UNEP’s mandate and its organizational structure

Orientation Session for New Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP

Soomi Ro, Director, Corporate Services Division
13 October 2026, Nairobi

UN environment programme

UNEP’s History, Mandate and Mission

1972

Stockholm Conference

UNEP established in 1972 at the UN Conference on the Human Environment to monitor the state of the environment, inform policy making with science and coordinate responses to the world’s environmental challenges.

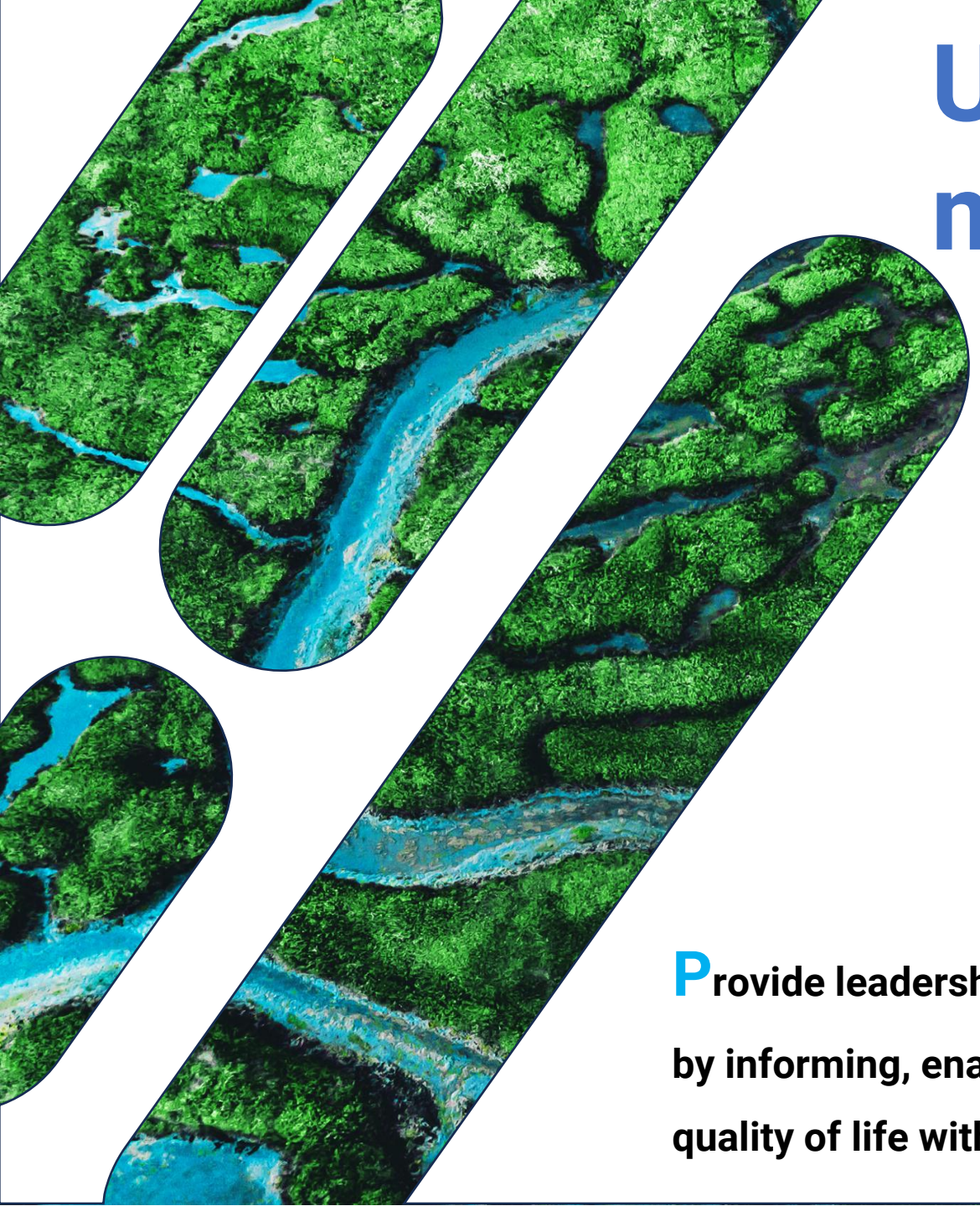
2012

RIO+20, UNEP strengthened

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, UNEP's mandate is strengthened, and governance upgraded to universal membership through UNEA helping to define a new era of international environmental governance.

2022

UNEP@50, UNEP’s contribution acknowledged. Political declaration at the UNEP@50 Special Session of UNEA acknowledged 50-year contribution of UNEP and further strengthened the mandate.



UNEP's mandate and mission

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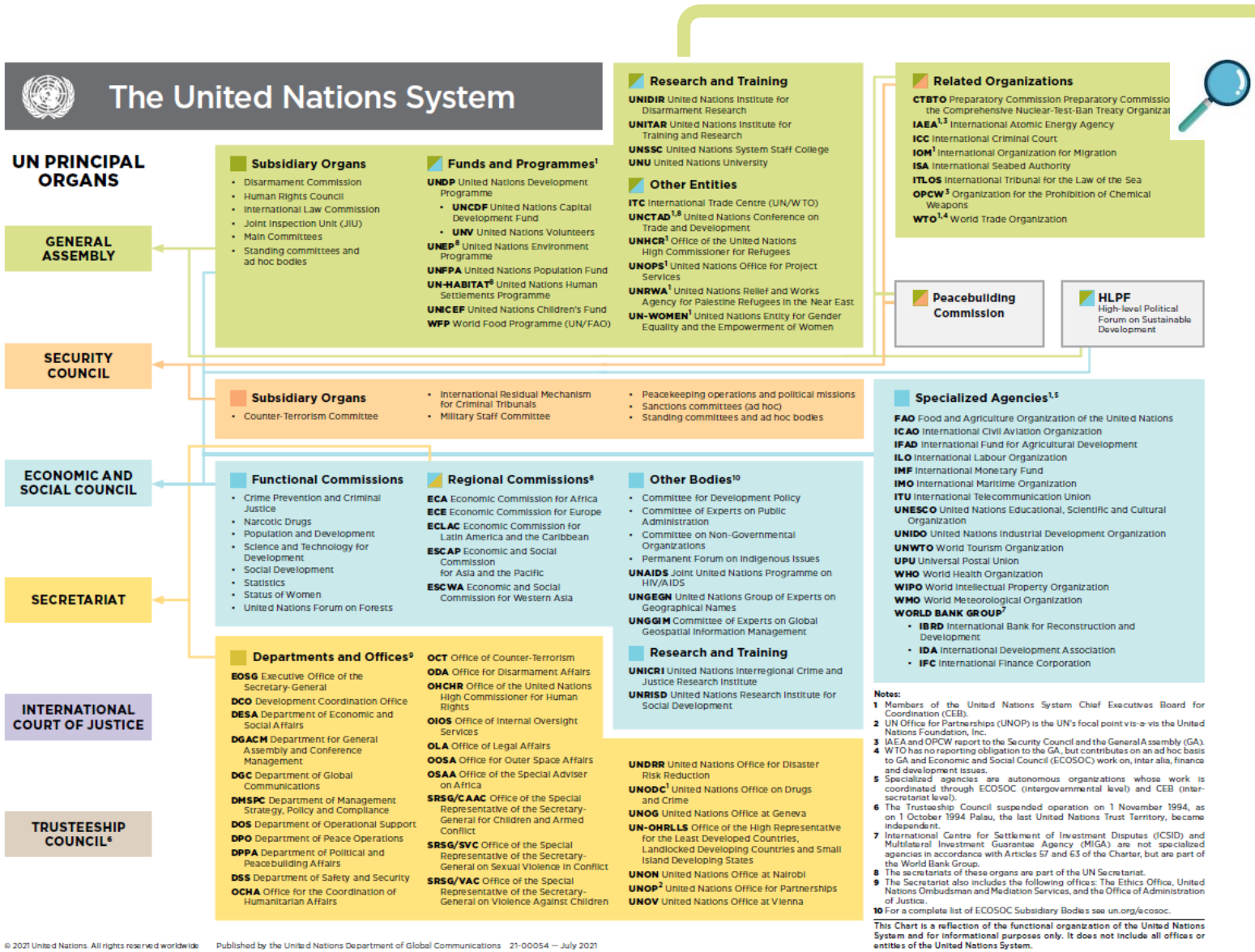
UNEP's MANDATE (its role)

Leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

UNEP's MISSION (the "how")

Provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by informing, enabling and inspiring nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

UNEP within the United Nations System



Funds and Programmes[1]

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

- **UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund
- **UNV** United Nations Volunteers

UNEP[8] United Nations Environment Programme

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UN-HABITAT[8] United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WFP World Food Programme (UN/FAO)

UNEP's organigram

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REGIONAL PRESENCE

RO for Africa
Rose Mwebaza (Kenya)
- Subregional Office for West Africa
  Mohamed Atani (Cote d'Ivoire)
- Subregional Office South Africa
  Rajiv Garg OiC
- Addis Ababa Liaison Office
  Margaret Oduk a.i

RO for Asia and the Pacific
Dechen Tsering (Thailand)
- Subregional Office for the Pacific
  Subrata Sinha (Samoa)
- China Country Office
  Qian Wang, a.i (Beijing)
- India Country Office
  Balakrishna Pisupati

RO for Europe
Arnold Kreilhuber (Switzerland)
- Subregional Office for Central Asia
  Aidai Kumanova (Kazakhstan)
- Brussels Liaison Office
  Veronika Hunt Safrankova
- Vienna Programme Office
  Harald Egerer

RO for Latin America and the Caribbean
Juan Bello (Panama)
- Subregional Office for the Caribbean
  Deirdre Shurland OiC (Jamaica)
- Subregional Office for the Southern Cone
  Francesco Gaetani a.i (Uruguay)
- Brazil Country Office
  Beatriz Martins Carneiro a.i. (Brasilia)
- Mexico Country Office
  Andrea Brusco a.i. (Mexico City)

RO for West Asia
Abdul-Majeid Haddad (OiC) (Lebanon)
- Saudi Environment Sustainability Programme
  Ayman Eltalouny (Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) New

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

- **Executive Director**
  Inger Andersen
- **Deputy Executive Director**
  Elizabeth Mrema
- **Chief of Staff**
  Nicolas Bertrand

- **New York Office/Secretariat of the Environment Management Group**
  Vacant
- **Governance Affairs Office/Secretariat of Governing Bodies**
  Radhika Ochalik
- **Plastic Pollution Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Secretariat**
  Jyoti Mathur-Fillipp

- **Office of Science**
  Aasa Persson
- **Chief Digital Office**
  Sally Radwan
- **Evaluation Office**
  Janet Wildish a.i.

THEMATIC DIVISIONS

- **Industry and Economy Division**
  Sheila Aggarwal-Khan
- **Climate Change Division**
  Martin Krause
- **Ecosystems Division**
  Susan Gardner
- **Law Division**
  Patricia Kameri-Mbote

CORPORATE DIVISIONS

- **Communications Division**
  Daniel Cooney
- **Policy and Programme Division**
  Jyotsna Puri
- **Corporate Services Division**
  Soomi Ro

UNEP is governed by Member States

Reporting regularly to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) yearly meetings

Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

Administrative and Budgetary Committee (5th committee)

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is UNEP's governing body meets every two years

Open-ended CPR (every two years to prepare UNEA)

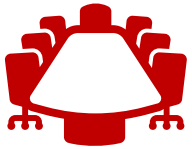
Annual CPR subcommittee

Quarterly CPR meetings

CPR Subcommittee (scheduled for specific topics)

UNEP in the Secretariat

UN environment programme



UN System Chief Executives Board (CEB)

Highest level coordination forum of UN system, chaired by UNSG.

UNEP represented by the Executive Director

High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM)

Subsidiary body of CEB, acts on behalf of the CEB on administration and management.
UNEP represented by Director of Corporate Services Division.

High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)

A system-wide coordination on policy coherence on programme.
This is chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP.



UN Environment Management Group (EMG):

UNEP leverages its role as the Secretariat and Chair to better mainstream environmental issues into the work of the UN system, while coordinating the group's environmental activities for max impact and efficiency.

UNEP and the MEAs



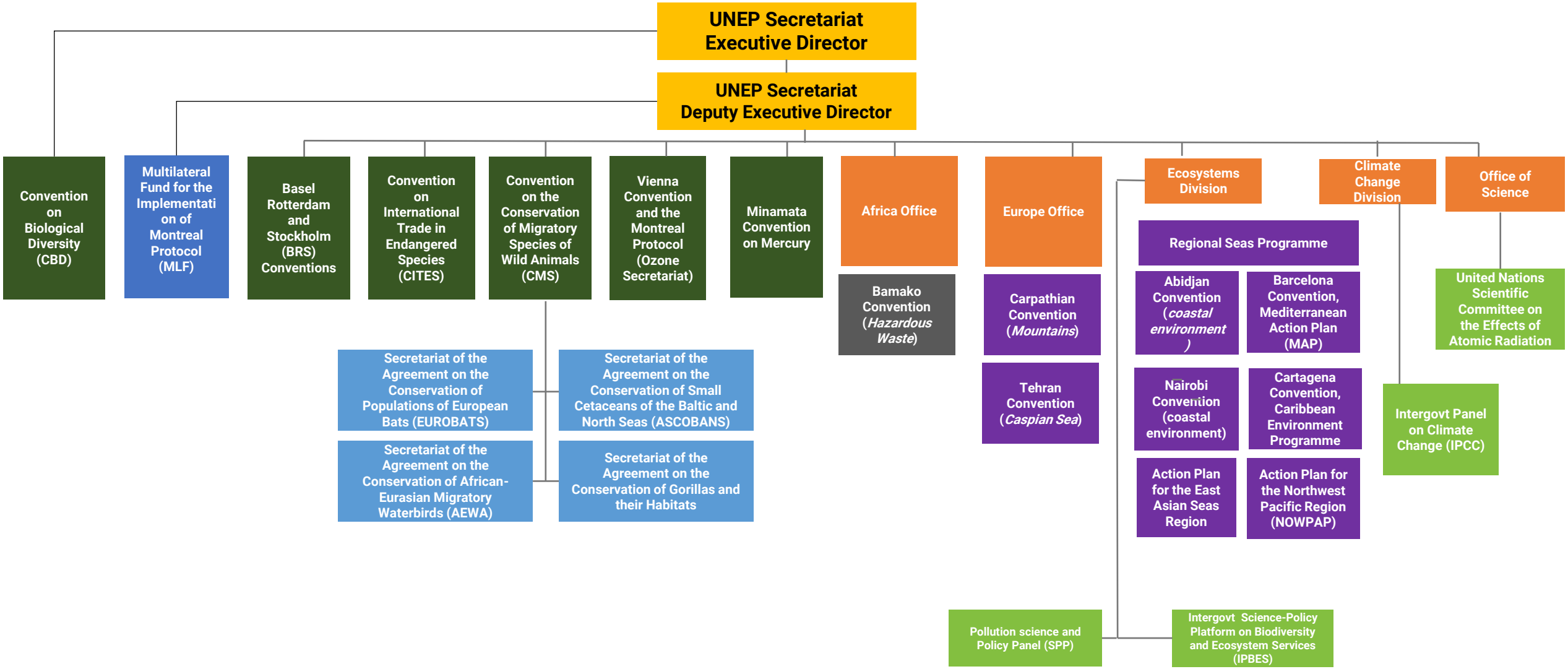
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UNEP supports the negotiation and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

UNEP hosts the secretariat of 15 MEAs that cover a wide range of regional and global environmental issues

…including hazardous chemicals and waste; biodiversity; oceans; migratory species; and rehabilitation of the ozone layer…

The MEAs and other entities to which UNEP provides the Secretariat or Secretariat Functions



UNEP’s expertise for delivery

Aligning environmental profiles and specializations with the Programme of Work and UNEP’s organizational needs.

Environmental expertise

Scientific, technical and policy profiles underpin UNEP’s work on climate change, nature and biodiversity, and pollution and waste.

Alignment with the Programme of Work

Work on environmental job profiles focuses on aligning skills and specializations with Programme of Work priorities and delivery requirements.

Responding to organizational needs

Aligning profiles with the needs of Divisions, Regional Offices and MEA secretariats supports the mix of expertise needed across the organization.

UNEP: Oversight and Accountability



Internal controls

Accountability
Statement of Internal Controls
Delegation of Authority



Audits

- “Single audit principle”
- External: Board of Auditors
- Internal: Office of Internal Oversight Services



Evaluation

UNEP independent Evaluation Office



Other Assessments/Reviews

- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA/UK)

UNEP’s diversified funding structure

Core Funding

Regular Budget (RB)

- Generated based on UN Scale of Assessed Contributions

Environment Fund (EF)

- UNEP's financial backbone for delivery of MTS and PoWs

Non-core Funding

Global Funds

- Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Earmarked Funds

- Tightly earmarked for Programmes & projects,
- softly earmarked, e.g. Planetary Funds

UN environment programme

THANK YOU

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