls upon all its relevant organs, organizations and bodies to consider, in accordance with their respective mandates, how they could best include a conflict prevention perspective in their activities, where appropriate,

Stressing the importance of the implementation by all Member States of international law applicable to the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict in line with Member States’ legal responsibilities, and in this regard welcoming efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme to build capacity and provide expertise to all Member States upon request,

Taking note of the 1994 Guidelines for Military Manuals and Instructions on the Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Recognizing the significance of the work on environmental protection carried out in the framework of the United Nations system and within other international bodies, including the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on providing assistance in monitoring, reducing and mitigating the impacts of environmental degradation from armed conflicts, and on post-conflict assessments, as well as its activities in response to crisis situations throughout the world, including through delivering wide-ranging environmental expertise to national Governments and partners in the United Nations system,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict,

Acknowledging the need for mitigating the environmental impact of activities of transnational and other organized criminal groups, including illegal armed groups, as well as the illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources in areas affected by armed conflict, and noting the role that the United Nations Environment Programme can play, within its mandate, to support Member States in addressing these challenges upon request,

Taking note of the ongoing process in the relevant sphere being undertaken by the International Law Commission, including its 2015 report on the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts,

Recognizing that sustainable development and the protection of the environment contribute to human well-being and the enjoyment of human rights,

Recognizing also the need to mitigate and minimize the specific negative effects of environmental degradation in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict on people in vulnerable situations, including children, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons, and migrants, as well as to ensure the protection of the environment in such situations,

Recognizing further the specific negative effects of environmental degradation on women and the need to apply a gender perspective with respect to the environment and armed conflicts,

1. *Stresses* the critical importance of protecting the environment at all times, especially during armed conflict, and of its restoration in the post-conflict period, including from the unintended collateral impacts of human displacement resulting from armed conflict;
2. *Emphasizes* the need for raising greater international awareness of the issue of environmental damage during armed conflicts and the need to adequately protect the environment when it is affected by armed conflict;
3. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the relevant international obligations under international humanitarian law in relation to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict;
4. *Calls on* all Member States to implement applicable international law related to the protection of the environment in situations of armed conflict, including in their domestic legislation as appropriate and in line with international obligations which they have signed on to, and to consider expressing consent to be bound by relevant international agreements to which they are not yet parties;
5. *Invites* Member States to consider reflecting the Guidelines for Military Manuals and Instructions on the Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

6. *Also invites* all Member States to cooperate closely on preventing, minimizing and mitigating the negative impacts of armed conflicts on the environment;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, within available resources and in conformity with the mandate of the Programme, to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries affected by armed conflict and countries in post-conflict situations, including those affected by the unintended collateral impacts of related human displacement, at their request, for post-crisis environmental assessment and recovery;
8. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in partnership with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Governments and relevant stakeholders, within available resources and in conformity with the mandate of the Programme, to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries within whose territory natural World Heritage Sites affected by armed conflict are located, including those affected by the environmental impacts of the illegal exploitation of natural resources, at those States' request;
9. *Calls on* all Member States to continue to support, where appropriate, the development and implementation of programmes, projects and development policies aimed at preventing or reducing the impacts of armed conflicts on the natural environment;
10. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue interaction with the International Law Commission, inter alia by providing relevant information to the Commission at its request in support of its work pertaining to the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict;
11. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly as soon as possible, but no later than at the fourth session, on progress by the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the present resolution.

2/16. Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes the objectives agreed on by the international community for the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Underlining that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are sustained in a 2050 vision in which biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits that are essential for all people,

Reaffirming the need to promote synergies between the biodiversity-related agreements,

Underlining that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes goals and targets to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and priority ecosystems for advancing social well-being, economic growth and environmental protection by applying integrated approaches,

Underlining also the importance of adopting and implementing policies and guidelines for the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all relevant sectors to ensure the fulfilment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Notes* that the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization will take place in Cancún, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016 under the theme “Mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being”;

2. *Underlines* that the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity represents an opportunity to align, where appropriate, the plans, programmes and commitments adopted in the framework of those international instruments with the principles and approaches set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of revitalizing the political support for the efforts undertaken at all levels to achieve the sustainable management of natural resources;

3. *Stresses* that the integration of policies set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an adequate approach for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in various sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, among others, which are interconnected, inter alia, with food security, economic growth, human health, the improvement of living conditions and the enjoyment of a healthy environment; and calls on Member States to promote the integrated approach in their national policies, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development;

4. *Expresses* its gratitude and support to the Government of Mexico as host of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and calls on all convened Parties to participate in a constructive manner to reach agreements that will contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention.

2/17. Enhancing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing the benefits to be gained by implementing the biodiversity-related conventions in a synergistic and coherent manner so as to enhance their implementation, efficiency and effectiveness, and for which the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a comprehensive framework,

Recalling decision SS.XII/3, on international environmental governance, adopted at the twelfth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and recognizing their respective mandates, and invites the Executive Director to undertake, as appropriate, further activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the respective conferences of the parties,

Recognizing the opportunities for promoting synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and targets related to biodiversity,

Emphasizing the importance of acknowledging and building on past, existing and planned activities of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant actors to identify and address opportunities to build synergies and increase coherence in the implementation of those biodiversity-related conventions,

Recognizing the need for all actors, including Governments, United Nations bodies, governing bodies and secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions, other international and national agencies, and all other relevant stakeholders to continue to promote and undertake mutually supportive efforts and approaches aimed at enhancing cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions,

Recalling paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, which acknowledges the work undertaken to enhance synergies among the three conventions in the chemicals and wastes cluster and encourages parties to the biodiversity-related conventions to consider further measures, in those and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions,

Welcoming the decisions of the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions that call for enhancing cooperation and synergies among those conventions,

1. *Welcomes* the results of the project led by the United Nations Environment Programme on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies, in particular the information document on elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions;

2. *Also welcomes* the workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, hosted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in Geneva in February 2016, and requests the Executive Director to transmit to the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related conventions the results of the project;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in an effort to enhance synergies, to share information and to strive to align the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme with decisions and resolutions of the respective conferences of the parties of the biodiversity-related conventions, and invites the respective conferences of the parties to be mindful of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme during their deliberations;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to promote the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and communicate at all levels the importance of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as instruments for delivering coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, including by mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into relevant sectors and policies;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to facilitate the interoperability of data, information, knowledge and tools and enhance sharing of information among the biodiversity-related conventions, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the United Nations Environment Programme;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen coherent system-wide action on capacity-building for facilitating coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, inter alia, through cooperation within the Environment Management Group, and in cooperation with members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, as appropriate, in particular through the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, including through the United Nations Environment Programme regional offices, and by linking that work of the United Nations Environment Programme with United Nations country teams to contribute to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director to facilitate collaboration among the biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant United Nations bodies to contribute to the follow-up and review process of biodiversity-related goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

8. *Invites* the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant United Nations bodies and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to further strengthen their cooperation and enhance synergies among themselves, and invites them to consider the results of the project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies;

9. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider the development, in close cooperation with all relevant biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, of a follow-up strategic framework to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to support that process, including the work that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation is undertaking in this regard;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other contributions of the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next ordinary session.

2/18. Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling Governing Council decisions 26/9, SS.XII/1, SS.XII/3 and 27/13 as well as its own resolution 1/12, in which the Executive Director was requested to produce reports on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats,

Acknowledging that since the United Nations Environment Programme and each of the multilateral environmental agreements have their own legally independent governance structures, decision-making bodies and procedures, it is beneficial for Governments to ensure that their

policymaking on, and implementation of, relevant resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly and decisions of multilateral environmental agreements are mutually supportive,

Noting that specific provisions contained in each multilateral environmental agreement stipulate the key functions, prerogatives and responsibilities of the relevant governing bodies and secretariats for the operationalization of the agreements,

Noting also that when the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements decide to request that the Executive Director provide their secretariats, they accept that the multilateral environmental agreements' secretariats will become subject to the administrative and financial regulations and rules of the United Nations as applied to the United Nations Environment Programme and as supplemented by the multilateral environmental agreements' own financial rules,

Recalling that when the Executive Director has been entrusted with providing the secretariat for a multilateral environmental agreement, the Executive Director also requires the approval of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish appropriate arrangements for carrying out secretariat functions and to establish or extend the trust funds of that multilateral environmental agreement,

Noting with appreciation that the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides or will provide the secretariat for numerous multilateral environmental agreements, listed in the annex to the present resolution (hereinafter referred to as the "UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements"),

Recalling its resolution 1/16, which notes that 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, in line with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations,

Noting the Executive Director's report on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements²¹ and the work of the task team, which was based on close cooperation between the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements and the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing its recommendations,

Welcoming the steps taken by the Executive Director to improve the effectiveness of administrative arrangements, delivery of service, and the mutual supportiveness of programmes of work between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides a secretariat, including taking steps to implement the recommendations of the task team,

A

Institutional framework and accountability

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, such as a memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director and the conferences of the parties or other relevant governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, for their consideration;

2. *Encourages* the Executive Director, in establishing the delegations of authority to the heads of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, to maintain the flexibility required on a case-by-case basis, including to reflect the size of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats;

²¹ UNEP/E.A.2/11.

B**Administrative and financial framework**

3. *Invites* the governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements to bring to the attention of the Executive Director any administrative or financial challenges they face as a result of the practical implementation of their memorandums of understanding;
4. *Also invites* the governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements to share among themselves good practices in respect of their budget and human resources management;
5. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to waive programme support costs on voluntary contributions for participation costs when arranging participation is done by administrative staff financed by the programme support costs on the operating budget;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare information for the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements on the implications of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards for their operational budgets;

C**Mutual supportiveness of programmes of work**

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, when invited to do so by the governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to foster mutually supportive programmes of work between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and make available relevant scientific information important to their work;

D**Future steps**

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts in these matters in an open and transparent manner, and to report on progress made to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Annex**List of multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides the secretariat or where decisions to that effect are in place****Agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides the secretariat**

1. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
2. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its associated agreements
3. Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols
4. Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
5. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
6. Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa
7. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
8. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
9. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its protocols

10. Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and its protocols
11. Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention) and its protocols
12. Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention) and its protocols
13. Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

Agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides the interim secretariat and the United Nations Environment Assembly has accepted that it should provide the permanent secretariat

14. Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)

Agreements that specify that the United Nations Environment Programme should provide the secretariat upon entry into force

15. Minamata Convention on Mercury

2/19. Midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV)

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, adopted by the Governing Council in its decision 25/11 (I) as a broad strategy for the international law community and the United Nations Environment Programme in formulating activities in the field of environmental law for the decade beginning in 2010, and the midterm review called for in that decision,

Recalling also Governing Council decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability, Governing Council decision SS.XI/5 A on guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, and United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/13 on implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Noting with appreciation the work of the meeting of senior government officials expert in environmental law on the midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, held in Montevideo from 7 to 11 September 2015, and the joint initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in their efforts to promote implementation of Principle 10, such as the guide *Putting Rio Principle 10 into Action*, as well as other efforts to that effect,

Recognizing that the further implementation of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, in addition to addressing emerging issues, should be undertaken against the backdrop of recent developments advancing sustainable development, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the further development of international environmental law, including multilateral environmental agreements concluded since 2010, as well as relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Emphasizing the need for activities in the field of environmental law – undertaken by Governments, legal experts, academics and relevant United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme – to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director,²²

1. *Invites* Member States to designate national focal points for exchanging information and building capacities in order to collaborate with and guide the United Nations Environment Programme in strengthening the application of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law and to monitor and evaluate its implementation;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director, in close coordination with the national focal points designated in paragraph 1 above, and subject to available resources, to:
 - (a) Prioritize action on environmental law during the remaining period of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law to support delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consistent with the environmental objectives, and public health benefits such as those related to air quality, identified in recent United Nations Environment Assembly and Governing Council resolutions and decisions, bearing in mind the relevant recommendations of the meeting of senior government officials expert in environmental law on the midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law;
 - (b) Produce guidance to Member States for effective legislative, implementation and enforcement frameworks in a manner consistent with Governing Council decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability and, as appropriate, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/13 on implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;
 - (c) Prepare (i) an assessment of the implementation, effectiveness and impact of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, and (ii) proposals for the work by the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental law for a specific period beginning in 2020; provide an opportunity for comment on the aforementioned assessment and proposals by relevant actors who are undertaking the implementation of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, including major groups and relevant stakeholders; and submit the assessment and proposals for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its session to be held before the end of 2019.

2/20. Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018–2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018–2019

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021²³ and the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019,²⁴

1. *Approves* the medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019;
2. *Also approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 271 million United States dollars, of which a maximum of 122 million dollars is allocated to defraying post costs for the biennium for the purposes indicated in the following table:

²² UNEP/EA.2/13.

²³ UNEP/EA.2/15.

²⁴ UNEP/EA.2/16.

Environment Fund programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019

(thousands of United States dollars)

A. Policymaking organs	1 700
B. Executive direction and management	7 800
C. Programme of work	
1. Climate change	32 300
2. Resilience to disasters and conflicts	21 500
3. Healthy and productive ecosystems	41 800
4. Environmental governance	36 000
5. Chemicals, waste and air quality	32 300
6. Resource efficiency	39 600
7. Environment under review	29 300
D. Fund programme reserve	14 000
E. Programme support	14 700
Total	271 000

3. *Stresses* the importance of early, extensive and transparent consultations between the Executive Director, Member States and the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the preparation of the draft medium-term strategies, strategic frameworks and programmes of work and budgets and the need for timely scheduling of meetings and provision of information to allow the full participation of all Member States throughout this process, and in this regard welcomes the progress made to date;

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

6. *Stresses* the need for the programme of work and budget to be based on results-based management and welcomes the progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017, as described in the programme performance report for the biennium 2014–2015 and the biennial evaluation synthesis report for the period 2014–2015;

7. *Notes* the progress made in increasing allocations from the Environment Fund to activities and operations in the programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019;

8. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate resources between subprogramme budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the subprogramme appropriations and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereof, and in duly justified exceptional circumstances to reallocate in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of the appropriations from which resources are reallocated after prior consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

9. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of Environment Fund allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

10. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities for the biennium 2020–2021;

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 the current emphasis of the United Nations Environment Programme on the achievement of results for the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of oversight, review and independent evaluation;
13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a yearly basis, and to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its biennial sessions, on evaluation findings and the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations;
14. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in a streamlined manner through the merging of progress reporting on administrative and budgetary matters with its programme performance reporting;
15. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to organize regular briefings for the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the programme and budget performance of each sub-programme, to enable the Committee to perform its monitoring task adequately;
16. *Further requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the delivery of the programme of work supports and brings together regional and national programmes and activities in the medium-term strategy 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;
17. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work, apart from those funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of other intergovernmental bodies;
18. Encouraged by its universal membership, *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, and also 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 as well as to continue to broaden the contributor base;
19. *Notes* the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions to, and to enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of, the Environment Fund, and requests the Executive Director to continue adapting the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, inter alia, in accordance with Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 and any relevant subsequent decisions;
20. *Encourages* the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to design and implement a resource mobilization strategy with the priority to broaden the contributor base from Member States as well as other partners so as to improve the adequacy and predictability of resources;
21. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit for consideration and approval by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work for the period 2020–2021;
22. *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.

2/21. Sand and dust storms

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/195 on combating sand and dust storms, which recognizes that dust and sandstorms, and the unsustainable land management practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, and which also recognizes that in the past few years

dust and sandstorms have inflicted substantial socioeconomic damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, especially in Africa and Asia,

Recalling also its resolution 1/7 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,

Recalling further the landmark resolution WHA68.8 on "health and environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution" adopted by the sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, which highlighted the fact that exposure to particulate matter posed a considerable health threat and was the leading environmental risk factor globally and regionally for non-communicable diseases and premature deaths,

Taking note of resolution E/ESCAP/RES/72/7 adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-second session to initiate regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific,

Acknowledging the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil the request addressed to the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 70/195 to prepare, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, including the World Meteorological Organization and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, a report entitled "Global assessment of sand and dust storms" to be circulated to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session,

Taking note of the World Meteorological Organization Sand and Dust Storm Warning and Assessment System programme, which is comprised of more than 15 organizations in different geographic regions, including two regional nodes, for North Africa, the Middle East and Europe in Spain and for Asia in the People's Republic of China,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to, within the programme of work and available resources, support Member States, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and other partners, in addressing the challenges of sand and dust storms through the identification of relevant data and information gaps, policy measures and actions, building on the "Global assessment of sand and dust storms" under General Assembly resolution 70/195 of 22 December 2015, and in connection with the ongoing efforts on air quality monitoring and assessment in response to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7;
2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to engage with all relevant United Nations entities to promote a coordinated approach to combating sand and dust storms globally;
3. *Invites* Member States to intensify monitoring, data collection and knowledge-sharing on all relevant aspects of sand and dust storms, including their impact on ecosystems and human health and well-being; to explore opportunities for cooperation, including North-South, South-South and South-North; and to support the exchange of knowledge and best practices in addressing the problem through practical interventions at the policy, institutional and technical levels, as appropriate;
4. *Also invites* Member States, regional development banks and others in a position to do so to contribute financial resources towards regional initiatives and projects to address the challenge of sand and dust storms;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly.

2/22. Review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 42/185 of 11 December 1987, 67/213 of 21 December 2012 and 67/251 of 13 March 2013 as well as Governing Council decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013,

1. *Decides* to hold its regular sessions in odd numbered years commencing with its third session in 2017;

2. *Also decides* that the above-mentioned cycle shall also apply to the open-ended meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be held in accordance with Governing Council decision 27/2;
3. *Further decides* that, on an exceptional basis:
 - (a) Its third session shall consist of a 3-day meeting without prejudice to the duration and functions of its high-level segment as set out in Governing Council decision 27/2;
 - (b) The third session of the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall consist of a 3-day meeting and will be convened back-to-back with the third session of the Assembly in order to minimize financial costs;
 - (c) The fourth meeting of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall take place in 2017 and that the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall review the agenda and organizational modalities of the Subcommittee;
4. *Recognizes* that the cost of the 2017 Assembly's session and the 2017 open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives have not been reflected in the United Nations Environment Programme 2016–2017 programme of work and budget, and encourages Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute funds for the convening of these meetings;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to undertake resource mobilization efforts and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on funding gaps;
6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to present to the third session of the Assembly, where applicable, updates on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at its second session, and *decides* to defer to the fourth session of the Assembly the formal consideration of the reports by the Executive Director;
7. *Invites* the General Assembly to consider the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly's third session at its seventy-second session;
8. *Decides* to consider at its third session, inter alia, the organizational modalities of regular sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly in order to enhance the budgeting process of the Programme and to better assess the resources allocated by the United Nations to servicing the meetings of the Assembly.

2/23. 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,²⁵

1. *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 (a)

Management of multiple trust funds

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report highlighting the challenges of managing multiple trust funds and to propose steps which could be taken to reduce the administrative burden of maintaining these trust funds;

I (b)

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

3. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds, subject to the Executive Director's receiving requests to do so from the appropriate authorities:

²⁵ UNEP/EA.2/17/Rev.1.

A. General trust funds

- (a) AML – General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (b) CLL – Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which was established in 2013 with an expiry date of 31 December 2019;
- (c) CWL – General Trust Fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (d) MCL – General Trust Fund in Support of Activities on Mercury and its Compounds, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (e) SLP – Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, which is extended up to and including 16 February 2022;
- (f) SML – General Trust Fund for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (g) WPL – General Trust Fund to Provide Support to the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to Promote its Activities, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

B. Technical cooperation trust funds

- (a) AFB – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Activities as Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund Board, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (b) BPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (financed by the Government of Belgium), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (c) CFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and the United Nations Environment Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (d) CIL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Remediation Activities Following the Toxic Waste Incident in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (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 and including 31 December 2019;
- (f) IEL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Priority Projects to Improve the Environment in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (financed by the Republic of Korea), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (g) IPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (h) MDL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (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 and including 31 December 2019;
- (j) SEL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Sweden, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (k) SFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement between Spain and UNEP, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (l) VML – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer Under the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

4. *Notes and approves* the closure of the following trust funds, subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications and obligations:

C. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) GNL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands);

(b) TOL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the International Organization of la Francophonie);

II

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

5. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly:

(a) BBL – Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Nagoya Protocol, which was established in 2014 with an expiry date of 31 December 2017;

(b) BXL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities; which was established in 2014 with an expiry date of 31 December 2017;

6. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds, upon receiving requests to do so from the appropriate authorities:

(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 and including 31 December 2019;

(b) AWL – General Trust Fund for the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(c) BAL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(d) BBL – Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Nagoya Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(e) BCL – Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(f) 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 and including 31 December 2019;

(g) BEL – General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(h) BGL – General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(i) BHL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities of the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(j) BTL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the European Bats Agreement, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(k) BXL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(l) BYL – General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

- (m) CAP – Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related Protocols, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (n) CRL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (o) CTL – Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (p) EAL – Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (q) ESL – Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (r) MEL – Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (s) MPL – Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (t) MSL – Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (u) MVL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (v) PNL – General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (w) ROL – General Trust Fund for the Operational Budget of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (x) RVL – Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (y) SOL – General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observation for the Vienna Convention, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (z) SMU – Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Secretariat of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (aa) VBL – Voluntary Trust Fund to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (bb) VCL – Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (cc) WAL – Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

7. *Notes and approves* the merger of the following trust funds upon requests to do so from the appropriate authorities:²⁶

- (a) BIL: Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties, in particular the Least Developed and the Small Island Developing States among them, and Parties with Economies in Transition (Biosafety Protocol);

²⁶ This decision is in line with paras. 24 and 25 of decision XII/32 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(b) BZL: General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

8. *Approves* the extension of the merged trust fund, which has been renamed: BZL: Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Developing-Country Parties, in particular the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, as well as Parties with Economies in Transition in Meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019.

2/24. Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, including its Sustainable Development Goal 15; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular paragraph 17; and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,

Reaffirming its commitment to implementing General Assembly resolution 70/206 of 22 December 2015 on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, which acknowledges that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension and that joint action by the international community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought,

Recalling decision 3/COP.12 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, which defined land degradation neutrality as “a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”,

Taking note of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, a shared strategic framework for inclusive and sustainable development for Africa; and of the African Union Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa: Securing, Protecting and Improving the Lives, Livelihoods and Rights of Pastoralist Communities,

Noting the outcomes of the sixth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in April 2016 in Cairo, including decision SS.6/4 on action for combating desertification, drought and floods and restoring degraded land to achieve land degradation neutrality,

Stressing the importance of cooperation and collaboration among the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention to Combat Desertification and other multilateral environmental agreements in combating desertification and land degradation,

Recognizing that healthy grassland and rangeland ecosystems are vital for contributing to economic growth, resilient livelihoods and the sustainable development of pastoralism; regulating the flow of water; maintaining soil stability and biodiversity; and supporting carbon sequestration, tourism, and other ecosystem goods and services, as well as distinct lifestyles and cultures, and that they can play a significant role in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

Aware that a significant proportion of the earth's terrestrial surface is classified as rangeland and grassland, that these biomes dominate land cover in dryland countries and countries affected by desertification, that a significant number of pastoralists in the world inhabit rangelands and grasslands, and that pastoralism is globally practiced in many different forms,

Recognizing that pastoralism is a historical practice that in many countries is very much linked to the distinct cultures, identities, traditional knowledge and way of life of indigenous peoples and local communities across the globe that have often contributed to enhancing and maintaining biodiversity, food security and sustainable management of rangelands,

Recognizing also that pastoralism, as a dynamic and transformative system based on indigenous and local knowledge and historical experience of coexisting with nature, faces different challenges around the world, including land tenure insecurity; insufficient investment; inequitable development; inadequate levels of literacy; lack of adequate technology, infrastructure and access to markets; unsustainable changes in the use of land and natural resources; limited access to social and

extension services; security of the pastoralists and the communities through which they traverse; and increasing vulnerability to climate change,

Observing that drought has major implications in terms of loss of human lives, food insecurity, degradation of natural resources, negative consequences on flora and fauna, poverty and social unrest, and that there are increasingly immediate short-term and long-term economic losses in a number of economic sectors including, inter alia, agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, water supply, industry, energy production and tourism,

Recognizing that the benefits of taking action against land degradation by implementing sustainable land management activities are much higher than the costs of preventing land degradation, and that actions to combat land degradation and promote land restoration can help address forced displacement and global instability and therefore should be integrated with poverty reduction measures in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals focusing on enhancing food security and nutrition,

Recognizing also the relevance of sustainable pastoralism to several subprogrammes and thematic areas of the United Nations Environment Programme, and acknowledging the collaborative efforts of many United Nations agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization and intergovernmental and civil-society partners,

1. *Calls on* the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute to strengthening existing global partnerships that promote a shared vision of resilient landscapes for resilient people and strengthen coordination in the fight against desertification and land degradation;
2. *Encourages* Member States to increase efforts to invest in programmes that address problems of desertification, deforestation, drought, biodiversity loss, degradation of rangelands, invasion of alien species, and water scarcity, in order to maintain and improve the productivity and sustainable management of land, through national development policies, strategies and programmes developed in consultation and/or in cooperation with key stakeholders, as appropriate;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to provide support to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to facilitate the sharing of best practices for the development and implementation of strategic frameworks and early warning systems for enhanced disaster risk management, sustainable land management, land restoration and resilience to drought;
4. *Encourages* Member States to invest in disaster risk management, early warning systems and safety-net programmes, as appropriate, in order to help communities cope with drought, flooding and disease;
5. *Strongly encourages* Member States to recognize and include in national policies, strategies and plans, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, references to relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets, including on improved livelihood security, social services, and natural resources for pastoralists and indigenous peoples;
6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to collaborate with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other partners to mobilize resources to help Member States affected by desertification, upon request, to develop, implement and review National Action Programmes;
7. *Calls on* Member States to take action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and reaching voluntary targets regarding land degradation neutrality, in accordance with specific national circumstances and development priorities, in line with decision 3/COP.12 adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and encourages the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, to provide required technical support to countries in this regard;
8. *Urges* Member States to build the capacity of and continue or increase investment in the pastoral livestock sector, including for sustainable land management practices, improved and/or restored ecosystems, access to markets, livestock health and breeding, and enhanced livestock extension services, in order to improve productivity, contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and maintain and enhance biodiversity;
9. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate and subject to available resources, in partnership with Member States and United Nations agencies and programmes and other relevant stakeholders, including civil-society organizations, to explore whether there are gaps in the current provision of technical support and environmental and socioeconomic

assessments of grasslands, rangelands, soil erosion, land degradation, land tenure security and water security in drylands, including the ongoing assessments of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in order to better understand the implications for sustainable livelihoods, while taking into consideration local and indigenous knowledge and technologies;

10. *Encourages* continental and regional intergovernmental bodies to support joint and cross-border development programmes for neighbouring pastoralist and other communities in order to increase the level of mutual trust and confidence, as well as to mitigate conflicts;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society, pastoralists, communities and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the strengthening of the science-policy interface on sustainable pastoralism and rangelands;

12. *Calls on* the international community and other stakeholders to continue supporting the implementation of national, regional and global initiatives to combat desertification and land degradation and promote sustainable pastoralism, such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative in Africa, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Bonn Challenge;

13. *Calls on* the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute to raising global awareness of sustainable pastoralism and rangelands, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, relevant conventions and partners;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to consider hosting the Regional Coordination Unit for Africa in order to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on the African continent, subject to available funding from the Convention;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly on progress in implementing the present resolution.

2/25. Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Taking into consideration Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the document “The future we want”, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in particular paragraph 99 in which the Heads of State and Government encouraged action at the regional, national, subnational and local levels to promote access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate,

Recognizing that respect for the principles contained in the United Nations Charter of democracy, good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustainable development,

Emphasizing that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings are essential for sustainable development,

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

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

Noting the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by some countries of the region in the framework of the Rio+20 Conference,

Recalling its resolution 1/13, which encourages countries to continue their efforts to strengthen international dialogue, technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, and to work to strengthen the rule of law with regard to environmental matters at the international, regional and national levels, and noting the progress made at the regional and national levels,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1, in which the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Noting the national- and regional-level achievements with regard to strengthening the rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, as well as the ongoing challenges with regard to the implementation of those rights and the specific circumstances of each country,

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

2. *Notes* the progress made in the Latin American and Caribbean region to advance the development of a regional agreement on access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as technical secretariat.

Annex II

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. M. Husham Al-Fityan (Iraq), Vice-Chair

I. Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its second session, on 23 May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established a committee of the whole to consider agenda items 4, 5 and 8. The Committee of the Whole was also to consider draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP and proposed for adoption by the Environment Assembly, which were contained in documents UNEP/EA.2/L.3 to UNEP/EA.2/L.27, and any other draft resolutions proposed during the session.

2. In accordance with the decision of the Environment Assembly, the Committee of the Whole held seven meetings from 23 to 27 May 2016. As decided by the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, the Committee was chaired by Ms. Idunn Eidheim (Norway). The Committee elected Mr. M. Husham Al-Fityan (Iraq) to serve as its Rapporteur.

II. Opening of the meeting

3. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the meeting at 3.15 p.m. on Monday, 23 May 2016. In her introductory remarks, she stressed the importance of the work of the Committee at the current session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, given that the large number of resolutions before the Committee covered a wide range of issues under the mandate of UNEP. The work of the Committee, she said, could contribute significantly to a more sustainable world for present and future generations.

III. Organization of work

4. The Chair recalled that the agenda for the second session of the Environment Assembly had been adopted during its 1st plenary meeting, at which the Committee of the Whole had been mandated to consider specified items of the agenda and the related draft resolutions. In considering the items under its remit, the Committee had before it the documentation outlined for each item in the annotated agenda for the current session (UNEP/EA.2/1/Add.1/Rev.1).

5. The Chair also outlined the provisional schedule of work for the Committee, proposing that the draft resolutions be presented to the Committee according to five substantive groupings, and that five drafting groups be established to deal with the items under each substantive grouping. She presented the proposed groupings for consideration by the drafting groups, and named the chairs proposed for each drafting group.

6. Some representatives raised concerns about certain aspects of the proposed organization of work. Several said that five drafting groups was too many, and would stretch the capacity of the small delegations, with several favouring the redistribution of the workload among three drafting groups. In addition, the large number of drafting groups, often running in parallel, would present challenges to the experts accompanying delegations in allocating their time, and would require high levels of transparency, clarity and planning for the Bureau and for the chairs of the drafting groups to ensure that information on the schedules of the drafting groups was distributed in a timely manner. Other concerns related to the accuracy and appropriateness of the grouping of themes under the various drafting groups; the plan to forward most resolutions to the drafting groups rather than dealing with certain items in the Committee; and whether the meetings of the drafting groups would have a designated finishing time as well as a starting time. Some representatives questioned whether the selection of chairs for the various drafting groups had been done in a manner that was transparent and equitable to all regional groups. One representative suggested that the drafting groups have co-chairs rather than chairs to aid more equitable representation.

7. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, said that the secretariat would do its best to accommodate the concerns expressed, and to ensure that representatives were informed of the schedule in a timely manner. In addition, he said that lessons learned from the current discussion on the schedule of work for the Committee of the Whole would inform the organization of the third session of the Environment Assembly.

8. Subsequently, the Committee decided, following a proposal by the Chair, that one drafting group would convene, chaired by Ms. Tita Korvenoja (Finland), to discuss those resolutions that would be considered under the relevant agenda items during the first meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on the afternoon of Monday, 23 May 2016. The Bureau would further discuss the organization of work and present proposals on the way forward to the Committee at the start of its second meeting.
9. The representatives of Chile, Costa Rica and Switzerland signalled their intention to put forward draft resolutions under the relevant agenda items.
10. The representative of the major groups and stakeholders said that a statement had been delivered during the opening session of the Environment Assembly presenting the position of the major groups and stakeholders on the broad themes of the Assembly. A list of recommendations was being compiled by the major groups and stakeholders on the various agenda items and draft resolutions, and would be distributed to the Member States for their consideration.
11. At its 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 May, the Committee agreed to establish three drafting groups, each to be chaired by two co-chairs, to discuss the draft resolutions for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly. The draft resolutions were distributed among the three drafting groups following three principles, namely, that resolutions that dealt with related topics should be grouped together; that each drafting group should have a similar workload; and that those resolutions that contained more complex issues should be distributed evenly between the groups.
12. The Committee further stated that no more than two drafting groups would convene in parallel with sessions of the Committee and that, should there be no Committee session, the three drafting groups could convene at the same time; that all draft resolutions should be given fair treatment, bearing in mind that while agreement was closer on some resolutions, others required more discussion; and that efforts would be made not to reopen negotiations of text that had been provisionally agreed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the lead-up to the current session, but that such text might be re-opened if necessary, given that not all Member States were represented in the Committee.
13. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requested information about the process that had been followed to nominate the co-chairs of the drafting groups.
14. The Chair said that there had been extensive consultations on the nominations, which were still ongoing, to select potential co-chairs. It had not been easy to find potential candidates due to a number of reasons, including the small size of many delegations and the limited number of representatives with chairing experience. Expressing regret that the nomination process had not been optimal, she said she would convey lessons learned to the Environment Assembly in order to improve the process for nominating drafting group chairs in future sessions.

IV. International environmental policy and governance issues (agenda item 4)

A. Illegal trade in wildlife

15. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report by the Executive Director entitled "Resolution 1/3: illegal trade in wildlife" (UNEP/EA.2/2) and a draft resolution on the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products (UNEP/EA.2/L.15).
16. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended the work of UNEP in raising awareness and providing technical and other support to combat illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. He also welcomed the support given by UNEP to the international conference on illegal trade in and exploitation of wild flora and fauna in Africa, held in Brazzaville in April 2015, at which the African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora had been developed, and to the African Elephant Fund and other initiatives. He requested UNEP to continue to mobilize resources for the fund and for the protection of wildlife in general. A number of representatives drew attention to the problems being faced in their own countries due to poaching and other illegal activities, and called for appropriate measures to be taken to discourage both the supply of and the demand for illegal wildlife products.
17. Several representatives said that while particular regions such as Africa were badly affected by the illegal trade in wildlife, the issue was of global importance, and required a broad, global response involving all relevant actors, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), with UNEP playing a lead role. The representative of the United Nations Forum on Forests said that

while the law enforcement component was important, there was also a need to assist communities affected by illegal trade with capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.

18. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration.

19. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

B. Science-policy interface

20. At the Committee's 4th meeting, on the morning of 25 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report of the Executive Director entitled "Resolution 1/4: science-policy interface" (UNEP/EA.2/3), which, he said, provided a summary of activities undertaken by UNEP to implement the Environment Assembly resolution.

21. In the discussion that ensued, all the representatives who spoke, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed appreciation for the report and commended UNEP for its work on the science-policy interface, which, two said, was at the core of the UNEP mandate. In particular, they applauded the use of a bottom-up and inclusive approach to producing the sixth iteration of the Global Environment Outlook flagship report (*GEO-6*), including the production of regional assessments that would feed into the global report; the production of a Global Gender Outlook and other policy-relevant reports; work under UNEP Live; and the identification of six new emerging issues in the *UNEP Frontiers 2016 Report: Emerging issues of environmental concern*, which, nevertheless, should not deter from efforts to address existing emerging issues that remained unresolved, said one representative.

22. With regard to *GEO-6*, to be released in 2018, two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was essential that over the following two years UNEP accord top priority to the production of the report so as to ensure that it was a high-quality product. One of them encouraged UNEP to make use of information contained in other global assessments, such as those produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the International Resource Panel, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

23. Noting that the collection of data required to conduct environmental assessments remained a big challenge for African countries, one representative requested UNEP to continue to support and build the capacity of relevant institutions in those countries to enable them to collect, analyse, package, share and disseminate environmental data and information. Another representative suggested that there was a need to develop a long-term strategy to ensure that environmental data used in assessments was up to date, noting that data collection was sometimes carried out by international organizations with no involvement by the countries concerned and that it was important that the data be accurate, as it could have implications for the determination of compliance by Member States with their international commitments.

24. With regard to the UNEP Live web-based knowledge management system, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, urged UNEP to further strengthen the system, making it more relevant to countries, by providing national data to support decision-making and by replicating what had been done at the global level at the national and regional levels. Another representative encouraged UNEP to ensure that further work on UNEP Live did not duplicate, but rather complemented, work being undertaken elsewhere, including by the Group on Earth Observations, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the United Nations Statistical Commission. Another representative, speaking on behalf of another group of countries, said that UNEP must develop a long-term strategic plan for UNEP Live in order to ensure that the system was of continued value to countries and other stakeholders, suggesting that the Executive Director's report did not adequately address this issue.

25. The representative of the Division of Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, outlined recent developments regarding the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, to which UNEP was a contributor. She drew attention to the First World Ocean Assessment, which provided a picture of the state of oceans, including socioeconomic aspects, and reinforced the science-policy interface by providing a scientific basis for informed decisions on ocean issues by Governments and other policymakers.

26. The representative of the science and technology major group commended UNEP for its work on the Global Environment Outlook and the increased role accorded to major groups and other stakeholders, as well as the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge, citizen science and grey

literature in the process. He expressed the hope that equally inclusive approaches would be followed in other UNEP work on the science-policy interface, including in the context of UNEP Live. Expressing strong support for the Science Policy Forum held prior to the current session, he asked that the Forum be convened at future sessions and be further expanded, for instance by including a discussion on the relationship between science and values.

C. Chemicals and waste

27. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report of the Executive Director entitled "Resolution 1/5: chemicals and waste" (UNEP/EA.2/4), providing a summary of activities undertaken by UNEP to implement the Environment Assembly resolution. He drew attention to four information documents pertaining to chemicals and waste (UNEP/EA.2/INF/18, INF/19, INF/20 and INF/21). He also introduced a draft resolution on the sound management of chemicals and waste (UNEP/EA.2/L.8), proposed and/or sponsored by Burkina Faso, Japan, Mongolia and the European Union and its member States.

28. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed appreciation to UNEP for its work in promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste and emphasized the importance of such management for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the incorporation of specific targets on chemicals and waste in the 2030 Agenda was a momentous achievement that underlined the cross-cutting, intersectoral nature of chemicals and waste; offered UNEP an opportunity to further collaborate on the issue with United Nations bodies and other relevant stakeholders; and added momentum to efforts being made, in particular in developing countries, to mainstream chemicals and waste management into national policies.

29. Several representatives suggested ways through which UNEP could further contribute to the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the national and regional levels, including by working with the private sector to build the capacity of countries to soundly manage chemicals and waste and building regional synergies to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, and thereby tackle transboundary problems such as air pollution; promoting the establishment of regional centres of excellence capable of dealing with hazardous wastes, including those generated by research centres and laboratories; promoting the sharing of national experiences with the implementation of solutions such as waste-to-energy and the "3Rs" (reduce, reuse and recycle); and promoting the use of more environmentally-sound technologies.

30. A number of representatives drew attention to the difficulties experienced in achieving sound chemicals and waste management in developing countries, with one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighting the major challenge of financing such management, in particular in Africa. One representative expressed support for the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste, which included industry involvement, dedicated financing and the mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and waste into national development plans and budgets.

31. Several of the draft resolution's proponents and/or sponsors provided relevant information. The representative of the European Union said that the present resolution built on resolution 1/5 and was premised on the idea that UNEP must enhance its leading role in fostering multilateral coordination and supporting countries to achieve the goal set out in the "The future we want" that, by the year 2020, chemicals throughout their life cycle and hazardous wastes be managed in ways that led to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. The adoption of several chemicals-related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals required that the Environment Assembly provide policy direction on those targets and that UNEP provide support and guidance to countries to achieve them. It was also essential that government and UNEP policies and activities fully integrate the environmentally sound management of waste and the prevention of waste generation as key priorities. The representative of Japan emphasized the role that UNEP played, through its global centre of excellence on waste management, the International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), in promoting sound waste management. IETC had recently produced the first *Global Waste Management Outlook*, which estimated that 2 to 3 billion people still lacked access to basic waste services. The representative of Burkina Faso expressed confidence that the draft resolution would help countries to face challenges associated with chemicals and waste management, such as the informal recycling of lead batteries, which must be addressed if the Sustainable Development Goals were to be achieved.

32. General support was expressed for the draft resolution with a number of amendments being proposed, including that the resolution should address the issue of international trade and management of electrical and electronic waste, as well as near-end-of life equipment; that it should include a

reference to extended producer responsibility schemes through which producers would contribute to ensuring the environmentally sound management of their products once such products became waste; that reference should be made to regional-level work, as well as the work being carried out by the regional centres, under the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; and that reference should be made to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa.

33. The representative of Switzerland drew attention to a conference room paper submitted by his Government with the aim of strengthening the resolution through a number of amendments, including requesting UNEP and the secretariats of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade and the Basel and Stockholm conventions, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, to develop a coherent, effective and integrated reporting system that covered the four treaties and helped them to assess progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals without creating undue burden on Member States; making changes to the Global Chemicals Outlook process so that it addressed the issues of chemicals and waste together and identified chemicals requiring attention as well as new and emerging issues; and sending a clear signal to UNEP to continue its work on lead and cadmium.

34. A representative of the women's major group expressed the view that the draft resolution showed that Governments did not accord sufficiently high priority to the chemicals agenda and suggested that Governments and other donors should provide additional funding for the implementation of the chemicals and waste-related agreements and adopt laws on extended producer responsibility and laws that reduced or eliminated exposure to hazardous chemicals. She further suggested that the Global Chemicals Outlook reports should include strategies for separating hazardous substances from waste streams prior to recycling, as such separation was necessary for a circular economy.

35. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration in line with the discussions in the Committee.

36. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the sound management of chemicals and waste for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

D. Marine plastic debris and microplastics

37. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 May, the Deputy Executive Director drew attention to the report of the Executive Director entitled "Resolution 1/6: marine plastic debris and microplastics" (UNEP/EA.2/5); a report entitled "Technical report on marine plastic debris and microplastics: global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change" prepared in response to resolution 1/6 (UNEP/EA.2/INF/23), and its annexes (UNEP/EA.2/INF/23/Add.1); and a draft resolution on marine plastic and microplastics (UNEP/EA.2/L.12), which called for continuing UNEP support for regional and national action plans on marine litter.

38. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed strong support for the draft resolution, noting that it added to resolution 1/6 by focusing on a range of measures for addressing the pressing global issue of marine plastic debris and microplastics and that UNEP was well placed to undertake the proposed assessment of relevant international regulatory frameworks and other instruments to be conducted, in consultation with relevant bodies, for further consideration and follow-up by the Assembly. UNEP would also coordinate an open process among Member States for determining the terms of reference of the assessment. One representative stressed, however, that the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks was a matter for the parties concerned and that it would perhaps be more helpful to assess best practices at the national and regional levels for the reduction of marine litter.

39. Many representatives identified the environmentally sound management of waste from land-based sources as critical to the reduction of pollution from marine litter, particularly if supported by national action plans to that end. Other issues identified as worthy of attention included integrated coastal zone management; extended producer responsibility in waste management; the role of science in supporting more eco-friendly products; removal, prevention and outreach activities; and waste disposal and the "3Rs" principle. Representatives also highlighted such needs as regional and international cooperation; further research into the impact of marine plastic debris and microplastics on marine biota, health and the marine food chain; the transfer of relevant capacities and knowledge from national to local institutions; and the treatment of plastics recovered from the marine environment in a manner that was non-hazardous to health.

40. Representatives highlighted the relevance of various instruments to the work on marine plastic debris and microplastics, namely: the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention); the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention); the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the Regional Seas Programme; the World Ocean Assessment; United Nations General Assembly resolutions 69/245 and 70/235; and a recent report of the United Nations Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, which was set to inform the seventeenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, to be held in June 2016, with a focus on marine debris, plastics and microplastics. The report underlined the critical importance of stepping up efforts in order to achieve internationally agreed commitments, including those reflected in target 14.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution) and in other ocean-related goals.

41. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration.

42. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on marine plastic litter and microplastics for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

E. Air quality

43. At the Committee's 4th meeting, on the morning of 25 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report of the Executive Director entitled "Resolution 1/7: strengthening the role of UNEP in promoting air quality" (UNEP/EA.2/6), saying that it outlined UNEP activities for the implementation of the resolution, including with respect to the global air quality policy report to be launched at the present session.

44. In the ensuing discussion, representatives commended UNEP for its excellent work, including in cooperation with the World Health Organization, to address the problem of air quality, which they saw as a priority on account of the growing threat it posed to human health and the environment. Individual representatives expressed commitment to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to air quality, notably those mentioned in paragraph 6 of the report, and called on UNEP and other stakeholders to target the root causes of the indoor pollution affecting the rural poor in particular through, inter alia, the promotion of affordable clean energy, the acquisition and transfer of safer technologies, public awareness-raising and the development of pollution-reducing measures in conjunction with communities. Representatives also called for scaled-up programmes, the transfer of environment-friendly technologies and the development of efficient public transport systems and adequate waste management practices in order to address the increasing challenge of outdoor pollution, especially in urban areas, in countries aspiring to higher levels of development. Some described efforts undertaken in their countries to reduce air pollution, highlighting the dramatic health and social benefits engendered by anti-pollution legislation.

F. Ecosystem-based adaptation

45. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report of the Executive Director entitled "Resolution 1/8: ecosystem-based adaptation" (UNEP/EA.2/7), providing a summary of activities conducted by UNEP to implement the Environment Assembly resolution. He further introduced a draft resolution on sustainable and optimal management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication (UNEP/EA.2/L.14), submitted by Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya and Zimbabwe with the aim of further strengthening the UNEP mandate in the field of ecosystem-based adaptation. The draft resolution had been the subject of intense negotiations prior to, during and after the second meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, held in Nairobi in February 2016.

46. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives expressed support for UNEP work on ecosystem-based adaptation, which was seen as a means to achieve sustainable development in a changing climate and should be guided by the relevant principles contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

47. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended UNEP for work undertaken to implement resolution 1/8 and encouraged the Programme to continue to conduct analytical work to promote a better understanding of the relationship between ecosystem-based adaptation and adaptation actions that took into account ecosystems to support development, and to

support Member States in the implementation of operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1/8. Expressing appreciation to the European Union, the Government of Germany and the Global Environment Facility for their financial contributions for the implementation of resolution 1/8, he requested those in a position to do so to provide additional funding to ensure the full implementation of the resolution.

48. One representative said that the draft resolution, together with the background document prepared by the secretariat, created confusion by conflating the issues of natural capital accounting, sustainable management of natural resources, and ecosystem-based adaptation, each of which was distinct.

49. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration.

50. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

51. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, entering a reservation to the draft resolution, said that, in common with that on mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being (see section I, part 14, below), the draft resolution was unacceptable in that it represented a move away from the path to sustainable development. The anthropocentric focus of the draft resolution, she said, which disregarded the holistic interrelationship between human societies and nature, would undermine the integrity of “Mother Earth”; the emphasis on commercializing “natural capital assets” would expose the natural environment to market forces and overexploitation, which would have a negative impact on ecosystem resilience, food security, water supply and human health, especially in rural areas, and lead to increased levels of poverty; and no attention had been paid to the situation of indigenous peoples and local communities. It would, in her view, set a dangerous precedent to adopt the resolution before the basic definitions had been clarified and the remaining inconsistencies and overlaps with multilateral environmental agreements had been addressed.

G. Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme

52. At the Committee’s 4th meeting, on the morning of 25 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report of the Executive Director entitled “Resolution 1/9: Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water)” (UNEP/EA.2/8), saying that it provided an overview of the key components of the revised GEMS/Water and described its role in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and in the context of the current UNEP programme of work through to the biennium 2018–2019.

53. Highlighting the instrumental linkages between GEMS/Water and the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), one representative stressed that the availability of reliable water quality data and knowledge products for water resources management could not be overstated, requesting in that regard a progress report on the implementation of the work plan on data-related activities for the period 2015–2017. Also stressed was the importance of ownership of GEMS/Water at the regional level and the need to engage and support countries in its implementation, including through capacity-building for quality assurance, with a special focus on transboundary waters.

H. Sustainable development and poverty eradication

54. At the Committee’s 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 23 May, the Chair drew attention to a report of the Executive Director entitled “Resolution 1/10: different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” (UNEP/EA.2/9) and a draft resolution on the roles of UNEP and the United Nations Environment Assembly in delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UNEP/EA.2/L.6).

55. Introducing the report by the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director said that the report, which had been prepared in accordance with resolution 1/10, described work undertaken by UNEP to collect and share information on the wide range of approaches to sustainable development and poverty eradication that existed globally.

56. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives welcomed the study by UNEP on different approaches to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. A number of representatives said that the analysis needed now to focus on the practical aspects of implementation and how to operationalize actions to achieve sustainable development. One said that the approach

adopted in the report of the Executive Director was overly concerned with the green economy, and gave inadequate attention to the wide range of other approaches and visions being adopted at the national level to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication.

57. One representative said that there was still inadequate understanding of the linkage between poverty and environmental issues, and there was a need to build human and technical capacity, for example through knowledge-building, skills development and technology transfer, in order to ensure equitable development of natural resources, especially in poor regions that were rich in natural resources, such as Africa. A representative of the workers and trade unions major group said there was a need to create decent work, supported by social protection floors, and to evolve just transition policies to protect vulnerable workers in the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy.

58. Responding to the issues raised, the Deputy Executive Director said that since the first session of the Environment Assembly the secretariat had worked with a number of countries and shared knowledge on the multiple pathways being adopted to attain sustainable development, and acknowledged that each country had the right to decide the pathway best suited to its individual circumstances. He stressed the importance of including the social dimension in sustainable development approaches, including the green economy.

59. Following discussion the Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 1 for further consideration.

60. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

I. Emerging and other relevant issues

1. Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

61. At the Committee's 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 23 May 2016, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (UNEP/EA.2/L.5).

62. The representative of Samoa made a brief introductory statement, recalling that only one outstanding issue remained to be resolved and expressing his willingness to work closely with all parties to finalize the text.

63. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 1 for further consideration.

64. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

2. Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training

65. At the Committee's 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 23 May 2016, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training (UNEP/EA.2/L.4).

66. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 1 for further consideration.

67. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

3. Promoting the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change

68. At the Committee's 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 23 May 2016, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on promoting the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change (UNEP/EA.2/L.7).

69. Representatives recalled how difficult it had been to find a balance that would allow the Paris Agreement to be concluded just a few months earlier, expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Government of France in bringing about a successful conclusion to the negotiations, and cautioned against discussing elements that might once again upset the balance. Several suggested that for that reason, it would be better not to consider the resolution at all, particularly given the ongoing discussions in Bonn, Germany, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Others, including one representative who urged members States to embrace the opportunity to maintain the momentum from Paris, held that the resolution could simply focus on what UNEP could do within its mandate. One representative noted that given the concurrent intersessional process in Bonn, her delegation lacked the presence of a climate change expert who could properly address the resolution, although she was willing to discuss a resolution limited in focus to the role of UNEP.

70. After obtaining a clarification on the process to be followed for the introduction of draft resolutions, the representative of the European Union introduced the draft resolution and responded to comments. He concurred that it had been very difficult to find the balance that had allowed for the conclusion of the Paris Agreement, reassured the Environment Assembly that the resolution was not intended to reopen the discussion or upset that balance, and urged Member States to refrain from putting forward issues that might do so. The European Union had tabled the resolution because the Paris Agreement was clearly a major achievement and UNEP was doing excellent work in the field of climate that should be recognized and given further impetus. He added that after listening carefully to remarks made at the second meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, the European Union had submitted a new title for the draft resolution, "Supporting the Paris Agreement".

71. He also disputed the assertion of one representative who contended that the resolution should be amended on the basis that the Paris Agreement was not yet in force and hence did not legally exist. The Agreement had been concluded in Paris, signed by an unprecedented number of Heads of States and ministers and deposited in the United Nations Treaty Collection.

72. A representative from the women's major group called for the resolution to fully reflect all the principles and objectives of the Paris Agreement, and highlighted the need to ensure coherence of action with other multilateral agreements, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity, when implementing the Agreement.

73. Following its discussion the Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration.

74. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on supporting the Paris Agreement for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

4. Transformation of pastoralism towards sustainable development

75. At the Committee's 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 23 May 2016, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the transformation of pastoralism towards sustainable development (UNEP/EA.2/L.25).

76. The representative of Ethiopia introduced the draft resolution, recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its call to leave no one behind as well as the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, developed by the African Union. In that context, he said, pastoralists required special attention, and the Environment Assembly was uniquely positioned to recognize that. In addition to more resources, the resolution called for the recognition of pastoralists through an international year of pastoralists and the establishment of an annual pastoralist day, which would increase understanding of pastoralist issues, galvanize more resources, and, in an era of climate change, address both adaptation and mitigation issues.

77. A representative of the indigenous peoples major group made a statement in support of the draft resolution on the transformation of pastoralism towards sustainable development and the draft resolution on combating desertification and land degradation and ensuring the sustainable management of rangelands, saying that they both addressed a need to promote and protect sustainable pastoralism which was critical for the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, in her opinion, the two resolutions could be merged into one.

78. Following its discussion the Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 1 for further consideration.

79. Subsequently, at the 7th meeting of the Committee, on the evening of 27 May, the co-chair of the drafting group announced that the draft resolution had been merged with the draft resolution on combating desertification and land degradation and ensuring the sustainable management of rangelands (see below).

5. Combating desertification and land degradation and ensuring the sustainable management of rangelands

80. At the Committee's 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 23 May 2016, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on combating desertification and land degradation and ensuring the sustainable management of rangelands (UNEP/EA.2/L.24).

81. The representatives of Namibia and the Sudan both made statements introducing the draft resolution. The representative of the Sudan, noting that the draft resolution had the support of all the African States and was of critical importance to Africa, highlighted the global value of the elements of the proposal. Land was an increasingly limited resource and must be conserved and used in a sustainable manner if human needs were to be met. Failure to combat desertification, land degradation and unsustainable management of rangelands would lead to the inability to eradicate poverty or achieve food security, climate resilience and indeed most of the Sustainable Development Goals. The issue was therefore of global importance and should have a more prominent place in the work of the Environment Assembly, UNEP and the United Nations system in general. He briefly described the key elements of the proposal and welcomed input that would improve the global perspective and technical aspects of the text, including with regard to gender mainstreaming.

82. The representative of Namibia added that the draft resolution sought to implement strategies to improve land productivity, restore land and establish more efficient water usage, and to introduce sustainable development in the affected areas and more generally improve the living conditions of populations affected by drought and desertification. She stressed that Africa was the continent most severely affected by drought and desertification, and that a synergistic approach to climate change, biodiversity and desertification issues should be encouraged so as to tackle immediate livelihood issues and advance towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through a holistic approach.

83. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 1 for further consideration.

84. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

6. Role and functions of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific and follow-up to the Forum

85. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 May, the representative of Pakistan introduced a draft resolution on the role and functions of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific and follow-up to the Forum (UNEP/EA.2/L.3). He said that, following consultations by the Asia-Pacific group, the group as a whole had decided to sponsor the draft resolution.

86. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 1 for further consideration.

87. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of environment and environment authorities for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

7. Sand and dust storms

88. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 May, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran introduced a draft resolution on sand and dust storms (UNEP/EA.2/L.23). The resolution sought to ensure that UNEP became more active in addressing sand and dust storms, which represented an environmental challenge of enormous proportion experienced on nearly every continent. While the issue was being addressed in other forums, including the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, it was important that UNEP integrate it into its programme of work and take a leading role in coordinating action across the

United Nations system through the Environment Management Group to ensure the problem was adequately addressed.

89. In the discussion that ensued, several representatives suggested that the issue of sand and dust storms could be addressed in the UNEP programme of work, with one noting that agreement had been reached in the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in consultation with the proponent, to deal with the issue in that way. Several representatives expressed support for the draft resolution. Issues raised by representatives included fugitive dust, which was seen as part of the broader issue of air quality that should be part of UNEP work on air quality; that the proposals contained in the draft resolution to establish a network of centres of excellence and develop a strategic plan on sand and dust storms would have significant budgetary implications and might undermine the wider work of UNEP on air quality; that sand and dust storms affected human health, agriculture and aviation and had significant transboundary impacts; and that the problem was not merely an air quality issue. One representative suggested that the resolution should be amended to ensure that developing countries participated in the work related to sandstorms; to assert that arid and semi-arid regions were among the regions where sand and dust storms had increased; and to affirm the need to set up observation centres on the movement of sandstorms with an early warning system; as well as the need for technical and capacity-building in the fields of sand and dust storm observation and forecasting.

90. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to the drafting group 1 for further consideration.

91. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on sand and dust storms for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

8. Sustainable consumption and production

92. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 May, the representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a draft resolution on sustainable consumption and production (UNEP/EA.2/L.9), highlighting its salient aspects and noting that the text had been revised to accommodate views expressed at the second meeting of Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

93. In the ensuing discussion, representatives viewed the draft resolution positively, saying that sustainable consumption and production would promote economic growth and employment and protect human health, climate and the planet, for the benefit of all. They welcomed its linkage with Sustainable Development Goal 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) as well as its emphasis on such matters as global resource efficiency, the life cycle approach, corporate social responsibility and accountability, and sustainable public procurement practices. They also recognized the significant progress already made as a result of the tools developed by the International Resource Panel and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform.

94. Underscoring support for UNEP activities in the area of sustainable consumption and production, representatives emphasized the importance of such factors as international cooperation; integrative, inclusive and innovative policies and measures; scaled-up action; strengthening of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics; and the potential contribution of the Toyama Framework on Material Cycles, adopted at a recent meeting of the Group of Seven Environment Ministers in Japan. Some stressed that a workable action plan should be designed to assist developing countries in the context of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, which would also have the benefit of leveraging work in such areas as food production and the exploitation of natural resources. Developing countries needed support from developed countries and leading organizations in their national efforts to achieve those patterns.

95. Representatives made a number of suggestions for amendments to the draft resolution, including that it should incorporate a request to the Executive Director to promote corporate and sustainability reporting, including through the Group of Friends of Paragraph 47, to ensure that UNEP remained an active player in the field; and references to the right to know, labelling, sustainable agriculture and the promotion of agroecology. Some concern was expressed with regard to the inclusion in the draft resolution of broad political statements that did not constitute actionable guidance within the scope of existing UNEP programmes.

96. Issues identified by individual representatives as leading to unsustainable consumption and production, waste and inequality included the corporate pursuit of mega-development projects for economic development and the location of extractive industries and special economic zones in indigenous territories and rural communities. Solutions identified for the attainment of sustainable land use, as well as healthy people and a healthy environment, included the use of traditional and

agroecological farming techniques and diverse production systems with minimal dependence on chemicals and technologies.

97. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration.

98. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on sustainable consumption and production for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

9. Wasted food reduction, rescue and diversion

99. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 May 2016, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution on wasted food reduction, rescue and diversion (UNEP/EA.2/L.10) which, she said, was aimed at raising the profile of the issue among environment officials and raising awareness of the significant contribution of UNEP to efforts to reduce food waste. Action on the draft resolution would contribute to the attainment of target 12.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (by 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses).

100. In the ensuing discussion, representatives cautioned against any action that might infringe on the mandates, or duplicate the efforts, of other United Nations entities, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Similarly, differing country situations must be taken into account and consideration given as to whether wasted food should be addressed as part of sustainable consumption and production.

101. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration.

102. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

10. Oceans and seas

103. At the Committee's 2nd meeting, on the morning of 24 May 2016, the representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a draft resolution on oceans and seas (UNEP/EA.2/L.11), acknowledging the useful background papers prepared by UNEP on the subject and underscoring the importance of oceans and seas for biodiversity, ecosystems, climate and human well-being, as well as the need to consolidate and clarify the role of UNEP in the existing framework of international law on oceans and seas, including in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

104. Representatives expressed support for the draft resolution, which one said that his delegation had been constructively involved in developing without compromising his country's historical position as a non-signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

105. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration.

106. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on oceans and seas for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

107. The representatives of Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated for the record that they had joined the consensus on the draft resolution on the understanding that it would not imply their acceptance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which they were non-signatories. The co-chair of the drafting group reported that the representative of a third country had expressed a similar position during the group's discussion.

11. Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict

108. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict (UNEP/EA.2/L.16).

109. The representative of Ukraine, one of the proponents of the draft resolution, noted that it aimed to address the irreparable impact armed conflicts could have on vulnerable natural systems. Damage from conflicts ranged from desertification of wetlands and pollution of air, water and soil by hazardous substances to nuclear fallout and radiation, which all threatened peoples' health, livelihoods

and security. The resolution was intended to be universal, not country-specific, and aimed to raise Governments' awareness of the ecological risks and challenges inflicted by armed conflicts, strengthen the implementation of existing international instruments by appealing to Governments to reflect the relevant provisions in their national legislation, and bring about closer international cooperation to prevent and reduce the consequences of armed conflict.

110. During the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives took the floor in support of the resolution, describing the environmental impact of armed conflict in their countries. Two representatives of countries co-sponsoring the resolution recalled that their neighbouring countries also suffered direct and indirect environmental impacts as a result of armed conflict, notably from hosting large numbers of refugees.

111. Following its discussion the Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 3 for further consideration.

112. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

12. Field-based environmental assessment of the after-effects of the November 2012 and July and August 2014 wars on the Gaza Strip

113. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on field-based environmental assessment of the after-effects of the November 2012 and July and August 2014 wars on the Gaza Strip (UNEP/EA.2/L.17).

114. Presenting the draft resolution on behalf of the Arab States, the representative of Morocco outlined the various elements of the proposal and expressed his willingness to negotiate a text that was acceptable to all.

115. Following the presentation, several representatives expressed their support for the resolution. One representative, supported by three others, recalled previous Governing Council resolutions on the matter and said that they constituted precedents that should be relied upon when providing direction to UNEP and the Executive Director on how to deal with the matter.

116. Following its discussion the Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 3 for further consideration.

117. Subsequently, at the Committee's 5th meeting, on the evening of 25 May, the representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, proposed a new draft resolution on a field-based assessment of the Gaza Strip contained in a conference room paper. The draft resolution, she said, aimed to resolve the reservations that had been expressed in drafting group 3 with regard to the original resolution on the matter proposed by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Arab States, and to achieve an understanding among the parties that would facilitate consensus. Lastly, the draft resolution was consistent with previous UNEP Governing Council decisions on the issue, namely decision GCSS.VII/7 of 15 February 2002 on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, and decision 25/12 of February 2009 on the environmental situation in the Gaza Strip.

118. Subsequently, at the Committee's 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the co-chair of the drafting group announced that the group had failed to achieve a consensus on the draft resolution.

119. The representative of Israel said that the draft resolution had been driven not by concern for the environment and the Palestinian people, but as a concerted campaign to mount a political assault on Israel, in contravention of the non-political spirit of the work of UNEP and the Environment Assembly. The current session, he said, would regrettably be remembered more for the controversy surrounding the issue, than for the core work of the Assembly to protect the environment. His delegation, in spite of its best efforts to prevent such an outcome, would be compelled to call for a vote when the draft resolution was presented for adoption at that night's meeting in plenary, which it was unable to attend for religious reasons.

120. The representatives of the following States expressed support for the draft resolution: Algeria, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt (on behalf of the African States), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, which requested to be added to the list of co-sponsors, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the United Arab Emirates.

121. The Committee agreed to submit the draft resolution on a field-based environmental assessment of the after-effects of the November 2012 and July and August 2014 wars on the Gaza Strip to the Environment Assembly for further consideration and possible adoption.

13. Sustainable coral reefs management

122. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on sustainable coral reefs management (UNEP/EA.2/L.13).

123. The representative of Indonesia, one of the proponents of the draft resolution, said that the present degradation of coral reefs worldwide posed a threat to efforts to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The sustainable management of coral reefs would contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

124. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration.

125. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on sustainable coral reefs management for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

126. The representatives of Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated for the record that they had joined the consensus on the draft resolution on the understanding that it would not imply their acceptance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which they were non-signatories.

14. Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being

127. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being (UNEP/EA.2/L.18).

128. The representative of Mexico, the proponent of the draft resolution, stressed the importance of maintaining ecosystem services to sustain a healthy planet and deliver benefits that were essential for all people, in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

129. Some representatives expressed support for the draft resolution with one drawing attention to the relationship between the present draft resolution and that on enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, and suggesting therefore that both be considered by the same drafting group.

130. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 2 for further consideration.

131. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

15. Application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

132. At the Committee's 4th meeting, on the morning of 25 May, the representative of Chile introduced a draft resolution on the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, proposed by Chile and Costa Rica and set out in a conference room paper (UNEP/EA.2/L.29). He outlined efforts made by Latin American and Caribbean States to strengthen environmental democracy in the region, including through the negotiation of a regional agreement for the implementation of rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

133. In the following discussion, one representative commended efforts undertaken by Latin American and Caribbean States to bring forward greater commitment to principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, of which his Government had been a long-standing supporter.

134. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 3 for further consideration.

135. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

J. Coordination across the United Nations system on environmental issues

136. At the Committee's 4th meeting, on the morning of 25 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report of the Executive Director entitled "Coordination across the United Nations system on environmental issues, including the Environment Management Group" (UNEP/EA.2/10), noting that it described UNEP work to enhance its voice and ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system, particularly in the context of the Environment Management Group, and covered United Nations system coordination in the field of the environment in support of the 2030 Agenda.

137. In the ensuing discussion, one representative stated that the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda was dependent on strengthening the integration of the environmental dimension into all United Nations activities and that the role of the Environment Assembly as the global environmental authority should have been more prominently reflected in the United Nations Secretary-General's foreword to the United Nations System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment. Others underscored collaboration, cooperation and coordination as fundamental to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the context of activities relating to sustainable forest management, which would contribute in particular to Goal 15 (protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss) and Goal 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all).

138. Suggestions made during the discussion were that the Environment Assembly could provide guidance and recommendations on the implementation of the environmental dimension to the respective governing bodies of other United Nations entities through appropriate channels, with due respect for the reporting obligations of individual organizations; that the synthesis report produced by the Environment Management Group could be presented to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; that all United Nations entities should deliver progress reports to their governing bodies; and that the efforts of those bodies and of legally mandated organizational structures should not be duplicated, with cooperation and data-sharing instead being facilitated through the soft approach employed by the Environment Management Group.

K. Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

139. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Chair drew attention to a report by the Executive Director on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements (UNEP/EA.2/11), a note by the Executive Director containing supplementary information on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements (UNEP/EA.2/11/Add.1) and a draft resolution on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat (UNEP/EA.2/L.20) proposed by the European Union and its member States. Two other documents were also of relevance: a note by the Executive Director on the United Nations System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (UNEP/EA.2/INF/6) and a note by the secretariat on the Athens Declaration (UNEP/EA.2/INF/22).

140. The Deputy Executive Director introduced the report, the addendum to the report and the draft resolution. He said that, in response to requests, UNEP had provided an oral briefing to the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 17 May 2016 clarifying the outcomes of the work of the task team established by the Executive Director to review the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and a number of multilateral environmental agreements, as well as specific aspects of relationships between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements.

141. A representative of the European Union and its member States, the proponent of the draft resolution, introduced it, stressing the importance of the legal authority of the multilateral environmental agreements and that the sole purpose of the resolution was to facilitate cooperation, enabling UNEP and the agreements to become more mutually supportive in protecting the environment. Noting that much of the resolution dealt with administrative and financial issues, he emphasized that UNEP could only provide secretariats for multilateral environmental agreements in accordance with the terms of the United Nations financial and administrative rules and regulations and within the UNEP rules. He went on to highlight a number of salient aspects of the draft resolution.

142. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for ongoing efforts by UNEP to improve the services provided to the multilateral environmental agreements. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the draft resolution as an effective means of improving the institutional

framework and accountability, as well as administrative, financial and programmatic cooperation. Others suggested, however, that the resolution was unnecessary, as ongoing improvement could be achieved through consultation; with one adding that the resolution contained elements suggesting that UNEP had some oversight over the multilateral environmental agreements, which she could not agree to, while another felt that the necessary call for enhanced efficiency was already reflected in paragraph 89 of “The future we want.”

143. Following its discussion, the Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 3 for further consideration.

144. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

L. Synergies among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements

145. At the Committee’s 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Chair drew attention to a report of the Executive Director on enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (UNEP/EA.2/12), an addendum to the report containing an outcome document of the consultative process to develop a set of options for enhancing cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (UNEP/EA.2/12/Add.1) and a draft resolution on enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (UNEP/EA.2/L.19).

146. The Deputy Executive Director introduced the report and its addendum and drew attention to the draft resolution on the matter proposed by Switzerland.

147. Presenting the draft resolution, the representative of Switzerland noted that there were several biodiversity-related international instruments and conventions that complemented each other and together formed a comprehensive regime supporting the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. Much like the chemicals and waste conventions, the biodiversity conventions could achieve coherence, effectiveness and efficiency through enhanced cooperation, coordination and synergies. Together with the European Commission, Switzerland had been supporting a project by UNEP to identify options and opportunities to enhance synergies, and UNEP had undertaken substantial work to identify areas where coherence and coordination among the conventions could be of benefit.

148. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 3 for further consideration.

149. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on enhancing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

M. Environmental law

150. At the Committee’s 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Chair drew attention to a report by the Executive Director on the midterm review of the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV) (UNEP/EA.2/13) and a draft resolution on the matter (UNEP/EA.2/L.21).

151. The Deputy Executive Director introduced the report and the draft resolution proposed by Uruguay in response to the report. He said that the draft resolution had been amended following the second meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

152. During the discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, drew attention to the recognition, during the midterm review of Montevideo Programme IV, of the need for training and capacity-building for Africa, and called for UNEP to be mandated to provide technical and financial support to develop a regional strategic plan to implement the Montevideo Programme IV in Africa. Two representatives also spoke in support of the resolution.

153. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 3 for further consideration.

154. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the midterm review of the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV) for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

V. Medium-term strategy, programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues (agenda item 5)

A. Revisions of the programme and work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017

155. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report by the Executive Director on revisions to the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 (UNEP/EA.2/14), and information notes by the secretariat on the programme of work and budget for 2016–2017 (UNEP/EA.2/INF/9), the programme performance report for January 2014 to June 2015 (UNEP/EA.2/INF/12), and the evaluation synthesis report for 2014–2015 (UNEP/EA.2/INF/13). He said that the revisions noted in the report were attributable primarily to the approval by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015 of a United Nations regular budget appropriation to UNEP of \$35.3 million and 116 posts, which was at a lower level than that requested by the Secretary-General.

156. The Committee took note of the report by the Executive Director.

B. Proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021

C. Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019

157. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May 2016, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report by the Executive Director on the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021 (UNEP/EA.2/15), a report by the Executive Director on the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (UNEP/EA.2/16), a report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (UNEP/EA.2/INF/8), and a draft resolution on the proposed medium-term strategy for 2018–2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018–2019 (UNEP/EA.2/L.22).

158. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the reports of the Executive Director, stressing the importance of formulating a budget that adhered to the mandate of UNEP and promoted UNEP as a results-based organization. Budgetary needs had increased to meet a growing number of global activities and commitments, including those related to the 2030 Agenda, and he called on the Executive Director to intensify efforts to mobilize resources and broaden sources of funding. Another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that the medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021 was of particular significance, given the continuation, conclusion or commencement of various international targets, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals. It was important therefore to adopt a strong programme of work that enabled UNEP to fulfil its role as the leading global environmental authority, supported by secure, stable and adequate financial resources, particularly through the Environment Fund. Another representative supported calls for a larger donor base, urging that those Member States that had made contributions above the levels indicated by the voluntary indicative scale of contributions should be encouraged to continue doing so, while those below the scale should be encouraged to increase their contributions.

159. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 3 for further consideration.

160. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the proposed medium-term strategy for 2018–2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018–2019 for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

D. Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

161. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions (UNEP/EA.2/17/Rev.1), and a draft resolution on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions (UNEP/EA.2/L.27).

162. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that while the draft resolution was procedural, some advance notice that it would be considered at the present meeting would have been beneficial, especially considering the large number of resolutions being considered. Another representative said that certain elements of the management of trust funds required further consideration, such as the possibility of merging some funds.

163. The Committee agreed to refer the draft resolution to drafting group 3 for further consideration.

164. Following the work of the drafting group, at its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

E. Other administrative and budgetary issues

165. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 24 May, the Deputy Executive Director introduced a note by the Executive Director on the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (UNEP/EA.2/INF/10), a note by the Executive Director on corporate memorandums of understanding concerning cooperation between UNEP and other bodies of the United Nations system (UNEP/EA.2/INF/11/Rev.1), and a note on a review of the cycle of sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEP/EA.2/INF/27).

166. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the proposal to hold the Environment Assembly sessions in odd-numbered years had a number of advantages, including alignment with United Nations budgetary mechanisms and processes. Another representative said that any revision of the cycle required consideration of how it would be paid for; what would be the substance of any transitional meeting, if it were to be held; and what date would best align with the launch of *GEO-6* in 2018. Another representative said that a number of environment-related meetings were already earmarked for 2017, and favoured an Environment Assembly session in early 2018 for the launch of *GEO-6*, and then a session in 2019 to commence the odd-numbered cycle. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that in order to maintain the current momentum of the Environment Assembly it was important to hold an interim session between the present session and a possible 2019 session, with safeguards to ensure that the cost of the interim meeting was minimized.

167. At its 7th meeting, the Chair of the Committee noted that although the text of the relevant draft resolution (UNEP/EA.2/L.26/Rev.1) appeared to be acceptable, the dates and venue of the third session were yet to be decided under agenda item 8, and would therefore be finalized under that agenda item.

VI. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the third session of the Environment Assembly (agenda item 8)

168. At the Committee's 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/EA.2/L.26/Rev.1), according to which the third session of the Environment Assembly would be held in 2017. Also at the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft decision, set out in a conference room paper, on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the third session of the Environment Assembly.

169. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed concern at the proposal to hold the third session of the Environment Assembly in 2017, saying that it contradicted a previous decision by the Assembly to hold sessions every two years; that it would have significant budgetary implications; that it would give the new Executive Director too little time to prepare for the session; and that it would deprive Member States of an opportunity to celebrate the release of *GEO-6*, scheduled for January 2018. Another representative said that his Government could support the proposed date of the third session of the Environment Assembly as long as it did not mean having to release *GEO-6* any earlier, which could compromise the quality of the report.

170. The representative of the European Union welcomed the proposal to change the cycle of meetings of the Environment Assembly from even to odd years, as it was necessary for budgetary reasons and would enable the Assembly to provide input in a timely manner to summit-level sessions of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. In view of the fact that the proposed change would require the third session to be held either in 2017 or 2019, and given that the state of global environment made it impossible to wait until 2019, she announced a pledge from the European Union, subject to legislative procedures, of \$500,000 towards the cost of holding the session in 2017,

adding that it was extremely important to ensure its effectiveness by focusing on a relatively small number of resolutions.

171. At its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

172. At its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee approved a draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the third session of the Environment Assembly for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

VII. Other matters

173. The Committee did not consider any other matters.

VIII. Adoption of the report

174. At its 7th meeting, on the evening of 27 May, the Committee adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report (UNEP/EA.2/CW/L.1), on the understanding that the report would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur in conjunction with the secretariat.
