

# Review of the UNEA Session cycle

---

Further to the requests from distinguished delegates during the session on 27 October 2015, the Secretariat has prepared the following information, providing options and indicative costs, which are based on the costs of the 2014 UNEA session. Please note that the amounts denoted below do not account for inflation. It is also to be noted that UNON Conference Services contributes over US\$ 850,000 to the cost of UNEA for the biennium. For a 2017 session, this cost would have to be borne by UNEP and is included in the amounts indicated below.

Two variables in the analysis were adjusted to provide the options:

1. The number of days in a session, and
2. The number of funded delegates from Least Developed Countries.

**Table 1<sup>1</sup>:** a synthesis of options for session in 2017:

<b>Options</b>	<b>Length of session</b>	<b>Number of funded delegates from Least Developed Countries</b>	<b>Total Cost in USD millions</b>
<b>Option 1</b>	Full 5 days session	with 2 LDC funded	\$4.1 million
<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Four</b> Day session	with 2 LDC funded	\$3.6 million
<b>Option 3</b>	<b>Three</b> Day session	with 2 LDC funded	\$2.9 million
<b>Option 4</b>	Full 5 days session	1 LDC funded only	\$3.4 million
<b>Option 5</b>	<b>Four</b> day session	1 LDC funded only	\$3.0 million
<b>Option 6</b>	<b>Three</b> day session	1 LDC funded only	\$2.3 million

Please find below two tables on the cost options broken down into four cost categories.

**Table 2** represents the cost for sessions of 5, 4, or 3 days with **two** funded representative from Least Developed Countries.

**Table 3** shows the cost for sessions of 5, 4, or 3 days for **one** representatives from Least Development Countries.

---

<sup>1</sup> assumed a 15% reduction in Conference services costs and DSA reduction in LDC travel.

Table 2					Table 3				
Assumptions: 15% savings on Conferences services for each day reduced, 2 LDC funded.					Assumptions: 15% savings on Conferences services for each day reduced, 1 LDC funded				
Cost Estimates	5 Days				Cost Estimates	5 Days			
	OECPR	UNEA	Annual CPR Meeting	Total		OECPR	UNEA	Annual CPR Meeting	Total
Conference Services*	500,000	1,750,000		2,250,000	Conference Services*	500,000	1,750,000		2,250,000
LDC Participants	400,000	650,000		1,050,000	LDC Participants	200,000	200,000		400,000
Major Groups & Stakeholders	200,000	250,000		450,000	Major Groups & Stakeholders	200,000	250,000		450,000
Other	100,000	250,000		350,000	Other	100,000	250,000		350,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>2,900,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>4,400,000</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>2,450,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>3,750,000</b>
4 Days					4 Days				
	OECPR	UNEA	Annual CPR Meeting	Total		OECPR	UNEA	Annual CPR Meeting	Total
Conference Services*	425,000	1,487,500		1,912,500	Conference Services*	425,000	1,487,500		1,912,500
LDC Participants	360,000	585,000		945,000	LDC Participants	180,000	180,000		360,000
Major Groups & Stakeholders	200,000	250,000		450,000	Major Groups & Stakeholders	200,000	250,000		450,000
Other	100,000	250,000		350,000	Other	100,000	250,000		350,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,085,000</b>	<b>2,572,500</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>3,957,500</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>905,000</b>	<b>2,167,500</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>3,372,500</b>
3 Days					3 Days				
	OECPR	UNEA	Annual CPR Meeting	Total		OECPR	UNEA	Annual CPR Meeting	Total
Conference Services*	350,000	1,225,000		1,575,000	Conference Services*	350,000	1,225,000		1,575,000
LDC Participants	320,000	520,000		840,000	LDC Participants	160,000	160,000		320,000
Major Groups & Stakeholders	200,000	250,000		450,000	Major Groups & Stakeholders	200,000	250,000		450,000
Other	100,000	250,000		350,000	Other	100,000	250,000		350,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>970,000</b>	<b>2,245,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>3,215,000</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>810,000</b>	<b>1,885,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>2,695,000</b>
<b>*Conference Services Costs include:</b> 1. Conference Services related logistics 2. Pre-session documentation 3. In-Session documentations & report writing 4. Post -session documentation 5. Translation of 6 Languages (Arabic, Chinese ,English, French , Russian, Spanish) 6. Travel for 2 representatives from LDCs (including DSA)					<b>*Conference Services Cost Includes:</b> 1. Conference Services related logistics 2. Pre-session documentation 3. In-Session documentations & report writing 4. Post -session documentation 5. Translation of 6 Languages (Arabic, Chinese ,English, French , Russian, Spanish) 6. Travel for 1 representatives from LDCs (including DSA)				

## **Note on background, legal analysis and options for election and term of office of UNEA Bureau associated with changing the cycle of sessions of UNEA**

The purpose of this note is to provide member States on background, legal analysis and options for election and term of office of the UNEA Bureau associated with the consideration of changing the cycle of the sessions of UNEA

### **Background and legal basis**

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 1 of resolution 42/185 of 11 December 1987, decided that beginning in 1989, the regular sessions of the UNEP Governing Council shall be held only in odd years. It was based on the recommendation of the UNEP Governing Council, contained in decision 14/4 of 18 June 1987, to change annual cycle of its sessions to biennial cycle.
2. Thus, biennial cycle of the regular sessions of the UNEP Governing Council was established, and up until its twenty-seventh and first universal session in February 2013, the Governing Council held its regular sessions in odd years.
3. The UNEP Governing Council, at its twenty-seventh and first universal session, adopted decision 27/2 concerning the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, and in its paragraph 3, decided that the governing body of UNEP will convene its sessions in Nairobi on a biennial basis, starting in 2014. Subsequently, the General Assembly, by its resolution 67/251 of 13 March 2013, decided to change the designation of the Governing Council of UNEP to the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP, and in resolution 68/215 of 20 December 2013, stated that it looked forward to the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to be held in June 2014, thereby affirming the decision of the Governing Council to hold its sessions in even years.
4. If Member States wish to change the cycle of sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and decide to hold its regular sessions in odd years, UNEA should make such decision by adopting its resolution, specifying in which year the new cycle should start.
5. The decision to change the cycle of UNEA to hold its regular sessions in odd years will be addressed by the General Assembly when it expresses its expectation for the next regular session of UNEA, together with its decision to include in its agenda item “consideration of UNEA’s report” at its relevant session.
6. It may be noted that in case UNEA at its second session in May 2016 decides to hold its third session in 2017, it still remains within the biennial cycle as previously decided by the General Assembly. However, if UNEA intendeds to hold its third session in 2019 – three years after its second session – it goes beyond the biennial cycle decided by the General Assembly in resolution 42/185 setting the biennial cycle of the governing body of UNEP, hence it requires a specific decision of the General Assembly to enable UNEA to convene its third session on an exceptional basis.

## **Implication to election and the terms of office of UNEA Bureau**

7. In accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 18 of the rules of procedure, UNEA, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, elects a President, eight Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. As stipulated in paragraph 3 of rule 18, the offices of President and Rapporteur are normally subject to rotation among the five groups of States (i.e. five UN regions). In accordance with rule 20, the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur hold office until their successors are elected.
8. Accordingly, if UNEA at its second session decides to hold its future regular sessions in odd years commencing at its third session in 2017, possible options might include the following:
  - (a) Option 1: Application of the current rules of procedure:
    - At the commencement of the first meeting of its second session in May 2016, UNEA elects a President, eight Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur (UNEA Bureau). They will hold office until their successors are elected at the commencement of the third session in 2017. It will be similar to the arrangements for the Governing Council Bureau for the period between the twenty-seventh and first universal session of the Governing Council in February 2013 and the first session of UNEA in June 2014, during which the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur held offices for about one year and a few months. Subsequently, at the commencement of the first meeting of the third session in 2017, UNEA elects new members of the UNEA Bureau and they will hold office until their successors are elected at the fourth session in 2019.
  - (b) Option 2: Special transitional arrangements:
    - At the commencement of its second session, UNEA decides to extend the terms of office of the UNEA Bureau members elected at its first session to serve until the end of the second session. UNEA, during its second session, elects new Bureau members whose terms will commence at the closure of the second session. They will hold office until the end of the fourth session of UNEA in 2019 (i.e. approximately 3 year to serve both for the third session in 2017 and the fourth session in 2019). The Bureau members, who will be elected during the fourth session in 2019, will commence their terms of office at the closure of the fourth session and hold office until the end of the fifth session in 2021. This option will require a decision to adjust rule of procedure 18 concerning elections of UNEA Bureau members which can be reflect in the text of the resolution by UNEA.