1. Status of UNEP’s Access-to-Information Policy

The Governing Council of UNEP, at its twenty-seventh and first universal session held in February 2013, decided in Paragraph 17 of decision 27/2 to enhance transparency and openness in its work, and in this regard requested the UNEP Executive Director to establish a written Access-to-Information Policy.

On June 6, 2014, the Executive Director of UNEP established the Access-to-Information Policy and it was implemented on an interim basis. After that, an in-depth consultation process with member states, representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders, experts and others took place in order to identify areas in the policy that need adjustments or improvements. As a result, on January 28, 2016, the Executive Director of UNEP established a new version of the policy that supersedes the version of June 6, 2014.

This new version addresses most comments that were received during the consultation process, inter alia by establishing an Access-to-Information panel with one panel member (out of three) from outside UNEP.

The text of the policy can be found under: http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/UNEPsWork/AccessstoInformationPolicy/Revised2015/tabid/1060867/Default.aspx

2. Stakeholder Engagement Policy

In response to “The Future We Want” (Paragraph 88h) and decision 27/2 of UNEP’s Governing Council in its first universal session in February 2013, UNEP had put in place a process of developing a new Stakeholder Engagement Policy, for endorsement by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). Given that no conclusion on this was reached in UNEA 1 in 2014, in preparation for UNEA 2 the President of UNEA was requested by member states to facilitate an informal process for reaching consensus among member states on those elements of the policy that were not agreed upon during UNEA 1.

The result of this work was presented to UNEA 2 in May 2016 in form of a proposal of the (outgoing) president. In informal discussions among member states, lead by the new UNEA President, no consensus on a text of the policy was reached. Therefore the UNEA President decided to continue discussions among member states after UNEA 2.

Until a new UNEP Stakeholder Engagement Policy is in place, UNEP will continue to apply its current rules and practices for Stakeholder Engagement, as captured in UNEP’s Stakeholder Engagement Handbook (http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Handbook).