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

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

Nairobi, 4–6 December 2017

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

I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. The third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017.
2. The session was opened at 10.25 a.m. on Monday, 4 December 2017, by Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta, President of the Environment Assembly. At the President's invitation, the Assembly observed a minute of silence to commemorate Mr. Buri Mohamed Hamza, Minister of State for Environment of Somalia, who had lost his life in a terrorist attack in Somalia, and the environmental rights defenders who had been victimized for their advocacy efforts in support of a pollution-free environment for their communities.
3. At the suggestion of the President, the Assembly welcomed the more than 2.3 million pledges signed by individuals across the world to take action to reduce pollution under the #BeatPollution campaign of the Environment Programme. The pledges were introduced and submitted by two young people.
4. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Gutiérrez; Ms. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya; Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; and Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, on behalf of Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
5. In his opening remarks, Mr. Gutiérrez expressed the hope that the Assembly would adopt a credible route to deliver on its resolutions and move towards a pollution-free planet through a more efficient and inclusive circular economy.
6. Mr. Gutiérrez said that the Science, Policy and Business Forum and the Innovation Expo held in the margins of the current session showed that technologies and viable solutions existed to achieve the goal of reducing pollution, and that all stakeholders had a role to play in that regard.
7. In her opening remarks, Ms. Wakhungu welcomed participants to Nairobi and noted that the Government of Kenya had reached several milestones in addressing overall pollution, one being the enactment of a ban on the manufacturing and use of plastic bags, which had become effective in August 2017 and would contribute to reducing plastic-related pollution in Kenya. Stressing that her

Government remained committed to supporting the Environment Programme, she urged the Programme to fully implement the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

8. In his opening statement, Mr. Solheim drew attention to three key elements that he said were indispensable if the Environment Assembly was to succeed in helping the world to move towards a pollution-free planet. The first was government leadership; the second was engagement with the business sector, which he said was the main holder of innovation; the third and last element was engagement with the world's citizens and the civil society organizations that represented them. In that context, he urged member States to support the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to reform the Organization in order to make it less bureaucratic and more effective.

9. In his opening remarks, Mr. Lajčák said that people were at the centre of pollution, since it was human beings who were damaging the environment and eroding the planet's capacity to support them, and it was also human beings who were suffering the most as a result of pollution, which was negatively affecting their health, well-being and livelihoods, including through damage to the ecosystems on which their incomes depended, increased healthcare costs and productivity losses.

10. As the highest-level decision-making body on the environment, he said, the Environment Assembly must adopt multilateral commitments leading to multilateral action to tackle pollution. Action was needed to educate the public on the health and economic effects of pollution; to clean up pollution and help those suffering from its adverse health effects; to adopt tighter waste management regulations and new pollution-related local, national and regional laws and policies; and to invest in environmentally sound technologies so that economic growth did not come at the expense of the planet.

11. In her address, Ms. Zewde called on member States to support the ambitious reform agenda of the Secretary-General, which she said the United Nations Office at Nairobi was supporting with the aim of increasing Africa's place in the United Nations and the place of the United Nations in Africa. She then delivered a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in which he noted that dedicating the Environment Assembly to working towards a pollution-free planet highlighted the urgent need for rapid, large-scale and coordinated action in that regard by leaders from Governments, industry, the scientific community and civil society, and provided an opportunity to promote equitable and sustainable social and economic development. Emphasizing the need to beat pollution in order to reduce poverty, improve public health, create decent jobs, address climate change and protect life on land and sea, he said that the world was counting on the Assembly to show strong leadership by sounding the alarm and calling on all Governments to act to beat pollution.

II. Organization of work (agenda item 2)

A. Adoption of the agenda

12. The Environment Assembly adopted the following agenda for the session, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.3/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. Performance of the programme of work and budget, including implementation of the resolutions of the Environment Assembly.
6. Administrative and budgetary issues.
7. International environmental policy and governance issues.
8. Update on the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook report.
9. High-level segment.
10. Adoption of the outcomes of the session.
11. Election of officers.

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12. Provisional agenda and date of the fourth session of the Environment Assembly.
 13. Other matters.
 14. Adoption of the report.
 15. Closure of the session.

B. Organization of work

13. In accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, the Environment Assembly agreed to establish a committee of the whole for the consideration of various items of its agenda. The Assembly also agreed, in accordance with the recommendations of the Bureau, that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. John Matuszak (United States of America), that Mr. Travis Sinckler (Barbados) would serve as rapporteur and that it would consider items 4, 7 and 12.
14. The Assembly further agreed that four leadership dialogues would be held on 5 December 2017 on the themes of “Science, evidence and citizens’ awareness for change”, “Regulatory frameworks, institutions and the rule of law to address pollution”, “Practical solutions towards a pollution-free planet” and “Financing and innovation to combat pollution” and that a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme of “People and pollution” would also be held on 5 December 2017.

C. Attendance

15. The following 157 member States were represented at the session: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, 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; Zimbabwe.

16. The following non-member States were represented: Holy See and State of Palestine.

17. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Presidency of the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, Presidency of the Economic and Social Council, secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, 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 Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, 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, secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations Office at Nairobi, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), World Food Programme.

18. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Labour Organization, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Universal Postal Union, World Bank Group, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization, World Trade Organization.

19. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Union, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Centre for Biodiversity, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Commonwealth Secretariat, Economic Cooperation Organization, European Union, Global Green Growth Institute, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, International Coral Reef Initiative, International Criminal Police Organization, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Islamic Development Bank Group, League of Arab States, Mekong River Commission, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme.

20. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented as observers. A full list of participants in the third session of the Environment Assembly is available in document UNEP/EA.3/INF/17 and online from <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11822/22767>.

D. General statements by regional groups

21. Following the opening of the session, representatives of regional groups of member States made general statements on the items on the agenda for the current session.

1. Group of 77 and China

22. The representative of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed the hope that the Environment Assembly would be equal to the responsibilities vested in it as the preeminent decision-making body on the environment. In pursuing the goal of a pollution-free planet, the international community must strive as one and not be hamstrung by individual agendas and the desire to circumvent commitments made at the highest level of political leadership. Noting that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions was the greatest global challenge, he stressed that sustainable development – in its three dimensions, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – must be pursued in a balanced and integrated manner. The 2030 Agenda was complemented by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development. He also welcomed the Paris Agreement and called on parties to implement it to the full.

2. European Union and its member States

23. The representative of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine aligned themselves with his statement. Applauding the promising initiative of holding the third session of the Assembly back-to-back with the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and welcoming the spirit of compromise that had enabled participants at that meeting to reach consensus, he said that the European Union looked forward to a consensus document from the current session setting out a meaningful long-term vision on tackling pollution in all its complexity. As affirmed in the draft resolution on the environment and health, it was vital to base common action on the precautionary principle and to take a cross-cutting approach to that issue. In that regard, the European Union called on the Executive Director to strengthen collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, stakeholders and the private sector to support countries in developing integrated environmental and health policies and environmental and health-risk assessments.

3. African States

24. The representative of Gabon, speaking on behalf of the African States and as Chair of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), said that pollution posed a serious threat to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals, along with Agenda 2063 of the African Union, and was therefore a fitting topic for the current session. Poverty eradication was the greatest global challenge of all time and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development; thus, any measure to curb pollution that did not support poverty eradication would not power the much-needed social transformation for the sustainable development of the continent. Regional forums such as AMCEN continued to play a very important role in the Assembly by promoting links between the global environmental agenda and activities at the regional and national levels and enhancing interregional cooperation; it was vital, therefore, to continue to strengthen those forums. Reviewing the outcomes of the sixteenth session of AMCEN, held in Libreville from 12 to 16 June 2017, he noted that the ministers had sought solutions to pollution which were development-oriented and would promote poverty eradication. He stressed that effective implementation of all the resolutions tabled before the Assembly would require capacity-building, financial support and technology transfer.

4. Asia-Pacific States

25. The representative of Oman, speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific States, said that the region that he represented was fully committed to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other comparable undertakings, such as the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Declaration. Noting that the Asia-Pacific region included countries at all levels of development, he observed that development came at a price: unsustainable production had an impact on the environment, causing adverse effects such as sand and dust storms, marine and land pollution and other impacts on human health. Accordingly, regional environmental leaders had adopted a charter on sustainable development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. They had also highlighted the threat posed by climate change to sustainable development and had adopted a flexible programme on climate change and a long-term vision on preserving the oceans. Among the environmental priorities of his region, he highlighted the need to protect mountain environments and natural diversity, national strategies to combat sand and dust storms and their impacts on human health, and measures to preserve the environment in times of conflict and against terrorist acts. In that context, he reiterated the region's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the pursuit of a pollution-free future.

5. Latin American and Caribbean States

26. The representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, said that the region strongly favoured the adoption of a ministerial declaration that reflected the global aspiration for a pollution-free planet.

27. The region recognized the important role played by the Assembly as the leading authority that set the global environmental agenda. Accordingly, it was vital to ensure the effective participation of all the region's countries in the decision-making body, to ensure transparency and inclusiveness and to strengthen its universal character. The region's environmental vulnerability and the urgent need for joint response action were demonstrated by numerous extreme climate events that had caused over \$200 billion in damage. At the current session, the region was submitting proposals for decisions that addressed priority issues in pursuit of the Assembly's goal and that were designed to strengthen its position.

E. General statements by United Nations entities and major groups and stakeholders

28. Characterizing climate change as connected to almost all the major challenges faced by humanity, the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ms. Patricia Espinosa, provided an overview of challenges and recent developments on the climate change front. The Environment Programme's *Emissions Gap Report 2017* had shown that while much progress had been achieved, it was still not enough, and the upcoming year would be crucial to reducing the climate threat and helping those already affected by it.

29. The Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Mr. Tegegnework Gettu, also identified close collaboration with United Nations agencies, as well as funds, conventions and bilateral and multilateral donor and development partners, as essential for facing environmental and sustainable development challenges.

30. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Mr. Joan Clos, said that the New Urban Agenda adopted in 2016 had underlined a number of key concepts, the first of which was that well-managed urbanization could promote the acceleration of sustainable development. The difficulty was, however, that it called for political dedication and the existence of appropriate legislative, urban planning and financial frameworks. In addition, the dominance of spontaneous urbanization guaranteed future challenges in unplanned urban areas.

31. Noting that a number of positive developments had been made towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the President of the Economic and Social Council, Ms. Marie Chatardova, said that it was necessary to scale up examples of innovation from Governments and the private sector to tackle pollution. As the umbrella entity for the United Nations' functional and regional commissions and operational and specialized agencies, the Economic and Social Council brought together the partners involved in achieving sustainable development, while fuelling broader awareness and action by sharing its own knowledge and expertise.

32. A representative made a statement on behalf of the regional representatives elected to link civil society groups in their regions with the Environment Assembly process and give voice to grassroots communities affected by environmental destruction and pollution across the globe.

33. A representative speaking on behalf of the women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, workers and trade unions, and scientific and technological community major groups called for pollution to be addressed through a systemic change, away from the economic model shaped by Governments and business. Rather than being subsidized, polluting companies should be required to clean up and compensate affected communities. The representative of the indigenous peoples major group subsequently added that indigenous peoples attempting to defend their territories against pollution were subject to various human rights violations and even killed, and proposed a number of measures to remedy the situation. In turn, the representative of the women major group added that political will, leadership and global policy were key, as was ensuring coherence between the environmental conventions and the environmental aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. In a separate statement on behalf of children and youth, two representatives underscored the significance of education and proposed education as a theme for the fourth session of the Environment Assembly. Finally, another representative, also speaking on behalf of the scientific and technological community, recommended a number of actions by the Environment Assembly that included the establishment of a "Global Citizen Science Coalition", arguing that citizen science would facilitate scientific and community-based solutions and provide ways to integrate local and indigenous knowledge.

34. Stating that each source of pollution required specific tailored responses that reflected economic and social circumstances, the representative of the business and industry major group emphasized the importance of building national capacity and infrastructure to address pollution through sound regulation and management, innovation and pragmatic policy options and partnerships. Business could contribute experience, know-how and innovative capacity in all sectors, and was ready to work with Governments and other stakeholders to act to reduce pollution and its associated risks.

35. A representative speaking on behalf of the local authorities major group said that local and regional governments were crucial partners in the fight against pollution in view of their role in such areas as policymaking, awareness-raising and promoting civil society engagement. Their functions could also be leveraged to contribute towards improving urban air quality, strengthening channels for coherence, coordination and cooperation at all government levels, and enhancing the efficiency of pollution monitoring stations in providing essential data. For its part, the United Nations should pursue an integrated approach to pollution in order to secure delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

36. A representative speaking on behalf of the farmers major group urged member States to, inter alia, ban highly hazardous pesticides; promote agro-ecology and natural farming; put a stop to land grabs by corporations and the use of genetically modified organisms; and support the Human Rights Council's efforts to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

F. Work of the Committee of the Whole

37. The Committee of the Whole held two meetings, on 4 December 2017, to consider the agenda items assigned to it, resuming the second meeting to conclude its work on the evening of 5 December 2017. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the work of the Committee. The report on the work of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

III. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

38. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 6 December 2017, the Rapporteur reported that the Bureau had received and examined the credentials of member States submitted in accordance with rules 16 and 17 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly. As of 5 December 2017, 79 member States had submitted formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Executive Director of the Environment Programme. Since then, formal credentials had been received from one further member State. Seventy-seven member States had communicated information on the appointment of their representative to the Environment Assembly by means of a cable or telefax from the Head of State or Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs, a letter or note verbale from the mission concerned, or another form of communication. Thirty-seven member States had either not communicated any information regarding their representatives to the Executive Director or had indicated that they would not participate in the third session of the Environment Assembly. Since the Assembly had completed its work at its third session, five member States participating in the session that had submitted provisional credentials had submitted their originals.

39. The Environment Assembly took note of the report of the Bureau on credentials.

IV. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (agenda item 4)

40. Mr. John Moreti, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Permanent Representative of Botswana, presented the outcomes of the third meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, held from 29 November to 1 December 2017, noting that an advance version of the draft report had been posted on the portal of the Committee (UNEP/CPR/141/2). He reported that the main issues considered by the Committee had been the preparation of draft resolutions and decisions, as well as a ministerial declaration, for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its third session; administrative and budgetary matters; an update on the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook; and budget and programme performance, including the implementation of previous Environment Assembly resolutions.

41. With regard to draft resolutions and decisions, Mr. Moreti said that the Committee had succeeded in merging resolutions that dealt with similar issues and, out of the initial 19 resolutions and 4 draft decisions initially submitted to the Committee, it had agreed to transmit to the Assembly a total of 11 draft resolutions and 3 draft decisions. Of those, the Committee had agreed to recommend to the Assembly the adoption of 6 draft resolutions and 2 draft decisions.

42. Similarly, the Committee had agreed to transmit to the Assembly, for its consideration and possible adoption, the draft ministerial declaration, on which consultations facilitated by the President of the Environment Assembly had been held during the third meeting of the Open-ended Committee.

43. Following the presentation, the Environment Assembly agreed to forward to the Committee of the Whole, for finalization, the draft resolutions on marine litter and microplastics; environment and health; and pollution prevention and control in areas affected by terrorism and armed conflict, as well as the draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

44. The Assembly further decided to forward to the Committee of the Whole two new draft resolutions that had not been previously considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which related to, respectively, strengthening South-South cooperation initiatives for sustainable development and the consolidation of the headquarter functions of the Environment Programme in Nairobi.

45. One representative, supported by another, expressed appreciation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the work it had conducted in preparation for the current session and suggested that the draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the Assembly should be amended to ensure that the fourth open-ended meeting of the Committee was held immediately prior to the fourth session of the Assembly. The representative said that he would submit a concrete proposal for consideration by the Committee of the Whole.

46. Agenda item 4, and the draft decisions related to it, were considered by the Committee of the Whole. The report on the work of the Committee of the Whole is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

V. Performance of the programme of work and budget, including implementation of the resolutions of the Environment Assembly (agenda item 5)

47. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Assembly took note of the report of the Chair of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives on the performance of the programme of work and budget, including the implementation of the resolutions of the Environment Assembly.

VI. Administrative and budgetary issues (agenda item 6)

48. Following the recommendation by the Committee of Permanent Representatives set out in the report of the Chair of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Assembly adopted decision 3/3 on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions and concluded consideration of the agenda item at its 6th plenary meeting.

VII. International environmental policy and governance issues (agenda item 7)

49. Agenda item 7, and the draft resolutions related to it, were considered by the Committee of the Whole. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the work of the Committee. The report on the work of the Committee is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

VIII. Update on the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook report (agenda item 8)

50. At its 6th plenary meeting, the Assembly adopted, upon the recommendation of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, decision 3/1 on the extension of the delivery date for the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook report. In the decision, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to issue the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook report three months before the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and to present the report and its accompanying summary for policymakers for consideration and possible endorsement by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session.

IX. High-level segment (agenda item 9)

51. The 3rd to 5th plenary meetings, on the morning and afternoon of 5 December 2017 and the morning of 6 December 2017, took the form of a high-level segment under item 9 of the agenda. The high-level segment consisted of a formal opening and ministerial plenary meetings featuring an interactive dialogue on the overarching theme of “Towards a pollution-free planet”, comprising an opening plenary with statements by key high-level speakers; national statements; leadership dialogues; a multi-stakeholder dialogue; a wrap-up plenary session; and a closing plenary session. Discussions were supported by the background report of the Executive Director on the theme of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, “Towards a pollution-free planet” (UNEP/EA.3/25).

52. The high-level segment commenced at 10 a.m. on 5 December 2017 with a commemorative group photograph of participants in the hall. Following that event, opening statements were delivered by key high-level speakers.

1. Opening remarks

53. Opening remarks were made by the President of the Environment Assembly; the Executive Director of the Environment Programme; Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya; Mr. David Granger, President of Guyana; and Mr. Anthony Carmona, President of Trinidad and Tobago.

54. In his opening remarks, the President of the Environment Assembly recalled the fundamental agreement reached at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, that everyone had the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permitted a life of dignity and well-being, a principle that had underpinned environmental policy across the world ever since, most notably at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992; the World

Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002; and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

55. In his remarks, the Executive Director recalled that 5 December 2017, appropriately, was the first International Smog Day, commemorating all the people who had died prematurely – and avoidably – because of air pollution. The good news, however, was that the share of coal in countries' energy mix was declining dramatically and renewable energy sources were increasingly competitive. In addition, examples of good environmental practices across the globe were legion, from the ban on plastic bags in Kenya, Rwanda and other countries to the construction of the world's first solar airport in India. Inspiration must be drawn and lessons learned from such initiatives and the political leadership shown by those countries must be universally emulated.

56. In his address to participants, Mr. Kenyatta applauded the theme chosen for the current session and said that it was particularly fitting. Until relatively recently, the pursuit of prosperity had been undertaken with scant regard for the environmental costs. Today, across the world, the consequences of that careless attitude were all too visible. Representatives from all over the world had gathered at the current session because that lesson had finally been learned: lasting prosperity for all was not possible unless the environmental wealth of the planet was protected for all. The lessons had been learned in Kenya too, which had taken a range of mitigating actions, which, he hoped, would inspire other countries to do likewise. Turning to global issues, he recalled the recent 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 (Ocean Conference), held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, which had highlighted the pivotal importance of oceans to the planet, its people and their prosperity. The blue economy was an enormous source of wealth that could be tapped to fight poverty. In that context, he drew attention to the bid by Kenya to host the second Ocean Conference in 2020 and, in the build-up to that conference, a global conference on the blue economy in 2018.

57. In his opening remarks, Mr. Granger said that the choice of theme of the current session reflected the growing international awareness of and consensus around the need to ensure environmental security for all human beings by tackling pollution. In order to address pollution, he said, it was essential that sustained awareness-raising campaigns be undertaken to educate households, communities and individuals around the world about the urgent need to tackle pollution; that international cooperation on pollution be strengthened in order to ensure that smaller States and other States had access to international finance and appropriate technologies; that the United Nations Environment Programme coordinate action; and that pollution-related laws, from municipal laws related to mining to multilateral environmental agreements, be effectively implemented and enforced.

58. Drawing attention to efforts undertaken by Guyana to become a model "green state", including through the creation of new protected areas to protect biodiversity and ecosystems from the threat of pollution, he said that smaller States such as Guyana had limited capacity and would require international support to achieve their green development objectives, expressing hope that the Environment Assembly would advance the cause of a pollution-free planet for the benefit of both present and future generations.

59. In his statement, Mr. Carmona said that pollution was a cancer that must be addressed through long-lasting solutions premised on multilateralism, interdependence, inter- and intra-generational equity, and collaborative partnerships between member States and all relevant stakeholders, including environmental non-governmental organizations.

60. In closing, he said that beating pollution would help countries to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 15, and expressed the hope that the Environment Assembly would agree on a "global compact" on pollution that would make pollution prevention a priority and set the stage for improved ocean governance, more sustainable consumption and production, multi-stakeholder partnerships to tackle pollution and pollution-related education, and show, through open dialogue, that a symbiotic relationship between economic development and environmental integrity was both possible and necessary.

2. Statements by representatives of member States

61. Ministers and other high-level representatives of countries delivered statements addressing the theme of a pollution-free planet. A number of representatives expressed appreciation to all those who had worked hard to prepare for and organize the present meeting, and to the Government and people of Kenya for hosting the meeting.

62. Many representatives placed the present meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly within the wider context of a number of crucial global environment-related agreements that

had recently been put in place, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Several stressed their countries' commitment to implementing policies, strategies and other measures that reflected the interlinkages between those agreements and the need for a holistic approach to combating the environmental challenges facing the planet. In that regard, some representatives also highlighted the importance of synergies with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Information Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as well as with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

63. Many speakers alluded to the daunting challenges faced in achieving global environmental objectives. Environmental risks accounted for millions of deaths per annum worldwide, including from polluted air and waterborne diseases. The negative impacts of climate change and global warming, including sea-level rise, increased incidence of hurricanes and forest fires, desertification and glacier melting, were being experienced by many countries. One representative drew attention to the significant contribution of black carbon emissions to temperature increases in the Arctic regions, accelerating global climate change. Several representatives highlighted the particular challenges facing certain vulnerable countries, including small island developing States.

64. Given the scale and diversity of the global environmental challenge, many representatives said that the theme of the present Environment Assembly – a pollution-free planet – was particularly timely and apposite. Several recognized the link between that aim and the efforts to eradicate poverty, with socially and economically disadvantaged groups, especially in urban areas, particularly vulnerable to chemical contamination and atmospheric and water pollution. Several welcomed the report of the Executive Director, “Towards a pollution-free planet”, as a valuable addition to the global debate on how to combat pollution in all its forms. One representative said that it was necessary to put in place policies that went beyond pollution reduction and aimed to revitalize the regenerative capacity of ecosystems.

65. Some representatives mentioned financial and other contributions they had made to combat pollution and support the global environmental agenda in areas related to international and domestic measures linked to pollution-free seas, responsible plastics management, clean air and the reduction of pharmaceutical pollution, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy and the newly established International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre in Bonn, Germany.

66. A number of representatives expressed their support for the ministerial declaration on a pollution-free planet that was currently being deliberated by the Environment Assembly at its present session. One representative said that the declaration paved the way for the implementation of governance, institutional, technological and financial mechanisms that would enable scale-up of actions to prevent, mitigate and manage the pollution of air, land and soil, freshwater and oceans. To achieve that objective, the message of the document needed to be clear and focused, and accessible to all stakeholders. One representative said that the declaration was important to the political visibility and credibility of the Environment Assembly.

67. A number of representatives highlighted various measures that could be undertaken within a coordinated approach whereby reduction in pollution was an outcome of a broader, environmentally sensitive agenda. One representative said that there was a pressing need to fill gaps in existing regulatory frameworks to ensure that all forms of pollution were addressed, and supported the development of an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction, for example on the seabed.

68. One representative emphasized the need to integrate economic and environmental policies, stating that environmental activities had a greater chance of success when they were harmonized with economic and social factors. Another representative said that economic policies must be synchronized with sustainable development, as envisioned by “The future we want”. Another said that in the developing world the main challenge to sustainable development had been achieving a development path that measured progress not in quantitative terms but in terms of the quality of life of people, especially the vulnerable and dispossessed. Some representatives said that a vision of harmonious co-existence between people and nature lay at the core of their national efforts to protect the environment and improve the quality of life of the population. One representative said that his country aimed to cultivate ecosystems based on respect for nature and green development. Another representative said that the economy should not be seen as an enemy of the environment; prosperity and growth could be achieved in ways that did not involve overconsumption and overexploitation of natural resources at the expense of the environment.

69. Several representatives said that there was a growing need for innovative solutions to combat environmental threats generally and pollution in particular. One representative praised the inclusion among the activities surrounding the present session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the Sustainable Innovation Expo as a showcase for sustainable technologies, and applauded the efforts of the Environment Programme to convene diverse stakeholders at the science, policy and business forum. Some representatives highlighted the importance of cutting-edge solutions in complex urban environments, including enhancement of energy efficiency, less carbon-intensive technologies and smart transportation networks. One representative said that the private sector had the potential to play a key role in technological innovation and the development of mechanisms for sustainable financing and investment.

70. The environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste was seen as an area of particular importance in combating pollution. Several representatives urged adoption of a “circular economy” approach to achieve preventive and efficient management of solid waste. One representative underscored the importance of further streamlining the technical and financial instruments, including the Global Environment Facility, towards supporting extended producer responsibility for waste and chemicals management.

71. The proliferation of plastic products and waste was identified as another issue of growing global significance. Plastic wastes, including discarded plastic bags, containers and microplastics, were ubiquitous in even the most remote marine and terrestrial environments. Several representatives said that their countries had banned the manufacture and use of plastic bags or were in the process of doing so, and would be extending the ban to other types of plastic products in the future. Marine litter was viewed as a particular priority for action, and several representatives noted their countries’ support for and involvement in such initiatives as the Clean Seas campaign and the Stop Plastic Waste coalition.

72. The value of cooperation and coordination in order to achieve environmental objectives was a major theme. At the national level, Governments needed to involve industry, civil society, academia, young people and others in policy formulation and decision-making in order to achieve broad-based support, consolidate awareness among all members of society, and encourage environmental commitment. At the international level, cooperation between countries was essential, given the transboundary nature of many forms of pollution.

73. A number of representatives attached importance to models of cooperation that recognized the different capabilities and needs of countries. Several representatives said that developed countries should support and assist developing countries in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, while recognizing the right of developing countries to economic and social development. One representative said that development of “green economy indicators” would allow each country to implement appropriate policies according to their priorities and national capacities, and expressed the hope that commitments made at the international level in terms of funding, technology transfer and capacity-building for developing countries would be fully respected.

74. In the context of increasing concern about the scale of the environmental damage afflicting the planet, and the growing awareness of the urgent need to rectify the situation before changes became irreversible, the role of the Environment Programme as the United Nations body mandated to deal with environmental issues was taking on a new level of importance. Likewise, as one representative said, the Environment Assembly was the key global forum for addressing the fundamental environmental challenges confronting humanity.

3. Statements by representatives of United Nations entities

75. A representative of the Economic Commission for Africa spoke about the impact of pollution on Africa and the Commission’s vision of pollution-free, climate-resilient development for the continent. Agriculture remained the mainstay of economies in Africa, and as agrarian systems were modernized, pollution-related costs would increase unless the continent embraced green industrialization to create jobs and safeguard its natural resources. The time was right for Africa to emerge as a leader in the development of greener technologies and benefit from the inclusive growth and energy security inherent in low-carbon development.

76. The representative of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa said that tackling pollution and the negative effects of climate change featured prominently in the analytical and advocacy work conducted by the Office, which was focused on mobilizing international support for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in Africa. The Office had thus organized high-level panel discussions and expert group meetings on related topics and centred its review of development commitments on the key thematic areas of climate change and environmental sustainability. She

looked forward to policy recommendations emanating from the Environment Assembly for achieving a pollution-free planet, noting that they would also promote implementation of the African Union's ambitious transformative Agenda 2063.

77. The representative of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), speaking on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), underlined the role of WMO in fighting pollution, which included the provision of climate-related data forming a scientific base for global climate negotiations and monitoring of climate action. WMO was also developing an integrated greenhouse gas information system and had furthermore prioritized the integration of urban weather, climate, water and related environmental services in order to help in addressing problems associated with rapid urbanization. Meanwhile, the IPCC assessed the science of climate change in terms of impacts, risks and options for responses. Recalling the reliance of the IPCC on voluntary funding, he appealed for multi-year scientific and financial contributions in support of its intensive and highly challenging work.

78. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said that pollution had negative implications for the effective enjoyment of all human rights and disproportionately affected the poor and disadvantaged, thereby driving inequality. Governments were obliged to protect those rights from pollution-related harm through appropriate regulation, legislation and policymaking on environmental matters. Equally, they must guarantee access to justice for victims of such harm on the basis of the “polluter pays” principle, as well as access to information and decision-making on environmental matters. Freedom for all to exercise all such rights without reprisal must likewise be guaranteed. In sum, it was imperative for human rights obligations to be reflected in the outcomes of such forums as the Environment Assembly.

4. Statements by representatives of intergovernmental organizations

79. In his statement, the representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme outlined the ways in which pollution was threatening the Pacific region, particularly given the region's current transition to consumer economies. The region was particularly vulnerable to marine pollution and degrading coastal and marine environments owing to the effects of climate change, including ocean acidification, rises in sea temperatures and sea levels and an increase in extreme weather events. The solution lay in embracing better knowledge, alternative consumption and production models, innovative technological solutions, sustainable materials management, greater resource efficiency, less environmentally damaging chemistry, clean technologies and circular economies. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme had pledged its support for the #BeatPollution campaign to help end pollution of the Pacific region.

80. Speaking on behalf of the African Union Commission, another representative recalled that Africa was the second driest continent, with only nine per cent of global water resources to support fifteen per cent of the global population. Pollution threatened to aggravate the situation and accentuate poverty in Africa, particularly in urban environments, where traffic congestion, use of old vehicles, urbanization and the use of wood for domestic energy were major contributors to pollution. The solution was to intertwine efforts to address climate change with sustainable development. The African Union Commission had identified a number of major regional renewable energy and transportation infrastructure projects with the potential to cut greenhouse gas emissions significantly and make Africa a carbon sink. Concrete international action and cooperation was required, and stakeholder involvement, implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, sustainable consumption and related initiatives all had a key role to play.

81. A representative of the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution drew attention to *The Lancet Commission on pollution and health*, a report published in *The Lancet* in October 2017 that highlighted the extreme toll of pollution on health and economic productivity. Action on pollution should be urgently mainstreamed and prioritized in national and international development plans, with Governments raising the profile of pollution control in their development budgets and development partners responding accordingly. Programmes to address pollution should measure public exposures, and solutions should be prioritized based on health impacts. Data gaps remained: decision makers needed more complete data on the effects of pollution at the local level, particularly on exposure to chemicals of known toxicity and emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors, which at present were largely unaccounted for in studies on the global burden of disease. Until the data gap was filled, the true costs of pollution would continue to be underestimated.

82. The representative of the East African Community said that it was committed to investing in the removal of environmental risks through inclusive and integrated programmes in the productive, social and infrastructural sectors aimed at, *inter alia*, protecting and restoring biodiversity; improving alternative energy technologies; minimizing the use of hazardous pesticides in agriculture and of

chemicals in domestic and other settings; and reducing the risk of emerging environmental hazards. To those ends, it was seeking to develop and maintain regional and transboundary emissions inventories and standards for main pollutants and to fast-track the implementation of its programme of action under the Eastern Africa Regional Framework Agreement on Air Pollution. It furthermore stood ready for partnership in implementing the resolutions and decisions of the Environment Assembly.

5. Wrap-up plenary session

83. The wrap-up plenary session, which took place at the 5th plenary meeting, on the morning of 6 December 2017, consisted of a summary of the key messages from the leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues, presented by one of the moderators of the leadership dialogues, Ms. Beatrice Marshall, anchorperson of the China Global Television Network, and the moderator of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, Mr. Michael Dodds, international ambassador for the city of Bonn, Germany; an analysis of the voluntary commitments made by member States, the private sector and civil society worldwide, presented by the Deputy Executive Director; and key messages delivered by two eminent personalities, the former cosmonaut Mr. Rakesh Sharma (India) and former astronaut Ms. Mae C. Jemison (United States of America). Summaries of the key messages of the leadership dialogues and of the multi-stakeholder dialogue are set out in annex IV to the present proceedings.

84. Following the presentation of the summaries of the leadership dialogues and of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, introduced a short video prepared by the Secretariat that presented a preliminary analysis of the voluntary commitments and pledges of Governments, civil society organizations and business to tackle pollution, which he said demonstrated their common desire to change.

85. Following the projection of the video, Mr. Thiaw said that the commitments and pledges made were only the beginning and, together with the resolutions and the ministerial declaration that would be adopted at the current session, would enable the Environment Programme to understand the goals and needs of member States, civil society and business stakeholders. The Environment Programme would continue to collect and share pledges and commitments and map the knowledge and experience they contained, and to use such information to shape the policies that would serve as a catalyst for the action that was needed. In closing, he said that the Secretariat stood ready to support member States and other stakeholders in their efforts to develop transformative action plans to move towards a pollution-free planet.

86. Mr. Sharma said that being a resident of India and having observed the planet from outer space gave him a unique perspective on the challenges of climate change and pollution. Evidence collected on Earth and from outer space showed that the planet was in distress; the source of that distress, he said, was the current economic growth model, which did not take into account that the planet's resources were limited, and the consumerist culture and lifestyle that was enjoyed by a segment of the world population that drove polluting manufacturing industries and to which growing segments of the populations of large emerging economies such as China and India aspired and would soon have the power to adopt. Attempts to date had been focused on reducing, in a phased manner, the carbon footprint from consumption-driven lifestyles, but such steps were greatly insufficient to address the problems of climate change and pollution.

87. At the core of the problem was that no single world leader aspiring to be re-elected was able to sponsor legislation to curb the lifestyle aspirations of citizens at the level that was needed. In view of that reality, it was critical that the Environment Assembly devise aggressive interventions to influence the behaviour of consumers, especially that of the next generation, to make them understand that sustainable development could not be achieved without sustainable consumption. Such interventions included educating consumers about sustainable lifestyles, educating the next generation about sustainable growth, and perhaps using trade tariffs and taxes on products whose manufacturing process had harmed the environment as a way to drive environmentally conscious manufacturing.

88. Ms. Jemison commended the Environment Assembly for dedicating its time to working on the future of the planet and the very survival of humanity by tackling pollution and environmental degradation, stressing that time was truly an irreplaceable commodity and must be used wisely. Pollution was urgent and growing, and it was the result and by-product of waste and excess, as well as of a lack of action to prevent it and address it despite the availability of sufficient data and information and, in many cases, technologies. Part of the problem was that various communities, including Governments, non-profit organizations, business, science and academia, operated as different worlds and in accordance with their own goals, needs and perspectives, when the reality was that all human beings lived in a single world and planet. Sharing her experience aboard a space shuttle in 1992, she invited all representatives to frequently look up at the sky, which all human beings on the planet

shared and was a reminder that they were all part of the same planet and would likely remain so for untold generations to come.

6. Adoption of the draft ministerial declaration

89. Following that dialogue, the President drew the attention of member States to the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as endorsed by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and amended during the current session following further consultations with delegations. He said that the draft declaration had been prepared in a transparent, inclusive and open process and was the fruit of months of continuous consultations in Nairobi and the regions. It reflected the assembled ministers' political will and commitment to addressing the threat of pollution and their embrace of their responsibility, as ministers and political environmental leaders, to respond to all the challenges that might impede progress towards a pollution-free planet.

90. The Assembly adopted the ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session, entitled "Towards a pollution-free planet". The text of the declaration is published as document UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1 and is also referenced as part of the outcomes of the third session of the Assembly in section X of the present proceedings.

91. Following the adoption of the Declaration, a number of representatives expressed their satisfaction and pride in that outcome. They affirmed that the process had indeed been inclusive and transparent and that a spirit of compromise had prevailed, enabling consensus to be reached. A number of representatives described the declaration as a historic achievement, the first ministerial declaration to issue from the Environment Assembly, testimony to a global philosophy of partnership to address one of the most urgent challenges of the contemporary era. It was vital, they said, in view of the transboundary nature of pollution effects, that all stakeholders – Governments, civil society and the private sector – should continue that partnership and that the aspirations in the declaration should now be translated into focused action.

92. One representative, supported by several others, stressed that paragraph 8 (j) of the declaration should be read in conjunction with the relevant target under Sustainable Development Goal 12 and paragraph 31 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, regarding the rationalization of inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encouraged wasteful consumption, including by phasing out those subsidies.

93. One representative, whose views were subsequently supported by two others, expressed regret that the text of the declaration, while generally inclusive in nature, made no mention of the deleterious effects on national sustainability of unilateral coercive measures, such as those imposed on his country. Such measures, which would impede efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, affected a number of countries and, in their wish not to block consensus on the declaration, they had joined the consensus but on condition that it did not set a precedent for future reluctance to accommodate what they considered to be a vital element of environmental governance. Another representative, echoing those concerns, outlined the heavy financial cost to his country of a long-standing embargo placed upon it by another State, which had precluded it from making necessary contributions to the Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements.

94. Another representative, while affirming his country's support for both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Environment Assembly and the value that it attached to the Environment Programme's contribution to the world's collective efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of pollution, wished it to be noted that nothing in the declaration, including text characterized as having been agreed, created or affected rights and obligations under international law. His delegation had further concerns about references contained in the declaration and in the secretariat's report "Towards a pollution-free planet", such as the assertion that tens of thousands of chemicals were used without proper testing, labelling or tracking, an assertion that had remained unsubstantiated. Where the text of the declaration itself was concerned, with regard to its paragraph 4, while policies regarding climate change were continuing to be reviewed and developed, he noted that the provisions on climate change in the declaration were without prejudice to its evolving positions. With regard to paragraph 8 (d), he underscored that it was up to each party to consider, within the scope of its respective obligations under the multilateral environmental agreements and its domestic priorities, whether there were ways in which the implementation of those agreements could or should be accelerated.

95. Lastly, he understood that the request in paragraph 14 to the Executive Director to submit an implementation plan for the outcomes of the third session applied specifically to the resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its third session and that the implementation plan in question would relate only to those actions that the Environment Programme proposed to take.

X. Adoption of the outcomes of the session (agenda item 10)

96. At its 5th plenary meeting, the Assembly adopted the ministerial declaration entitled “Towards a pollution-free planet” (UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1).

97. At its 6th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted by consensus the following resolutions and decisions. The individual resolutions are available in documents UNEP/EA.3/Res.1– UNEP/EA.3/Res.11 on the Assembly’s website (unep.org/environmentassembly).

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>
3/1	Pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism
3/2	Pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors
3/3	Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development
3/4	Environment and health
3/5	Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
3/6	Managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development
3/7	Marine litter and microplastics
3/8	Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally
3/9	Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries
3/10	Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems
3/11	Implementation of paragraph 88 (a)–(h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”
<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>
3/1	Extension of the delivery date for the sixth Global Environment Outlook report
3/2	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
3/3	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

98. Following the adoption of the above resolutions and decisions, the representative of the United States asked that the following statement be reflected in the proceedings:

99. “Consistent with long-standing policy, the United States does not support references to the transfer of technology to the extent that such language could promote technology transfer that is not both on mutually agreed terms and voluntary. For the United States, any interpretation to that effect will have no standing in future negotiations. We will continue to oppose language that we believe undermines intellectual property rights.”

100. Two other representatives also spoke, one welcoming the inclusion of a resolution addressing biodiversity, in support of the Cancun Declaration on mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being, and the other outlining the measures being taken by his country to improve air quality.

XI. Election of officers (agenda item 11)

101. At its 6th plenary meeting, in accordance with rule 18 of its rules of procedure, the Environment Assembly elected by acclamation the following officers to serve at its fourth session:

President:	Mr. Siim Valmar Kiisler (Estonia)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Molwyn Joseph (Antigua and Barbuda) Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil) Mr. Vladislav Smrž (Czechia) Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen (Finland) Mr. Pacôme Moubelet-Boubeya (Gabon) Mr. Kaveh Madani (Islamic Republic of Iran) Ms. Edna Molewa (South Africa) Mr. Franz Xaver Perrez (Switzerland)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar (Pakistan)

102. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted the expectation, based on standing practice and the rules of procedure, for members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be accredited as permanent representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, and for any representative nominated to serve as a member of the Bureau to be either at the ministerial level, a member of the Government, or at least a high-level civil servant. He expressed concern regarding the dual capacity of some of those elected, as members of both the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Environment Assembly Bureau, and cautioned that the Environment Assembly's independence from the Committee of Permanent Representatives needed to be maintained to ensure the integrity of the rules of governance and the Assembly's status as a world leader for the environment.

XII. Provisional agenda and date of the fourth session of the Environment Assembly (agenda item 12)

103. Agenda item 12 and the draft decision related to it were considered by the Committee of the Whole. The report on the work of the Committee of the Whole is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

104. At its 6th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted decision 3/2 on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. At the time of the adoption of decision 3/2, the Assembly acknowledged the support provided by the Government of Kenya for the third session of the Assembly.

XIII. Other matters (agenda item 13)

105. The Environment Assembly did not consider any other matters.

XIV. Adoption of the report (agenda item 14)

106. At its 6th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted the present proceedings on the basis of the draft proceedings (UNEP/EA.3/L.1), on the understanding that they would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

107. Following the adoption of the report, the representative of Azerbaijan, claiming right of reply, responded to the statement made by the representative of Armenia under agenda item 9, which had contained reference to the conflict-related problems in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The representative of Armenia then made a statement in response. Following those two statements, the President of the Environment Assembly expressed the hope that in the future the Assembly's time would be used to discuss environmental rather than political issues.

XV. Closure of the session (agenda item 15)

108. Statements were delivered by Mr. Kiisler, President of the Environment Assembly at its fourth session, the Executive Director of the Environment Programme and Ms. Carole Dieschbourg, Minister of the Environment of Luxembourg.

109. Mr. Kiisler began by expressing his appreciation for what he characterized as the outstanding work and dedication of Mr. Gutiérrez Espeleta, the President of the third session of the Environment Assembly. While it would be a challenge to live up to such leadership, Mr. Kiisler aimed to ensure that work on protecting the health and well-being of people and the environment would produce meaningful results. He reiterated the importance of involving all stakeholders, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia, because partnerships spawned ownership of a common goal and action, and invited those present to share their expectations and ambition for the next session of the Environment Assembly, to build on the fulfilled expectations of the third session and to help to make the fourth session meaningful and inspiring.

110. The Executive Director drew attention to the successes of the third session, including the ministerial declaration, the Young Champions of the Earth awards, and the science policy and business forum, the 2017 Sustainable Innovation Expo, the leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues, but most of all the coming together on the single, central topic of a pollution-free planet. With people now likely to ask what came next, he offered a number of suggestions. There was strong determination to address plastics, but a practical approach was needed: stop using what was not needed, such as straws, and recycle plastics that were needed, to preserve food, for instance, or replace them with biodegradable products. Air pollution was another area where much progress could be made through

such actions as shifting from coal to solar power and from gasoline to electric cars, organizing cities better and making them greener, and providing mass transit in all cities. On the chemicals front, the Minamata Convention on Mercury was in place but States had to provide mercury alternatives, to artisanal miners, for instance, with the support of aid agencies and United Nations entities. Almost any problem was solvable through a combination of two traits: determination, meaning knowing the desired direction; and pragmatism, meaning using what worked and avoiding what did not. Pragmatism without direction was not meaningful. The direction at the current meeting had been to move in the direction of a pollution-free planet, and representatives had been pragmatic in how that would be achieved: he commended the representatives for their spirit of flexibility and compromise, citing in particular the representatives of Israel and Palestine with respect to the environmental assessment to be carried out in Palestine. Finally, he commended Mr. Gutiérrez Espeleta and the staff of the Environment Programme for their work, and reiterated the importance of togetherness in solving problems.

111. Ms. Carole Dieschbourg reported on the outcome of the Meeting of the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment, held on the morning of 5 December 2017. More than 100 women had discussed the topic of “gender and a pollution-free planet” in 10 round tables, during which they had shared concerns, gaps and good practices. The resulting recommendations on actions to be taken on the national, regional and global levels were: support to development of gender-responsive policies and programmes to address pollution based on precautionary and human rights principles through the application of gender equality and safeguard measures; engage grassroots gender-oriented organizations and women entrepreneurs in the design and implementation of pollution reduction programmes, in developing alternative practices and in applying safeguard policies; improve access to information related to gender and chemical safety and support studies with gender-disaggregated data on exposure to chemicals and its impact on women and men, including developing data on the cost of inaction as a means of increasing the political will to act; and support quick-win pollution prevention efforts such as phasing out of single-use plastics and eliminating harmful chemicals in products and personal hygiene materials. At the close of the meeting, the moderator had called on women ministers and leaders to join the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment to continue cooperation on incorporating gender into pollution programmes.

112. The third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the Environment Programme was declared closed at 5.40 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 December 2017.

Annex I

Outcomes adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session¹

<i>Resolutions</i>	<i>Title</i>
3/1	Pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism (UNEP/EA.3/Res.1)
3/2	Pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors (UNEP/EA.3/Res.2)
3/3	Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development (UNEP/EA.3/Res.3)
3/4	Environment and health (UNEP/EA.3/Res.4)
3/5	Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (UNEP/EA.3/Res.5)
3/6	Managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development (UNEP/EA.3/Res.6)
3/7	Marine litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.3/Res.7)
3/8	Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally (UNEP/EA.3/Res.8)
3/9	Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries (UNEP/EA.3/Res.9)
3/10	Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems (UNEP/EA.3/Res.10)
3/11	Implementation of paragraph 88 (a)–(h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want” (UNEP/EA.3/Res.11)

Declaration

Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session: “Towards a pollution free planet” (UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1)

¹ The resolutions and ministerial declaration adopted by the Environment Assembly at its third session are issued as stand-alone documents under the respective symbols specified in the table. The decisions are set out in annex II to the present report.

Annex II

Decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session

3/1. Extension of the delivery date for the sixth Global Environment Outlook report

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1/4 of 27 June 2014,

Bearing in mind that the Global Environment Outlook is the flagship recurrent environmental assessment report of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recognizing the importance of delivering a high-quality sixth Global Environment Outlook report and its accompanying summary for policymakers as a key tool for strengthening the science-policy interface and assisting member States in the implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed environmental goals, and informing decision-making,

Welcoming the analysis and recommendations provided by the high-level intergovernmental and stakeholder advisory group to the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the extension of the timeline for delivery of the sixth Global Environment Outlook report and its accompanying summary for policymakers,

Emphasizing the importance of the quality of the sixth Global Environment Outlook report,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to issue the sixth Global Environment Outlook report at least three months before the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to schedule the negotiations on the summary for policymakers at least six weeks in advance of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and to present the sixth Global Environment Outlook report and its accompanying summary for policymakers for consideration and possible endorsement by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session.

3/2. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972; 66/288 of 27 July 2012; 67/213 of 21 December 2012; 67/251 of 13 March 2013; 68/215 of 20 December 2013; 69/223 of 19 December 2014; and 71/231 of 21 December 2016,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992; 54/248 of 23 December 1999; 56/242 of 24 December 2001; 57/283 B (paragraphs 9–11 of section II) of 15 April 2003; 61/236 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2006; 62/225 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2007; 63/248 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 24 December 2008; 64/230 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2009; 65/245 (paragraph 10 of section II A) of 24 December 2010; 67/237 (paragraph 13 of section II A) of 28 January 2013; and 71/262 (paragraph 27 of section II and paragraph 102 of section V) of 23 December 2016,

Taking into account Governing Council decisions 27/1 and 27/2 of 22 February 2013, as well as United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/2 of 27 June 2014 and 2/22 of 27 May 2016,

Recognizing the commendable efforts of the bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing for Environment Assembly sessions through regular meetings under a model of joint cooperation,

Noting with appreciation the contributions made by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and by the bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including at the third meeting of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, to the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Environment Assembly,

1. *Decides* to hold the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its headquarters in Nairobi from 11 to 15 March 2019;
2. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to deliberate, in consultation with the bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and decide, by no later than at its 142nd meeting, on the format and date of the next meeting of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives;
3. *Decides* to hold the sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, following the fourth session of the Environment Assembly, during the last week of February, unless otherwise decided by the Environment Assembly, at its headquarters in Nairobi, consistent with rule 4 of the rules of procedure;
4. *Approves* the provisional agenda for the fourth session as follows:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 3. Credentials of representatives.
 4. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
 5. International environmental policy and governance issues.
 6. Programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues.
 7. Stakeholder engagement.
 8. High-level segment.
 9. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly.
 10. Adoption of resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.
 11. Election of officers.
 12. Other matters.
 13. Adoption of the report.
 14. Closure of the session.
5. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in consultation with the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to contribute to the preparation of elaborated elements of the provisional agenda set out in paragraph 4 above;
6. *Requests* the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to define a theme for the Environment Assembly no later than 31 March 2018;
7. *Encourages* member States to submit to the Committee of Permanent Representatives draft proposals for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly preferably five weeks in advance of the fourth meeting of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, without prejudice to the rules of procedure, in particular rule 44.

3/3. 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,²

Recalling the requests made to the Executive Director in Governing Council decision 27/14 and United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/23 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 those trust funds,

² UNEP/EA.3/INF/8.

Noting the need to accelerate the closure of inactive trust funds in order to use the outstanding balances in support of the unanimously agreed programme of work and as a first step in the implementation of paragraph 2 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/23,

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

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

2. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds in accordance with Governing Council decision 19/25 of 7 February 1997:

(a) GCF – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Green Climate Fund Operating under the Accreditation Master Agreement;

(b) GCL – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Green Climate Fund operating under the Framework Readiness and Preparatory Support Grant Agreement;

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

(a) ECL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund financed by the European Commission to support cooperation between the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme on Strengthening International Environmental Governance under a 2011 Strategic Cooperation Agreement and the 2014 Programme Cooperation Agreement with an expiry date of 31 December 2021;

(b) ESS – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Ecosystem-based Adaptation, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2020 (financed by the Government of Germany and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations);

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant parties and/or donors, as appropriate and in accordance with the terms of the respective agreement/fund, to decide on reassigning the balances in inactive trust funds when the activities for which they have been established have ended, with a view to supporting the implementation of appropriate subprogrammes of the agreed programme of work before the end of 2019;

5. *Notes and approves*, if necessary, the shortest possible no-cost technical extension of the relevant trust funds and their closure, subject to the completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications and obligations:

(a) AHL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen the Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands);

(b) BKL – General Trust Fund for the Clean-up of Environmental Hotspots following the Kosovo Conflicts and Preparation of Guidelines on Assessment and Remedial Measures for Post-conflict Environmental Damages;

(c) BLL – General Trust Fund in Support of the UNEP/Habitat Balkans Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements;

(d) DUL – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Dams and Development Unit to Coordinate Follow-up to the World Commission on Dams;

(e) EML – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery (financed by the Government of Germany);

(f) POL – General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation and Negotiation of an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument for International Action on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Related Information Exchange;

(g) PPL – General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation and Negotiation of an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade;

II

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

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

A. Trust funds to be administered by the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

- (a) MCC – General Trust Fund of the Minamata Convention on Mercury with an expiry date of 31 December 2035;
- (b) MCV – Special Trust Fund of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to enable support for capacity-building and technical assistance activities of the secretariat in accordance with Article 14 with an expiry date of 31 December 2035;
- (c) MCP – Specific International Programme Trust Fund of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to enable support for capacity-building and technical assistance activities in accordance with Article 13 with an expiry date of 31 December 2028;

7. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds, upon receiving a request to do so from the appropriate authorities:

B. Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

- (a) MSL – Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2020;
- (b) 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 2020;
- (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 2020;
- (d) QVL – General Trust Fund in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2020;
- (e) BTL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2018;
- (f) QFL – General Trust Fund in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2018;

C. Trust fund administered by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

BZL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2021;

D. Trust funds administered by the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan³

- (a) CAL – Support of the Mediterranean Action Plan (financed by the Government of Greece), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;
- (b) MEL – Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

³ The extension is subject to the final approval by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean at their twentieth ordinary meeting, held in Tirana from 17 to 20 December 2017.

(c) QML – Support of the Mediterranean Action Plan, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

E. Trust fund administered by the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

QTL – Support of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

F. Trust funds administered by the Ozone Secretariat

(a) MPL – Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2025;

(b) QOL – Support of the Activities of the Ozone Secretariat, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2025;

(c) 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 2026;

(d) VCL – Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2025;

G. Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the East Asian Seas Action Plan

(a) ESL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2018;

(b) QEL – Support of the Eastern Asian Seas Action Plan, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2018;

H. Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region

QAC – Support of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

I. Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region

(a) EAL – Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2018;

(b) QAW – Support of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2018;

J. Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols

QCL – Support of the Cartagena Convention Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

K. Trust funds administered by the Regional Coordinating Unit for the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region

QNL – Support of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

8. *Notes and approves* the change of name and extension of the following trust funds:

L. Trust funds administered by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

9. As requested by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its 13th meeting:

(a) 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 2021, and henceforth named General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols;

(b) VBL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions 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 2021 and henceforth named General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the Work of the Convention of Biological Diversity;

10. *Notes and approves* the merger of the following trust funds into the BEL Trust Fund and their extension, as requested by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting:

(a) 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 2021;

(b) BXL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2021;

M. Reassignment of Trust Funds of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

11. *Requests* the Executive Director in consultation with the heads of the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements administered by the United Nations Environment Programme to consult with parties and donors in accordance with the terms of the respective agreement or fund to decide on reassigning the balances in the trust funds, referred to in paragraph 12 (a) and (b) below that are no longer required for the initial purpose for which they were established in order to support the appropriate activities of the programmes of work approved by the respective governing bodies:

(a) QRL – Support of the Basel Convention;

(b) RSL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Developing Countries;

12. *Notes and approves*, if necessary, the shortest possible no-cost technical extension of those two trust funds and their closure, subject to the completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications and obligations.

Annex III

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Travis Sinckler (Barbados)

I. Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its third session, on Monday, 4 December 2017, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme established a committee of the whole to consider the draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme under agenda items 4, 7 and 12 that remained to be finalized for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly. The draft resolutions concerned were set out in documents UNEP/EA.3/L.5, UNEP/EA.3/L.6, UNEP/EA.3/L.8, UNEP/EA.3/L.20 and UNEP/EA.3/L.27. The Committee of the Whole was also to consider one draft decision (UNEP/EA.3/L.16) and two new proposed draft resolutions submitted shortly before the closure of the third meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives the previous week.

2. In accordance with the decision of the Environment Assembly, the Committee of the Whole held two meetings on 4 December 2017, resuming the second meeting to conclude its work on the evening of 5 December 2017. As decided by the Bureau of the Assembly, the Committee was chaired by Mr. John Matuszak (United States of America). The Committee elected Mr. Travis Sinckler (Barbados) to serve as its Rapporteur.

II. Opening of the meeting

3. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the meeting at 12.30 p.m. on Monday, 4 December 2017, and introduced the five draft resolutions to be finalized for further consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly: the first on pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors (UNEP/EA.3/L.6); the second on addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems (UNEP/EA.3/L.27); the third on marine litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.3/L.20); the fourth on environment and health (UNEP/EA.3/L.8); and the fifth, which had yet to be discussed owing to its political nature, on pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism (UNEP/EA.3/L.5). He also drew the meeting's attention to two new draft resolutions, which had been submitted recently: the first, proposed by China, on strengthening South-South cooperation initiatives for sustainable development, and the second, proposed by a group of African States, on consolidation of the headquarters functions of the Environment Programme. The Assembly had also tasked the Committee of the Whole to finalize the draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.3/L.16).

III. Organization of work

4. The Committee of the Whole decided to invite the facilitators of the contact groups established by the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to report on the status of the five draft resolutions under consideration at the current meeting. The Committee would then invite the proponents of the two new draft resolutions to introduce them and provide an explanation for their late submission. Those draft resolutions would be taken up by a contact group, chaired by the representative of Iraq; another contact group, chaired by the representative of Finland, would take up the draft resolution on pollution prevention and control in areas affected by terrorist operations and armed conflicts; any outstanding issues in the other draft resolutions would be dealt with by a friends-of-the-Chair group; and all the texts would be revised for editorial consistency by a drafting group, chaired by the representative of Costa Rica.

IV. Preparation of draft resolutions under agenda items 4, 7 and 12

5. At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of 4 December, the Committee received reports from facilitators on two draft resolutions, the first on pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors (UNEP/EA.3/L.6), and the second on addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems (UNEP/EA.3/L.27). The meeting agreed to recommend the draft resolution

set out in document UNEP/EA.3/L.27 for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly. It further agreed that there was no need for editorial work on the drafts by a drafting group.

6. The Committee established a contact group, chaired by Ms. Tarja Fernández (Finland), to discuss the draft resolution on pollution prevention and control in areas affected by terrorist operations and armed conflicts (UNEP/EA.3/L.5).

7. Subsequently, at its 2nd meeting, on the evening of 4 December, the Committee approved the finalized draft resolution on pollution prevention and control in areas affected by terrorist operations and armed conflicts for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

8. At its 1st meeting, the Committee established a friends-of-the-Chair group, chaired by Mr. Andrew McNee (Australia), to finalize the draft resolution on marine litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.3/L.20).

9. Subsequently, at its 2nd meeting, the Committee approved the finalized draft resolution on marine litter and microplastics for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

10. At its 1st meeting, the Committee established a friends-of-the-Chair group, chaired by Ms. Elizabeth Taylor (Colombia), to finalize the draft resolution on environment and health (UNEP/EA.3/L.8).

11. Subsequently, at its resumed 2nd meeting, on the evening of 5 December 2017, the Committee approved the finalized draft resolution on environment and health for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly.

12. At the 1st meeting, the representatives of Kenya and Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the group of African States, introduced a new draft resolution on the consolidation of the headquarters functions of the Environment Programme.

13. The representative of China then introduced a new draft resolution on strengthening South-South cooperation initiatives for sustainable development. In the absence of an explanation for the late submission of the draft resolution by the close of the session, the Committee decided to defer further consideration of that draft resolution until the fourth session of the Environment Assembly.

14. The Committee established a contact group, chaired by Mr. Mohammed Husham Malik Al-Fityan (Iraq), to discuss the new draft resolution submitted by the group of African States and to further consider the draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.3/L.16).

15. Subsequently, after lengthy discussion of that draft decision at its 2nd meeting, the Committee requested Mr. Fernando Coimbra (Brazil) to facilitate further consideration of the draft decision and decided to resume the 2nd meeting the following day.

16. At its resumed 2nd meeting, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Environment Assembly the finalized draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Committee also approved an amended version of the draft resolution proposed by the group of African States, "Implementation of paragraph 88 (a)–(h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want'".

V. Other matters

17. No other matters were discussed.

VI. Adoption of the report

18. The Committee, at its resumed 2nd meeting, adopted the report of the rapporteur subject to verification of the list of draft resolutions and decisions and entrusted the rapporteur and the Secretariat to complete the report.

VII. Closure of the meeting

19. The Chair closed the meeting at 7.30 p.m. on the evening of 5 December 2017.

Annex IV

Key messages of the leadership dialogues and of the multi-stakeholder dialogue held by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session

A. Key messages from the leadership dialogues, held on 5 December 2017

1. Leadership dialogue 1: Science, evidence and citizens' awareness for change

1. The session focused on the potential for harnessing science and technology to catalyse and drive forward a critical step change in developing policies and solutions. Distinguished speakers highlighted several existing and future opportunities that are gaining traction across their respective countries, contexts and constituencies. Several recurring and prominent themes emerged in the session including the need for knowledge integration; strengthened partnerships and collaboration with the business sector, effective private enterprise and public policy or decision-making entities; the need to simplify and mainstream science, data and environmental information; the need for real-time data flows including monitoring systems; and the need to realize the critical link between health and environment.

2. The key messages from the session include:

(a) Science-based decision-making remains the most effective approach for developing response options and mitigating problems; deployment of solutions has at its core technology and innovation that are enabling new ways to tackle complex problems (such as artificial intelligence systems);

(b) Growing awareness of the nexus between health and environment – largely driven by advancements in science and technology – has revolutionized how decision makers respond to complex environmental pressures; there is, for example, improved understanding that the price of pollution is often paid in human lives, and that the health benefits generated by interventions can greatly offset their costs;

(c) Despite massive proliferation of (“big”) data and the advancement in data analytics and computing, attaining reliable and relevant information for citizens, and particularly those most vulnerable, in an affordable and timely manner remains a key barrier;

(d) Technology, science and innovation contribute to improving early warning systems, which is of critical importance as populations become increasingly concentrated and exposed to environmental threats (for example, through urbanization);

(e) Mainstreaming science and making technological innovation both available and accessible is a critical next step; it is particularly important to think about new ways to engage with and include young people and to bring together science and private industry, as they are important driving forces in leveraging technology and innovative solutions.

2. Leadership dialogue 2: Regulatory frameworks, institutions and the rule of law to address pollution

3. Participants explored why legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks are of such vital importance in effectively addressing pollution and how they can be – and have been – used to empower Governments, the private sector, civil society and individual citizens in the transition towards a pollution-free planet.

4. The key messages from the session include:

(a) Legal and regulatory frameworks are essential for tackling pollution, which does not respect borders and requires a cross-cutting response; a mix of legal instruments is needed for the achievement of political aspirations and to support policy; legislation needs to be customized to suit national circumstances and provide adequate flexibility in order to achieve countries’ defined targets; and robust institutions are a prerequisite for the implementation of the law;

(b) All stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and citizens, should be engaged in addressing pollution; the rule of law empowers stakeholders to take action, which can be improved through greater transparency and access to information;

(c) Systemic challenges include long time frames required to enact new legislation, which is in contrast with the urgency of many environmental challenges; once laws have been enacted, strong political will is required for effective implementation; and implementation requires enhanced financial resources, in particular in developing countries, and more can be done to effectively ensure punitive action for crimes relating to pollution;

(d) There is a need for greater international cooperation; multilateral environmental agreements provide internationally-agreed ground rules on, among other things, tackling climate change, sound management of hazardous wastes and harmful chemicals and the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances, all of which are designed to address pollution; at the regional level, various conventions, notably in Europe, relating to waste, environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context, long-range transboundary air pollution, and access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters serve as good examples of cooperation at the regional level; however, national legislation is absolutely necessary for the implementation of multilateral and regional agreements and there is a need to learn from each agreement and to share country experiences and best practices in the successful implementation of those agreements;

(e) The need for a comprehensive international legal instrument may be considered to assist in specifying environmental rights and tackling environmental damage, and provide a basis for a third generation of environmental law; and the Environment Programme can play an important role in supporting such an initiative.

3. Leadership dialogue 3: Practical solutions towards a pollution-free planet

5. Participants discussed practical solutions for addressing pollution challenges and how those are supported by science, business and innovation. Speakers were invited to share their experiences and lessons learned, highlighting what they considered success factors. The discussions focused on air, land and soil, freshwater, marine and coastal areas, and waste.

6. The key messages from the session include:

(a) Partnerships comprise both public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder partnerships across different levels, from federal to State, and regional to local, including transboundary collaboration (such as the Global Soil Partnership);

(b) Data collection and analysis are of key importance for science-based decision-making and for establishing the economic and social costs of pollution;

(c) Effective communication, working from a common knowledge base and making full use of scientific evidence, are essential to promote practical solutions;

(d) Cheaper, more affordable and accessible new technologies can transform as well as adapt old and more polluting technologies; using new technologies such as the internet, global positioning systems and smartphones can, for example, promote public transportation, such as bike sharing;

(e) More involvement of the private sector is crucial, for example in finding options for de-risking through farming insurance and other financial instruments;

(f) In the context of land and soil pollution, proven practical solutions include rapid and cheap assessments to guide fertilizer use;

(g) Food should be produced without polluting our agriculture base, safeguarding the health and vitality of our land;

(h) Natural infrastructure can be used as an approach to pollution management; for example, sustainable use of wetlands can be included as part of pollution and waste management strategies, to restore ecosystems and recycle and re-use wastewater; the use of bio-remediation was also discussed;

(i) Inclusive participation of all stakeholders is key to building a greater sense of ownership; for example, “electronic government” can minimize the need for travel to access public services;

(j) There is a need to use more holistic approaches, through regulation, pricing of freshwater, creating economic incentives for the development of technology in an integrated manner and bringing together responsible ministries, such as ministries of agriculture, energy, environment and finance;

- (k) The innovative power of the private sector can be harnessed by using demonstration projects, provided it is kept under regulatory control;
- (l) Regulation and economic incentives such as eco-taxes to support waste management are key to promoting practical solutions, as is guidance for green public procurement.

4. Leadership dialogue 4: Financing and innovation to combat pollution

7. The session explored the importance of policy formulation in harnessing financing and innovation to combat pollution. Participants shared successful models of engaging with the private sector and financial institutions, of incentivizing green investments and of creating markets for more environmentally friendly and resource-efficient goods and services.

8. The key messages from this session include:

- (a) The scope of financing required to address the challenges of climate change, pollution and environmental degradation, while also promoting the transition to a green economy, requires significant efforts to optimize investment from the private sector;
- (b) It is important to broaden efforts beyond “climate finance” to leverage investments towards pollution abatements, resource efficiency and a green/circular economy;
- (c) Providing platforms to gather relevant stakeholders and engage with the private sector and financial community has proved key to ensuring effective communication and collaboration and fostering partnerships, including intra-governmental communication and cooperation; the convening power of international organizations is important in that respect;
- (d) There is a range of policy instruments available to Governments, including (i) taxation, (ii) enabling regulation to modify behaviour, (iii) direct investment, (iv) leveraging convening power and (v) leading the way, for example through public procurement;
- (e) Demonstrating business opportunities has been key to engaging the private sector;
- (f) There is a need for further training and skill development in sustainable finance and green sectors, in particular among young people.

B. Key messages from the multi-stakeholder dialogue, held on 5 December 2017

9. The multi-stakeholder dialogue focused on the topic “people and pollution”. The session was introduced by five panellists who spoke about how pollution affected their lives and how to identify relevant solutions for various situations and regions. The dialogue focused on root causes for different aspects of pollution and made connections to poverty, the rule of law, women’s rights and human rights. Respondents included ministers and various stakeholders.

10. The key messages from the dialogue include:

- (a) The implementation of multilateral environmental agreements is critical;
- (b) There is a need for improved multi-stakeholder and multilevel collaboration;
- (c) Countries need to develop and improve mechanisms to enhance coherence and efficiency;
- (d) Increased capacity support is needed in many developing countries to support the implementation of national laws given that environmental laws are often ignored;
- (e) Governments can do a lot more to incentivize sustainability, for example by introducing a carbon tax, establishing recycling targets and supporting innovation;
- (f) Green public procurement needs to be applied at all levels of government;
- (g) Circular economy is an important approach, for example to minimize the negative effects of chemicals;
- (h) Data and monitoring underpin all approaches to addressing pollution and should be at the core of multilevel partnerships;
- (i) Building public awareness of the problem will mobilize political will;
- (j) Although voluntary commitments are a good first stage, they are not enough; more regulation is needed at both the international and national levels;
- (k) Extended producer responsibility should be built into all products;

- (l) We need to make sustainable products more affordable with government incentives;
 - (m) Clean industry and other stakeholders should work together in multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote innovative solutions and help to build local capacity to address pollution;
 - (n) Addressing corruption in public and private sectors will support all approaches to addressing pollution;
 - (o) The United Nations Environment Assembly should provide relevant input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including from the Environment Assembly at its fourth session to the high-level political forum in 2019, which will bring together Heads of State.
-