













Practical Implications

Review of the

UNEA Session

cycle

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



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- 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



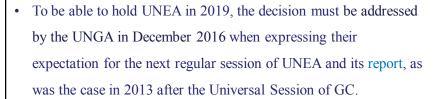
Should Member States decide to review the cycle of UNEA to hold its regular sessions in odd years, options include:

- 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.

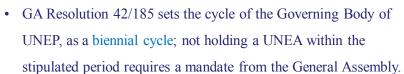


Political considerations



















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















