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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives
to the United Nations Environment Programme
Third meeting
Nairobi, 26-30 October 2015**

Agenda item 7 : Organization and outcome of the high-level segment of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2).

Note of the Executive Director for initial consideration on UNEA-2 organizational modalities*

The present note, prepared with inputs from the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Bureau of the UNEP governing body elected at its first session held in June 2014, sets out the plans and general expectations for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) of the UNEP including its high-level segment. This note has been prepared in response to a request made by member States during the subcommittee meeting of 22 October 2015 and is intended to assist delegations and observers in the discussions under agenda item 7 of the third annual subcommittee meeting and agenda item 8 of the 132nd meeting of the CPR. This note will be revised on the basis of inputs made by member States during the annual subcommittee meeting.

* Issued without formal editing.

Initial proposal for organizational modalities for the high-level segment of UNEA-2

With the aim of increasing ownership in the organization and planning of the high-level segment for UNEA-2, the Secretariat has developed a proposal for organizational arrangements building on the main blocks set out in the Chair's note of 30 June 2015 (attached).

Following the recommendations from member States and subsequent approval by the Bureau of the Environment Assembly, the high-level segment will thus focus on the overarching theme of "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the post-2015 development agenda". To bring the overarching theme in line with the title final outcome of the September 2015 Summit adopted by the General Assembly entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (A/RES/70/1) the Secretariat proposes to adjust the title of the overarching theme to: "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Opening of the high-level segment

The opening of the high-level segment could start with a brief inaugural ceremony with statements from the President of the Environment Assembly, the Executive Director, a high-level representative from the Host Country and a representative from Major Groups and Stakeholders selected by the President of the Environment Assembly upon nomination of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Facilitating Committee. The inaugural ceremony could also include statements from the United Nations Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and/or the Economic and Social Council.

Following the inaugural ceremony, member States, through their regional and political groups, will set the scene for the high-level segment including by addressing the overarching theme.

To facilitate the organization of the opening segment, a list of speakers could be prepared by the President of the Environment Assembly taking into account the importance played by regional and political groups and the limits of the time allocated for the session.

High-level ministerial luncheon

Following the opening segment, an interactive high-level luncheon could be organized to allow ministers and high-level representatives to address a specific topic linked to the overarching theme.

To enhance interactivity, the high-level luncheon could be supported by a moderator appointed by the President who will summarize the main points raised after a set of interventions and will guide the discussions as appropriate.

Interactive ministerial policy review session

The interactive ministerial policy review session on "Healthy Environment-Healthy People" could consist of an introductory segment, followed by three thematic roundtables. The roundtables could each be co-chaired by two ministers appointed by the President on the basis of expression of interest and with due regard to geographical and gender balance.

The purpose of the session will be to demonstrate pathways for accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The introductory segment will be chaired by the President of the Environment Assembly with the participation of the Executive Director who will address the Environment Assembly on the basis of the key recommendations emerging from the Global Thematic Report “Healthy Environment-Healthy People”.

The Global Thematic Report is being prepared at the initiative of UNEP and will be the backbone of the policy review session. Its purpose is to enable and add value to the ministerial policy review session by proposing policy options for improved health and well-being on the basis of the evidence of the linkages between environmental quality, human health and well-being, based on existing research and assessments. The report will provide key messages from a review of the evidence of ways in which poor environmental quality affects health and human well-being, and highlight opportunities for improvements in environmental quality that will help countries strengthen the health and social well-being of their citizens, avoid economic burden from inaction in terms of health costs, enhance economic productivity, while also protecting the natural capital base that is crucial to future human well-being in critical areas such as air quality, waste, chemicals and healthy ecosystems. The report, currently under preparation, will be the result of an open, participatory and transparent engagement amongst relevant UN agencies and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements. The report will use the World Health Organization definition of “health as the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease”. An online platform *myUNEA.org* will help provide additional inputs from all stakeholders to the report.

The themes of the roundtables will build on the thematic report and will be shared with member States before the second meeting of the open-ended CPR to be held from 15 to 19 February 2016. To facilitate deliberations in each roundtable, the chairpersons may call upon, as appropriate during the course of the debate, international experts to provide inputs on the theme.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue

The multi-stakeholder dialogue could be organized in the form of an interactive, moderated dialogue.

Building on the overarching theme and the functions spelled out in decision 27/2, the multi-stakeholder dialogue will allow participants mobilize support for initiatives and new forms of solution-oriented, inclusive and integrative multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The theme of the dialogue will allow participants to express a call for building long-lasting partnerships for implementing of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The theme for the dialogue may be enriched from inputs from the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum and will build upon relevant global environmental initiatives.

In identifying the stakeholders that will participate in the dialogue, the President of the Environment Assembly will draw, with due regard to geographical and gender balance, from representatives nominated by the Major Groups and Stakeholders through the Major Groups and Stakeholders Facilitating Committee. Leaders of recognized international organizations and heads of the UN system entities and heads of secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements will also be invited to participate. The President of the Environment Assembly will circulate to member States by February 2016 the list of proposed Major Groups and Stakeholders representatives.

Closing plenary meeting

It is recommended that on Friday, 27 May 2016, from 3 to 6 p.m., the closing plenary consider and adopt the outcomes of the second session of the Environment Assembly, as prepared during the preceding five days, including the resolutions/decisions.

Additionally, high-level speakers are expected to deliver remarks at the closing plenary. The President of the Environment Assembly will circulate in due course a programme for the closing plenary meeting.

Informal symposium

As recommended by the CPR, prior to the opening of the high-level segment, a high-level informal symposium on “Mobilizing resources for sustainable investments” will also be organized.

Other informal special events may also be organized during the high-level segment.