



**UNITED
NATIONS**

UNEP/CPR/ASC/13/5



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General

31 July 2026

English only

**Annual subcommittee meeting of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives
13th meeting**

Nairobi, 7–11 September 2026

Conference Room 2 (in person) and Online

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Funding base of the United Nations Environment Programme

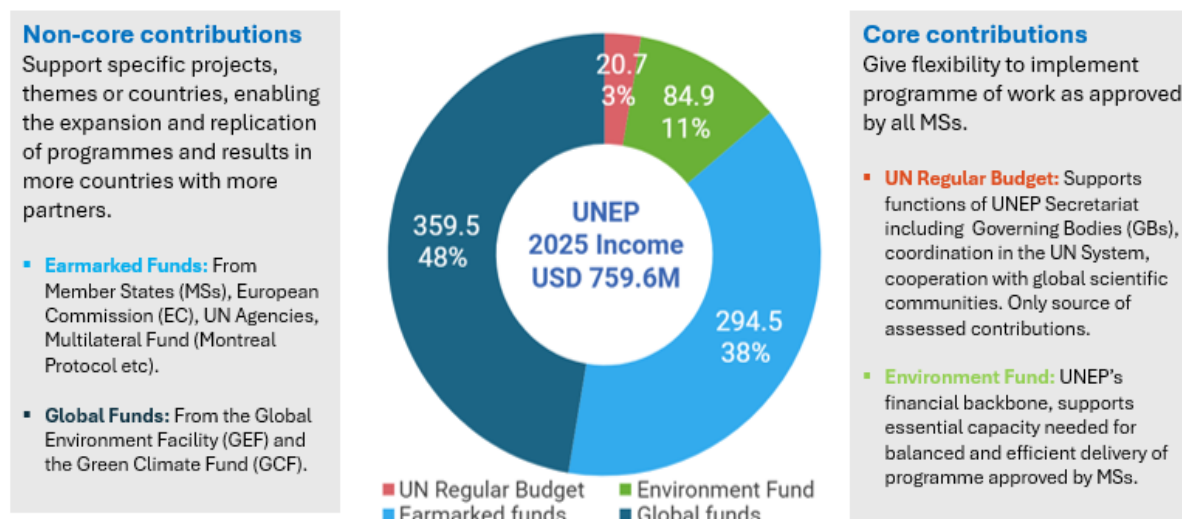
**Overview of the funding status and trends of the United Nations Environment
Programme**

This background document provides an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme's funding structure, the ten-year funding trends and the status of funding as at 31 December 2025 for the funding dialogue under agenda item 8, entitled "*Funding base of the United Nations Environment Programme*", during the 13th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Overview of the funding status and trends of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

1. UNEP relies on voluntary contributions for over 97% of its operations.

Chart 1: UNEP's funding structure, main sources of income and status as at 31 December 2025

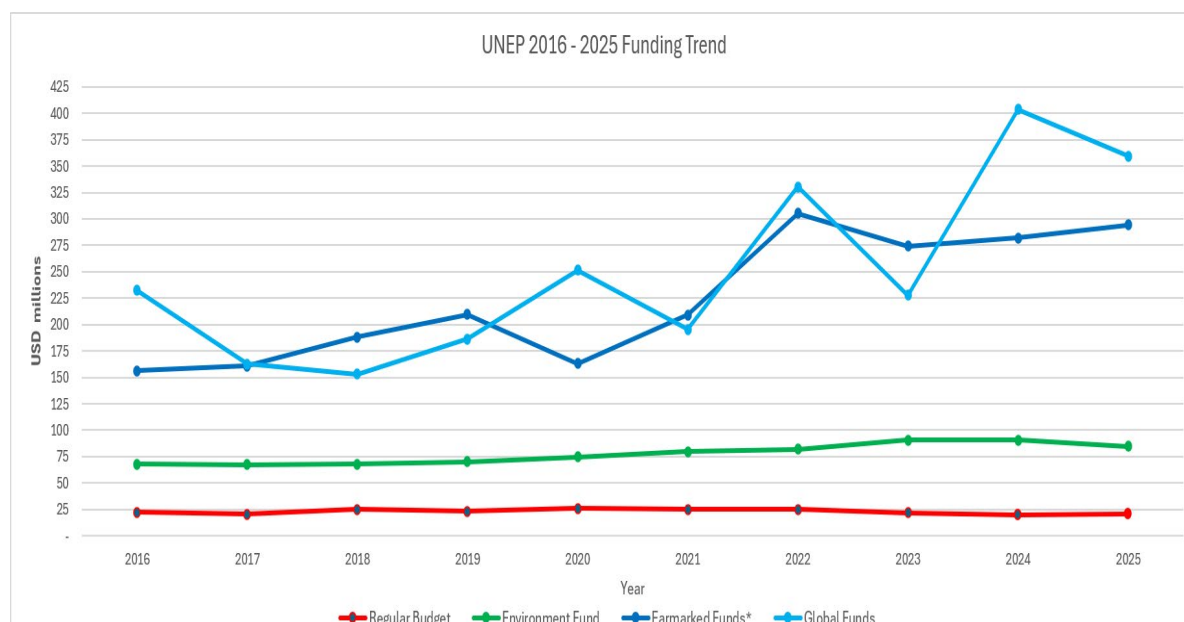


2. Imbalance between core and non-core funding needs to be addressed

The growth of non-core (Earmarked Funds and Global Funds) has outpaced that of core funding (UN Regular Budget and Environment Fund). In 2025, the share of core funding amounted to US\$ 105.6 million (14% of the total income) as opposed to US\$ 89.9 million (19% of income in 2016). The UN Funding Compact underscores the importance of strengthening flexible and predictable resources across the United Nations system. In response, UNEP continues to pursue a stronger, more diversified and sustainable funding base through both increased core funding and a balanced portfolio of complementary funding sources.

The declining percentage share of core funding reflects the faster growth of earmarked and global funds partnership-based funding streams, rather than a reduction in its strategic importance. The Environment Fund remains the foundation of UNEP's work, providing the flexible and predictable resources needed to deliver its global mandate, respond to emerging priorities, and catalyse the effective use of the wider funding portfolio. Its value should therefore be assessed not only as a share of total income, but also in terms of its catalytic role. The growth of earmarked, Global and partnership-based funding reinforces, rather than replaces, the Member States commitments to the Environment Fund, which remains essential to UNEP's ability to deliver its mandate effectively.

Chart 2: 2016-2025 Funding trends



*Earmarked Funds is inclusive of softly earmarked funding

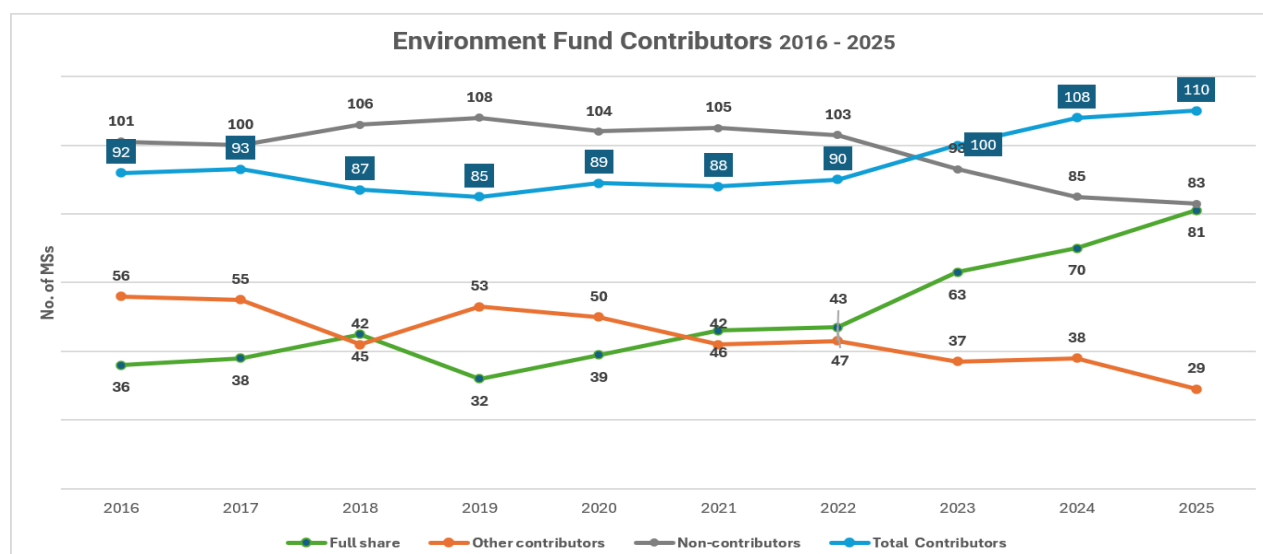
3. Environment Fund is the financial backbone of UNEP's ability to deliver on its mandate

Environment Fund provides UNEP's core funding, enabling the organization to respond to the crises of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification and pollution and waste. Core funding gives UNEP the flexibility to implement the Programmes of Work as approved by the Member States and to strategically respond to emerging challenges. Funding the Environment Fund is a shared responsibility of the 193 Member States.

3.1. The number of Member States contributing to the Environment Fund and contributing at their full share is increasing

In 2025, the total number of contributors out of the 193 Member States was at 55% compared to 48% in 2016.

Chart 3: Full share, other contributors and non-contributors 2016 – 2025



The number of Member States contributing their full share as per the Voluntary Indicative scale of Contributions (VISC) has increased, including as a share of the total number of contributors. Year 2025 was a record year with 73% of the contributions at or above the full share. In terms of predictability of funding over the past decade, about 25% of the 193 Member States contributed every year, about 55% contributed at some point while about 20% did not contribute at all.

Chart 4: Member States contribution patterns to the Environment Fund 2016 - 2025 and status of 2025

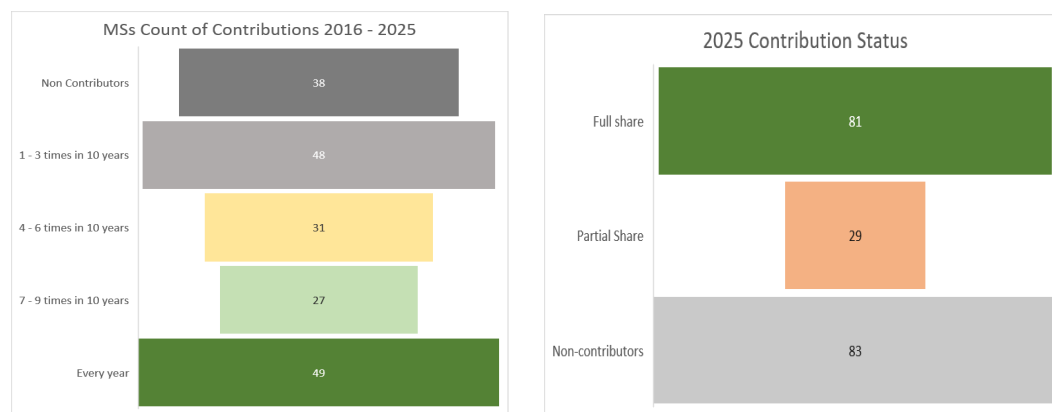
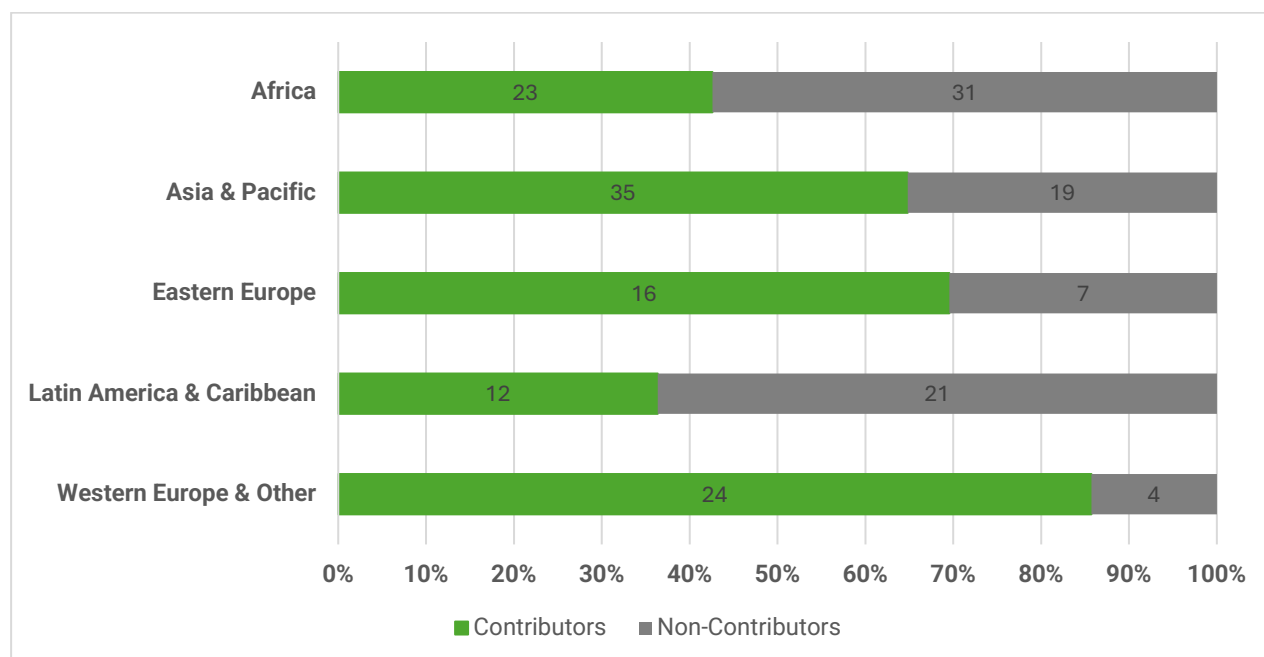


Chart 5: Contributors to the Environment Fund by region (2025)

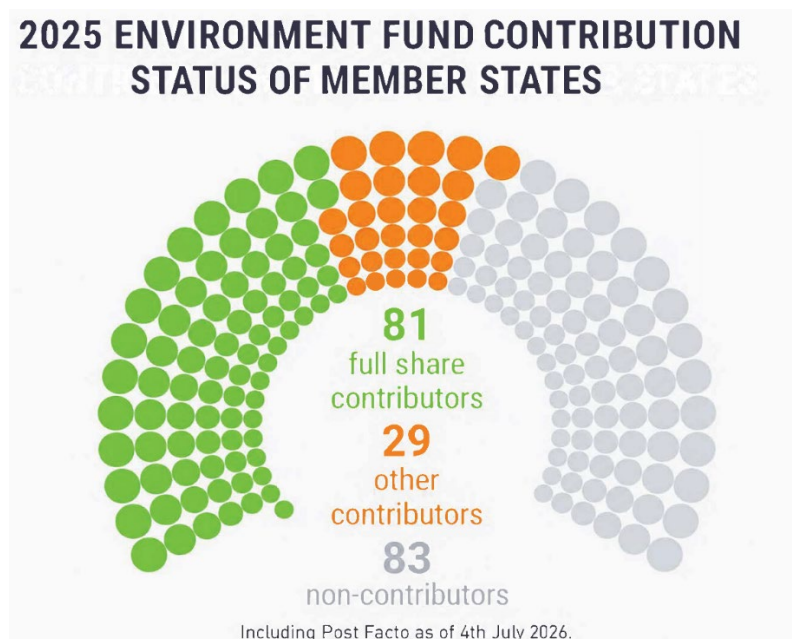


3.2. Narrow funding bases persists

Despite positive trend in the number of Member States contributing to the Environment Fund, participation remains below the full potential of the universal membership.

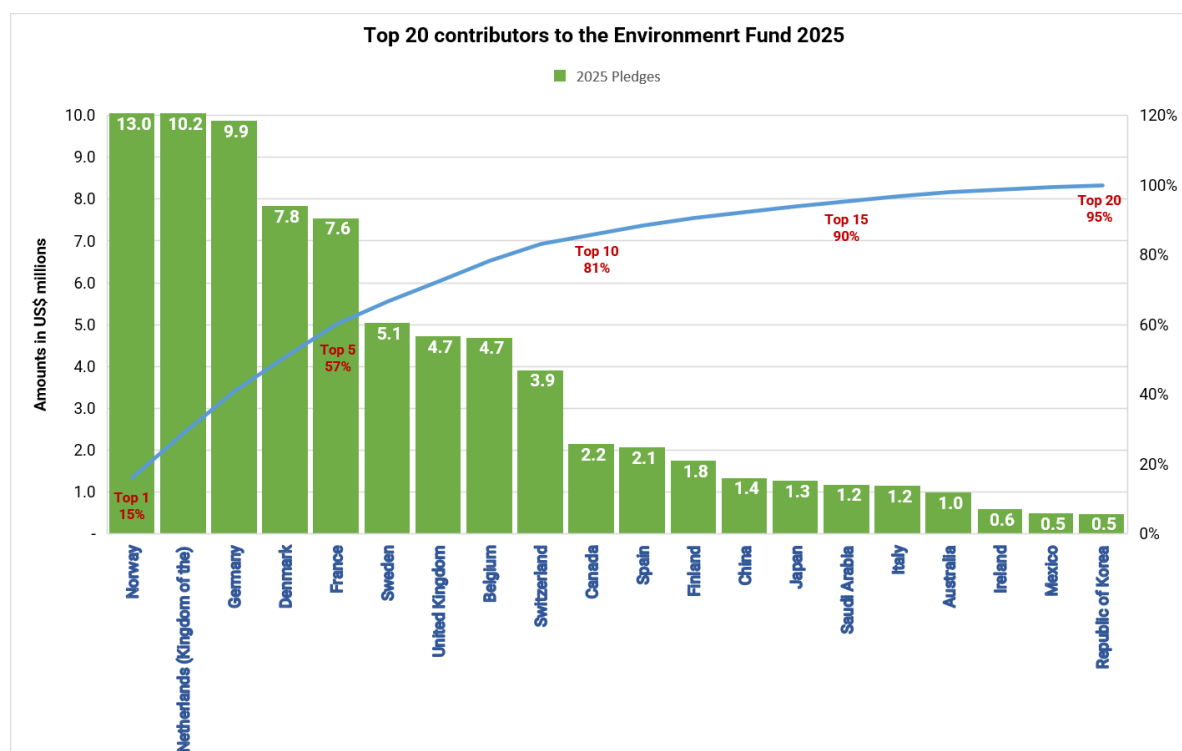
In 2025, 110 Member States contributed to the Environment Fund representing 57% of the membership.

Chart 6: Narrow Funding base



In 2025, the top 20 contributors provided 95% of total Environment Fund contributions. The current concentration of contributions from among a relatively small number of funding partners leaves UNEP vulnerable to political and economic developments affecting individual contributors. Recent experience has demonstrated how shifts in national priorities and fiscal circumstances can have a direct impact on the UNEP's funding outlook.

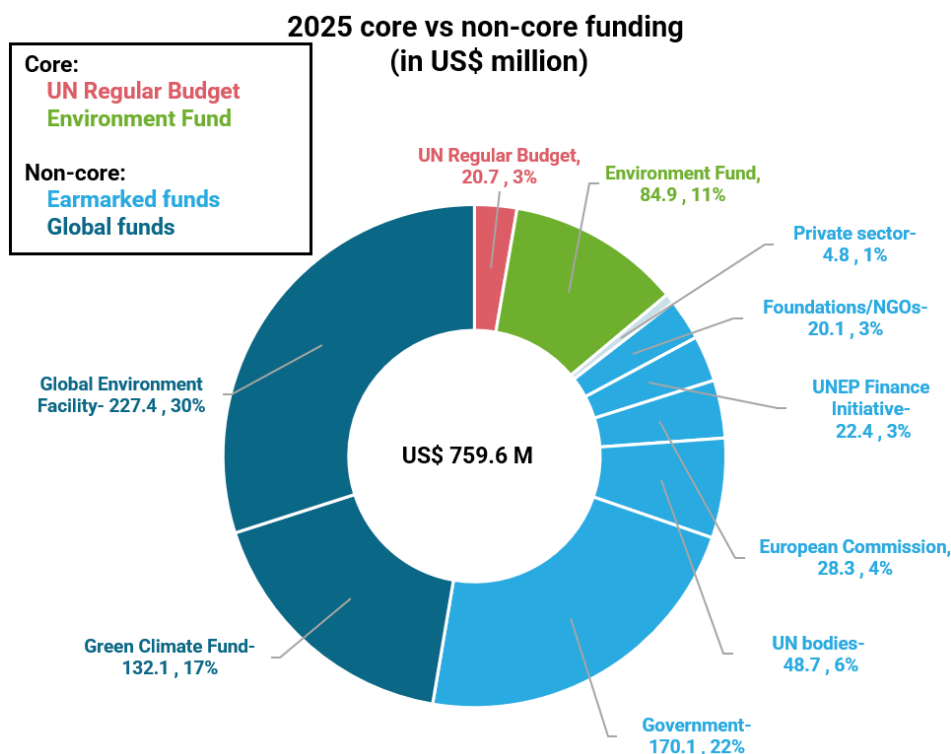
Chart 7: Overreliance on a limited number of contributors



4. Governments provide the largest share of the earmarked funds and can be the game changers for the shift from tight to softly earmarked funding

Direct earmarked funding from governments to UNEP in 2025 amounted to US\$ 170.1 million which is 22% of the total income for the year. However, only 3% of the earmarked funds was softly earmarked funding at thematic or subprogramme level.

Chart 8: Breakdown of Income by source 2025



Planetary Funds (ex-thematic funds) were established in 2022 to help shift UNEP's funding balance away from narrowly defined projects and towards resource allocation for bigger impact. The UNEP Climate Fund, UNEP Nature Fund and UNEP Pollution Fund, aligned with the MTS objectives will enable easier allocation of resources to where they are needed the most, driving innovation, supporting science-based decision making and spurring economy-wide action. By end of 2025, they attracted US\$ 36.9 million income, including interest, from six countries: Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Norway and the Philippines.

5. Appreciation of Member States

In recent years, the Secretariat has strengthened its communication and outreach efforts and made significant progress in implementing recommendations to enhance the visibility and recognition of funding partners.

The Secretariat continues to highlight contributions to the Environment Fund, particularly from Member States contributing their full share under the VISC, as well as top contributors, through articles, presentations, speeches and social media.

In 2025, the Secretariat appreciated, all contributors to the Environment Fund, including Full Share and top 15 and contributors of other amounts to the Environment Fund were appreciated on social media, totalling 104 Member States as of 31 December 2025. Appreciation posts for 2026 for Full Share and other contributors are currently in progress.

Chart 9: List of contributors to the Environment Fund 2025

2025 Full Share and Above Full Share Contributors		
Albania	Armenia	Azerbaijan
Barbados	Belgium	Belize
Bhutan	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria
Cabo Verde	Cambodia	Côte d'Ivoire
Cyprus	Czechia	Denmark
Dominican Republic	Egypt	Eritrea
Eswatini	Fiji	France
Gabon	Gambia	Georgia
Germany	Ghana	Grenada
Honduras	Iceland	Iraq
Ireland	Jordan	Kenya
Latvia	Liberia	Libya
Lithuania	Luxembourg	Madagascar
Maldives	Malta	Mauritania
Mauritius	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Monaco
Mongolia	Montenegro	Morocco
Nauru	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	New Zealand
Norway	Oman	Palau
Panama	Peru	Philippines
Rwanda	Saint Kitts and Nevis	San Marino
Saudi Arabia	Serbia	Seychelles
Slovenia	Solomon Islands	Somalia
Spain	Sri Lanka	Sudan
Sweden	Switzerland	Tajikistan
Timor-Leste	Tonga	Tunisia
Tuvalu	United Kingdom	Uruguay
Vanuatu	Yemen	Zambia
2025 Other Contributors		
Andorra	Australia	Austria
Bangladesh	Canada	China
Costa Rica	Croatia	Finland
Hungary	India	Indonesia
Italy	Japan	Kazakhstan
Kuwait	Malaysia	Mexico
Pakistan	Poland	Portugal
Republic of Korea	Singapore	Slovakia
South Africa	Thailand	Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda	Viet Nam	

Reference documents

- Environment Fund – Frequently asked questions in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#).
- [Factsheet](#): Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions, a tailor-made tool for Environment Fund contributions
- [Status of voluntary contributions to UNEP](#)
- For more information on UNEP's results achieved in 2025, Member States are invited to read the [2025 annual report "Our planet. Our purpose."](#)