

Review of the UNEA Session cycle



Practical Implications



The implications of moving the UNEA cycle to odd years:

- Streamlines and synchronises UNEA process with GA's (and its subsidiary bodies') approval and review processes.
- Allows UNEP to benefit from advice and guidance from the GA's subsidiary advisory bodies, i.e. the UN Committee on Programme and Planning (CPC) of ECOSOC, as well as recommendations of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) in reviewing the programme of work and budget, before submitting to UNEA for approval.

Practical Implications

- Provides more **flexibility** in terms of timing for scheduling UNEA within a given calendar year, i.e. the session can be held after May.
- UNEA approves UNEP's Programme of Work and budget which is **actual and timely**.



Options for consideration

Should Member States decide to review the cycle of UNEA to hold its regular sessions in odd years, options include:

- Convening on an exceptional basis a **shortened regular session** of UNEA in 2017 and OECPR; or
- Convening a **regular session** of UNEA in 2017 **without** OECPR; or
- Convening a **regular session** of UNEA in 2019 on exceptional basis going **beyond biennial cycle** decided by UNGA.



Political considerations

- To be able to hold UNEA in 2019, the decision must be addressed by the UNGA in December 2016 when expressing their expectation for the next regular session of UNEA and its [report](#), as was the case in 2013 after the Universal Session of GC.
- GA Resolution 42/185 sets the cycle of the Governing Body of UNEP, as a [biennial cycle](#); not holding a UNEA within the stipulated period requires a mandate from the General Assembly.



Political considerations

- Holding UNEA in 2017 requires transitional arrangements for the [election of the next Bureau](#) of UNEA, which can be decided upon by a simple decision adopted at the beginning of UNEA-2. The arrangements may include:
 - deciding to [extend the time](#) of the current elected officers to match decision to extend the cycle; or
 - [elect new officers](#) (thus setting a term of one year for the transitional period depending the date of the next regular session).



Next UNEA session (in an odd year)



2017

Considerations

- Keep the **momentum** and pace of regular UNEA meetings;
- UNEP's new leadership (2016) can benefit from a **timely interaction** with UNEA;
- UNEP benefits from additional **guidance** from UNEA in strategic matters; given the fast changing policy landscape, a 3 year gap is too lengthy;
- **Cost implications** of an intermediate, additional session

2019

Considerations

- Requires an **exceptional decision** from the UNGA;
- Detrimental to the follow up on the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- **Interaction gap** between new UNEP leadership and UNEA (3 years after taking office);
- **3 years lapse** between current session scheduled for 2016 and next session in 2019;










Mitigation of possible cost implications



- Reduction of UNEA and Open Ended CPR from 5 to 4 or to 3 days
- Elimination of 2017 **OECPR**
- Elimination of 2017 **Stakeholder Forum**
- Elimination of 2017 CPR **Annual Sub-committee**




UNEP

Q & A