

ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH
DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/67/L.44*, ENTITLED "ON THE REPORT OF
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME ON ITS TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION AND ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION IV.C, ENVIRONMENT PILLAR IN THE
CONTEXT OF SUSTAINMENT DEVELOPMENT, OF THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT."

1. This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 4(a-c), 5(a), and 5(c) of draft resolution, A/C.2/67/L.44*, the General Assembly, decides:
 - 4(a) **Strengthen** and upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme in the manner set out in subparagraphs (a) to (h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012;
 - 4(b) **Establish** universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and mandate it, at its first universal session to be held in Nairobi in February 2013, using its applicable rules of procedure and applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly, pending the adoption of its new rules of procedure, to expeditiously initiate the implementation of the provisions **contained in** paragraph 88 of the outcome document in **its** entirety; make a recommendation on its designation **to reflect** its universal character and to decide on future arrangements for the Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
 - 4(c) **Requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to provide support for the full and effective participation of representatives of developing countries in the Governing Council meeting and to invite the Governing Council to consider further arrangements in this regard;
 - 5(a) **Requests** the Secretary-General, in line with paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to reflect in the 2014-2015 **biennium budget proposal** resources that take into account the proposed revised

programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the implementation of paragraph 88 subparagraphs (a) to (h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as opportunities for increasing the efficient use of resources;

- 5(c) Requests the Secretary-General to maintain the resource needs from the regular budget for the United Nations Environment Programme under review, in the light of the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document, in accordance with United Nations budgetary practices;

3. Operative paragraph 4(a) refers to the strengthening and upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme as outlined in paragraph 88 (a-h) of the outcome document on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Under the terms of paragraph 88(a), the outcome document calls for UNEP to strengthen its governance, responsiveness and internal accountability to Member States. UNEP plans to strengthen its internal accountability with additional support in the Office for Operations with the proposed establishment of four posts which includes one D-2, one P-5, and two P-2 posts, and for the Evaluation Office which includes one D-1 and one Local level post. The proposed posts are estimated to cost \$1,453,900 for the 2014-2015 biennium.

4. Paragraph 88(c) calls for UNEP to strengthen its coordination function. To catalyze regional and national efforts to meet environmental challenges, UNEP will need to exert strong regional stewardship and enhance partnerships. To improve capacity in this area will require the strengthening of the secretariat's ability to implement the normative, inter-agency and governance roles of the programme through its regional offices and at its presence at the United Nations headquarters in New York. UNEP will improve its engagement in existing UN coordination mechanisms such as the HLCP and HLCM and have a stronger role in the UN Country Teams. In doing so, UNEP will request the establishment of 26 posts which includes one ASG, one D-1, two P-5, ten P-4, four P-3, and eight GS-OL posts at an estimated cost of \$6,018,200 for the 2014-2015 biennium.

5. Under Paragraph 88(d), UNEP will focus on promoting a strong science-policy interface. With increased UN regular budget resources, UNEP will respond to Member States' demands to play an even greater role in building capacity in data and information management to track environmental change and provide early warning of environmental sustainability threats. The proposed use of the increased regular budget support will finance: (i) a transformation of the way in which UNEP conducts environmental assessment processes; (ii) the deepening of UNEP's

integration of environmental science throughout the UN system; (iii) the broadening of UNEP's work at the regional level both to provide a sound scientific basis for decisions to integrate an environmental component into national sustainable development strategies, and to build the capacity of developing countries to undertake their own scientific assessments. To accomplish this, UNEP will request the establishment of eight posts which includes one D-1, six P-4, and one P-3 post at an estimated cost of \$1,738,400.

6. For Paragraph 88(e), UNEP will focus on the dissemination of environmental information. The wealth of scientific and other environmental information that will flow from an enhanced UNEP needs to be customized and "translated" for the other stakeholders and general public by communication and outreach professionals, taking regional and national interests and priorities of a diverse range of stakeholders into account. Currently, UNEP neither has the resources nor the capacity to target an audience broader than those already involved in environmental issues. Therefore, UNEP will request to strengthen its public information capacity with the proposed establishment of eight posts which includes one D-1, four P-4, and three P-3 posts at an estimated cost of \$2,274,600 for the 2014-2015 biennium.

7. Under paragraph 88(f), UNEP will provide capacity-building to countries and help facilitate access to technology. UNEP will improve its catalytic role at the regional and country levels envisaged in response to increased demand by Member States for capacity building and access to technology. Currently UNEP does not have adequate capacity to catalyze or strengthen its partners' delivery or its own delivery of the range of required services for Member States. UNEP will improve in building capacity to countries and support the access of technology with the proposed establishment of 29 posts which include one D-1, nineteen P-4, five P-3, and four GS-OL posts at an estimated cost of \$5,428,100 for the 2014-2015 biennium.

8. As per paragraph 88(g), UNEP will work to consolidate headquarters functions in Nairobi and strengthen its regional presence. Currently, with the exception of four posts in Geneva and one in Washington, D.C., there are no other regular budget funded posts in UNEP's regional offices. While UNEP does not intend to open new regional offices, UNEP aims to strengthen its regional offices by establishing sub-regional offices in Central Asia, South America, the Caribbean, West Africa and the Pacific. These sub-regional hubs of UNEP will enable the organization to reach out more efficiently and effectively to partners and countries in each sub-region. In addition, this proposal will bring to UNEP headquarters all of the seven thematic programme officers. To implement this activity, UNEP will request the establishment of 22 posts which includes six D-1, twelve P-5,

three GS-OL, and one LL posts at an estimated cost of \$5,851,400 for the 2014-2015 biennium.

9. Under paragraph 88(h), UNEP will focus on the participation of stakeholders and civil society. Currently UNEP's capacity to address the all-important topic of participation of stakeholder and civil society is entirely dependent on extra-budgetary resources, with an active but small staff unit in Nairobi. If UNEP is to reach out to very different types of stakeholders whose actions affect the state of the environment, UNEP must build its own capacity to understand the potential and the ways in which different Major Groups operate. The proposal also provides regular budget support for gender to focus on the participation of and specific needs of women. Under this proposal, UNEP proposes to establish eight posts which include two P-5 and six P-3 posts at an estimated cost of \$1,683,700 for the 2014-2015 biennium.

10. A total of \$10,286,000 is proposed to fund non-post resources associated with the enhanced Secretariat and activities proposed above. The proposed resources include recurrent operational costs associated with the established post resources (\$1,220,000), non-recurrent operational costs related to the establishment of new staff (\$250,000), official travel (\$1,000,000), equipment and supplies (\$540,000), translation of publications in UN languages (\$300,000), non-post resources related to the enhancement of the Global Environment Outlook process (\$2,276,000), and non-post resources related to capacity building and access to technology(\$4,700,000).

11. The total proposed amount of \$34,734,300 to implement operative paragraph 4(a) of the draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.44* will be included under Section 14, Environment, as part of the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015.

12. Financial implications with regards to operative paragraphs 4(b) and 4(c) will be determined after the Governing Council decides on the new rules and procedures in its first universal session to be held in Nairobi in February 2013.