

QUARTERLY REPORT (Advance unedited)

to the 149th Meeting of the

**COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

December 2019 - January 2020

FOREWORD BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year concluded with the Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) in Madrid and I am pleased to report that UNEP made several substantive contributions to this important event. The Emissions Gap Report was widely referenced and was the defining evidence that we need ambition and urgent action. At the COP, we drew attention to a menu of opportunities available for countries as they strengthen climate plans. We contributed to a number of high-level engagements including the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste; green finance; nature-based solutions and opportunities for decarbonizing critical sectors including mobility, power generation and buildings and construction.

Our contributions at the COP were complimented by a new report from the International Resource Panel (IRP) that called for paying greater attention to circularity, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency. The Report is also an important reminder of the importance of individual action for climate highlighting that the largest reductions of life-cycle emissions can be achieved by changing patterns of vehicle use such as ride-sharing or car-sharing. The Measures Database released by UNEP meanwhile pointed to some progress, with a 106 per cent increase in green finance measures globally since 2015.

And I am pleased to also report that just a few months after the launch of the UN-convened [Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance](#) with 12 of the world's largest pension funds and insurers committing to decarbonize their investments by 2050, total assets under management has doubled to almost US \$3.9 trillion.

While it is clear that we did not get as far as we would have wished at COP25, our success in 2020 will depend importantly on the strength of our partnerships and collaborations to take ideas and science to scale. In this regard, I was delighted to report that we began the new year with technical consultations with UNDP colleagues to roll out an enhanced collaboration. Over two days, colleagues from both agencies took a deep dive into three entry points or “promises”, on climate, nature, and the green economy. I look forward to reporting back to Member States on this enhanced collaboration over the course of the year.

And, of course, in the months ahead, we will look forward to striking similar deeper collaboration with our friends in other UN sister agencies, including with FAO where our partnership is deepening rapidly in the context of our joint collaboration on the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

And finally, my congratulations to colleagues at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which released the zero draft of the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework in mid-January. UNEP remains committed to supporting in all ways possible, Member States and the CBD Secretariat to deliver an ambitious, measurable and high-impact post 2020-framework that enables us to stop and begin reversing biodiversity and ecosystem loss. Extreme events in the last few months, from the wildfires in Australia to flooding in East Africa, are testimony to the perils of our inaction, on climate change and nature loss.

We look forward to your collective feedback on the snapshot of results presented here towards strengthening our programme of work to deliver effectively on our mandate in the Super Year for Nature and humanity.

Inger Andersen
Executive Director, UNEP

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this report: This quarterly report updates the Committee of Permanent Representatives on significant political and regional developments related to UNEP's work as well on management issues in UNEP. It covers the period 1 December 2019 to 31 January 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Environmental catastrophes over the last few months come on the backdrop of the 25th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25) and are some of the all too frequent reminders of the urgent need for radical action and transformative change to safeguard a healthy environment for future generations.
- Worldwide, the consequences of environmental mismanagement are acknowledged as an issue of major concern. The World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report 2020, which identifies the top threats facing our world, places environmental risks in all top five positions by likelihood, and in three of the top five positions by impact.
- The *2019 Emissions Gap Report*, released for the COP 25, once again highlighted the need for much higher ambition and a fast closing window of opportunity. It calls for dramatic strengthening of the Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) in 2020 as countries must increase their NDC ambitions threefold to achieve the well below 2°C goal and more than fivefold to achieve the 1.5°C goal.

SECTION 1: SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE ACTION

UNEP actively engaged in the 25th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25), held under the Presidency of Chile in Madrid, Spain, from 2-15 December 2019.¹ The Executive Director led the UNEP delegation to the COP.

In the lead up to the COP, UNEP released its annual flagship *2019 Emissions Gap Report*,² providing clear evidence that we need more ambition and more urgent action. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to rise, despite scientific warnings and political commitments. This calls for dramatic strengthening of the Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) in 2020 as countries must increase their NDC ambitions threefold to achieve the well below 2°C goal and more than fivefold to achieve the 1.5°C goal. The report was widely referenced at the COP and featured prominently in interventions by parties and stakeholders.

UNEP and its partners also released several other reports, including:

- *Resource Efficiency and Climate Change - Material Efficiency Strategies for a Low-Carbon Future*³ which argues that using less materials like biomass, cement, fossil fuels, metals, non-metallic minerals, plastics and wood to provide the same level of well-being is a key opportunity for the world to move towards the 1.5° C goal set by the Paris agreement.
- The *Production Gap Report*⁴ is a first assessment of countries' plans and outlooks for fossil fuel production, and what is needed to align this production with climate objectives. The report represents a collaboration of several research and academic institutions and experts and provides a critical insight into climate change negotiations. Launched in November 2019 in the run up to the COP, it complemented the Emissions Gap report, by highlighting how the global track to extract coal, oil and gas is making climate goals much harder to reach.
- The *2019 Global Status Report for the Buildings and Construction Sector*⁵ provided an update on drivers of CO2 emissions and energy demand globally since 2017, along with examples of policies, technologies and investments that support low-carbon building stocks. The buildings and construction sector accounted for 36% of energy use and 39% of energy and process-related carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in 2018, 11% of which resulted from manufacturing building materials and products such as steel, cement and glass.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/cop25>

² <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30797/EGR2019.pdf>

³ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/resource-efficiency-and-climate-change-material-efficiency-strategies-low-carbon>

⁴ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/production-gap-report-2019>

⁵ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/publication/2019-global-status-report-buildings-and-construction-sector>

The COP 25 left several key areas (carbon markets, loss and damage and climate finance) of the Paris Agreement yet to be completed. While some 80 countries committed to higher level ambition, the *overall* ambition level is not yet sufficient to close the emissions gap. The next major milestone is the end of September 2020 when countries are to submit their enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions to UNFCCC for the preparatory deliberations for COP 26 in Glasgow. Meanwhile, the COP 25 adopted a 5-year Gender Action Plan.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- **SDG Methodologies:** Under the SDG Global Monitoring system, UNEP has developed the international standard methodologies for the 26 SDG indicators for which it is a Custodian Agency. Of these 26 indicators, the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs reviewed the methodologies and reclassified 22 SDG indicators from Tier 3 (no internationally established methodology or standards are available for the indicator) to Tier 2 (internationally established methodology and standards are available). This is a major milestone for the organization. UNEP has now shifted its focus to enabling uptake of the indicator methodologies by countries, capacity development in developing countries on environment statistics and accounting and collecting of the country data for reporting on SDG indicators.
- **Global Opportunities for SDGs Initiative (GO4SDGs):**
The Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs) initiative was launched⁶ in September 2019 by UNEP and the Germany Ministry of Environment during the SDGs Summit in New York. The initiative is geared towards stepping up the implementation of the SDGs by fostering knowledge exchange on innovative and successful practices from different countries, facilitating institutional learning, enhancing the capacity policymakers, business, and society/youth to shift towards circularity and strengthening UNEP's ability to create and bring change in the context of the UN Reform. To jumpstart its work, the initiative conducted⁷ a design workshop on 2-3 December 2019 aimed at fleshing out the operational modalities of the initiative.

UNITED NATIONS UPDATES OF RELEVANCE TO UNEP

General Assembly adopts 47 Resolutions on Sustainable Development

- The General Assembly adopted on 19 December 2019, 47 resolutions on sustainable development aimed at bolstering nations' efforts to reach agreed sustainable development goals in a context of constrained multilateralism. The resolutions range from promoting investments for sustainable

⁶ <https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/event/launch-go-sdgs-initiative-creating-opportunities-inclusive-and-sustainable-economies>

⁷ <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/un-environment-event/global-opportunities-sustainable-development-goals-go4sdgs>

development, climate change, sand and dust storms, agricultural technology for sustainable development and biological diversity to the resolution on the UNEA-4 report.⁸

- The General Assembly Resolution on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development,⁹ reiterated its decision to convene a summit on biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government, before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in 2020. This summit will highlight the urgency of action, at the highest levels, in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. Modalities of the Summit, including its exact date and place, will be negotiated by March 2020 in New York and be co-facilitated by the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and Italy to the United Nations.

General Assembly adopts Programme Budget for 2020

On 27 December, the General Assembly adopted the Programme Budget for 2020,¹⁰ including the regular budget allocation for UNEP. Operative paragraph 33 noted the funding gap for the provision of conference services, information technology and communication services, security and medical services at sessions of the Environment Assembly and welcomed the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in its resolution 73/260 entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”, to make proposals, on UNEA’s funding as appropriate.¹¹

United Nations Development System (UNDS) Reform update

- In the framework of the UNDS reform and in accordance with the mandate given by Member States to review work in multi-country office settings, the Secretary-General created an Interagency Working Group (IAWG), co-facilitated by UNEP and UNDP.
- A set of recommendations from the IAWG will be presented by the Secretary-General to the ECOSOC to promote a more tailored UN support to countries; enhanced physical presence; increased policy and technical resources to address development needs; deeper engagement in global and regional inter-governmental forums; strengthened data capacities; better access to finance; and South-South and triangular cooperation to better meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and implement the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway priorities.
- In the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), UNEP has contributed to the development of the seven Companion Pieces for the Cooperation Framework essential for UNCTs as they move forward with their Cooperation Frameworks and including the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs. The Companion Pieces are: 1. Guiding Principles; 2. Common Country Analysis (CCA); 3. Programme Design, Management and Evaluation; 4. Configuration of UNCT Capacities; 5. Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) Collaboration; 6. Financing and

⁸ UNGA resolution A/RES/74/222 available at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/222>

⁹ UNGA resolution A/RES/74/221 available at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/221>

¹⁰ In UNGA resolution A/RES/74/264 available at <https://www.un.org/en/ga/74/resolutions.shtml>

¹¹ <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28512/Decision%204-1.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

Funding and; 7. Economic Transformation. After review by the Deputy Secretary-General's Office the Companion Pieces should be approved by the UNSDG Principals meeting in May 2020 in Nairobi.

Human Rights

UNEP supported the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment to prepare a report¹² describing good practices of States in recognizing the right to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and implementing the procedural and substantive elements of the right. The report will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2020.

75th Anniversary of the United Nations

- In 2020, the United Nations celebrates its 75th anniversary under the theme “Shaping our future together”. As stressed by the UN Secretary General, this anniversary will not just be about celebrating past achievements but also looking ahead. To do so, a global campaign entitled UN75¹³ was launched on 2 January 2020 to build a global vision for 2045, the UN's centenary; to increase understanding of the threats to that future; and to drive collective action to realize that vision.
- Throughout 2020, UN75 will involve as many people as possible in formal and informal dialogues. Climate change is among the five major challenges¹⁴ that will be addressed. The views and ideas generated will be then presented, by the UN Secretary-General, to world leaders and senior UN officials on 21 September at a high-level event to mark the 75th anniversary.
- UNEP intends to fully participate contribute to the UN75 campaign, and encourage Member States, civil society and our partners to organize dialogues on key environmental challenges and solutions as a contribution to the celebration and the building of our future.

MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework

Following the first meeting of the Open-ended working group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held in August 2019, the co-chairs and the Acting Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity were requested to prepare a zero draft text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for consideration at the second meeting of the working group to be held on 24-29 February 2020 in Kunming, China. It was prepared and released to the public¹⁵ on 13th January 2020. The zero draft¹⁶ follows a theory of change methodology to help plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the impacts of the actions taken.

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

¹² <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/53>

¹³ <https://www.un.org/UN75>

¹⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/un75/issue-briefs>

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/UNBiodiversity/status/1216507109690441729>

¹⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/efb0/1f84/a892b98d2982a829962b6371/wg2020-02-03-en.pdf>

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol entered into force on 1 January 2019. One year later, by 20 January 2020, it has been ratified by 92 parties. Full implementation of the Kigali Amendment would forestall up to 0.4°C of warming by the end of the century, while protecting the ozone layer.

Carpathian Convention

The 10th meeting of Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CICC) was held on 11-13 December 2019 in Budapest. The Committee is responsible for preparation of political decisions of the Carpathian Convention and one of the main topics discussed was the accession of the European Union as a Party and the related next steps, including high-level meetings between the Ministers of the Carpathian countries and the EU Commissioner for Environment. The CCIC recommended further engagement of the Carpathian Convention in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as the Convention can play an important role in implementing the new Post-2020 global framework as the regional instrument translating global biodiversity goals at the regional and local level. The relevant CCIC documents are available at the Carpathian Convention website.¹⁷

Basel Convention

On 5 December 2019, the Ban Amendment¹⁸ to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, entered into force. The Amendment prohibits the export of hazardous waste from developed countries (OECD, EU Member States, Liechtenstein) to developing countries. This amendment is an achievement of international efforts to ensure that those countries with the capacity to manage their hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner take responsibility for them, while allowing other Parties, who wish to do so, to receive wastes as raw materials for recycling or recovery industries. Find out more on the Ban Amendment entry into force in this video.¹⁹

AFRICA

Amplifying the voices of Africa's Young People for the Environment

- Through the World Youth Forum held on 15 December 2019 at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, UNEP, in collaboration with the Government of Egypt, supported Africa's youth to showcase their work on climate action in the region. The findings of the Africa edition of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) for Youth were discussed by the youth at the Forum. The report's messages reflect the voices of youth from various backgrounds on several areas at the centre of global and regional environmental discourse.

¹⁷ <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailcicc/events/tenth-meeting-of-the-carpathian-convention-implementation-committee.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/PublicAwareness/PressReleases/BanAmendmententryintoforce/tabid/8120/Default.aspx>

¹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HorqSUpr94E>

- The Forum noted that it is imperative for policymakers and other stakeholders to work closely with young people in seeking solutions and driving actions for the current environmental emergencies in Africa. The youth constitute a significant proportion of Africa’s population, and are the foundation of future generations that will experience the impacts of our current environmental decisions. They are also pivotal in the creation of transformational leadership for the environment that will benefit people and the planet.

Enhancing participation of Sub-National Authorities in environmental protection

To accelerate interventions against plastic waste, air and water pollution, the Government of Kenya and UNEP jointly convened a forum in Mombasa, Kenya (17 -19 Dec), in which over 47 Sub-National Authorities participated. The approach agreed to tackle these challenges and the resulting policy commitments at the local level in Kenya, including domestic-level implementation of UNEA Resolutions on pollution and pollution related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) for better environmental and socioeconomic outcomes. The sub-national authorities stressed that going forward, particularly in this “Super Year” for nature and the “UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration”, governments and other players should recognize and create space for the involvement of sub-national level stakeholders.

Positive progress in turning the tide on single-use plastics waste

- UNEP has been working closely with governments across Africa to explore solutions to reduce the mounting plastic waste, in a manner that provides benefits for nature and people. These include efforts to reduce and eventually do away with single-use plastics, coupled with robust circular economy interventions.
- Part of these collaborative interventions led to a legislative process in Senegal, which resulted in the tabling of a bill outlawing single-use plastics, in various phases. Senegal’s National Assembly passed the bill in the first week of January 2020. This decision was preceded by the Circular Economy Conference that was held in Dakar in July 2019. The *Africa Waste Management Outlook (2018)*²⁰ reported that, by the year 2025, Senegal would be one of the ten African countries most affected by the proliferation of plastic waste if no suitable interventions are instituted.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

GEO-6 in China

UNEP organized a GEO Course coordination meeting with the participation of leading Chinese universities. The meeting was the culmination of an innovative approach to environmental education that resulted in the development of a GEO-based course curriculum that will be delivered in three leading Chinese Universities in 2020 (Peking University, Tongji University and University of Chinese Academy of Sciences). This pioneer initiative will not only disseminate state-of-art knowledges to

²⁰ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/25514>

university students in the three leading institutions of higher education in the country, but also has a great potential to be replicated globally.

EUROPE

UNECE and Air Quality

On 12 December, UNEP participated in the Special Session marking the 40th Anniversary of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) ²¹ in Geneva, Switzerland. A new Global Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution²² was launched, spearheaded by the Bureau of the Executive Body of the Convention. The Forum will link up with the cooperation and knowledge sharing platform called for in UNEA's resolution 3/8 on Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally. In addition to providing an opportunity to continue working with the UNECE-hosted CLRTAP Secretariat, the new Global Forum could be an opportunity to step up and give enhanced visibility to UNEP's Air Quality-related work in the pan-European region, notably in Central Asia and in the Western Balkans, following the regional study on Air Pollution and Human Health ("Air Pollution and Human Health, Case of Western Balkans") that recently developed together with WHO.

Data and information to monitor the environment in Central Asia

UNEP organized, in Dushanbe (11-12 December 2019), the first national multi-stakeholder workshop to initiate a project in Tajikistan "*Capacity development and technology transfer to improve the generation and use of data and information in support of monitoring the environment in Central Asia*" funded by the Russian Federation. A digital atlas of the environment will also be developed, which will allow the analysis and assessment of environmental change in the key domains of water, land, and biodiversity and will lead to the production of data flows, development of indicators, generation of statistics and production of pilot water and land accounts.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

LAC Leadership in COP 25

At the climate COP25, Latin America and the Caribbean countries played a significant role under Chile's COP Presidency, including through the Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC) and the Caribbean Member States of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). Costa Rica submitted the San Jose Principles for Article 6, as part of the global engagement on the

²¹https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/AIR/EB/1012Programme_40th_Anniversary_Special_Session_10122019.pdf

²²https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/AIR/EB/Informal_doc_no._4_Proposal_Forum_Clean_24102019.pdf

transparent, ambitious and integral cooperation among countries to implement the international transfer of mitigation outcomes as part of their NDCs implementation plan.

NORTH AMERICA

Establishing a North America Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN)

Working in close collaboration with the U.S., Canadian and Mexican federal governments, UNEP is facilitating a series of virtual consultations for managers of marine and coastal protected areas across all three countries. The consultations will, for the first time, connect marine protected area managers across national and regional boundaries to create a ‘community’ of practice. The aim is to identify key challenges and opportunities, share information and best practice, and consider how best a North American Marine Protected Area Network can serve the needs of area managers. The Regional Office for North America will serve as convener and facilitator for the network. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Solve program will provide support.

SECTION 2: RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

This section of the report focuses on human resources and management issues. It provides an update on evaluation work and highlights lessons for future work. Financial information was not yet available at the time the advanced version of the report was shared with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and will be shared subsequently.

3.1 HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

As at 31 January 2020, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) staff totalled 1241, comprising 739 professional personnel and 502 national and general service personnel of which 755 were female and 486 were male.

Senior Level Staff for Secretariat and MEAs

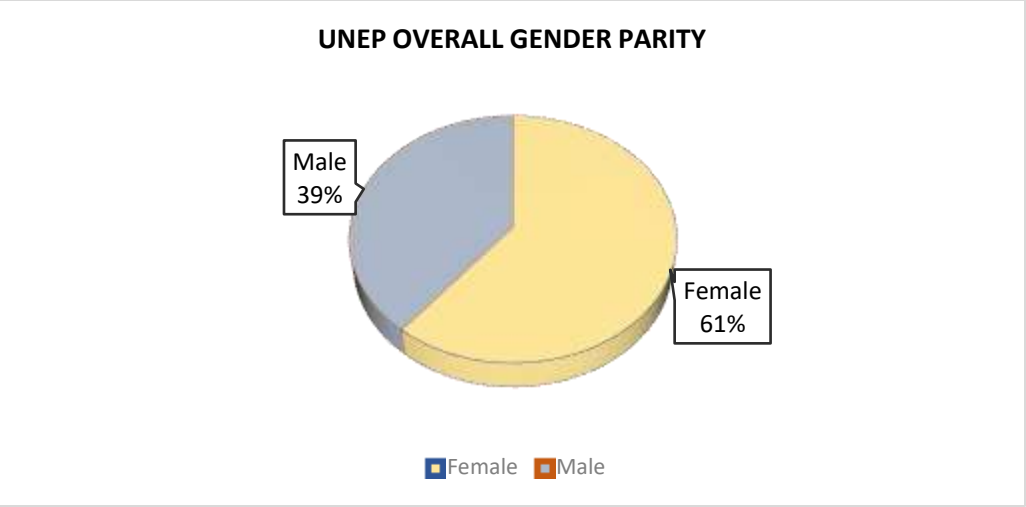
Total staff at grade P-5 and above as at 31 January 2020

Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5
No. of Staff	1	3	9	51	137

Note: USG = Under Secretary -General; ASG = Assistant Secretary-General; D = Director; P= Professional

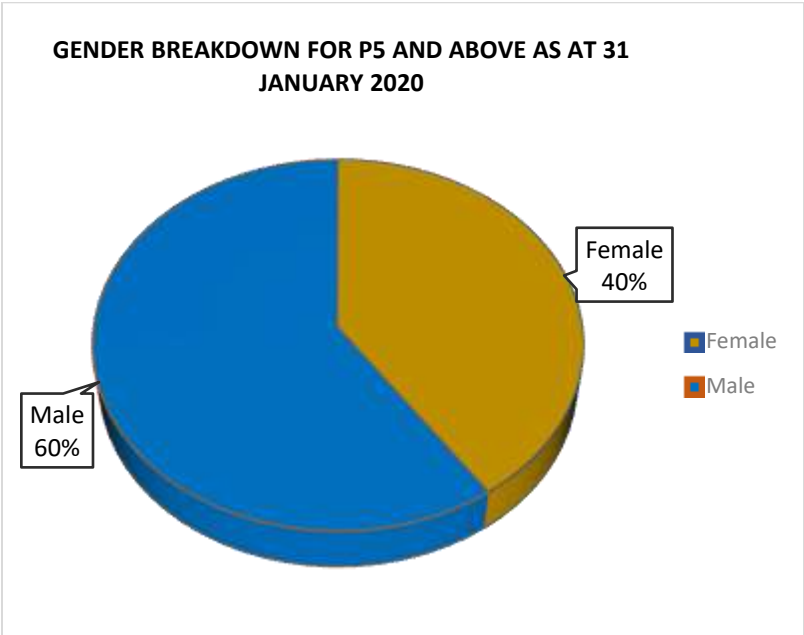
Gender Parity status

SECRETARIAT												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Professional Total	NO Total	GS Total	Total
Female	1	1	4	15	40	79	103	55	297	3	253	554
Male		1	1	28	60	94	58	22	264	5	92	361
MEAs												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Professional Total	NO Total	GS Total	Total
Female	0	1	2	4	16	24	30	13	91	0	111	201
Male	0		2	4	21	23	21	16	88	0	38	125



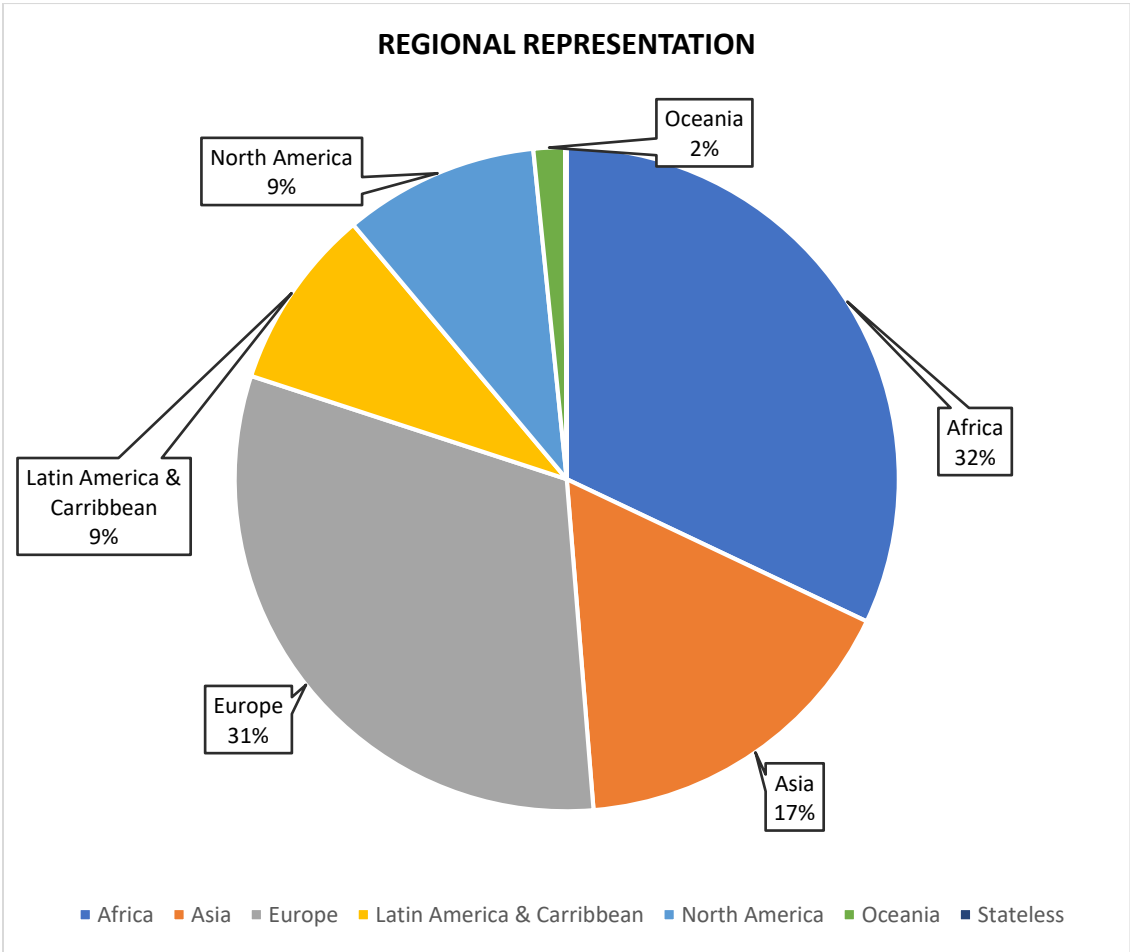
Gender status for P5 and above for UNEP Secretariat

<i>Gender</i>	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	Total
Female	1	1	4	15	40	61
Male		1	1	28	60	90
Grand Total	1	2	5	43	100	151
Female	100%	50%	80%	35%	40%	40%
Male	0%	50%	20%	65%	60%	60%



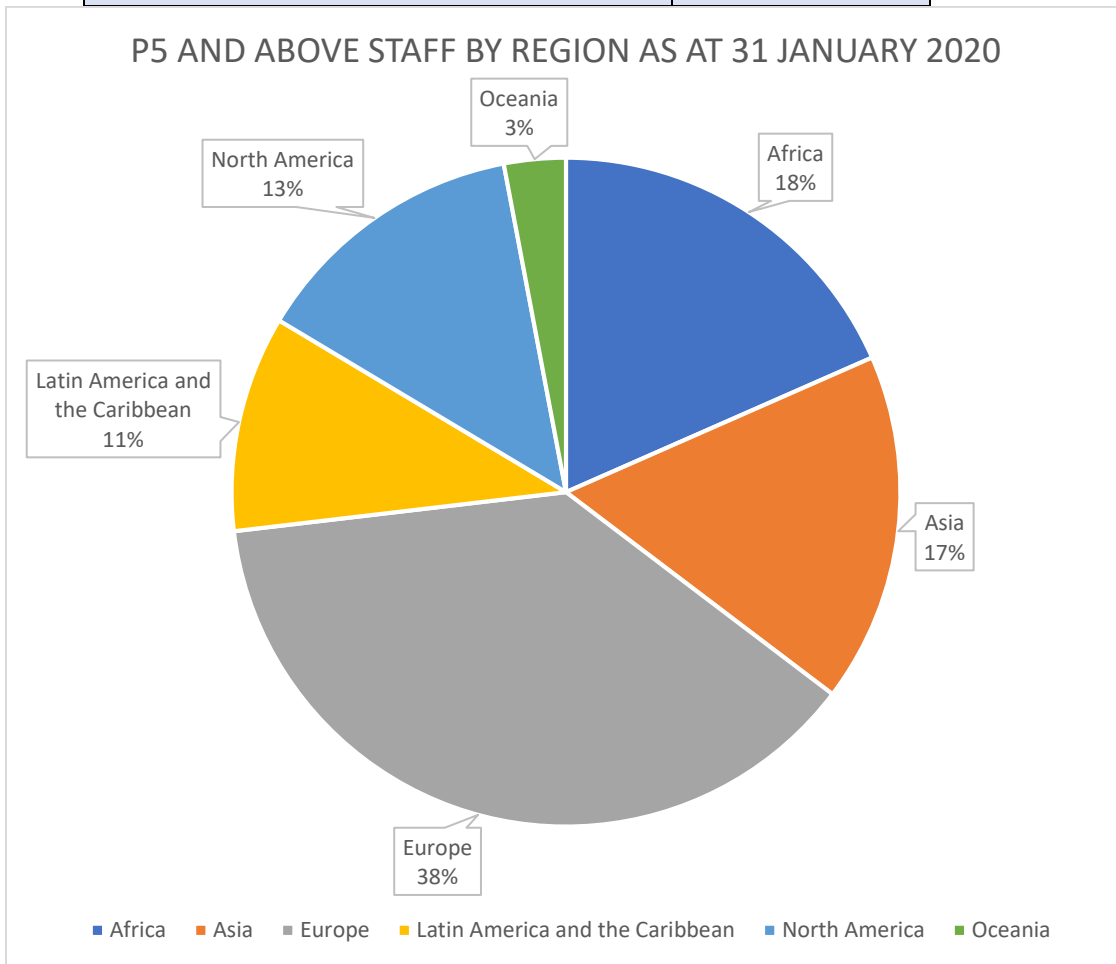
Regional Representation

Region	Number of staff
Africa	397
Asia	207
Europe	389
Latin America and the Caribbean	110
North America	118
Oceania	19
Stateless	1
Grand Total	1241



Regional representation P5 and above Secretariat and MEAs

Region	Number of Staff
Africa	37
Asia	34
Europe	76
Latin America and the Caribbean	21
North America	27
Oceania	6
Grand Total	201



Key Human Resource Risks and Issues

- In line with the Secretary General’s UN System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy and UNEP’s Gender Parity Implementation Plan, progress has resulted in a 61:39 female to male ratio. However, there is a need to further balance recruitment of both senior level and general service staff.
- The selection of roster candidates for new appointments is highly recommended to help reduce the time it takes to fill vacant positions at all levels.

3.2 AUDITS

Office of Internal Oversight Services

The implementation of the recommendations of Audits already completed by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), and the development of audit assignments planned for 2020 are ongoing.

A. Ongoing OIOS audits

1. Management of Partnerships at UNEP
2. Management of Data Classification and Data Privacy at UNON, UNEP and UN-Habitat
3. Grants Management at UNON, UNEP and UN-Habitat

B. Implementation of recommendations of completed OIOS audits

1. Recruitment Process at UNEP²³
2. UNEP Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁴
3. UNEP Afghanistan Project Office²⁵
4. Official travel at UNEP²⁶
5. Contract management at UNON, UNEP and UN-Habitat (UNON Lead)²⁷
6. UNEP’s Asia and the Pacific Office²⁸
7. UNEP’s Abidjan Convention Secretariat²⁹
8. Environmental Governance subprogramme³⁰
9. Disasters and Conflicts subprogramme³¹
10. Resource Efficiency Sub-Programme³²

²³ <https://oios.un.org/file/8450/download?token=mMcoeJJM>

²⁴ <https://oios.un.org/file/8094/download?token=blwEvwsg>

²⁵ <https://oios.un.org/file/7508/download?token=AGngDa7P>

²⁶ <https://oios.un.org/file/7283/download?token=FiVPFxu2>

²⁷ <https://oios.un.org/file/7424/download?token=rqeSewZD>

²⁸ <https://oios.un.org/file/6986/download?token=SNM9Eu-S>

²⁹ <https://oios.un.org/file/7019/download?token=nz- Ehs1>

³⁰ https://oios.un.org/file/6197/download?token=oWmAWD_Q

³¹ <https://oios.un.org/file/6092/download?token=nHNvTA95>

³² <https://oios.un.org/file/6365/download?token=J0EsYS9L>

11. Caribbean Environment Programme³³

All OIOS audits listed above can be accessed [here](#).³⁴

Board of Auditors

Implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors interim Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme has begun.

3.3 EVALUATIONS

During the reporting period:

- **Four** project evaluations were completed.
- **Forty-four** project evaluations are currently active and ongoing.

The cohort of completed evaluations for the biennium 2018-2019 is being analysed and will be summarised in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report which is under preparation.

Selected learning points from the Mid-term Evaluation of the “Clean Seas Campaign”

Lesson 1: The Campaign shows it is possible for UNEP to shape and promote clear and salient messages through media and online channels and ensure that these are promoted and shared widely.

Context: UNEP has been a prominent actor on social media and the Campaign has been a major contributor to the conversation. It has also crucially generated momentum that will likely continue, hopefully having a catalytic effect, increasing the call for action and encouraging new countries to address the issue.

Lesson 2: It is possible for a Campaign to use clever and globally relevant communications techniques to become part of a wider movement for change and move the conversation away from traditional Northern audiences.

Context: The campaign helped to create, and now rides, a wave of favourable public and political opinion. It has had global results and has grown support in the Global South. It has shown that the need to cut plastics’ use resonates globally and that it is possible to mobilise champions of progressive measures among Southern governments.

³³ <https://oios.un.org/file/5675/download?token=VUSK8Y5t>

³⁴ <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>

Lesson 3: A broader, more widely-owned strategy, properly resourced, should have been agreed and followed through from the outset in anticipation of success. Success beyond expectations created opportunities, which have not always been capitalised upon to full effect.

Context: The campaign strategy was not closely used to guide the implementation of the Campaign. This resulted in a considerable disconnect between the scope of work/KPIs and the course of action followed, which effectively hindered analysis of the Campaign's impact.

Lesson 6: Demonstrating success and linking it to the Campaign required a coherent and consistent overview of the logic of the Campaign, informing the setting of a baseline and ways to track progress that would support making real-time judgements to strengthen the Campaign's results.

Context: Monitoring and Learning systems were not applied to the campaign in a meaningful way. Regular monitoring and data, including digital monitoring (e.g. use of Google Analytics etc.), were not available to the campaign team in order to make informed, real-time decisions, as well as to provide evidence of results and/or to justify how money was spent for accountability purposes. Data were not collected on the Key Performance Indicators.