



**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

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**Twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 5–9 February 2007

**Proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial
Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session**

Introduction

1. The twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 5 to 9 February 2007.

I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

2. The twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was opened at 10.15 a.m. on 5 February 2007 by the master of ceremonies. The proceedings commenced with the presentation of a short film on the issue of climate change followed by a musical performance by a group of Malaysian schoolchildren on the theme “Save a tree”.

3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, State Minister for the Environment of Indonesia and outgoing President of the Council/Forum; Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered on his behalf by Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP; Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; and Mr. Moody Awori, Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya, speaking on behalf of Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya.

4. Mr. Witoelar welcomed participants and congratulated the Executive Director on his appointment. Reflecting on a number of important initiatives which had been adopted during his tenure as President of the Council/Forum, including the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the United Arab Emirates Initiative, he noted that it was important to sustain the new strategic focus of UNEP. He recalled that, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, it was essential to make the environment an integral component of national sustainable development plans. In that context, he extended an invitation to participants on behalf of the Indonesian Government to attend the World Ocean Summit, to be held in 2009. It would be interesting, he said, under the session’s theme of globalization and environment, to discuss the benefits that economic globalization offered for environmental protection and sustainable development.

5. In his statement, the Secretary-General noted that the world had reached a critical stage in its efforts to exercise responsible environmental stewardship. Despite some admirable efforts, the degradation of the global environment continued unabated and the natural resource base was being used unsustainably. Recent research had demonstrated once again that climate change posed a serious threat to humankind and ecosystems, with poor countries which were least responsible for global warming

likely to be the worst affected. Climate change, he said, would therefore be one of his priorities as Secretary-General. Noting with satisfaction the growing awareness among industrialized countries that the costs of inaction or delayed action far exceeded the short-term investments needed to tackle the challenges posed by climate change, he emphasized the need to strengthen links between environmental and economic policies in order to conquer poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Underscoring the key role that UNEP would play in that regard, he said that progress would depend on forging meaningful partnerships not only with civil society and the business community but also with partners within the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Noting that the environmental activities of the United Nations were now receiving closer attention from United Nations Member States, including through the recommendations put forward by the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence, he said that he looked forward to working with UNEP to build a safer, more prosperous and more sustainable world.

6. Underscoring the close links between climate change and the demographic trend towards a predominantly urban world population, Ms. Tibaijuka said that the combination of globalization and urbanization was creating unprecedented social, economic and environmental challenges at the local, national and international levels. Across the developing world, the lives of over 1 billion people – a number which was projected to double by 2030 – were being threatened as a result of a collective failure to provide decent housing, employment, modern energy and effective water, sanitation and waste disposal systems. As a result, those people were unwittingly contributing to pollution and deforestation. Noting that at no time in history had the mandates of UNEP and UN-Habitat been more relevant and complementary, she said that the two programmes were developing a new framework for an enhanced strategic partnership on the urban environment, focusing on the relationships between cities and coastal pollution, climate change and biodiversity and on environmental education. In the spirit of United Nations system-wide reform, she said that UN-Habitat would lend its full support to the follow-up and implementation of any recommendations adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum which were directly relevant to cooperation between the two programmes.

7. In his statement, the Executive Director recalled that a series of important international environmental meetings addressing various global concerns had taken place in Nairobi and in other venues around the world in recent months; the issues raised at those meetings would converge in the discussions at the current session. He expressed the hope that the Council/Forum would rise to the challenges before it and, in that context, he thanked the children from Malaysia for their performance and said that their expectations and fears should form the backdrop for the deliberations over the coming week.

8. Mr. Awori conveyed to participants the greetings of the Kenyan President who, he said, had been prevented from attending the opening session by unforeseen circumstances. He noted that Kenya was honoured to host the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the headquarters of both UNEP and UN-Habitat and expressed his satisfaction that, at its current session, the Council/Forum would focus on the issues of globalization and the environment and United Nations reform, in pursuance of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Although rapid growth had brought unprecedented prosperity to many parts of the world, he observed, the world's environment continued to degenerate at an unpredictable speed. It had become clear that, over the past 50 years, the impact of humans on ecosystems had been greater than ever before. It was necessary to assess the sustainability of the gains of globalization and respond to urgent environmental challenges. In that regard, he called for a strengthened, more focused and results-oriented UNEP operating within its current mandate, with adequate funding and a more empowered Executive Director.

9. Noting the particular vulnerability of developing countries to the impacts of climate change and environmental deterioration, he urged developed countries to work together with developing countries to bridge the ever-widening gap between them. He called on the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to decide on a special initiative for Africa for 2008–2009 and to adopt a package of recommendations that would take the continent to greater heights for the benefit of the global environment.

II. Organization of the session (agenda item 2)

A. Attendance

10. The following 57 States members of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum were represented: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

11. The following 83 States not members of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum but members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte D'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Iceland, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

12. Observers for the Holy See and the Palestinian Authority also participated.

13. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, Barcelona Convention, Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ozone Secretariat, , Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations University and the World Trade Organization.

14. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Labour Office, International Maritime Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations World Tourism Organization, World Bank, World Meteorological Organization.

15. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Development Bank, Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, Caribbean Community Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Community, European Environment Agency, Global Environment Facility, Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, International Federation of Red Cross, League of Arab States, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Agroforestry Centre.

16. In addition, 106 non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented by observers.

B. Election of officers

17. At the opening session of the meeting, on 5 February, the Council/Forum elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. Roberto Dobles Mora (Costa Rica)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Jan Dusík (Czech Republic) Mr. Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat (Pakistan) Ms. Rejoyce Mabudafhasi (South Africa)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Elfriede More (Austria)

18. Following his election, the President thanked the Council/Forum for entrusting him with the presidency, paid tribute to the outgoing president, Mr. Witoelar, for his inspirational leadership over the past two years and congratulated Mr. Steiner on his appointment as Executive Director of UNEP. Turning to the substantive issues before the Council/Forum, he noted that the current United Nations reform process placed emphasis on the environment and associated institutional structures. In that context, UNEP had an opportunity and an obligation to provide global leadership on environmental issues. Globalization, he noted, offered many opportunities but also required Governments to respond to new environmental challenges by creating new environmental policies and enhancing their capacity to implement existing rules. To fulfil its mandate, UNEP would need to demonstrate its financial transparency and its contribution to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and would also need strong political and financial support from Governments.

C. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

19. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the session. Representatives of 57 of the 58 member States attended the session and their credentials were found to be in order. The Bureau so reported to the Council/Forum, which approved the Bureau's report at the 10th plenary meeting, on 9 February 2007.

D. Agenda

20. At the opening meeting, the Council/Forum adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council/Forum at its twenty-third session (UNEP/GC/24/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
 - (a) State of the environment;
 - (b) Emerging policy issues;
 - (c) Coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters;
 - (d) Coordination and cooperation with civil society;
 - (e) International environmental governance;
 - (f) Water policy and strategy.
5. Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

6. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
7. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
8. Provisional agendas, dates and venues of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
 - (a) Tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
 - (b) Twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the session.

E. Organization of the work of the session

21. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, the Council/Forum considered and approved the organization of work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated agenda (UNEP/GC/24/1/Add.1).
22. Pursuant to one of those recommendations, it was decided that the Council/Forum would hold ministerial consultations from the afternoon of Monday, 5 February 2007, to the morning of Thursday, 8 February 2007. The focus of those consultations would be on globalization and the environment and on the United Nations reform process, under agenda item 4 (b). It was further decided that the ministerial consultations would feature keynote speeches followed by panel and roundtable discussions. Representatives of civil society organizations were invited to participate in the consultations.
23. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Council/Forum decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole would meet concurrently with the plenary meetings of the Council/Forum and the ministerial consultations and would consider agenda items 4 (a) (Policy issues: state of the environment); 4 (c)–(f) (coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters; coordination and cooperation with civil society; international environmental governance; water policy and strategy); 5 (Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development); 6 (Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum); 7 (Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters); and 8 (Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum; twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum).
24. It was further decided at the 1st plenary meeting that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. Dusík. A decision was also made to establish a drafting group to work on draft decisions for possible adoption by the Council/Forum, to be chaired by Mr. Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat (Pakistan).
25. It was further agreed that the Council/Forum would consider agenda items 3 (Credentials of representatives), 9 (Other matters), 10 (Adoption of the report) and 11 (Closure of the session) at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Friday, 9 February 2007.
26. In considering the agenda items, the Council/Forum had before it the documentation outlined for each item in the annotated agenda for the current session (UNEP/GC/24/1/Add.1).

27. Under the item, the Council/Forum heard general statements from the representative of the Czech Republic, speaking on behalf of the Eastern European region, the representative of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the representative of Germany, speaking on behalf of the European Union.

28. In his statement, the representative of the Czech Republic cited various milestones in international environmental governance since the establishment of UNEP 35 years earlier. He said that, although environmental protection had been prioritized in his region only since the beginning of the 1990s, the adoption of various instruments in recent years highlighted its growing importance. Stressing the need for the participants at the session to work together constructively, he identified United Nations reform, the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the need for measures to manage the use of mercury as issues of particular importance. In addition, he said that the Council/Forum should ensure that UNEP had the necessary technical, scientific and financial resources to fulfil its mandate.

29. In his statement, the representative of Indonesia called on UNEP to play a more visible role in the coordination of environmental issues in order to strengthen international environmental governance within the United Nations system. In addition, he called for the full and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, which was crucial if developing countries were to achieve their sustainable development objectives. He noted the importance of strengthening the scientific base of UNEP to reinforce the capacities of developing countries in the area of environmental protection and emphasized the need for sustained action and adequate and predictable funding to reduce the impact of climate change, to help vulnerable countries recover from the effects of natural disasters and to prevent illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous substances. In addition, he called for tangible action to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

30. The representative of Germany said that the timing of the current session was crucial, as discussions had started in New York on how to strengthen the institutional framework for the environmental activities of the United Nations. UNEP needed to be strengthened through, among other things, the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, and should eventually become a United Nations environment organization based in Nairobi, supported by adequate and predictable resources. The European Union welcomed the opportunity to discuss the environmental challenges of globalization and hoped that UNEP would initiate a process that would allow stakeholders to follow up on the issue. Regarding chemicals management, the European Union was in favour of adopting legally binding rules on mercury and possibly other chemicals of concern and the continuation of the scientific reviews on lead and cadmium. It was also in favour of promoting the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

31. Also under the present item, at the 1st plenary meeting the Executive Director invited representatives of various organizations to participate in a panel discussion on the issue of globalization and the environment in a reformed United Nations. Presentations were made by Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization; Mr. Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Mr. Francesco Frangiali, Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization; and Ms. Tibaijuka. Owing to time constraints, no discussion took place after the presentations.

F. Ministerial consultations

32. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 5 February 2007, the Council/Forum began its consideration of agenda item 4 (b), emerging policy issues, in the form of ministerial consultations, focusing on the themes of globalization and the environment and United Nations reform.

33. The ministerial consultations on globalization and the environment began at the 2nd plenary meeting with a keynote address on the effects of globalization on the environment in China. The consultations continued at the 3rd and 4th plenary meetings, on 6 February 2007. The theme of United Nations reform was discussed at the 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on 7 February 2007. The consultations included six concurrent roundtable discussions on each theme which were intended to allow participants to explore the issues more fully in smaller groups. Panel discussions, chaired by the Executive Director, were held prior to the roundtable discussions on each theme in order to identify key issues for consideration and to stimulate debate. Panel discussions were also held at the conclusion of

the roundtable discussions on each theme, at which the panellists summarized and commented on the issues raised during the discussions.

34. The President of the Council/Forum prepared a draft summary of the views expressed during the consultations on each theme. Each summary was circulated as a conference room paper and presented to ministers and heads of delegation at the 7th plenary meeting, on the morning of 8 February 2007. It was noted that the summaries reflected a variety of views expressed, rather than a consensus. Following their consideration, the summaries were finalized at the 8th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 8 February 2007. The President then consolidated them into a single President's summary, which he presented to the Council/Forum at the 9th plenary meeting, on the morning of 9 February. The Council/Forum took note of the President's summary, which is set out in annex IV to the present proceedings, noting that it while it reflected a variety of views expressed during the ministerial consultations, it did not constitute a consensus text.

35. During the consultations on globalization and the environment, the representative of Denmark indicated that her Government would be willing to provide UNEP with financial support for follow-up work in the area of globalization and environment prior to the tenth special session of the Council/Forum.

G. Report of the Committee of the Whole

36. The Committee of the Whole held nine meetings, under the chairmanship of Mr. Dusík, from 5 to 9 February, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 9 February, the Council/Forum took note of the report of the Committee of the Whole. The report is set out in annex II to the present proceedings.

H. Policy statement by the Executive Director

37. At the 2nd plenary meeting, the Executive Director delivered a policy statement in which he addressed various issues including the role and importance of the Council/Forum in addressing current environmental challenges; the work of UNEP in 2006; the efforts that had commenced to reform the programme of work and financial management of UNEP and information and communication technology within UNEP; recruitment of staff since his appointment; and the principles that he and UNEP senior managers were using to guide their decision-making. The policy statement is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

III. Adoption of decisions

38. At the tenth plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 9 February, the Council/Forum adopted the following decisions:

Decision no.	Title
24/1	Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance
24/2	World environmental situation
24/3	Chemicals management
24/4	Prevention of illegal international traffic
24/5	Waste management
24/6	Small island developing States
24/7	Committing resources toward the implementation of decision 23/11
24/8	Support to Africa in environmental management and protection
24/9	Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009
24/10	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
24/11	Intensified environmental education for achieving policy goals and targets
24/12	South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development
24/13	Amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility
24/14	Declaration of the Decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification
24/15	Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Decision no.	Title
24/16	Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

39. With the exception of decisions 24/3 and 24/4, the Council/Forum adopted the foregoing decisions on the basis of the draft decisions approved by the Committee of the Whole. The Council/Forum adopted decisions 24/3 and 24/4 on the basis of the draft decisions approved by the contact group on chemicals established by the Committee of the Whole. The proceedings of the Committee, including its consideration of the draft decisions, are described in its report, which is contained in annex II to the present proceedings.

40. Following the adoption of the decision on the provisional agendas, dates and venues of the tenth special and twenty-fifth regular sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the representative of Monaco made a statement in which he underscored Monaco's firm commitment to sustainable development and environmental matters and indicated that Monaco would be honoured to host the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in February 2008. The Executive Director welcomed that offer and said that a final decision concerning the venue of the session would be made within a month of the closure of the current session.

41. The representative of China requested the Bureau to set dates for the tenth special and twenty-fifth regular sessions of the Council/Forum that would not coincide with the Chinese New Year celebrations, which would take place in February in both 2008 and 2009.

IV. Policy issues (agenda items 4 (a) (State of the environment), 4 (c) (Coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters), 4 (d) (Coordination and cooperation with civil society) 4 (e) (International environmental governance) and 4 (f) (Water policy and strategy))

V. Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (agenda item 5)

VI. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 6)

VII. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (agenda item 7)

VIII. Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the tenth special session and the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 8)

42. Agenda items 4 (a), 4 (c)–(f), 5, 6, 7 and 8 were considered by the Committee of the Whole. The report on the deliberations of the Committee is contained in annex II to the present proceedings.

43. The decisions adopted by the Council/Forum on the items are set out in annex I to the present proceedings and are listed in chapter III above.

IX. Other matters (agenda item 9)

44. No other matters were raised during the session.

X. Adoption of the report (agenda item 10)

45. The present proceedings were adopted by the Council/Forum at its 10th plenary meeting, on 9 February 2007, on the basis of the draft proceedings which had been circulated and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with their finalization.

XI. Closure of the session (agenda item 11)

46. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was declared closed at 5.20 p.m. on Friday, 9 February 2007.

Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
24/1	Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance	9 February 2007	11
24/2	World environmental situation	9 February 2007	14
24/3	Chemicals management	9 February 2007	16
24/4	Prevention of illegal international traffic	9 February 2007	20
24/5	Waste management	9 February 2007	22
24/6	Small island developing States	9 February 2007	23
24/7	Committing resources toward the implementation of decision 23/11	9 February 2007	24
24/8	Support to Africa in environmental management and protection	9 February 2007	24
24/9	Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009	9 February 2007	26
24/10	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions	9 February 2007	30
24/11	Intensified environmental education for achieving policy goals and targets	9 February 2007	33
24/12	South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development	9 February 2007	34
24/13	Amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility	9 February 2007	35
24/14	Declaration of the Decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification	9 February 2007	35
24/15	Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum	9 February 2007	36
24/16	Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme	9 February 2007	38

Decision 24/1: Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme¹ and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,²

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003, 59/226 of 22 December 2004, 60/189 of 22 December 2005 and 61/205 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling further its decisions SS.VIII/1 of 31 March 2004 and 23/1 of 25 February 2005,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,³ which emphasized the need for full implementation of decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002,

Emphasizing that all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance contained in decision SS. VII/1 should be fully implemented,

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,⁴ which it adopted by its decision 23/1 of 25 February 2005,

Recognizing the need, among others, to accelerate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through the provision of additional financial resources for that purpose,

Recalling paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome⁵ and noting its ongoing consideration, particularly through the General Assembly informal consultations on the institutional framework for United Nations environmental activities,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on international environmental governance,⁶ on the measures taken for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and a proposal for the further implementation of the Plan in the 2008-2009 biennium⁷ and on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme,⁸

I

Universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. *Takes note* of General Assembly resolution 61/205 of 20 December 2006 in which the General Assembly decided to consider, if necessary, the issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme at its sixty-fourth session, while noting the differences in views expressed so far on this important but complex issue;

1 Governing Council decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997, annex.

2 Report of the Governing Council on the Work of its global ministerial environment forum/sixth special session, UNEP/GCSS.VI/9, annex I.

3 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

4 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

5 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

6 UNEP/GC/24/3.

7 UNEP/GC/24/3/Add.1.

8 UNEP/GC/24/3/Add.2.

II

Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to give high priority to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building as part of the implementation of the approved programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Encourages* Governments to support the full and effective implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through the provision of adequate resources;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to present progress reports on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan on an annual basis to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, indicating clearly the ongoing activities and results, including the allocated budgets, that fall within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan, as well as a biannual summary of activities and results;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen United Nations Environment Programme regional offices in order to contribute to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan;

III

Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

6. *Welcomes* the consultative process on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme as facilitated by the Executive Director and the valuable inputs made by Governments and other stakeholders which have resulted in the draft proposal of the Environment Watch strategy,⁹

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to consult Governments, other United Nations bodies, financial institutions including the Global Environment Facility, the private sector and civil society, multilateral environmental agreements, the scientific community including global observing systems and other partners with a view to improving further the proposed Environment Watch strategy as an integral part of the wider strategic vision of the United Nations Environment Programme, to report back to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session with a revised proposal which should include component cost estimates for work proposed for the 2010–2011 biennium and to make those estimates available to the Committee of Permanent Representatives early in the budget process;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, including through the reinforcement of the scientific capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the area of protection of the environment;

9. *Reaffirms also* environmental early warning, assessment and monitoring of the state of the global environment as core functions of the United Nations Environment Programme and recognizes the potential value of a network that draws on the experience of existing bodies, including academic institutions and centres of excellence, and the scientific competence of specialized agencies and the scientific subsidiary bodies of multilateral environmental agreements;

10. *Underlines* the vital importance in a globalizing world of enhancing infrastructures and capacities which can sustain cooperation on environmental data and information and which can lead to reduced transaction costs for national reporting, natural resource accounting and decision-making and the integration of environment into development, the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the achievement of national and international development goals, taking into consideration existing infrastructures, mechanisms and tools in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize synergies in the sharing of data and information;

11. *Supports* United Nations Environment Programme endeavours to enhance information networks at the regional and national levels;

9 UNEP/GC/24/3/Add.2.

IV

Strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme

12. *Emphasizes* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Fund, in the context of the United Nations regular budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII);
13. *Reaffirms* its support for the provision of adequate, stable and predictable financing of the United Nations Environment Programme as an essential prerequisite for the strengthening of its capacity and functions as well as for the effective coordination of the environmental component of sustainable development;
14. *Also encourages* Governments, in order to strengthen further the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme and increase the level of the financial reserve as requested in paragraph 8 of Governing Council decision 24/10 of 9 February 2007, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, to make voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund starting in 2007 in an amount equal to or greater than that suggested by the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions or on the basis of any of the other voluntary options listed in paragraph 18 of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1;
15. *Requests* the Executive Director, in accordance with paragraph 19 of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1, to notify all United Nations Member States of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions which he intends to propose for the biennium 2008–2009 and urges each Member State to inform the Executive Director whether it will use the proposed voluntary indicative scale of contributions;
16. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report to the Governing Council for consideration at its twenty-fifth session assessing the operation of the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions and the other voluntary options listed in paragraph 18 of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1;
17. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts in seeking an increase in funding, from all sources, for strengthening the financial base of the United Nations Environment Programme;
18. *Encourages* Governments to the extent feasible to move towards contributions to the Environment Fund in preference to contributions to earmarked trust funds, with a view to enhancing the role of the Governing Council in determining the programme of work and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

V

Issues related to multilateral environmental agreements

19. *Takes note* of the activities undertaken by the Executive Director to improve the effectiveness of, and the coordination and synergy among, multilateral environmental agreements, as well as those activities supporting Governments in their efforts to better implement, comply with and enforce multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties to such agreements and the need to promote the environmental dimension of sustainable development among other relevant United Nations bodies;
20. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Environment Programme to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to facilitate further their implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;
21. *Requests* the Executive Director to build capacity and, upon request, to assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to integrate the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements into national sustainable development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers;
22. *Also requests* the Executive Director to assist Governments, where appropriate, to develop strategies for facilitating the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the national level;

23. *Welcomes* the decisions of the conference of the parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its second meeting, the conference of the parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade at its third meeting and the conference of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its eighth meeting to address the issue of further improving cooperation and coordination among the three conventions and, to that end, to establish an ad hoc joint working group consisting of selected Parties to the respective conventions;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions to enhance synergies between the relevant programme activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and the programme activities to be carried out under those conventions;

VI

Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group

25. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in enhanced coordination and collaboration across the United Nations system in order to achieve greater coherence in environmental activities;

26. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote coordination across the United Nations system on environmental activities, in particular those relevant to the operations of the United Nations system, keeping in mind paragraphs 36 and 37 of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1, through the work of the Environment Management Group.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Decision 24/2: World environmental situation

The Governing Council,

Pursuing its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, including to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance are prioritized and receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments and to promote the contribution of relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information,

Recalling its decision 22/1 of 7 February 2003 on early warning, assessment and monitoring and decision 23/6 of 25 February 2005 on keeping the world environmental situation under review,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/222 of 20 December 2006 on oceans and the law of the sea,

Noting the findings contained in many environmental assessment reports and publications released after its twenty-third session, in particular those prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with partners,

1. *Invites* Governments, other United Nations bodies, financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to consider the environmental challenges which are reported in, *inter alia*:

- (a) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;
- (b) One Planet, Many People: Atlas of Our Changing Environment;
- (c) United Nations World Water Development Report 2: Water a Shared Responsibility;
- (d) Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006 - World Meteorological Organization Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project—Report No. 50;
- (e) Global Biodiversity Outlook 2;
- (f) Deserts Environment Outlook;

(g) International Waters Regional Assessments in a Global Perspective: The GIWA Final Report - Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA);

(h) Global Environment Outlook Yearbooks 2006 and 2007;

(i) Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Summary for Policymakers. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

(j) Second Africa Environment Outlook;

(k) Africa's Lakes: Atlas of our Changing Environment, in the light of the growing awareness of their complexity;

2. *Notes* with concern that the documented environmental degradation and widespread changes resulting from human activity as well as natural processes and the loss of ecosystem services are barriers to the attainment of internationally agreed development goals;

3. *Emphasizes* that capacity-building and technology support in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as elaborated in the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, need to be strengthened with the assistance of the United Nations at the national and regional levels;

4. *Calls* on Governments and intergovernmental organizations to continue to cooperate in efforts aimed at mitigation of and adaptation to adverse environmental change, including through enhancing the knowledge base for more integrated responses;

5. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution 60/30 of 29 November 2005 on oceans and the law of the sea, by which the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Steering Group for the "Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment", launched as a preparatory stage toward the establishment of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, to be jointly implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization;

6. *Calls* on Governments and experts to contribute to the finalization of the fourth Global Environment Outlook report in accordance with the process outlined during the global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation on the fourth Global Environment Outlook assessment held in Nairobi on 19 and 20 February 2005 by, among other things, reviewing the summary for decision makers in 2007, participating in the second global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation in September 2007 and supporting outreach activities relating to the fourth Global Environment Outlook report;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to present the findings of the fourth Global Environment Outlook report to the Governing Council at its tenth special session in order to facilitate consideration of the findings and their potential implications, for example for the strategic direction of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and for the performance of the functions of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations system and in the provision of services to Member States of the United Nations;

8. *Invites* Governments, if necessary in consultation with the United Nations Environment Programme, to consider undertaking a systematic review of the effectiveness of their legislative, institutional, financial, implementation and enforcement measures at the national level in the sense of addressing the escalating degradation of the global environment in an efficient and responsible way, drawing upon their own resources;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and fully respecting the mandate of that Convention, to continue its work, taking into account the findings of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Decision 24/3: Chemicals management

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 of 7 February 1997, 20/23 of 4 February 1999, SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002, 22/4 of 7 February 2003, 23/9 of 25 February 2005 and SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006 concerning global policies related to chemicals management and the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Recalling its decision 23/9 II of 25 February 2005 urging the further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management and its decision SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006 endorsing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006,

Acknowledging the widespread concerns over the serious adverse effects of mercury on human health and the environment and the urgent need for international action,

Noting the Budapest Statement on Mercury, Lead and Cadmium developed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety held in Budapest, Hungary, from 25 to 29 September 2006,

Expressing appreciation for the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Global Mercury Project on Small-Scale Gold Mining,

Taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as reflected in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development¹⁰ in addition to the other relevant Rio Declaration Principles,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on chemicals management,¹¹

I

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations

1. *Reinforces* the applicability of decision 24/1 to the effective management of chemicals;

II

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

2. *Welcomes* the progress made so far in implementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, especially the establishment of the Quick Start Programme to support initial capacity-building activities and the regional meetings held so far or planned, and takes note of the African regional action plan adopted by the participants in the first African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which took place from 11 to 14 September 2006;¹²

3. *Also welcomes* the important contributions of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Strategic Approach process;

4. *Expresses appreciation* for the co-responsibility of the World Health Organization in the Strategic Approach secretariat and its belief that such cooperation is of the utmost importance for the success and the intersectoral nature of the Strategic Approach;

5. *Underlines* the importance of the Strategic Approach, its overarching goal and its effective implementation and therefore urges all stakeholders to integrate the Strategic Approach into their activities as a priority;

¹⁰ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

¹¹ UNEP/GC/24/7.

¹² SAICM/RM/Afr.1/6, annex V.

6. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others in a position to do so to contribute financially and in kind to the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund;

7. *Takes note of* the United Nations Environment Programme's plan of work in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach and requests the Executive Director to encourage the full participation of Governments and other stakeholders in that plan of work, including initiatives related to indicators and tools for evaluation, and to report on progress to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session;

8. *Encourages* the Strategic Approach secretariat to explore ways to make more effective use of the funding provisions of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to identify those areas that can support implementation of appropriate and relevant objectives of the Strategic Approach;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session on the results of the activities undertaken in accordance with the preceding paragraph;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to make provision for the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme's responsibilities under the Strategic Approach;

11. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue the collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and to prepare a report for consideration by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session on endeavours by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in implementing the Strategic Approach;

III

Lead and cadmium

12. *Acknowledges* the data and information gaps identified in the United Nations Environment Programme Interim Scientific Reviews on Lead and Cadmium¹³ and that further action is needed to fill those data and information gaps, taking into account the specific situation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

13. *Encourages* efforts by Governments and others to reduce risks to human health and the environment of lead and cadmium throughout the whole life cycle of those substances;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide available information on lead and cadmium to address the data and information gaps identified in the Interim Reviews and to compile an inventory of existing risk management measures;

IV

Mercury

15. *Acknowledges* the progress made within the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme since 2005, including the establishment of and progress made under partnerships and other initiatives;

16. *Recognizes* that current efforts to reduce risks from mercury are not sufficient to address the global challenges posed by mercury;

17. *Concludes*, therefore, that further long-term international action is required to reduce risks to human health and the environment and that, for this reason, the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments will be reviewed and assessed in order to make progress in addressing this issue;

18. *Recognizes* that a range of activities are required to address the challenges posed by mercury, including substitution of products and technologies; technical assistance and capacity-building; development of national policy and regulation; data collection, research and

13 UNEP/GC/24/INF/16.

information provision, bearing in mind the need to provide assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

19. *Commits* to increased efforts to address the global challenges to reduce risks from releases of mercury, taking into account the following priorities:

- (a) To reduce atmospheric mercury emissions from human sources;
- (b) To find environmentally sound solutions for the management of waste containing mercury and mercury compounds;
- (c) To reduce global mercury demand related to use in products and production processes;
- (d) To reduce the global mercury supply, including considering curbing primary mining and taking into account a hierarchy of sources;
- (e) To find environmentally sound storage solutions for mercury;
- (f) To address, considering the results of the analysis referred to in paragraph 24 (d) below, the remediation of existing contaminated sites affecting public and environmental health;
- (g) To increase knowledge on areas such as inventories, human and environmental exposure, environmental monitoring and socio-economic impacts;

20. *Urges* Governments to gather information on means to reduce risk that may be caused by the supply of mercury, considering:

- (a) Reduced reliance on primary mercury mining in favor of environmentally preferable sources of mercury such as recycled mercury;
- (b) Options and solutions for the long-term storage of mercury;
- (c) Regional activities to improve data on imports and exports of mercury and enforcement of customs control through, for example, the Green Customs initiative;
- (d) The market and socio-economic effects of the activities contemplated above;

21. *Urges* Governments to provide the information referred to in the preceding paragraph to the Executive Director;

22. *Also urges* Governments to develop and analyse options for addressing the trade and supply of mercury, including considering environmentally sound storage and curbing primary mining, drawing on the United Nations Environment Programme report on mercury supply, trade, and demand,¹⁴ and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, upon request, to assist developing countries in this undertaking through the provision of technical assistance;

23. *Further urges* Governments to provide the information referred to in the preceding paragraph to the Executive Director;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report, drawing on, among other things, ongoing work in other forums addressing:

Atmospheric emission

- (a) Best available data on mercury emissions and trends including where possible an analysis by country, region and sector, including a consideration of factors driving such trends and applicable regulatory mechanisms;
- (b) Current results from modelling on a global scale and from other information sources on the contribution of regional emissions to deposition which may result in adverse effects and the potential benefits from reducing such emissions, taking into account the efforts of the Fate and Transport partnership established under the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme;
- (c) An overview of sector-based best practices for reducing mercury emissions, including costs where possible and an evaluation of emission reduction scenarios;

14 UNEP/GC/24/INF/16.

Site-based contamination

(d) An analysis of information on the extent of contaminated sites, the risks to public and environmental health of mercury compound releases from such sites, environmentally sound mitigation options and associated costs and the contribution of contaminated sites to global releases;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to facilitate work between the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and Governments, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the partnerships established under the mercury programme, as appropriate:

(a) To improve global understanding of international mercury emissions sources, fate and transport;

(b) To promote the development of inventories of mercury uses and emissions;

26. *Urges* Governments and other stakeholders to continue and enhance their support of the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme partnerships, through the provision of technical and financial resources, as a means to achieve reductions in demand for and releases of mercury and thereby to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from mercury;

27. *Requests* the Executive Director, working in consultation with Governments and other stakeholders, to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme partnerships by:

(a) Developing an overarching framework for the United Nations Environment Programme global mercury partnership programme through, among other means, organizing a meeting of partners and other stakeholders, including:

(i) Development of business plans;

(ii) Identification of partnership goals;

(iii) Development of operational guidelines;

(b) Expanding the number and scope of partnerships to include new, growing or related sectors such as vinyl chloride monomer production, non-ferrous metals mining and cement production and waste combustion;

(c) Enhancing the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership through, among other things, increased cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, exploration of innovative market-based approaches and dissemination of alternative capture and recycling technologies;

(d) Endeavouring to secure adequate funds for global mercury partnership programme efforts;

28. *Decides*, further, to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of Governments, regional economic integration organisations and stakeholder representatives to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments;

29. *Decides* that the ad hoc open-ended working group will be guided by the priorities set out in paragraph 19;

30. *Adopts* the following terms of reference for the ad hoc open-ended working group:

(a) Consider the reports and information referred to in paragraphs 20, 22 and 24 and a compilation by the Executive Director of other available relevant information;

(b) Examine, for each of the priorities set out in paragraph 19:

(i) The range of available response measures and strategies;

(ii) The feasibility and effectiveness of voluntary and legally binding approaches;

(iii) Implementation options;

(iv) Costs and benefits of response measures and strategies;

- (c) Also examine each of these response measures and strategies with respect to, among other things, the following considerations:
- (i) The respective capacities and capabilities of developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
 - (ii) The need for capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and suitable sources of finance;
31. *Invites* Governments to consider convening national and regional preparatory workshops, involving relevant stakeholders;
32. *Decides* that the ad hoc open-ended working group will:
- (a) Meet twice: once before the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and once between that special session and the Council/Forum's twenty-fifth regular session;
 - (b) Provide a progress report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session and a final report reflecting all views expressed and presenting options and any consensus recommendations to the Council/Forum at its twenty-fifth regular session;
33. *Decides* that the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session may provide further guidance to the ad hoc open-ended working group;
34. *Also decides* to consider the outcomes of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group at its twenty-fifth regular session, with a view to taking a decision on the final report;
35. *Requests* the Executive Director to compile other available relevant information for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended working group;
36. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the present decision, in particular with regard to the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the ad hoc working group;
37. *Requests* the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics to serve the Ad Hoc Working Group as secretariat and to prepare the analytical and summary reports necessary for its work;
38. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Decision 24/4: Prevention of illegal international trade

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21¹⁵ on the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products,

Noting the recommendation in subparagraph 23 (e) of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on promotion of efforts to prevent international illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals,¹⁶

¹⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

¹⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Noting also the resolution regarding prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products adopted at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety,¹⁷

Recalling its decision SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006 in which it endorsed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and recalling in particular paragraph 18 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach, dealing with illegal international traffic,

Noting the outcome of the United Nations Environment Programme Symposium on Illegal International Traffic in Hazardous Chemicals that took place in Prague, Czech Republic, from 6 to 8 November 2006,¹⁸

Aware of the concerns of all countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on the prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals,

Welcoming, in this respect, decision VIII/1 of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, relating to the illegal dumping of hazardous waste from the Probo Koala tanker in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in August 2006,¹⁹

Recognizing that international cooperation between countries concerned is essential to the prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals,

Noting also the urgent need for Governments to take action at the national level to address problems of illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals,

1. *Invites* Governments to consider ratifying or acceding to relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote the implementation of paragraph 18 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
4. *Invites* the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to present common recommendations to the governing bodies of its participating organizations for consideration within their respective mandates on the prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals;
5. *Calls upon* Governments and other actors to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with the necessary financial and technical resources for undertaking the action referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision to enable the full and effective implementation of the decision;
6. *Invites* the World Customs Organization to consider participating in the activities contemplated in the present decision;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in implementing the present decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

¹⁷ Fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, final report (IFCS/FORUM IV/16w),

¹⁸ http://www.chem.unep.ch/uneppsaim/prague_nov06/default.html.

¹⁹ Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal on its eighth meeting (UNEP/CHW.8/16), annex I.

Decision 24/5: Waste management

The Governing Council,

Recalling decision SS.VIII/4 of 31 March 2004 on waste management and the proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session,

Recalling also the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,²⁰

Acknowledging the work related to waste management under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, as well as related work by the United Nations Environment Programme, including in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and activities by other relevant United Nations bodies, international institutions, forums and processes,

Noting decision VIII/34 on resource mobilization and sustainable financing adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting, annex I,²¹

Also noting the important role that national programmes, plans and strategies on sustainable development, environmental protection and poverty eradication can play in tackling national waste problems,

Acknowledging the work undertaken to promote the life cycle approach to waste management, inter alia under the 10-Year Framework Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech Process), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and the Group of Eight's "3R" (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiative,

Noting that the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities addresses, among other things, problems associated with solid wastes as they pollute coastal and marine areas,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the availability of extra-budgetary resources, to prepare, in consultation with the secretariat of the Basel Convention, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies, international institutions, forums and processes, for consideration at the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, a report which should:

- (a) Contain a review of the work being carried out or planned by relevant organizations, institutions, forums and processes in the field of waste management;
- (b) Identify successful examples and possible gaps, taking into account the possible need for further work, such as guidelines, on integrated waste management; the need for a compilation of best practices related to integrated waste management, in particular at the local level and in developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and the need to strengthen south-south cooperation;
- (c) Provide tangible recommendations on how to bridge any gaps, on who should be responsible for taking the necessary action and on how to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop their own waste management strategies;

2. *Invites* the Executive Director to work in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies in the area of waste management, taking into consideration the respective roles and responsibilities of each organization, in order to improve coordination and avoid duplication of work, and to report on the outcome of the process at the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

²⁰ Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/326), annex.

²¹ Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal on its eighth meeting (UNEP/CHW.8/16).

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme to support waste management in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with other organizations as appropriate and within available resources, to continue to implement existing demonstration projects and develop new ones in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on integrated waste management under the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and to disseminate widely the results and lessons learned;
5. *Invites* international organizations and governments to provide resources and technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enable them to pursue actively integrated waste management.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/6: Small island developing States

The Governing Council,

Recalling its previous decisions on small island developing State activities, particularly its decision 23/5 of 25 February 2005,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution 61/196 of 20 December 2006 concerning follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,²²

Acknowledging the findings and predictions of recent scientific and economic reports on the adverse impacts of climate change on small island developing States, particularly part A of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,²³

1. *Commends* the Executive Director for his progress report on small island developing State activities in response to decision 23/5;²⁴
2. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Executive Director in carrying out activities concerning small island developing States in various regions under the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;
3. *Reiterates* that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation, especially the effects of climate change and sea level rise, and that international cooperation towards strengthening their adaptive resilience to address such vulnerability is urgently needed;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to further enhance United Nations Environment Programme activities on small island developing States with a view to identifying further efforts, including any institutional arrangements, taking fully into account operative paragraph 8 of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/196, to mainstream the Mauritius Strategy into the work of the United Nations Environment Programme properly;

²² *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* (A/CONF/207/11) (United Nations publication Sales No. E.05.II.A.4), resolution 1, annex.

²³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group I, Summary for Policy Makers, issued on 2 February 2007 (available online at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>).

²⁴ UNEP/GC/24/5.

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to enhance the United Nations Environment Programme's efforts to address the issue of adaptation to the impacts of climate change in small island developing State and low lying coastal States and to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's links with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant bodies;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision at its twenty-fifth session.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Decision 24/7: Committing resources toward the implementation of decision 23/11

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 20 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,²⁵ goals 3 and 7 of the Millennium Declaration,²⁶ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action²⁷ and paragraph 20 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,²⁸

Welcoming the important cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Network of Women Ministers of the Environment,

Recalling decision 23/11 of 25 February 2005 on gender equality in the field of environment,

1. *Urges* the Executive Director to continue strongly to implement the United Nations Environment Programme Gender Plan of Action, including the projects on gender equality and the environment referred to in the Plan of Action;
2. *Invites* Governments to make voluntary financial contributions to facilitate the provision of adequate resources to implement the Gender Plan of Action fully;
3. *Urges* the Executive Director to develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to implement the Gender Plan of Action effectively.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Decision 24/8: Support to Africa in environmental management and protection

The Governing Council,

Aware that despite its abundant promise and potential, Africa is beset by environmental, social and economic crises which have made it one of the world's foremost environment and development challenges,

Also aware that the agreements reached at numerous international gatherings routinely single out the problems of Africa for special attention and that reference to the special needs of the continent in the 2005 World Summit Outcome²⁹ is a powerful reminder of the depth of concern over and commitment to Africa,

Further aware that the international community continues to accord the special needs of Africa a high degree of attention as evident and further reinforced by several international declarations, resolutions and decisions, including decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998 of the Governing Council of the

25 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

26 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

27 Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/Conf.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

28 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

29 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

United Nations Environment Programmes on support to Africa,

Recognizing that the environmental challenges facing Africa continue to be of unparalleled severity and that the degradation of the African environment continues unabated in spite of the sustained effort of African Governments and the assistance of the international community,

Noting General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the new agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which, among other things, endorses the recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General that the New Partnership for Africa's Development should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development,

Noting also that the New Partnership for Africa's Development will be implemented largely through national mechanisms and subregional economic communities in Africa with the support of the African Development Bank and other partners, including multilateral development banks,

Noting with satisfaction the commencement of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development under the guidance of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and with technical support from the United Nations Environment Programme,

Welcoming the support provided by all development partners towards the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and environmental protection,

Acknowledging the role of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa project in promoting efforts to build the capacity of African States in the development and implementation of environmental laws and policy,

Recognizing that in its resolution 60/222 of 23 November 2005 on progress in the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, including those of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Group of Eight Action Plan for Africa, those of the European Union and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and the report of the Commission for Africa³⁰ and the Africa Partnership Forum, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives in Africa,

Further recognizing that paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome³¹ underscores the need to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework,

Applauding the decision by the United Nations Secretary General to make Africa the focus of many of his priorities,

Acknowledging the initiative of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to link sustainable development and poverty reduction, as stated in the second Africa Environment Outlook report,

Welcoming the commendable efforts by the Executive Director in the support given to Africa,

Welcoming other programmes and projects to promote environmental protection and natural resources management in Africa such as the Congo Basin Initiative and the Water for the Poor Initiative,

1. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme, given its strategic location in Africa, should take a leading role in enhancing support for the continent's environmental and natural resource management efforts and should spearhead international cooperation in collaboration with relevant United Nations and other institutions in effectively tackling the complex task of ensuring environmental sustainability, in particular through the New Partnership for African

30 *Our Common Interest: Report of the Commission for Africa*, March 2005 (http://www.commissionforafrica.org/english/report/thereport/english/11-03-05_cr_report.pdf).

31 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

Development and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;³²

2. *Reaffirms* that support to Africa as identified in Governing Council decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998 should be further enhanced taking into account the current situation and needs of the region;

3. *Calls upon* African Governments to take primary action and responsibility for the sustainable development of their respective countries;

4. *Invites* Governments to support the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa project and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of extra budgetary resources, to expand the Partnership to enable it to provide support to all African States and for programming purposes to integrate it into the regular programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to support the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, particularly within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Union and in the context of the development and implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to establish working relationships with the proposed specialized technical committees of the African Union, particularly the technical committee responsible for the environment, in order to facilitate the integration of environmental issues into the work of the institutional dispensation of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to work closely with partners, especially the subregional economic communities in Africa, the African Development Bank and other United Nations organizations, to support African countries in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development;³³

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within available means, to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Africa in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan;

9. *Invites* the Executive Director to work closely with the African Union Commission, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the African Ministers' Council on Water, the Forum for African Ministers on Energy, the African Energy Commission, regional economic communities and the New Partnership for Africa's Development secretariat in their efforts to implement policy-oriented assessments on the environment of the African Union Commission and the African regional economic communities upon request and subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources and through their work programmes;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision, together with specific proposals and recommendations, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/9: Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2008–2009³⁴ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,³⁵

32 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

33 General Assembly resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002.

34 UNEP/GC/24/9.

35 UNEP/GC/24/9/Add.1.

1. *Approves* the programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;
2. *Approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 152 million United States dollars for the purposes indicated below:

2008–2009 biennial programme and support budget (in thousands of United States dollars)

Programme of work

Environmental assessment and early warning	26,950
Environmental law and conventions	13,359
Environmental policy implementation	19,182
Technology, industry and economics	27,694
Regional cooperation and representation	33,779
Communications and public information	9,036
Total programme of work	130,000
Fund programme reserve	6,000
Support budget	16,000
Grand total	152,000

3. *Urges* Governments to support further strengthening of the Environment Fund through the options envisaged in Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002, including the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions;
4. *Notes with appreciation* the prudent and responsible manner in which the Executive Director has exercised his budgetary and financial discretion;
5. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between subprogrammes up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources are reallocated;
6. *Requests* that, should the Executive Director need to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of an appropriation, he do so in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;
7. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;
8. *Urges* the Executive Director further to increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million United States dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the bienniums 2006–2007 and 2008–2009;
9. *Recommends* that the Executive Director, in the light of possible financial constraints, take a cautious approach to the creation of additional posts under the Environment Fund programme;
10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress made so far in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results and requests the Executive Director to continue that shift, ensuring that United Nations Environment Programme managers at all levels take responsibility for the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;
11. *Requests* the Executive Director to keep Governments specifically informed, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis and the Governing Council at its regular and special sessions, of the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including contributions and expenditures, and reallocations of the appropriations or adjustments of the allocations;
12. *Welcomes* the extensive consultations between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing the draft budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009 and requests the Executive Director to continue such consultations for the

preparation of each biennial budget and programme of work;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013 with a clearly defined vision, objectives, priorities, impact measures and a robust mechanism for review by Governments, for approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session;

14. *Expresses* its appreciation to those Governments which have contributed to the Environment Fund in the biennium 2006–2007 and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, in cash or in kind, in order to permit the full implementation of the programme;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to step up his efforts to mobilize resources from all sources, in order further to broaden the donor base and to enhance income levels;

16. *Also requests* all Governments, where possible, to pay their contributions before the year to which the contributions relate, or at the latest at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

17. *Further requests* all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate and, if possible, on a multi-year basis;

18. *Approves* the recommendation by the Executive Director that the outstanding pledges for the period 2001–2002 should not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;

19. *Approves* the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2008–2009 as set forth in the relevant report of the Executive Director;

20. *Notes* that an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi or the United Nations Environment Programme in the biennium 2008–2009 would decrease the requirement under the Environment Fund biennial support budget, thereby releasing resources which should be reallocated for the programme activities or the Environment Fund financial reserve;

21. *Calls for* an allocation of an appropriate share of the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme;

22. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which underlined the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, looks forward to the implementation of the requests of the General Assembly to the United Nations Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review, so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the United Nations Environment Programme and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide financial details of work programmes to Governments in accordance with article VI of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, if so requested;

24. *Also requests* the Executive Director, further to article VI of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund, to make available to Governments, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work and further requests that the information be structured in accordance with the programme of work;

25. *Further requests* the Executive Director to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a quarterly basis, with comprehensive information on all financial facilities made available for the United Nations Environment Programme, including core funding, the Environment Fund, earmarked funds and payments by the Global Environment Facility and other sources, in order to contribute to the transparency of the overall financial status of the United Nations Environment Programme during the biennium 2008–2009;

26. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, apart from those for which the United Nations Environment Programme merely acts as treasurer, are used to fund activities which are in line with the programme of work;

27. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to propose ways and means of addressing the balance between non-earmarked and earmarked funding of the programme of work and to ensure clarity with respect to resources and expected results;

28. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2010–2011;

29. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, for the biennium 2010–2011 a programme of work consisting of Environment Fund programme activities amounting to an indicative figure of 140 million United States dollars;

30. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue submitting, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined draft budget and work programme for the biennium 2010–2011 for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session;

31. *Further requests* the Executive Director to give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,³⁶ emphasizing the importance of South-South cooperation, in particular the efforts directed towards institutional capacity-building and the strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme as part of the implementation of the approved programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009;

32. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment and, where appropriate, to assist Governments upon their request to integrate environmental policy and decision-making into social and economic policies on poverty eradication, in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as part of the implementation of the approved programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009;

33. *Encourages* Governments to support the full and effective implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through the provision of adequate resources;

34. *Requests* the Executive Director, in exercising his authority to reallocate resources, reconfirmed in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present decision, and in drawing on the Fund Programme reserve, to give particular attention to high-priority areas;

35. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake further action to mainstream the objectives of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building into the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular in the context of the 2008–2009 programme of work, with a view to bringing more focus into the work of the Programme, making the Programme more relevant on the ground and improving the delivery of Programme services to Governments.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

36 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

Decision 24/10: Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The Governing Council,

Trust funds in support of the United Nations Environment Programme work programme

1. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-third session of the Governing Council:

(a) General trust funds:

SML – General Trust Fund for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Quick Start Programme, with an expiry date of 30 November 2013;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

- (i) NFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement between UNEP and the Government of Norway (financed by the Government of Norway) which was established in 2006 with no fixed expiry date;
- (ii) SEL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Sweden (financed by the Government of Sweden) which was established in 2005 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;
- (iii) SFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement between UNEP and the Government of Spain (financed by the Government of Spain) which was established in 2006 with an expiry date of 31 December 2012;

2. *Approves* the extensions of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or donors:

(a) General trust funds:

- (i) AML – General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, through 31 December 2009;
- (ii) CWL – General Trust Fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) through 31 December 2009;
- (iii) DUL – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Dams and Development Unit to Coordinate Follow-up to the World Commission on dams through 31 December 2009;
- (iv) ETL – Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean through 31 December 2009;
- (v) MCL – General Trust Fund in Support of a Global Assessment of Mercury and its Compounds through 31 December 2009;
- (vi) WPL – General Trust Fund to provide Support to the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to Promote its Activities through 31 December 2009;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

- (i) BPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (Financed by the Government of Belgium) through 31 December 2009;
- (ii) ELL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa through 31 December 2009;

- (iii) GNL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Financed by the Government of the Netherlands) through 31 December 2009;
- (iv) IAL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Ireland Aid Multilateral Environment Fund for Africa (Financed by the Government of Ireland) through 31 December 2009;
- (v) REL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region through 31 December 2009;
- (vi) SEL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Sweden (Financed by the Government of Sweden) through 31 December 2010;

3. *Approves* the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications:

- (i) PPL – General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation and Negotiation of an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade;
- (ii) SDL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Secondment of a UNEP Senior Officer to the CSD Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (Financed by the Government of the Netherlands);

Trust funds in support of conventions, regional seas protocols and special funds

4. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-third session of the Governing Council:

- (a) General trust funds:
 - (i) AVL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contribution in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) established in 2006 with an expiry date of 31 December 2008;
 - (ii) MVL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contribution in Support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) established in 2006 with an expiry date of 31 December 2008;
 - (iii) SCL – General Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, its subsidiary Bodies and the Convention Secretariat which was established in 2006 with no fixed expiry date;
 - (iv) SVL – Special Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, its Subsidiary Bodies and the Convention Secretariat which was established in 2006 with no fixed expiry date;
- (b) Technical cooperation trust funds:
 - (i) CCL – Technical Cooperation Trust for the Management of UNEP/GEF Special Climate Change Fund Programme (SCCF) with no fixed expiry period;
 - (ii) VBL – Voluntary Trust Fund to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity established in 2006 with an expiry date of 31 December 2008;

5. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

- (a) General trust funds:
 - (i) BCL – Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal through 31 December 2010;

- (ii) BDL – Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and other Countries in need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal through 31 December 2010;
- (iii) BEL – General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity through 31 December 2009;
- (iv) BGL – General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol through 31 December 2009;
- (v) BHL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities of the Biosafety Protocol through 31 December 2009;
- (vi) BTL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the European Bats through 31 December 2010;
- (vii) BYL – General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity through 31 December 2009;
- (viii) BZL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity through 31 December 2009;
- (ix) CRL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme through 31 December 2009;
- (x) CTL – Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora through 31 December 2011;
- (xi) EAL – Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region through 31 December 2011;
- (xii) ESL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas through 31 December 2009;
- (xiii) MEL – Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution through 31 December 2009;
- (xiv) PNL – General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region through 31 December 2009;
- (xv) ROL – General Trust Fund for the Operational Budget of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade through 31 December 2008;
- (xvi) SOL – General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations relevant to the Vienna Convention through 31 December 2015;
- (xvii) WAL – Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of West and Central African Region through 31 December 2011;
- (b) Technical cooperation trust funds:
 - (i) BIL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties, in particular the Least Developed and the Small Island Developing States amongst them, and Parties with Economies in Transition (Biosafety Protocol) through 31 December 2009;
 - (ii) GFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP’s Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility with no fixed expiry period;

- (iii) RVL – Special Trust fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade through 31 December 2008;

6. *Approves* the closure of the following trust fund by the Executive Director subject to completion of its activities and clearance of all financial implications:

SPL - Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the UNEP/GEF Strategic Partnership.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Decision 24/11: Intensified environmental education for achieving sustainable development

The Governing Council,

Aware of the importance of having a critical mass of human resources and change agents for the effective implementation of existing policies on environment and development in the global context and the role of environmental education in achieving such a critical mass,

Recalling the relevance of environmental education as acknowledged in international policies and strategies including Agenda 21³⁷ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,³⁸ which lead the United Nations General Assembly to declare the decade 2005–2014 to be the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,³⁹

Convinced of the importance of environmental education and awareness in changing attitudes, habits and lifestyles,

Recognizing the importance of voluntary compliance in achieving environmental policy goals, objectives and targets,

Also recognizing the importance of a lifelong process of learning,

Further recognizing the need for a holistic approach to environmental policy development and implementation;

Acknowledging the role of environmental education as a highly effective tool for building an environmentally sensitive and responsive populace capable of partnering with Governments in achieving established policy goals and targets,

Urges the Executive Director to intensify the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental education;

Also urges the Executive Director to continue to strive to make available resources for promoting and supporting environmental education programmes, projects and activities, particularly in developing countries, and to keep Governments informed of the progress achieved.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

37 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

38 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

39 General Assembly resolution 58/219 of 23 December 2003.

Decision 24/12: South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development

The Governing Council,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in particular as it pertains to South-South Cooperation, which recognizes the achievements and great potential of South-South cooperation and encourages the promotion of such cooperation, which complements North-South cooperation as an effective contribution to development and as a means of sharing best practices and providing enhanced technical cooperation,

Noting the various South-South summits and other relevant international forums which have called for enhancing South-South cooperation,

Recognizing the need to accelerate the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,⁴⁰ which, among other things, identifies South-South cooperation as a means to achieve its objectives,

Also recognizing the importance of South-South cooperation and stressing the need to intensify efforts directed towards institutional capacity-building, including through the exchange of expertise, experiences, information and documentation between the institutions of the South in order to develop human resources and strengthen the institutions of the South, as well as the important role for economic and social development played by scientific knowledge and technology,

Underscoring that South-South cooperation and utilizing the experiences, expertise, technologies, human resources and centres of excellence already existing in several countries of the South would assist the United Nations Environment Programme in the faster and better implementation of its programme of work as well as more economical use of its resources and budget,

Noting with appreciation the action taken by the United Nations Environment Programme to date to promote South-South cooperation in pursuit of the objectives of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including the High-level Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan held in Jakarta on 23 and 24 November 2005, as well as the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership-United Nations Environment Programme Workshop on Environmental Law and Policy jointly convened by the Governments of Indonesia and South Africa and the United Nations Environment Programme in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia, from 12 to 16 December 2006 and the strategic guidelines for interregional cooperation between Africa and South America provided by the Africa-South America Summit on South-South Cooperation, held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 30 November 2006,

Noting the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme in conducting consultations with key external partners, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to develop and promote the use of approaches to guide the United Nations Environment Programme in integrating South-South cooperation in its programme of work,

Emphasizing that the effective and further implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through South-South cooperation, should be supported by adequate, stable and predictable financing for the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and emphasizes that South-South cooperation constitutes an important means of achieving the objectives of the Plan;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the integration of South-South cooperation in undertaking activities under the approved programme of work and, to that end, to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations within and outside of the United Nations system;

40 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to utilize the benefits of experience, expertise, technologies, human resources and centres of excellence already existing in several countries of the South to achieve the objective of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and the implementation of the programme of work, taking into account the more economic use by the United Nations Environment Programme of its resources and budget;

4. *Takes note of* the Bandung Roadmap for Advancement of Environmental Law in Support of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, as adopted at the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership-United Nations Environment Programme Workshop on Environmental Law and Policy, as well as other initiatives which present a concrete step forward for promoting South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development, particularly in areas where the United Nations Environment Programme has a comparative advantage in its expertise;

5. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations, where appropriate, to provide financial and other resources for further facilitating South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development through capacity-building and technology support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in line with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through the provision of a clearing-house mechanism on South-South cooperation supported through extra-budgetary funding;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the progress made in promoting South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session, in 2009.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Decision 24/13: Amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.IV/1 of 18 June 1994 on the adoption of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility,

Recalling its decision 22/19 of 7 February 2003 on the adoption of amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility to include land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, and persistent organic pollutants as new focal areas of the Global Environment Facility, as approved by the Second Global Environment Facility Assembly,

Recalling the decision of the Third Global Environment Facility Assembly, held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 29 and 30 August 2006, on the amendment of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility,

1. *Decides* to adopt the amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility related to the location of meetings of the Council of the Global Environment Facility, as approved by the Third Global Environmental Facility Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Chief Executive Officer or Chair of the Global Environment Facility.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Decision 24/14: Declaration of the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification

The Governing Council,

Deeply concerned by the worsening effects of desertification,

Considering the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Considering the objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the Plan of Implementation⁴¹ and the Johannesburg Declaration,⁴² as well as the objective to reduce significantly the loss of biodiversity,

Recalling the Millennium Development Goals,⁴³ including the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and famine,

Considering the proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity,⁴⁴

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, declaring the year 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Considering the recommendation approved at the international conference entitled “Desertification and the International Policy Imperative”, held in Algiers from 17 to 19 December 2006,

Considering the decision adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment at its eighteenth session, held in Algiers on 19 and 20 December 2006,

Taking into account the programmatic and financial commitment of the Global Environment Facility to desertification control,

Determined to maintain and to boost the spirit of international solidarity generated by the designation of the year 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Reasserting its commitment to promoting desertification control, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting sustainable development in deserts and arid areas and improving the lives of affected populations,

Recommends to the United Nations General Assembly that it declare, during its 62nd session, the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade of Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Decision 24/15: Provisional agendas, dates and venues for the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Environment Forum and the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 57/283 B (paragraphs 9–11 of section II) of 15 April 2003 and 61/236 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2006,

Recalling further its own decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002,

41 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

42 *Ibid.*, resolution 1, annex.

43 Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/326), annex.

44 General Assembly resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006.

I

Tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. *Decides* to hold the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2008;⁴⁵
2. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Organization of work.
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
 3. Credentials of representatives.
 4. Policy issues:
 - (a) State of the environment;
 - (b) Emerging policy issues;
 - (c) Environment and development.
 5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.
 6. Other matters.
 7. Adoption of the report.
 8. Closure of the session.

II

Twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

3. *Decides* that, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum shall be held in Nairobi in February 2009;⁴⁶
4. *Decides also* that informal consultations between heads of delegations should be held on the afternoon of the day before the opening of the twenty-fifth session;
5. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Organization of work:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 3. Credentials of representatives.
 4. Policy issues:

⁴⁵ The dates and venue of the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be decided in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council and the Member States.

⁴⁶ The dates of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be decided in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council and the Member States.

- (a) State of the environment;
 - (b) Emerging policy issues;
 - (c) International environmental governance;
 - (d) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters;
 - (e) Coordination and cooperation with major groups;
 - (f) Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility.
5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.
 6. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2010–2011 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters.
 7. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
 - (a) Eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
 - (b) Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Adoption of the report.
 10. Closure of the session.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/16: Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

A **Freshwater**

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 22/2 of 7 February 2003 and 23/2 of 25 February 2005 regarding the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy,

Taking into account the policy directions for water-related activities of the United Nations Environment Programme as set out in, among other sources, relevant Governing Council decisions, the Millennium Declaration,⁴⁷ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,⁴⁸ the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development pertaining to water, sanitation and human settlements and the 2005 World Summit Outcome⁴⁹ as it pertains to water and sanitation,

Taking into account the comments made by Governments on the draft water policy and strategy submitted to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session,

47 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

48 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

49 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 6 September 2005.

Also taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building⁵⁰ and its relevance to the design and implementation of all United Nations Environment Programme activities,

Noting with appreciation the achievements made by the United Nations Environment Programme in implementing the updated water policy and strategy as described in the report of the Executive Director,⁵¹

1. *Adopts* the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2007–2012 contained in the annex to the present decision, to be implemented with interested countries upon their request;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To use the water policy and strategy as a framework and guidance to direct the United Nations Environment Programme's programme of work in the field of water through the year 2012;

(b) To intensify collaborative activities with Governments, relevant organizations, United Nations agencies and other development partners and to intensify partnerships with civil society, including the private sector, to implement the water policy and strategy;

(c) To provide support upon request to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for implementation of the water policy and strategy within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

(d) To increase support to developing countries for integrated water resource management in collaboration with, among others, UN-Water, the Global Water Partnership and regional and national institutions;

(e) To report on the implementation of the water policy and strategy to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session;

3. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so to provide new and additional resources necessary for the implementation of the water policy and strategy.

B

Coasts, oceans and islands

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 22/2 of 7 February 2003 and 23/2 of 25 February 2005 regarding the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy, in particular paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision 23/2, welcoming the generous offer of the Government of the People's Republic of China to host in 2006 the second intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based activities,

Noting with appreciation the important contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme, the regional seas conventions and action plans, the Global Environment Facility and other international and regional institutions in catalyzing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action while recognizing the financial constraints on such implementation, particularly at the national level, and the consequent need for resource mobilization and support,

Acknowledging the successful results and achievements of the Global Programme of Action in the period 2002–2006, particularly at the national level, and the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action as well as the successful results and achievements of the participants at the second intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action, which took place in Beijing from 16 to 20 October 2006, including the valuable contributions made by the participants in the multi-stakeholder partnership workshops during the meeting,

⁵⁰ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

⁵¹ UNEP/GC/24/4 and Add.1.

Welcoming the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme Pacific subregional strategy as noted in the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of decision 23/5 of 25 February 2005 on small island developing States,⁵²

1. *Endorses* the Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities⁵³ and takes note of the outcomes of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as detailed in the report of that meeting;⁵⁴

2. *Adopts* the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office programme of work for the period 2007–2011, as endorsed by the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting⁵⁵;

3. *Invites* international and regional financial institutions, in particular the Global Environment Facility, and calls upon donor countries to continue to support the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and to consider, as appropriate, increasing their contributions and technical assistance for building the capacity of developing countries, particularly small island developing States, to mainstream the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in national development programmes and budgets;

4. *Expresses its* appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for its continuing support in hosting the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in the Hague and expresses special gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its hosting of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

**10th meeting
9 February 2007**

Annex to decision 24/16

Summary of final updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme as it relates to freshwater for the period 2007–2012

1. Since the creation of UNEP, water has played a key role in its programming. In fact, the Regional Seas Programme was one of its first flagship initiatives and remains today a strong keystone programme for UNEP. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the issues related to freshwater resources management have taken on an increasingly prominent role in the international arena. UNEP has reacted to this through various initiatives and activities. The importance of freshwater issues continues to rise at the local, national, subregional, regional and global levels as elaborated upon in the Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other forums. UNEP must continue to evolve its programming to address such freshwater issues and has thus developed the present policy and strategy.

2. The UNEP water policy and strategy as it relates to freshwater is outlined in the annex to the present report. UNEP starts from the premise that the water policy is defined by the mandates of UNEP as requested by the UNEP Governing Council and the United Nations General Assembly and is also guided by other relevant international bodies and forums (e.g., Agenda 21, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development). Taking into consideration the guidance of relevant forums and the specific mandates of the Governing Council the overall goal for

52 UNEP/GC/24/5.

53 UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/7, annex V.

54 UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/7.

55 UNEP/GC/24/INF/18, annex and addenda.

the UNEP water policy and strategy is: to contribute substantively to environmental sustainability in the management of water resources, utilizing integrated ecosystems approaches, as a contribution to the internationally agreed targets and goals relevant to water and socio-economic development. The freshwater strategy is herein elaborated through a set of principles designed to focus UNEP work by outlining the conceptual considerations -- ecosystems-based approaches, sound economic and social considerations and addressing risk -- and operational means -- building capacity, partnerships and stakeholder participation -- through which UNEP will implement its water-related activities.

3. As pointed out in chapters II and IV of the annex, UNEP mandates on oceans and coasts and their associated strategies are provided through the Global Programme of Action on Land-based Activities and the regional seas conventions and action plans. In the light of that fact, the present document does not attempt further to elaborate a strategy on oceans and coasts, but specifically focuses instead on freshwater issues. Nonetheless, this freshwater policy and strategy, as do the GPA and Regional Seas Programme, recognizes the freshwater-coastal link and UNEP will work to address that linkage from both the upstream (freshwater) and downstream (coasts and oceans) ends.

4. Three key components of UNEP freshwater work are identified as assessment, management and cooperation and are tied together within a framework of integrated water resources management (IWRM). As IWRM has many elements, UNEP, with full consideration of the multi-dimensional and multi-institutional approach of IWRM, will focus on mainstreaming environmental considerations into IWRM at the regional, subregional, national and local levels, as well as on upscaling such considerations to the work of other actors involved in national poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development planning.

5. The UNEP water policy and strategy as set out in the annex to the present report will be in operation for a six-year period from 2007 through 2012 and will be operationalized through the UNEP biennial programme of work. Implementation of the policy and strategy will be monitored by the Governing Council against the expected accomplishments and indicators outlined in appendix I to the policy and strategy. Recommendations for review of the water policy and strategy will be made prior to 2012.

Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme as it relates to freshwater for the period 2007–2012

Contents

I.	Introduction.....	44
II.	UNEP mandates on water	45
III.	Goal and objectives.....	46
IV.	Strategic principles	46
	A. Conceptual principles.....	46
	B. Operational principles	47
V.	Freshwater-coastal interface.....	48
VI.	Freshwater strategy	49
VII.	Key components for freshwater.....	49
	A. Assessment.....	50
	B. Management.....	50
	C. Cooperation.....	51
VIII.	Operationalizing the strategy in the UNEP programme of work	53
IX.	Monitoring the water policy and strategy	54

Appendices

I.	Areas of programmatic action in freshwater	55
II.	Thematic areas for strategic action	60

Acronyms

GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
UCC-Water	UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

I. Introduction

1. In 2000, the international community agreed on a selected set of goals in association with the Millennium Declaration.⁵⁶ The Declaration provides a blueprint for poverty reduction and accelerated development and was further elaborated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome.⁵⁷ Only one of the Millennium Development Goals – goal 7, and specifically its targets 9 and 10 – directly concerns water and sanitation. The achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, however, hinges on the quality and quantity of available water as water plays a disproportionately powerful role through its impact on, among other things, food production and security, hygiene, sanitation and health and maintenance of ecosystem services.
2. Equitable and sustainable management of both freshwater⁵⁸ and coastal and marine waters is a major challenge for all water users, particularly the poor. According to the World Water Development Report (2003), concerns about the world water crisis include doubling of the number of poor people without adequate water and sanitation; a growing gap between rich and poor and urban and rural populations in water and sanitation services; the rising cost of water-related disasters; declining quality of water resources and ecosystems; under financing of the water sector; rising pressures on water resources; increasing agricultural and industrial water demand and pollution; and the need to strengthen water governance.
3. Since its establishment, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has worked in the area of water resources assessment and management, promoting the application of collaborative approaches to water resources management. After over 30 years, water remains one of the main priorities of UNEP.
4. Many international forums have devoted significant time and effort to developing mandates, goals, objectives and targets for water resources management. These forums include the UNEP Governing Council; the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the outcome of which was Agenda 21;⁵⁹ the Millennium Summit,⁶⁰ the World Summit on Sustainable Development,⁶¹ and the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. Those forums have indicated, and in the case of the Governing Council defined, what should be the mandates and responsibilities of UNEP with respect to water.
5. Implementing those mandates rather than developing new ones is the task ahead, that is, moving from planning to action.
6. In developing the water policy and strategy, UNEP took into consideration the fact that at its twenty-third session the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum also adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.⁶² Therefore, the implementation of the mandated functions of UNEP in the area of water, particularly at the national and regional levels, will be an integral component of the coherent, UNEP-wide delivery of the Bali Strategic Plan. In their activities at the regional and national levels UNEP and its partners will strive to be mutually supportive and contribute to strengthening national environmental management capacities and to mainstreaming the environment into economic and social development (i.e., into national strategies for poverty reduction and sustainable development).

56 United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/2.

57 General Assembly resolution 60/1.

58 The term freshwater in this policy and strategy includes surface waters, groundwater, wetlands, inland (i.e., non-coastal) saline waters and the freshwater/coastal interface.

59 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

60 The Millennium Summit was held from 6 to 8 September 2000 as part of the Millennium Assembly (fifty-fifth General Assembly session) under the overall theme “the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century” and consisted of plenary meetings and four interactive round-table sessions held concurrently with the plenary meetings.

61 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).

62 UNEP/IEG/3/4, annex.

7. The main purpose of the UNEP water policy and strategy is to facilitate a coordinated, effective and expeditious implementation of UNEP mandated freshwater functions. In the context of the Bali Strategic Plan, the implementation imperative has become even more urgent.

8. To meet the implementation imperative, UNEP has developed the present water policy and strategy along the following lines:

- (a) Identifying UNEP mandates on water;
- (b) Defining a set of strategic principles to focus the work of UNEP;
- (c) Identifying key components of UNEP freshwater activities;
- (d) Elaborating mechanisms for operationalization and monitoring progress.

II. UNEP mandates on water

9. UNEP water policy is defined in part by the overall mandate of UNEP as set forth in the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the UNEP mission to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

10. In 1997, the UNEP Governing Council adopted the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,⁶³ in which it further elaborated the mandate of UNEP to include in particular the roles agreed in chapters 17 (oceans) and 18 (freshwater) of Agenda 21.

11. Decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-second sessions set forth programmes calling for UNEP work on coral reefs, integrated coastal area and river basin management and the control of marine pollution from land-based activities. At its nineteenth session and its fifth special session, the Council/Forum also requested UNEP to place a high priority on freshwater and to assist developing countries in strengthening their capacities to assess freshwater and develop and implement integrated water resources management plans through regional cooperation. At its twenty-third session, the Council/Forum further defined elements of a freshwater policy, for example, groundwater policy, that were lacking in previous policies and strategies. The Governing Council also provided mandates⁶⁴ on technology transfer for water resources management and pollution control, urban and rural sanitation, groundwater and promoting corporate social responsibility, all of which have important contributions to make to integrated water resources management.

12. In 2000, the international community identified key development priorities through the establishment of goals associated with the Millennium Declaration (Millennium Development Goals). Primary global priorities were identified to be the reduction of poverty and hunger, improvement of human health and achievement of environmental sustainability.

13. In recognition of the seriousness of the freshwater situation in many parts of the world, and of the fact that improved water management is essential for achieving broader economic development goals, in 2002 the participants at the World Summit for Sustainable Development adopted a target calling for the development of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005.

14. At its eighth special session, the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum adopted the Jeju Initiative, in which it “stressed that integrated water resource management (IWRM) incorporating an ecosystem approach is a key building block for achieving the water, sanitation and human settlement targets ... for promoting economic growth and achieving targets on health and poverty reduction.”⁶⁵

63 Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

64 Governing Council decisions 10/19, 11/7, 13/19, 21/1, 22/2, 22/6, 22/7, 23/2.

65 Report of the United Nations Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the work of its eighth special session (UNEP/GCSS.VIII/8), annex II, para. 5.

15. At its twenty-third session, the Council/Forum adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building in order to facilitate the strengthening of the capacity of the Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to, among other things, achieve their environmental goals, comply with international agreements and implement the programmatic goals set by the Governing Council and other internationally agreed development goals. The Bali Strategic Plan includes indicative thematic areas in which efforts in technology transfer and capacity-building are to be addressed. Those relevant to water include freshwater, pollution, chemicals, waste management, conservation of wetlands, transboundary conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, environmental emergency preparedness and response, sanitation, oceans and seas and coastal areas and land and forest ecosystems.

16. At its thirteenth session, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development called on Governments and the United Nations system, among other things, to accelerate the provision of technical and financial assistance to countries in the preparation of nationally owned integrated water resources management and water-efficiency plans tailored to country-specific needs. Additionally, at its ninth special session, the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) which calls for, among other things, the integration of chemicals management issues into policies for food safety, water and marine ecosystem management.

17. UNEP has been given a lead role in environmental issues as they relate to the sustainable development of oceans and coasts. That role is implemented in particular through the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the regional seas programmes, each of which has its own strategic planning and workplan development processes. In the field of freshwater, the overall direction for UNEP has been defined by the Governing Council decisions noted above and is further guided by the resolutions of the various intergovernmental forums also noted above. These decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and other resolutions thereby constitute the UNEP freshwater policy. Following the mandate of decision 23/2 of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the present document, in the following chapters, presents a strategy for implementing that policy.

III. Goal and objectives

18. Taking into account the mandates noted above, the overall goal of the UNEP water policy and strategy is to contribute substantively to environmental sustainability in the management of all water resources, utilizing integrated ecosystems approaches, as a contribution to the internationally agreed targets and goals relevant to water and socio-economic development.

19. The objectives of the UNEP water policy and strategy, distilled from its mandates, are:

- (a) Improved assessment and awareness of water issues;
- (b) Improved environmental management of basins, coastal and marine waters, including the identification of linkages with ongoing international processes;
- (c) Improved cooperation in the water sector.

IV. Strategic principles

20. As UNEP continues to move towards implementing its water mandates and the goal and objectives above, it will be directed by the following conceptual and operational principles, which will focus its work.

A. Conceptual principles

1. Promote ecosystem-based approaches

21. UNEP activities take as a reference ecosystem-based approaches. Ecosystem-based approaches factor in the full range of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, looking at a hydrological basin as a whole in both its upstream and downstream dimensions, including, among other things, specific ecosystems such as forests, land, wetlands, urban ecosystems and coastal zones. Similarly, the interface between freshwater and coastal ecosystems must also be taken into consideration in management plans for both

types of systems. Ecosystem approaches recognize the social, cultural, economic and environmental needs for sustainable water resources management. Such needs include maintaining biodiversity and the health of the environment through consideration of environmental flows and recognizing the regulatory functions of ecosystems (e.g., wetlands) and their capacity for water recharge, as well as their role as buffers against extreme events and the impacts of urbanization. Taking into account these ecosystem considerations, UNEP will work to ensure that the full hydrological cycle (including superficial water recharge) within each hydrological basin is taken into consideration in environmental assessment and management plans.

2. Contribute to sound economic and social development, including poverty reduction, through integrated assessment and management of water resources and associated ecosystems

22. As stated in the Jeju Initiative, a contribution to the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development emanating from the eighth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, water is a vital resource for human life and health, ecosystems management, and economic development and must be managed as such. Maintaining the health of ecosystem services is of particular importance to the poor, as is preventing the degradation caused by unsustainable natural resource management practices. A shift is needed away from supply-side policies to integrated supply- and demand-management approaches which incorporate the value of the multiple uses of water while protecting ecosystem services. Consequently, UNEP will promote the greater use of economic and social instruments and technological improvements to promote the efficient and equitable use of water. Such instruments should manage demand and generate new revenue for expanding water services to the poor through the protection of water supplies, with resultant improvements in health care, cost savings and, through environmentally sound management (including reuse), the treatment and disposal of wastewater. In particular, the promotion of environmentally sound management practices will include the development, adoption and use of tools (e.g., environmental impact assessments and stakeholder dialogue) for sustainable development and management of water-related infrastructure such as hydropower and sanitation facilities.

23. In this connection, policies and technologies which reduce demand and increase available supplies (e.g., recycling, reuse and alternative sources) will be promoted in urban and rural settings. Also, policies which promote cleaner production techniques and environmentally sustainable technologies which promote efficient water use and reduce pollution will be encouraged. Where privatization of water services is implemented according to national priorities, it should be carefully reviewed and considered to ensure that the necessary legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks are in place to protect natural resources and that the poor are not further disadvantaged.

3. Address risks

24. Extreme hydrological events such as floods and droughts, other natural and man-made hazards and accidental pollution of water bodies pose major risks to growth and sustainable development. Additionally, climate change and variability may exacerbate extreme events or require long-term planning for effects such as sea-level rise. These events should be addressed in the context of an integrated approach to water resources management geared towards developing prevention and preparedness measures, together with risk mitigation and disaster reduction strategies, and towards strengthening the prevention and control of pollution resulting from wastewater, solid wastes and industrial and agricultural activities. UNEP will contribute within its mandate to implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,⁶⁶ which was adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held from 18 to 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan.

B. Operational principles

1. Build national and regional capacity: implementing the Bali Strategic Plan

25. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building provides further guidance for the implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy, particularly as it relates to coordinated action and cooperation with all relevant partners at the national and regional levels. Technology and capacity-building support by UNEP for the continuing efforts of national Governments

66 See A/CONF/206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

and other actors will be based on national and regional assessments of needs (utilizing existing assessments wherever possible). Activities will be linked with efforts already in progress and integrated with other sustainable development initiatives, building on existing capacities. Existing coordinating mechanisms such as the United Nations Development Group, the 2004 UNEP/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) memorandum of understanding and the resident coordinator system will be utilized to the fullest extent possible to avoid duplication of efforts.

2. Build on existing programmes and partnerships and form new partnerships

26. Partnership is essential for addressing complex and interlinked water issues. Neither UNEP nor any other organization can alone fully support Governments in meeting the monumental mandates and challenges described above. That being the case, UNEP will build on existing programmes and partnerships and at the same time establish new ones where appropriate. UNEP, as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, will work closely with other United Nations agencies through UN-Water and with regional bodies, municipal authorities, scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and relevant sectoral ministries to ensure that ecosystem-based approaches are fully integrated into water resources management.

27. The use of established programmes and partnerships within UNEP will continue to be evaluated for effectiveness and built upon as appropriate. These include, among other things, the Partnership for Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa, for legislative assistance; the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) Water programme for assessment; secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements; the Global Environment Outlook; the International Environmental Technology Centre, for technology innovations; the International Waters Portfolio of the Global Environment Facility (GEF); the Rainwater Partnership, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the coral reefs programme and the regional seas programmes.

3. Promote multi-stakeholder participation

28. Participation by all stakeholders is fundamental to sustainable water resources management. Active consultation and transparency significantly increase the likelihood of the sound development and implementation of water resources management initiatives. UNEP will promote the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in water resources planning and management, including infrastructure development, with a particular emphasis on women and indigenous groups as they are often the most adversely affected by unsustainable management.

V. Freshwater-coastal interface

29. In recent years, the Governing Council, and therefore the UNEP secretariat, has focused its attention on the downstream parts of hydrological basins, (i.e., coasts and further on into the oceans). The Regional Seas Programme was one of the first UNEP programmes and remains an important component of the UNEP water programme. More recently, this role has been strengthened through programmes such as the Global Programme of Action, support to small island developing States within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States⁶⁷ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States⁶⁸ and attention to coral reef issues through cooperation with the International Coral Reef Initiative and the International Coral Reef Action Network.

30. These coastal and ocean programmes are governed by their own intergovernmental processes such as the intergovernmental review meetings of the Global Programme of Action or the conferences of parties or intergovernmental meetings of the regional seas conventions and action plans. These intergovernmental processes define the policies, strategies and programmes of work of the coasts,

⁶⁷ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁶⁸ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

oceans, islands and coral reef programmes to which UNEP contributes and will continue to be a strong and integral part of a broader UNEP water programme.

31. Given the above, the present document does not attempt to further define a policy or strategy for oceans and coasts, but instead focuses specifically on freshwater, giving due consideration to interactions between freshwater and the coastal and marine environments.

32. With the recognition that water occurs in a continuum from freshwater through the coastal zone to the ocean, an important element of the UNEP freshwater strategy relates to the development of concepts and mechanisms for the linked management of freshwater resources and coastal waters. Freshwater resources play an important role in the coastal environment and to some degree coastal developments affect upstream freshwater resources. Depending on the scale, upstream/downstream integration according to national priorities may include integrated river basin-coastal area management planning or building in effective mechanisms for coordinated freshwater and coastal zone management. UNEP, as the secretariat for GPA and several Regional Seas programmes, will ensure that the implementation of the freshwater strategy complements the implementation of GPA and Regional Seas action plans and conventions and vice versa.⁶⁹

VI. Freshwater strategy

33. The overall objectives of the UNEP water programme are noted in chapter III above. For freshwater, these objectives will be implemented within the overall framework of integrated water resources management and efficiency plans. The term integrated water resources management as defined by the Global Water Partnership⁷⁰ and used in this policy and strategy is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

34. Integrated water resources management involves a wide range of elements – laws and regulations, policies, stakeholder participation, management plans, etc. – and incorporates scientific, technological, economic, cultural and social considerations. Integrated water resources management is thus designed and implemented from the standpoint of multiple objectives (including the allocation and management of water resources and water infrastructure) rather than from the single objective of environmental protection.

35. Although holistic integrated water resources management planning and implementation is key to tying together these elements, it must be noted that an integrated water resources management plan is not a pre-requisite for UNEP action and assistance. Many countries are in need of immediate action including technology support and capacity-building to enable the review of existing policies, laws, management practices (e.g., water resource allocation) and environmentally sound infrastructure development. Such identified needs already provide a basis for UNEP support; an integrated water resources management planning process can continue on a parallel track to provide for longer-term incorporation of water-related considerations into national poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development plans.

VII. Key components for freshwater

36. UNEP activities in the area of freshwater are organized into three key components: assessment; management; and cooperation towards mainstreaming environmental considerations into integrated water resources management. These three mutually supportive and interconnected components provide the basis for supporting an environmentally focused approach to integrated water resources management process at the national, subregional, regional and global levels.

⁶⁹ In addition to the Global Programme of Action (www.gpa.unep.org), UNEP also supports the FreshCo Partnership (www.ucc-water.org/Freshco) and the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (www.ww2bw.org).

⁷⁰ Global Water Partnership Technical Advisory Committee, TEC Background Paper No. 4: Integrated Water Resources Management (Stockholm: Global Water Partnership, 2000), p. 22.

37. The three components are described below and are further elaborated upon in appendix I to the present document, which describes areas of programmatic action, expected accomplishments and the comparative advantage of UNEP in each such area.

A. Assessment

38. Assessments which build the knowledge base with regard to water resources and related ecosystems constitute the primary mechanism for developing, implementing and evaluating appropriate management measures that take into account the needs of the environment and society. Such assessments must focus on water resources themselves – in terms both of quantity and quality – but must also include the assessment of related ecosystems.

39. Assessment of water resources has three main functions at the national, regional and global levels:

(a) To provide a knowledge base from which to develop, manage, monitor and evaluate water resources programmes and to encourage the integration of sustainable water resource management into development policies and processes;

(b) To raise awareness and inform stakeholders (including the public) of water resource issues and concerns, including demand;

(c) To assess threats, trends and emerging issues with respect to which future action may be needed.

40. Effective water resources management – policy, planning and implementation – depends on an accurate and scientifically credible knowledge base regarding water resources, water demand and relevant socio-economic factors. A sound knowledge base allows the formulation of management plans which are specific on the local, national, subregional and basin-wide levels and is also a basis for action programmes. Likewise, monitoring of water-related ecosystem conditions within an area being managed under a water resources plan can result in feedback to decision-makers that enables them to modify the plan to allow for the assessment of the value of the hydrological services of ecosystems and of water resources and to maximize sustainable use. Water resource assessments at the subregional, regional and global levels can inform regional and global decision-makers and the public, who can then better guide action programmes.

41. To inform stakeholders, assessments must be clear and tailored to specific audiences while maintaining their scientific integrity. The information flowing from assessments must facilitate and enable interaction and participation by all sectors of society in the making of informed choices and decisions about managing water resources. As noted above, awareness of the interconnectivity of water-related ecosystems is imperative to providing stakeholders with an understanding that enables the establishment of ecosystem-based water policies which fully reflect the economic, social and environmental value of water as a resource.

42. The assessment component of UNEP water-related activities will provide information on threats, trends and emerging issues. Threats from natural water-related hazards and threats to water resources are not static. Assessments of new and emerging areas must also be at the core of UNEP work. Such assessments will provide information on the environmental aspects of the world water situation. Information on trends and possible alternative scenarios can assist in anticipating problems and in taking timely corrective action. Assessment is also at the heart of an ecosystem-based approach as impacts of concern in one ecosystem can be telltale signs of impending disaster in other interconnected ecosystems. The assessment component will include assessments of potential threats from climate change to ensure that management plans can include climate change adaptation measures.

B. Management

43. Integrated water resources management provides an ecosystem-based approach to water resource management which encompasses both water quality and quantity. It builds on the interconnectivity between the various components of the natural resource base, i.e., of ecosystems, and links it with the institutional, social and economic elements of water resource management to provide the integrated management framework needed to deal with the particular problems related to the sustainable maintenance of ecosystems and the services which they provide.

44. Integrated water resources management also encompasses technical and governance perspectives. The technical perspective combines interactions between land, groundwater, surface water and marine resources and recognizes that such interactions can be further complicated by urbanization with respect to quality as well as quantity and the requirements of ecosystems. The environmental governance perspective includes two key elements: cross-sectoral integration in water resources management; and the integration of all stakeholders in the planning and decision-making process.

45. Cross-sectoral integration makes the institutional linkages between the sectors using or affecting water resources and water-related ecosystems and implies that water-related developments within all economic and social sectors must be taken into account in the overall management of water resources. Thus, water resources policy must be integrated into local and national economic and sectoral policies. This means recognizing the value of water with its social implications and addressing its risks while at the same time ensuring that sustainable management of water resources is effectively integrated into the social and development pathway which is adopted.

46. Stakeholder integration ensures that actors such as water users, local and national authorities, regional and subregional bodies and institutions and United Nations and international financial institutions are involved in decision making and management. Stakeholders will vary according to the management and planning level considered. Indigenous peoples, women, and the poor in particular have knowledge to bring which can provide new and innovative ideas for management and efficiency plans.

47. Within an integrated water resources management framework, there are three pillars within which UNEP will focus its actions to address the technical and governance perspectives:

(a) The enabling environment, i.e., the general framework of national and international policies and strategies, legislation, financing mechanisms and the dissemination of information for water resource management stakeholders. This framework enables all stakeholders to play appropriate roles in the sustainable development and management of the resource;

(b) The institutional functions that allow effective interaction between various administrative levels and stakeholders. Collaborative mechanisms and forums are needed to facilitate cross-sectoral integration and stakeholder participation so that the integration of environmental water management functions into an overall water resources management framework is strengthened;

(c) Management instruments, i.e., operational instruments for effective planning, regulation, implementation, monitoring and enforcement. With such instruments, decision-makers will be able to make informed choices between actions. These choices must be based on agreed policies, available resources, environmental impacts and social and economic consequences. Management instruments also include practical and technical guidance and technologies for water resource management, including at the local (e.g., urban) level.

C. Cooperation

48. The present section outlines cooperation mechanisms at the national, regional, subregional and global levels through which UNEP will deliver on the environmental assessment and management components described above. At each level, the avenues for cooperation with various partners are identified to ensure that a coordinated policy and strategic framework goes hand-in-hand with a coordinated delivery framework for joint actions with partners. There are also some common cooperation mechanisms which UNEP will follow at all levels, including an emphasis on United Nations system-wide cooperation in policy, strategy and implementation and on the need to engage international financial institutions wherever appropriate and possible so as to maximize impact and assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

1. National level

49. National Governments, having committed themselves to the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, have primary responsibility for implementing the 2005 integrated water resources management target. That being the case, political will is necessary to ensure coordinated national action, accompanied by the allocation of domestic resources. The United Nations system has also committed itself to assisting countries where national capacities are limited. Effectiveness of action at the national level and the need for national ownership require that national Governments give sustained direction to the United Nations system on their needs and the system's responses to those needs.

50. As noted in section B of chapter IV above on operational principles, the Bali Strategic Plan provides supplementary guidance for increasing effectiveness at the country level in the areas of technology support and capacity-building. That starting point for improving effectiveness must be the development of a coherent UNEP programme for Governments, to be carried out in cooperation with relevant partners (in particular through United Nations country teams) and clearly based on national priorities and national needs, i.e., demand-driven. On the basis of an identification of those needs, UNEP will work with partners to support national technology support and capacity-building to deliver implementation of the water policy and strategy where requested by Governments.

51. Response to Governments' requests for technology support and capacity-building at the national level will be responded to in cooperation with partners and in particular with other United Nations agencies, for example through the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework system, and will make full use of the UNEP/UNDP memorandum of understanding. The Secretary-General, in his report entitled "In larger freedom: towards security, development and human rights for all"⁷¹ prepared for the 2005 World Summit, emphasizes that the United Nations as a whole needs a more integrated structure for environmental standard-setting and that regional activities at the country level should benefit from synergies, on both normative and operational aspects, between United Nations agencies, making optimal use of their comparative advantages to realize an integrated approach.⁷² Consequently, programme coherence between all United Nations agencies, Government agencies, national institutions and donors working in a particular country is essential. Also, the Bali Strategic Plan and its implementation as outlined by UNEP in document UNEP/GCSS.IX/3/Add.1, should be considered in tandem with the water policy and strategy.

52. National implementation will focus on the importance of sustainable water resources management for poverty reduction. That being the case, UNEP will work with others to build national capacity to integrate water resources management into national poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development plans. Recognizing also the key role of cities, UNEP will work to integrate water resources management issues into city development strategies. It will also provide normative assistance and support for policy development to both developed and developing countries to promote integrated water resources management for sustainable development worldwide.

2. Regional and subregional levels

53. Coordination of UNEP water-related activities at the regional and subregional levels will be achieved through strengthened and reinforced UNEP regional offices, regional seas programmes, out-posted offices and other mechanisms already in place. Consistent with national-level implementation of the water policy and strategy, technology support and capacity-building efforts at the regional and subregional levels will also follow the Bali Strategic Plan. UNEP activities will also support regional and subregional strategies defined by intergovernmental bodies, including hydrological basin organizations. UNEP will implement the water policy and strategy through its cooperative frameworks with environmental ministerial forums, such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, regional ministerial forums on water, such as the African Ministers' Council on Water, the African Union and other forums and processes such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as well as through relevant regional multilateral environmental agreements. UNEP will promote the formation and strengthening of regional networks for information exchange, capacity-building and catalyzing South-South cooperation. It will also support the formation of networks at the ecoregional level and for catalysing North-South cooperation.

54. As hydrological basins often cross states, progress toward sustainable development goals may require cooperation among basin countries. For these transboundary water resources, riparian countries may consider the establishment of regional or subregional arrangements, taking into account national conditions as well as the characteristics of the overall basin, within an economic, social and environmental context. In a given case, UNEP, in cooperation with other relevant institutions and funding sources, may provide capacity-building on the coordination, evaluation and management of the environmental aspects of transboundary water resources, if requested by all the riparian countries.

⁷¹ A/59/2005 and Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3.

⁷² Ibid., para. 212. See also *ibid.*, annex, subpara. 8 (i).

3. Global level

55. As the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, UNEP will support system-wide efforts to integrate its activities into a cohesive and complementary programme to maximize United Nations impact while at the same time respecting the mandates and relative strengths and capacities of the various agencies in the United Nations system.

56. In so doing, UNEP will work closely through UN-Water and with the United Nations Environment Management Group to ensure that ecosystem approaches are fully taken into account in United Nations and intergovernmental policy discussions on water resources. Efforts will be made to encourage the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements to promote integrated water resources management within their mandates.

57. To address specific issues, collaborative arrangements for the implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy will be made with specialized programmes and institutions including civil society; the autonomous secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements; UNDP, through its memorandum of understanding with UNEP; the United Nations Development Group; the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); the International Maritime Organization; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the World Conservation Union (IUCN); the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; the World Bank, in particular within the framework of GEF; the International Monetary Fund; the International Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the World Meteorological Organization; the International Council of Scientific Unions; the World Water Assessment Programme. With respect to global observing systems, collaboration between UNEP (for example through its GEMS Water programme) and the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and UNESCO will serve to strengthen environmental monitoring and assessments.

58. UNEP, UN-Habitat and the World Health Organization have a particularly important role to play in dealing with the integrated issues of water, sanitation and human settlements in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session.

59. UNEP will build a clearinghouse mechanism through the Bali Strategic Plan which will complement existing mechanisms such as the Global Water Partnership Toolbox, the UNESCO Water Portal, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development's web-based best practices database, Water Action and Networking Database (Commission on Sustainable Development-WAND), and Cap-Net, the UNDP network for capacity-building in sustainable water management. This clearinghouse will promote synergy and shared learning, reduce duplication of efforts with other agencies and match delivery to demand.

60. UNEP will forge and strengthen partnerships at the global level with major groups as a means of drawing on the range of available mechanisms and expertise to promote the sustainable management and use of water resources and to identify best-practice responses to environment-related freshwater issues. This will include working through existing international partnerships such as the World Water Council, the Water Alliance, the World Water Forum and its ministerial conference, the Rainwater Partnership and the Global Water Partnership and will also include forming other relevant partnerships as necessary.

VIII. Operationalizing the strategy in the UNEP programme of work

61. Every two years, UNEP presents its biennial programme of work, including expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and specific activities and outputs, and its budget to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its regular session. The biennial programme of work is drafted by the secretariat and reviewed by the member States before final debate and adoption by the Council/Forum. The present policy and strategy will provide direction to the secretariat in its drafting of the programmes of work for the period 2007–2012.

62. Appendices I and II of the present policy and strategy provide specific direction to the UNEP secretariat for the development of its programme of work by describing topical focal areas and the relevant areas in which UNEP has a comparative advantage in the environmental field.

63. UNEP will work to ensure that UNEP-implemented water projects funded by GEF and other sources create maximum synergies and complementarities with the projects and activities carried out under the water policy and strategy. Additionally, UNEP will seek extra-budgetary funding, in particular through partnerships with donors, to maximize implementation of the water policy and strategy.

IX. Monitoring the water policy and strategy

UNEP will regularly monitor implementation of the water policy and strategy through its internal monitoring procedures. The overall expected accomplishments and indicators for each of the components of the strategy are described in appendix I and will be elaborated upon through the biennial UNEP programme of work. As the water policy and strategy will guide the development of the programme of work and UNEP already uses the results-based Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMIDIS) for monitoring implementation of the programme of work, consistent with the intrinsic principle of building on what already exists, UNEP will use IMIDIS to provide day-to-day monitoring of the water policy and strategy and for the development of annual and biennial United Nations reporting.

64. Formal qualitative implementation reports will be provided to Governments at the regular sessions of the UNEP Governing Council and will be used to gauge progress made towards the stated goal and objectives elaborated through the three main components of assessment, management and cooperation and in accordance with the appendix I indicators. Regional, intergovernmental and other forums will further facilitate continuous and systematic reviews.

65. Two years prior to the expiry of this policy and strategy (2010), the secretariat will prepare a draft, updated policy and strategy for the subsequent six-year term of 2013-2018. That draft will be circulated at the regular session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2011, such that a final draft may be circulated no later than September 2012 for consideration by the Council/Forum in 2013. Should circumstances warrant an earlier update of the policy and strategy to account for unforeseen and emerging issues during the six-year term of the water policy and strategy, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum may wish to mandate that such an update be prepared.

Appendix I

Areas of programmatic action in freshwater

Expected accomplishment	Indicators	Areas of UNEP comparative advantage
Component 1: Assessment*		
1.1. Provide knowledge base		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated assessments address environmental aspects of water and support national development planning and policy (e.g., poverty reduction strategy papers, United Nations development assistance frameworks). Policy relevant environmental assessments and environmental profiles are developed for integrated water resource management (IWRM) priority setting and monitoring effectiveness of management initiatives, as well as for compliance and enforcement. Technology-support and capacity-building for environmental assessment of water resources is provided at the regional, subregional and national levels. Socio-economic valuation of water-related ecosystem services as a tool for decision-making is fully integrated into water resource development and management scenarios. Regional, subregional, national and local stakeholders are able to carry out assessments aimed at the restoration of degraded surface and groundwater related ecosystems. Relevant regional organizations are assisted (upon request) to develop and maintain regionally harmonized water databases and assessment reports, paying due attention to freshwater-coastal interaction, transboundary waters and groundwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated water resources management processes and plans are based on scientific, economic and rational priority setting and are revised based on continuous monitoring and adjustment. Priority consideration is given to the socio-economic value of water-related ecosystem services in national development plans, as a tool for decision-making. Environmental profiles are used in setting priorities and for implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building needs assessments. Environmental assessments are conducted for ecosystem restoration. Regional water basin environmental issues are well understood and acted upon by relevant actors. Regional water resource assessment methodologies are based on comprehensive, high-quality data sets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification or development of integrated assessment methods on water quality and quantity issues and related ecosystems Assistance in the development of integrated assessments at the national, regional and global levels (not only methods, but actual assessments) Support for the development of national environmental profiles Capacity-building for socio-economic assessments to assess value water-related ecosystem services for incorporation into national development planning Assistance in the development of institutional frameworks to translate assessment results into policy Identification or development of methodologies and building of capacity for surface and groundwater ecosystem restoration for ecosystems degraded by natural or human induced impacts National and regional capacity-building on the use of environmental assessment methodologies for integrated water resources management planning, implementation and monitoring – including for transboundary water resources when requested

* Actions under components 1 and 2 will be undertaken cooperatively with partners as indicated in component 3.

Expected accomplishment	Indicators	Areas of UNEP comparative advantage
1.2 Raise awareness and inform stakeholders of water resources issues		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision makers and other stakeholders are made aware of the importance of integrated water resources management for achievement of MDGs, and in particular poverty reduction. Increased awareness among stakeholders of the value of water resources and the interlinkages between related ecosystems (e.g., freshwater-coastal) and their related ecosystem services. Long-term macro-economic consequences and progress in non-action areas (e.g., health, poverty, hunger) are monitored. Improved access to water resource environmental assessment information. ●All relevant actors support well-defined national environmental priorities impacting on socio-economic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders are actively engaged in IWRM processes and make valuable contributions to ensure that in accommodating competing uses the overall benefit of such uses to society, particularly to the poor, is taken into consideration. IWRM plans address freshwater-coast interlinkages, groundwater and water resource augmentation (e.g., rainwater). Poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks include environmental water resource concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of tailored integrated water assessments (including social and economic information) for specific audiences, including for the development of poverty reduction strategy papers and United Nations development assistance frameworks Promotion of understanding of the interlinkages between freshwater and coasts Promotion of better understanding of groundwater and water resource augmentation (e.g., rainwater) in an IWRM context Identification and development of an environmental water resources information database, including information on relevant clean technologies Disseminate information and guidelines on surface- and groundwater quality and the safe reuse of treated wastewater Identification and dissemination of traditional knowledge and best practices
1.3 Provide information on threats, trends and emerging issues		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The global community is informed on primary and emerging threats to the environmental integrity of water resources. Dialogue forums are provided on trends and emerging issues that affect the environmental aspects of water resources. The environmental state of global water resources is kept under review and the international community, all stakeholders and the general public are well informed. Alternative environmental scenarios for water resources management are developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated water resources management processes and plans take into account natural disasters (such as hurricanes, droughts and floods) climate change and climate change adaptation. Alternative water resource development scenarios (e.g., hydropower, desalinization) and their environmental impacts are assessed in the context of local and national development strategies. Water resource scenarios consider relevance of related ecosystem services. Environmental aspects of global water resources and related emerging issues are discussed at global forums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In cooperation with others, collection and dissemination of information on threats, trends and emerging issues such as climate variability, urbanization, water infrastructure, desertification, deforestation, etc. Development of scenarios on impacts of threats to water resources to ensure that IWRM includes contingencies Expansion of availability and use of information on environmental flows and their relevance to IWRM Development and dissemination of global state-of-water resource reports (e.g., Global Environment Outlook)

Component 2: Environmental management		
2.1 Create enabling environment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National environmental legislative and policy frameworks are developed to support IWRM plans and processes. IWRM financing mechanisms for ecosystems services will be created taking into consideration national priorities. Regionally differentiated IWRM environmental policies and legislative frameworks are developed, built upon the structure and foundation of the UNEP water policy and strategy. National IWRM plans are supportive of wider regional/river basin management plans (including for transboundary water resources). Policy and legislative frameworks including the valuation of ecosystem services as a tool for decision-making are supported for the management of transboundary water resources, where requested by all relevant parties. Application of ecosystem approaches as an overarching policy and programmatic framework for IWRM with all partners is enhanced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental components of IWRM plans are solid and defensible and well grounded in national development frameworks. National financing options and funding levels in support of environmental components of IWRM are increased. The value of water resources for both human and environmental purposes is incorporated into national development strategies. Regional entities and commissions have environmentally sound legislative and policy frameworks for the joint management of water resources. Regional IWRM plans give due consideration to the value of ecosystem services. Global environmental frameworks for water resources management are founded in IWRM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of policy support for the incorporation of environmental aspects of water resources management and the economic value of water-related ecosystems into national poverty reduction strategy papers and sustainable development plans Capacity-building in payments for ecosystem services Provision of guidance and technical and legal support to Governments on environmental aspects of IWRM, including on the relevance of freshwater-coast interlinkages Promotion of integration of GEF-supported international water projects into national sustainable development planning Provision of legislative and policy support for the development or implementation of IWRM-based transboundary basin management initiatives, where requested by all relevant riparian Governments
2.2 Institutional functions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National institutions are strengthened and reformed to address the full range of environmental issues associated with IWRM. Relevant national institutions consult with each other on environmental aspects of water resource management issues as part of their core operations. Local, national and regional inter-institutional dialogues on key water resource management issues including all relevant stakeholders are facilitated where requested. Cooperation and networking between institutions across relevant sectors (including freshwater and coastal sectors) at the national, subregional, regional and global levels on environmental aspects of water resources is increased. IWRM plans contain practical guidance on cross-sectoral integration of relevant institutions within the context of national and sectoral development plans and goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National institutional mandates and work plans accommodate the environmental aspects of water resource management. Recommendations of national, regional/subregional and global dialogues are incorporated into IWRM plans. Institutional capacity is developed to address transboundary water concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of and support for reform of national environmental institutions and regional cooperative mechanisms for water resources Facilitation of inter-institutional dialogue meetings on environmental aspects of IWRM at the local, national and regional levels Facilitation of creation of institutional mechanisms to allow all stakeholders to contribute to IWRM Assistance to interested and concerned Governments in establishing dialogue mechanisms to enable stakeholders to interact on the freshwater-coast interface Support for capacity building of regional/subregional institutions that address

Component 2: Environmental management		
		environmental aspects of IWRM collectively
2.3 Management instruments		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental guidelines, methods and other tools and operational instruments for IWRM are developed and made available at the national, regional and global levels. Coordinated environmental technical support and capacity-building are provided at the national, subregional, and regional levels in the use of IWRM instruments. Innovative and environmentally sustainable technologies are available for IWRM. Conservation finance mechanisms and instruments are actively incorporated into IWRM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystem services, conservation finance and water resources valuation are integral aspects of IWRM planning and processes. Water resource managers have the necessary environmental technologies, technical and management tools at their disposal to implement IWRM. IWRM and water efficiency planning at the national, subregional and regional levels are implemented in a technically sound manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification and promotion of the development and transfer of low-cost technologies, including water efficiency and alternative water supplies such as desalinization, wastewater reuse, pollution prevention and rainwater harvesting Identification and promotion of operational instruments to support protection and rehabilitation of basins and their ecosystems Identification or development of guidelines for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevention and preparedness guidelines, together with risk mitigation and disaster reduction, including early-warning systems for water resources; consideration of interconnected ecosystems (e.g. land, forests), including freshwater-coast interlinkages; capacity-building for monitoring compliance and enforcement; financing ecosystem-based approaches to IWRM
Component 3: Cooperation		
3.1 National level		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing national IWRM processes include integration and mainstreaming of environmental considerations in cooperation with other development partners. National Governments express political will, commitment and ownership of national IWRM processes and plans. National environmental policies and mechanisms for IWRM are communicated to the local (city) level. UNEP work to promote environmental aspects of IWRM at the country level under the Bali Strategic Plan umbrella is fully aligned with that of other actors (in particular other United Nations agency partners). Where previously absent, national IWRM processes are initiated with fully integrated environmental components and in cooperation with other development partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National IWRM planning and processes include strong environmental considerations. National budgets reflect commitment to IWRM. United Nations support at the national level in the context of the United Nations Development Group is delivered in a coherent fashion. Cities embrace national IWRM environmental principles and practices applied at the local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of environmental capacity needs in cooperation with development partners for water resources management Catalysing and facilitation of IWRM environmental capacity at the national level within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan (through workshops and guidelines) for assessment and management Technical environmental workshops and guidance that improve knowledge and access to innovative and appropriate technologies Promotion of integration of UNEP-supported water activities at the national level with those of other actors such as the United Nations, GEF, bilateral donors and development banks National level environment-related water resource

Component 2: Environmental management		
		management initiatives implemented in the context of the UNEP/UNDP memorandum of understanding
3.2 Regional and subregional levels		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional networks are strengthened to deliver regionally consistent and mutually supportive IWRM programmes that contain strong environmental components and considerations. Environmental aspects of IWRM are incorporated into ongoing or newly initiated regional and subregional processes in cooperation with other development partners, regional networks and intergovernmental institutions. Cooperative frameworks are provided, where requested by all relevant parties, for dialogue on transboundary waters and infrastructure development (e.g., hydropower). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional and subregional networks and institutions incorporate components of UNEP water policy and strategy into IWRM plans and processes. National Governments and other stakeholders at the regional and subregional levels strive to reach consensus on management of transboundary waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to regional networks (e.g., African Ministers' Council on Water, Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment) in their efforts to promote integrated water resources management Provision of institutional and technical capacity-building for the environmental management of shared basins and aquifers where requested, including the freshwater-coast interface and consideration of economic factors
3.3 Global level		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental aspects of UN-Water are strengthened through UNEP contribution. Global coordinating mechanisms (e.g., multilateral environmental agreements) benefit from UNEP support to their water resources initiatives and programmes. Global progress towards IWRM plan development and implementation is monitored, in particular environmental aspects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global actions in water resources avoid duplication and maximize complementarity of activities. Relevant multilateral environmental agreements develop water programmes tailored to their specific needs and complementary initiatives are undertaken between relevant multilateral environmental agreements. Global IWRM indicators and monitoring schemes are developed and include clear environmental aspects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of support for environmental water resource management as a contribution to UN-Water, the United Nations International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005–2015, the Global Water Partnership and other relevant global organizations and active participation in promoting ecosystems-based approaches to water resources management Work with UN-Water and other development partners to monitor progress towards the World Summit on Sustainable Development IWRM 2005 target that includes environmental considerations Consistent with the Bali Strategic Plan, development of a database and clearinghouse mechanism of relevant UNEP activities worldwide in the field of environmental capacity-building Support for the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in promoting the values and components of the UNEP water policy and strategy

Appendix II

Thematic areas for strategic action

Strategic principle	Thematic areas	Relevant UNEP programmes and initiatives
Promote ecosystem-based approaches.	Groundwater (including groundwater/surfacewater connectivity)	Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) Water Global International Waters Assessment Iraqi Marshlands
	Ecosystem restoration	
	Freshwater-coastal linkage	GPA/Regional Seas Fresh-Co partnership UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment (UCC-Water) Collaboration through UN-Water White Water to Blue Water coral reef programme
	Environmental flows: quality and quantity issues	GEMS Water Global International Waters Assessment UCC-Water
	Water resource augmentation (e.g., rainwater and desalinization)	Rainwater Partnership Pilot demonstration projects
	Transboundary water resources management	Regional Seas UCC-Water
Contribute to sound economic and social development, including poverty reduction.	Sanitation, wastewater collection, reuse and reallocation	Global Programme of Action for Land-based Activities Regional Seas Nairobi River Basin Project
	Mainstreaming of environment into development processes	Poverty and Environment programme Pro-Poor Markets for Ecosystems Initiative UCC-Water Bali Strategic Plan Jeju Initiative
	Environmentally sustainable technologies	Bali Strategic Plan – Technology Support component Pilot Demonstration Projects on: Sanitation and Wastewater Management: Drinking water provision; Eco-towns and integrated solid waste management
	Legal instruments	Partnership for Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa
	Water demand management and water conservation	UCC-Water Resource augmentation -3Rs principle and tapping alternative resources
	Dams and hydropower	
	Infrastructure development for water resources management	
	Water and the Millennium Development Goals	Poverty and Environment programme Rainwater Harvesting
Address risks.	Adaptation to climate variability	Awareness and Preparedness of Emergencies at Local Level Post Conflict and Disaster Management Managed aquifer recharge with rainwater as an adaptation to climate change Multilateral environmental agreement support UNEP/United Nations Industrial Development Organization network of national cleaner production centres
	Extreme hydrological events	
	Water pollution control	
	Environment and security –post disaster management	
	Disaster prevention and risk management	
	Waste management /Cleaner production	

Strategic principle	Thematic areas	Relevant UNEP programmes and initiatives
	Chemicals	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
Build national and regional capacity.	Technology transfer	Bali Strategic Plan
	South-south cooperation	China –Africa capacity-building programme UCC-Water
	Water sector capacity-building needs assessment needs	Bali Strategic Plan UNEP/UNDP memorandum of understanding UCC-Water
Build on existing programmes and partnerships and form new partnerships.	Legal instruments	Partnership for Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa
	Rainwater harvesting	Rainwater Partnership
	Urban water resources	Cities Alliance Sustainable Cities Programme Wastewater management
Promote multi-stakeholder participation.	Gender and water	Gender and Water task force Global Water Partnership/Global Water Alliance
	Intergovernmental/inter-stakeholder dialogue	UCC-Water

Annex II

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Ms. Fatima Dia Toure (Senegal)

Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its twenty-fourth session, on 5 February 2007, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum decided to establish a Committee of the Whole to consider agenda items 4 (a), 4 (c)–(f), 5, 6, 7 and 8. The Committee was also to consider draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP and proposed for adoption by the Council/Forum, which were contained in document UNEP/GC/24/L.1, draft decisions submitted by Governments, which were contained in document UNEP/GC/24/L.2, and draft decisions proposed during the session.
2. The Committee of the Whole held nine meetings from 5 to 9 February 2007 and was chaired by Mr. Jan Dusík (Czech Republic) in accordance with the decision of the Council/Forum taken at its 1st plenary meeting. The Committee elected Ms. Fatima Dia Toure (Senegal) to serve as Rapporteur of its meetings.

I. Opening of the meeting

3. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the Committee's first meeting by thanking the Bureau and the member States for electing him as Chair and suggesting a number of measures for making the work of the Committee run smoothly and efficiently.

II. Organization of work

4. The Committee agreed to follow the programme of work set out in a conference room paper circulated to Committee members at its 1st meeting. Delegations were asked to submit any draft decisions to the secretary of the Governing Council by the end of the afternoon session on Tuesday, 6 February. Draft decisions would be discussed under the relevant agenda items and suggestions on language and text would be addressed by the drafting group established to that end by the Council/Forum during its first plenary session.
5. The Committee agreed to establish an open-ended working group on the budget and programme of work, to be chaired by Mr. Jan Bauer (Netherlands), and a working group on chemicals to be co-chaired by Mr. Donald Hannah (New Zealand) and Ms. Abiola Olanipekun (Nigeria).
6. In considering the items before it, the Committee had before it the documentation outlined for each item in the annotated agenda for the current session (UNEP/GC/24/1/Add.1).
7. Prior to taking up the individual agenda items entrusted to it, the Committee heard brief introductions of a number of the draft decisions that it was to consider. Mr. Igor Liška, the permanent representative of Slovakia to UNEP, introduced a series of six draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, contained in document UNEP/GC/24/L.1, giving a brief outline of the Committee's negotiations on each. The representatives of Algeria and Canada and a representative of a group formed by Gambia, Iceland, Norway, Senegal and Switzerland introduced draft decisions submitted by their Governments, contained in UNEP/GC/24/L.2, and gave overviews of their contents. A representative of the United States of America introduced a draft decision submitted by his Government, contained in a conference room paper, and outlined its salient points. The representative of Uganda announced that the group of African countries would submit two draft decisions.

III. Policy issues (agenda item 4)

8. The Committee took up the item at its 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 6 February 2007. Noting that sub-item 4 (b) was being considered in the Council/Forum's ministerial consultations, the representative of the secretariat introduced the remaining sub-items (a) and (c)–(f). As the volume of documentation and the range of issues for the item made a detailed presentation impractical, the representative of the secretariat highlighted a number of key points under each sub-item. The Committee then took up sub-items (a), (c) and (d) immediately following the secretariat's introduction, while it took up the remaining sub-items at subsequent meetings as indicated below. The secretariat's introduction of each sub-item is included in the section below relating to that sub-item.

A. State of the environment (agenda item 4 (a))

9. The representative of the secretariat noted that the documents for the sub-item presented the results of various findings, assessments, surveys and reviews; of special interest to developing countries was a section on assistance that UNEP had provided to them on how better to organize their national processes and institutions for early warning and monitoring and assessment; there were also reports on the implementation of decision 23/5 on small island developing States and on the status of ratification of environmental treaties.

10. On UNEP assessment, monitoring and early warning activities, several representatives said that one of the most important roles of UNEP was to keep the world environment situation under review and expressed support for further strengthening in that area, where UNEP had a comparative advantage. The Environment Watch Strategy: Vision 2020 and a partnership with Google Inc. on the visualization of environmental changes were steps in the right direction.

11. A few representatives called for UNEP to enhance its support for the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, whose assessments on radiation effects were essential for assessing nuclear power options in the current debate on climate change, including by requesting the United Nations General Assembly to establish a trust fund to support its activities. The representative of the secretariat said that UNEP intended to work at the General Assembly toward enhancing the financial resources for the Committee.

12. Several representatives said that environmental assessments, such as the Global Environment Outlook Cities project, played a fundamental role in guiding policy-making and in highlighting priorities for action and should therefore be continuously developed and disseminated. Others expressed concern at the proliferation of assessments, however, and stressed the need to avoid duplication of work and to use the available limited resources wisely; further, long-standing and valuable programmes such as the GRID Programme should be enhanced before starting new initiatives. The representative of the secretariat said that UNEP aimed to use resources wisely and to increase the emphasis on capacity-building in its assessments while nurturing existing programmes.

13. One speaker suggested that UNEP should consult further with end users of global assessments to enhance their accessibility and relevance to regional and subregional policy-making. The representative of the secretariat said that such was UNEP practice and that it would continue, and he cited the GEO cities project as a prominent example of an assessment that added value to policy-making.

14. Many representatives said that they looked forward to the publication of the fourth Global Environment Outlook report. One welcomed the capacity-building activities associated with its preparation and suggested that instead of carrying out global assessments UNEP should focus on building the capacity of countries to generate and collect their own data, which could then be fed into the work of UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This "bottom-up approach" would assist countries in adopting national development plans relevant to their environmental problems. The second *Africa Environment Outlook Report*, which had been launched in May 2006, was welcomed in that spirit.

15. Noting that the *GEO Year Book 2007* included the issue of nanotechnology, one representative suggested that UNEP should focus its limited resources on addressing issues on which it had expertise. The representative of the secretariat responded that UNEP aimed to make the yearbooks directly relevant to the policy discussions of the Council/Forum and that nanotechnology had been included as an important emerging issue.

16. Praising UNEP activities in small island developing States, one representative expressed hope that it would continue and called for the development of a programme on small island developing States in which all UNEP activities would be consolidated and harmonized through an overall strategy on issues facing those countries. Projects could include help in developing vulnerability assessment tools and climate change adaptation strategies; training on how to access funding for adaptation projects; and assistance in the introduction of renewable energy technologies. Another representative called for help in the areas of chemicals management and environmental reporting. The representative of the secretariat agreed that a more strategic approach and a specific programme on small island developing States were needed and said that UNEP would continue to seek the necessary resources.

17. At its 4th meeting, on the morning of Wednesday, 7 February, the Committee considered a draft decision on support to Africa in environmental management and protection submitted by Nigeria on behalf of the group of African countries, which had been circulated in document UNEP/GC/24/L.1. Representatives who spoke expressed their broad support for the draft decision but noted the need for textual refinements. The Committee accordingly referred it to the drafting group for further consideration.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee also considered a draft decision on municipal solid waste treatment submitted by Morocco, which had been circulated in document UNEP/GC/24/L.1. There was some discussion as to whether the matter fell within the mandate of UNEP, following which the Committee agreed to refer the draft decision to the drafting group for further consideration.

19. The Committee also took up another draft decision from document UNEP/GC/24/L.1, on the declaration of the years 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, which had been submitted by Algeria and had been circulated in document UNEP/GC/24/L.2. There was agreement among representatives on the importance of combating desertification but a divergence of views on whether declaring a decade on the issue would have value. The Chair asked concerned representatives to discuss the matter further in a small informal contact group and report to the Committee on a possible way forward.

20. The Committee also took up a draft decision on the world environmental situation, also contained in document UNEP/GC/24/L.1. Divergent views were expressed on the need for the decision and the Chair asked concerned representatives to discuss the matter further in a group of friends of the chair and report back to the Committee with a proposal. At its 8th meeting, on the evening of 8 February 2007, the Committee considered the draft decision as amended by the group, which was circulated in a non-paper. The Committee approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Council.

21. Also at that meeting, the Committee considered a draft decision on preventing illegal international traffic in chemicals submitted by Nigeria in a conference room paper. The Committee agreed that the contact group on chemicals would consider the draft decision. At its 9th meeting, on the morning of 9 February, the Committee agreed that the draft decisions being considered by the working group on chemicals would be submitted directly to the Council/Forum in plenary and would not be considered further by the Committee.

22. At its 6th meeting, on the morning of 8 February, the Committee considered a draft decision on a proposed international centre for judicial capacity-building in environmental law in Cairo submitted by the Group of 77 and China on behalf of Egypt, which had been circulated in a conference room paper. The Committee agreed to establish an informal contact group, which discussed the draft decision and reported back to the Committee that agreement had been reached on the draft decision. At the Committee's 8th meeting, the Committee agreed that a statement regarding the agreement would be reflected in the proceedings of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. That statement is set out in annex V to the proceedings.

23. At the same meeting, the Committee took up a draft decision on intensified environmental education for achieving policy goals and targets circulated in a conference room paper submitted by the Group of 77 and China. After discussion, the Committee approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum.

24. Also at its 6th meeting, the Committee considered a draft decision on small island developing States submitted by Tuvalu and circulated in a conference room paper. Following debate, the Committee agreed to establish an informal contact group to consider minor amendments that had been proposed. At its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of 8 February, the Committee approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Council.

25. At its 9th meeting, on the morning of 9 February, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the draft decision on the declaration of the years 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and Desertification Control (UNEP/GC/24/CW/L.4) as amended by the contact group. The representative of the United States, asking that his remarks be reflected in the present report, stressed that his delegation had agreed to the text of the decision in the spirit of cooperation and advancing the work of the Committee but in general opposed what he saw as a proliferation of decades and years dedicated to particular topics.

26. At the same meeting, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the draft decision on support to Africa in environmental management and protection (UNEP/GC/24/CW/L.4), as amended by the drafting group. It also approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the draft decision on waste management (UNEP/GC/24/CW/L.4), as amended by the drafting group.

B. Coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters (agenda item 4 (c))

27. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat said that cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme had reached a new level in the areas of poverty and environment, climate change and chemicals management. An important issue under the sub-item was the need to adopt a decision confirming the amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility.

28. One speaker, noting that certain countries did not have United Nations representation on the ground, supported the establishment of a UNEP presence in small island developing States aimed at providing assistance in the area of environmental security. The representative of the secretariat noted that UNDP had offices in most countries, which meant that UNEP was effectively able to provide assistance through its strategic partnership with UNDP.

29. Several representatives referred to useful ideas contained in the report of the High-level Panel on System-Wide Coherence. One noted the importance of the United Nations “delivering as one” at the country level, as called for in the report of the Panel of that name,⁷³ including the provision of environmental expertise. Another representative said that the “One UN” pilot programmes would generate important lessons for the international community on how best to integrate environment into United Nations development responses, saying that it was necessary for United Nations country teams to cooperate with all and to avoid being dominated by one agency. Another said that UNEP did not need to be present in all countries, but the Programme did need to better support country teams and be more involved in the elaboration of United Nations development assistance frameworks. The representative of the secretariat responded that offices were established in countries where the scale of activities warranted it and that UNEP would participate in the development assistance framework process to contribute to the One UN approach.

30. A number of speakers agreed with the Executive Director’s view that UNEP should be the key environmental authority in the United Nations system but stressed that one of the pre-conditions for that was effective coordination with the system and with other partners. Improved coordination would avoid duplication of work, encourage optimal use of resources and improve synergies. A number of delegates made reference to the importance of the Environment Management Group in the context of enhancing coordination and welcomed its revitalization. Two speakers expressed support for greater coordination with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements.

⁷³ Delivering as one: report of the Secretary General’s High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment (A/61/583).

31. Two representatives said that coordination with the United Nations system on environmental matters and international environmental governance were inextricably linked and that improving international environmental governance was now seen in the context of United Nations reform. One speaker said that there was a need to cement environmental considerations in the development agendas of all countries, not just developing countries. His Government therefore supported the Executive Director's objective of bringing economic and environment considerations together.

32. Several speakers welcomed UNEP efforts to strengthen cooperation with UNDP and recommended building on them through the United Nations Development Group and increased collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), while respecting the respective mandates and comparative advantages of each entity. It was important for UNEP to prioritize, as it could not be a global leader in all areas considered to fall under the umbrella of environment. One speaker suggested that collaboration between the two agencies should focus on capacity-building.

33. One representative expressed concern that there was no mention in the documents under consideration of cooperation between UNEP and the World Bank, which, as a major source of financing for environmental projects, was an important actor. The representative of the secretariat replied that UNEP hoped to strengthen cooperation with the World Bank and other financial institutions and had held significant discussions in the poverty and environment context.

34. Several representatives called the presence of the heads of a number of important United Nations bodies encouraging and called for further substantive cooperation with those organizations; one suggested that the Executive Director of UNEP address other bodies. Following the discussion under the sub-item, representatives of United Nations bodies attending the current session of the Council/Forum reported briefly on cooperation with UNEP.

35. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) spoke of the main areas in which cooperation between UNESCO and UNEP should be concentrated, including scientific, technical and technological issues related to the state of the environment (one example being the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)), water sciences, water resources management, water governance and natural and human-induced disaster preparedness and mitigation. UNESCO had embarked on an analysis of how its capacity-building activities fitted with and contributed to provisions of the Bali Strategic Plan and would make that information available to its United Nations partners. It had also produced a draft study entitled "Mapping Environment-related Activities within the UN System and its Close Partners" and invited all partner agencies to contribute to refining the draft.

36. The representative of UNDP reported that UNEP and UNDP were jointly managing a poverty and environment initiative and would soon establish a UNDP/UNEP poverty and environment facility in Nairobi to support country teams in mainstreaming environment into poverty strategies. A new partnership on climate change had also recently been announced and the two agencies were actively collaborating on chemicals management. UNDP knowledge management facilities would be made available to UNEP, which it was hoped would ensure that environment was fully integrated into United Nations country team activities around the world.

37. The representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) recalled that UNEP and IMO had been in partnership since the mid-1970s and said that IMO had always put environmental concerns at the forefront of its work; the theme for the next World Maritime Day was the IMO response to current environmental challenges. IMO was collaborating with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme on marine protection issues, for example, as well as with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements on issues such as ship recycling. IMO was actively seeking other areas for cooperation based on the comparative advantages of each body.

38. The representative of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that his office recognized that all disasters caused environmental impacts and said that strong OCHA-UNEP collaboration and coordination were necessary to ensure that they were identified and addressed. OCHA attached great importance to its work with UNEP through the joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, which was the United Nations mechanism for coordinating the international response to environmental emergencies. OCHA also greatly valued its relationship with the UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch and anticipated that through collaboration between it and the joint environment unit there would be a seamless response to emergencies and longer-term recovery and rehabilitation.

39. At its 5th meeting, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 7 February, the Committee approved the draft decision set out in document UNEP/GC/24/L.1 on the amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum.

C. Coordination and cooperation with civil society (agenda item 4 (d))

40. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat said that the relevant documents reflected UNEP efforts to enhance the role of the Global Civil Society Forum, which had become a regular part of the structure of the meetings of the Council/Forum.

41. Several representatives welcomed UNEP efforts to promote the engagement of civil society in environmental decision-making, saying that it would result in better formulation and implementation of environmental policy. Recalling the report of the Cardoso Panel on United Nations Relations with Civil Society, the representative of a regional economic integration organization said that participation was fundamental to enhance the legitimacy of environmental decisions and to implement complex policy goals in an interconnected world and called for greater involvement of civil society in implementation and monitoring from the global to the local level.

42. A representative of civil society said that the Eighth Global Civil Society Forum had featured fruitful deliberations on a number of issues on the agenda of the Council/Forum. After outlining a number of recommendations to the Council/Forum, he expressed appreciation to Governments for their recognition of the contribution of civil society to sustainable development and to UNEP for its long record of engagement with civil society organizations. Another representative of civil society said that although women's role in environmental and poverty reduction had been recognized in many instruments and agreements, the mainstreaming of gender issues had been applied in a fragmented and inconsistent manner. She commended the UNEP gender plan of action, which had been developed in a successful partnership with the World Conservation Union and the Women's Environment and Development Organization, but noted that additional resources were required to support its implementation and urged Governments to provide them.

D. International environmental governance (agenda item 4 (e))

43. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat said that key topics to be considered were the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building; which would remain a high priority in the UNEP programme of work; the strengthening of the scientific base of UNEP, including the proposed Environment Watch Strategy: Vision 2020; universal membership of the Governing Council; and the voluntary indicative scale of contributions.

44. In the debate that ensued at the Committee's 5th meeting, on the afternoon of 7 February, a number of representatives expressed support for universal membership of the Governing Council, combined with the establishment of an executive board. One representative said that universal membership, would result in more open, participatory and transparent Council proceedings and greater ownership of its decisions. Those opposing said that it would make UNEP administration inefficient, that it would be a departure from common United Nations practice; that it was unnecessary inasmuch as the current membership ensured universal participation and nearly all decisions were taken by consensus; and that the presumed goals of universal membership would be undercut by the establishment of an executive board. One representative suggested that the issue should be further considered by the Council/Forum rather than in the United Nations General Assembly, and proposed that the draft decision on international environmental governance reflect that. Another objected to further considering the issue in either the Council or the General Assembly, as no agreement had been reached in either.

45. A few representatives said that the programme of work and implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building should ensure the balanced representation of regions, calling for actions to be prioritized using a country-based, bottom-up approach. One representative said that the draft decision on international environmental governance should call for support to UNEP regional offices for the implementation of the Plan in developing countries.

46. The Environment Watch strategy was widely supported as a way of strengthening the scientific base of UNEP. One representative also supported its emphasis on capacity-building and information sharing and suggested the need for greater links between the Strategy and the Bali Strategic Plan. He wondered how the third pillar of the strategy, the assessment partnership, would function, and who would set the priorities for assessments and actions under this partnership.

47. Several speakers stressed the need for increased coordination and synergies among multilateral environmental agreements. One, however, emphasized the importance of clear goals, as environmental agreements had different objectives and parties and while some agreements were limited to environmental matters, others dealt with development and social issues, the other two pillars of sustainable development. It was suggested that cooperation among conventions could involve streamlining certain activities, avoiding duplication of effort, maximizing resources and sharing relevant expertise and data.

48. A number of representatives supported strengthening the financial base of UNEP through increased contributions. Many supported the system of indicative scale of contributions, which provided more predictability and stability to the financial situation of UNEP. Concern was expressed, however, that major countries had decreased their voluntary contributions in 2006. One representative said that the contributions should also reflect the principle of fair burden-sharing, which was not adequately reflected in the draft decision on international environmental governance. Another said that the draft decision on strengthening the financing of UNEP gave the impression that the voluntary scale of contributions would become permanent, which he said was premature.

49. Several representatives expressed support for the draft decision on South-South cooperation under the sub-item. It was suggested that the decision should be a part of the draft decision on international environmental governance, however, as it related to the Bali Strategic Plan. Others preferred a stand-alone decision on the matter.

50. On the way forward, a number of representatives supported upgrading UNEP to a United Nations environment organization with stable and predictable resources. It was argued that this would ensure more effective and efficient international environmental action and implementation of the decisions made by the Council/Forum in Cartagena. Others said that they were not convinced of the need for an environment organization and that what was needed was to find ways to strengthen UNEP. One representative said that the key was to make the environment framework of the United Nations more responsive and able to tackle environmental issues in a more efficient, effective and coherent way. Another said that UNEP needed to heighten its effectiveness on the ground, guided by a country-driven bottom-up approach.

51. One representative said that the current system of international environmental governance reflected a good balance between coordination and decentralization, which allowed for greater flexibility and encouraged tailored solutions to unique problems. An organization with authority over multilateral environmental agreements, he said, might result in an additional layer of bureaucracy and would encroach on the autonomy of the governing bodies of existing conventions, leading to inefficiencies and taking resources away from implementation, would divert attention from improving the state of the global environment and it might undermine the financial support for UNEP.

52. Following its discussion, the Committee agreed to forward the draft decisions on international environmental governance and South-South cooperation contained in document UNEP/GC/24/L.1 to the drafting group. At its 8th session, on the evening of 8 February 2007, in the light of the heavy workload of the drafting group, the Committee agreed that a small group of interested delegations should convene to finalize the decision on South-South cooperation.

53. At its 9th meeting, on the morning of 9 February, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the draft decision on South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development as amended by the small group. The representative of Cuba noted that his delegation had agreed to the removal of references in the draft decision to a number of important South-South summits, including the Group of 77's First South Summit held in Havana, Cuba, in 2000 and the Second South Summit held in Doha, Qatar, in 2005, in the spirit of cooperation. He stressed, however, that those forums had been important for the negotiation of issues relevant to South-South cooperation and he asked that his comments be reflected in the present report.

54. At the same meeting the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the draft decision on implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance (UNEP/GC/24/CW/L.4), as amended by the drafting group.

E. Water policy and strategy (agenda item 4 (f))

55. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat said that the relevant documents provided information on the UNEP policy on freshwater and coastal and marine waters. UNEP, he said, was aiming for a medium- to short-term strategy that would extend to the year 2012, after which the Council could review the policy and strategy further.

56. In the debate that ensued at the Committee's 5th meeting, on the afternoon of 7 February, UNEP efforts on its water policy and strategy were broadly commended, in particular the strategy's emphasis on the need for integrated water resources management, its promotion of the ecosystem approach, plans to develop global water quality indicators and reference to the issue of adaptation in the light of the effects of climate change on water resources. Noting the wide range of activities included in the strategy, however, one speaker urged UNEP to focus on its strengths and to avoid spreading itself too thin.

57. One representative emphasized the need to enhance regional cooperation on the sharing of the upstream and downstream benefits of water basins and said UNEP should provide more capacity-building assistance to regional basin organizations, particularly on environmentally sound management. Her organization would welcome further assessment of the relationship between the management of coastal water and freshwater resources. She welcomed the intention of UNEP to continue work in the area of hydropower and pointed out that it was essential to make use of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment in that area. She highlighted the need for improved governance at all levels and appropriate enabling environments and regulatory frameworks, including a pro-poor approach. Finally, she stressed that the design and implementation of sustainable water policies required the concerted action of all stakeholders at all stages of decision-making and management.

58. Two representatives spoke of the need for strong partnerships and coordination of activities among the international community in the field of water, and one delegate suggested the UNEP should facilitate cooperation and seek to identify synergies in that area with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

59. A number of representatives expressed their support for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities and UNEP efforts to implement it, commending the outcome of the Programme's second inter-governmental review meeting, held in Beijing in October 2006. One representative suggested that a sustainable funding mechanism should be established to enable integration of that programme into national plans. Another said that, although his Government supported the use of the Regional Seas Programme to implement the Global Programme of Action, certain actions, such as the revision of a protocol, should be decided on by the Governments concerned and not by UNEP. Another representative suggested that a targeted approach to the promotion of regional seas activities should be adopted, in view of the differing levels of cultural and economic development in the affected regions, and encouraged UNEP to continue to provide financial and human resources in that area.

60. One representative highlighted that, although it was to be welcomed that Pacific States had begun to prepare for tsunamis, they should be encouraged to pay greater attention to mitigating the effects of storm surges, which were more common. He welcomed proposed UNEP activities to benefit Pacific islands and encouraged institutions that funded the Global Programme of Action to remain active in those countries. Another speaker stressed that such assistance needed take account of available traditional knowledge.

61. A number of speakers referred to the importance of enhancing capacity-building and one made a number of suggestions for donor countries, such as the establishment of bilateral memorandums of understanding or the development of online toolboxes to enable countries to gain expertise in particular areas.

62. One representative outlined the action taken in his water-scarce country to implement the river basin and integrated water resources management approaches and pointed out that his Government required support for water resources assessment and monitoring networks and the development of water storage infrastructure. Another outlined his country's efforts to bring its national legislation in line with that of the European Union.

63. Two representatives suggested that UNEP report on its water strategy at the sixteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2008. One suggested that in reporting on the water strategy to the Council/Forum at its twenty-fifth session, the Executive Director should present a detailed matrix showing measurable outcomes and information on how funds from the budget had been spent.

64. Following the discussion, the Committee agreed to send the draft decision related to water policy and strategy contained in document UNEP/GC/24/L.1 and the related updated water policy and strategy contained in the annex to document UNEP/GC/24/4/Add.1 to a small group of interested delegations for further discussion.

65. At its 8th meeting, on the evening of 8 February 2007, the Committee considered and approved the draft decision and the updated water policy and strategy as amended by the small group of interested delegations for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum.

IV. Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (agenda item 5)

66. The Committee took up agenda item 5 at its 6th meeting, on the morning of 8 February. A representative of the secretariat provided an introduction to the work of UNEP on the environmental dimension of sustainable development and providing input to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development for its forthcoming session. UNEP had provided material for each of the reports of the Secretary-General to be presented at the fifteenth session of the Commission, to be held in April and May 2007, and would be participating in a number of activities. UNEP was working with the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development, a Johannesburg Summit type II partnership, and the results of that work, in particular on the contribution of renewable energy to poverty alleviation, would be presented to the Commission. In addition, UNEP had been supporting the Forum of Energy Ministers in Africa and intended to organize a special event to focus on the African energy crisis, to which the World Bank would also contribute. UNEP was engaged in a number of other activities and partnerships, including with the International Energy Agency based on their World Energy Outlook 2006 report.

67. In the discussion that ensued, one representative, recalling the report entitled "Our common future" published by the World Commission on Environment and Development some twenty years earlier, expressed the hope that the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session would focus on policy aspirations for energy and air pollution and that it could agree on action to promote energy efficiency. He called on UNEP to undertake more work with UNDP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in that regard.

68. One representative suggested that UNEP could provide valuable input by working on the interlinkages between energy and climate change. She underlined the importance of cooperation between UNEP and UNDP as well as between UNEP and UNIDO. Another pointed to the need for UNEP to undertake more work on climate change and on projects under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism, in particular projects to prevent sea-level rise.

69. One representative commended the work of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics and in particular its energy office, which had been instrumental in leading the private sector toward the use of renewable and efficient energy sources. He expressed the hope that a report on the work of that office would be presented to the Commission.

V. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council (agenda item 6)

A. Chemicals management

70. The Committee took up the issue of chemicals management under agenda item 6 at its 2nd meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 6 February 2007. In addition to the draft decisions contained in document UNEP/GC/24/L.2, the Committee had before it draft decisions on mercury and chemicals submitted by Canada and the United States of America, respectively, which had been circulated in conference room papers. The Committee agreed that following its discussions at that meeting the chemicals contact group it had established would commence consideration of the draft decisions.

71. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat noted that the documents before the Committee addressed the four issues set out in Governing Council decision 23/9 of 25 February 2005 on chemicals management. With respect to cooperation and coordination between UNEP, multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and other organizations, he reported that since the twenty-third session of the Council/Forum, the conferences of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal had established a tripartite process for exploring cooperation with support from the convention secretariats and UNEP. On the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, he noted that work had begun on implementing the approach, the SAICM secretariat had been established within UNEP Chemicals and the Quick Start Programme had been launched to support initial implementation efforts, in particular for developing countries. He underscored the crucial importance of the availability of adequate and predictable funding to ensure that the approach was translated into meaningful and tangible actions.

72. On lead and cadmium, he noted progress achieved by UNEP in cooperation with partners in the phasing out of leaded gasoline worldwide. Scientific reviews on lead and cadmium had been undertaken and a working group had met to discuss the findings. With respect to the mercury programme in the larger context of chemicals management, the document set out work already undertaken under the programme and described progress in identifying key areas which might be addressed by partnerships. Further work to resolve discrepancies between import and export data and to reduce supply and demand was required. He noted a widespread view among States that partnership might not address all concerns and that a further strengthening of the mercury programme might be required.

73. Most of the representatives who spoke expressed their appreciation for the efforts made by UNEP and others in the management of chemicals, including heavy metals, and several called for the strengthening of the mercury programme. Representatives who spoke generally supported further action to address the risks posed by mercury uses and releases. One representative, noting that international chemicals policy had been one of the environmental success stories since the Earth Summit, urged the Governing Council to ensure its continued vitality.

74. Many representatives, commending efforts to date, supported the strengthening of partnerships. One representative challenged Parties who had adopted decision 23/9 to join in the work of supporting partnerships, in particular with respect to the mercury issue. Several underscored the need to maximize synergies with other chemicals conventions.

75. A number of representatives voiced their opposition to the negotiation of a legally-binding instrument on mercury, suggesting a preference for the use of the partnership approach. They cited the proliferation of multilateral environmental agreements; the possibility that a new international structure, especially one for a single chemical, would be inefficient and divert efforts from existing conventions; the chance that a legally-binding instrument that included other chemicals would ignore the very real differences between them, such as the varying degrees to which they were susceptible to global transport; and the fact that the negotiation of a legally-binding instrument would take time and valuable resources.

76. Other representatives stressed that a voluntary initiative would not suffice to address the dangers of mercury contamination. The global use of mercury was not decreasing and emissions were, in all likelihood, increasing. An international legally-binding instrument was required, they said, to accelerate

action and international cooperation with real commitments and burden-sharing. One representative said that the fact that mercury was as dangerous as persistent organic pollutants provided a strong argument that it should be addressed in a similar manner. A number of representatives said, however, that any legal framework should build on related instruments, including the Budapest Declaration on Heavy Metals.

77. A number of representatives pointed to the need to fill in data gaps in scientific information, including by updating the Global Mercury Assessment, saying information needed to set specific overall reduction goals was lacking and that technical and financial resources were limited. Another representative called for an analysis of possible response measures, benefits and costs.

78. Introducing the draft decision on international action on mercury, lead and cadmium submitted by Gambia, Iceland, Norway, Senegal and Switzerland, a representative noted that the decision proposed action to strengthen the existing mercury programme, including lead and cadmium in its activities, and set out targets for reducing mercury use and release; promoting reduction in processing and production; and reducing supply.

79. Many representatives stressed the importance of taking account of the differences between developing and developed countries in the phasing out of mercury. One representative recommended an approach similar to that adopted by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. In addition to the need for a stable and strong financial base, he suggested that a fund could be set up under the instrument to assist developing countries. A number of representatives pointed to the particular needs of developing countries. One spoke of the importance of controlling the export of obsolete technologies, including products that contained mercury, to developing countries.

80. A number of representatives congratulated UNEP for its work on SAICM, in particular, on the implementation of the approach. The secretariat of SAICM had undertaken excellent work, especially with regard to promoting the Quick Start Programme and support to regional meetings. One representative urged stakeholders, including industry, to assist in financing this important tool for chemicals management.

81. One representative urged caution and underscored the need to consider the sustainable development aspect of the mercury question and the socio-economic impacts of its phase-out. Another noted that account should be taken of the negative consequences of banning such chemicals totally, and highlighted, in particular, the risks of contraband trade.

82. The representative of Norway announced that the Nordic ministers of environment had taken a decision to provide financial support for any negotiations that might be undertaken towards a legally-binding instrument on mercury. The representative of India noted that the Government of India had remitted \$100,000 to the SAICM trust fund, as promised. The representative of Japan announced that the Government of Japan would provide resources to finance the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM as well as for capacity-building in the region under the Quick Start Programme. The representative of Switzerland announced that the Government of Switzerland had made a contribution of \$100,000 to UNEP Chemicals to support its policy work on lead, cadmium, mercury and other heavy metals.

83. A representative of an intergovernmental organization noted that at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, participants had underscored the need for further action on heavy metals, including through partnerships. The importance of alternative technologies had been underlined as had the corporate social responsibility and the polluter pays principles. The final statement of the meeting had urged the intensification of actions through a variety of measures, including voluntary actions at the global level, and consideration of a range of options, including a legally-binding instrument.

84. Another representative of a non-governmental organization argued for the development of a legally-binding instrument, for global demand reduction goals and mechanisms for identifying priority actions, for consensus to be reached that primary mining was the least preferred source of mercury and that mercury from decommissioned chlor-alkali plants was the next least preferred source of mercury; and for a baseline inventory of emission sources to be established along with global emission reduction goals and new and additional resources.

85. A representative of non-governmental organization noted her organization's concern regarding the effects of mercury on children's brains and the importance of informing consumers of the dangers of consuming predatory fish. She called for the elaboration of a legally-binding instrument to phase out mercury use and supply, for information sharing and for adequate funding.

86. A representative of business and industry outlined the commitment of that group to the development of a material stewardship programme. He said that there was sufficient scientific evidence on the global long-range transport of mercury in the atmosphere and its negative effects. Studies had shown that the informal artisanal sector and small-scale gold mining released significant amounts of mercury into the environment and that there were certainly opportunities for technology transfer to ensure more sustainable livelihoods to reduce reliance on mercury.

87. A representative of workers and trade unions urged the Governing Council to elaborate a legally-binding instrument on mercury and not to use workers' livelihoods as a pretext for not taking action.

88. The representative of the secretariat thanked representatives for the support they had expressed for UNEP in its work to reduce the harmful effects of chemicals. Responding to points made during the discussion, he agreed on the need for work on waste emissions, including mercury waste emissions, and noted that work had started in that regard in cooperation with the Basel Convention secretariat. Noting the consensus on the need for action, he expressed the hope that the outcome of the working group on chemicals would enable UNEP to undertake the work that needed to be done.

89. At its 9th meeting, on the morning of 9 February, the Committee agreed that the draft decisions being considered by the working group on chemicals would be submitted directly to the Council/Forum in plenary and would not be considered further by the Committee.

B. Other issues

90. The Committee took up consideration of the remaining issues under agenda item 6 at its 6th meeting, on the morning of 8 February.

1. Environmental and equity considerations in the procurement practices of the United Nations Environment Programme

91. In his introductory remarks for the item, the representative of the secretariat provided an overview of the report of the Executive Director on the work carried out by UNEP in response to decision 23/8 of 25 February 2005 on environmental and equity considerations in the procurement practices of the United Nations Environment Programme. Work had focused, he said, on three areas. First, on the facilitation of global consensus on integrating environmental considerations into procurement, UNEP had undertaken work in a number of developing countries to illustrate the concept of sustainable procurement to procurement officials in those countries and had provided initial steps for sustainable procurement initiatives at the national level. Second, on the fostering of information exchange, UNEP had been working with the Marrakech task force on sustainable procurement and a toolkit would be released shortly in that regard. Third, on the development of practical tools for capacity-building towards sustainable procurement, UNEP had made progress in its endeavour to ensure sustainable procurement in its own offices, including through the development of a sustainable procurement policy and the production by one of its divisions of a procurement practices report. In accordance with a request made by the Environment Management Group that UNEP should carry out a survey on sustainable procurement practices within the United Nations, UNEP had surveyed some 20 agencies and developed a number of recommendations on how agencies could integrate sustainable procurement practices into their operations.

92. The representatives who spoke in the ensuing discussion recalled the importance of decision 23/8 and commended UNEP for its extensive work towards its implementation. One representative pointed to the important role that UNEP and the United Nations system-wide could play in the move to sustainable procurement, including by facilitating the development of new industries involved in recycling and sustainable procurement in various countries.

93. Another representative voiced her concern that the internalization of sustainable procurement within UNEP had been hampered due to lack of human and financial resources and she expressed her appreciation for efforts undertaken to counter that problem. She stressed the importance of sharing information and experience with regard to sustainable procurement.

2. Implementation of decision 23/11

94. At its 7th meeting, on the afternoon of 8 February, the Committee considered a draft decision on committing resources toward the implementation of decision 23/11 of 25 February 2005 on gender equality in the field of the environment, which had been circulated in a conference room paper. Following discussion, the Committee approved the draft decision as orally amended for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum.

VI. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009 and the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (agenda item 7)

95. The Committee took up the item at its 1st meeting, on 5 February.

96. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat noted that the proposed UNEP programme of work and budget had been prepared in two stages: first, the strategic programme framework consisting of subprogramme objectives and expected results; and second, the detailed programme of work consisting of specific activities and estimates of results. He outlined the main components of the programme of work and budget document, including the six subprogrammes, noting that the programme of work would mainstream the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and that the “technical cooperation” component of each subprogramme indicated how it would contribute to the implementation of the Plan.

97. He said that the total amount of resources available for the biennium 2008–2009 was projected at \$347.8 million, of which \$69 million was projected as the opening balance. Estimated resources required for the proposed programme of work amounted to \$289.1 million, with 89.3 per cent to be expended on programme activities and the remaining 10.7 per cent on management and administration and programme support activities. Implementation of the Environment Fund budget in the biennium would require contributions of \$152 million. He emphasized that UNEP would continue to discharge its environmental monitoring and assessment and other normative functions, as mandated.

98. Most of the representatives who spoke expressed their support for the budget and programme of work, praising its results-based approach. Nearly all stressed their appreciation for the integration of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building throughout the programme of work and the priority that had been accorded to it. One representative highlighted the particular vulnerability of developing countries and small island developing States to the impacts of environmental degradation and emphasized the importance of the implementation of the programmes to which UNEP had committed itself, in particular through the Bali Strategic Plan.

99. Several representatives referred to the importance of increased contributions and clear agreement on priorities. Noting that there had been a decrease in voluntary contributions in 2006, several representatives urged countries to reconsider their contributions to UNEP. One representative urged donors to find a balance between their contributions to the Environment Fund and other contributions to UNEP. A number of representatives advocated the continued application of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to ensure predictable and adequate funding. In accordance with the voluntary method of contribution, the representative of China announced that her country would be increasing its contribution from \$180,000 to \$250,000 in order to support the full and effective implementation of all UNEP programmes.

100. A number of representatives highlighted the importance of countries honouring their commitments to fund UNEP and one invited UNEP to develop incentives to encourage timely payments but said that requesting payments one year in advance would not be manageable for most States. Stressing the fact that the fifteen top donors continued to fund 95 per cent of the UNEP budget, he said that the proposed \$8 million increase in the voluntary indicative scale of contributions would be acceptable only if all States made their contributions.

101. A number of representatives pointed to the need to simplify the overly complex structure of the budget document and to present a simpler and more user-friendly format in the future. Several representatives proposed that UNEP elaborate a medium-term strategy for submission to the Governing Council for its consideration and possible adoption at its twenty-fifth session. Other representatives

expressed the hope that UNEP would provide more information on its Global Environment Facility-related activities.

102. Other issues raised by individual representatives included that UNEP should take into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on gaps and additional staff; that the move to long-term contributions should be emphasized; that earmarked contributions should be used to fund activities that were consistent with the UNEP programme of work; that UNEP, bearing in mind that 2007–2008 had been designated the International Polar Year, should give due attention to polar issues; that UNEP should strengthen its support to the PEBLDS (Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy) process, whose secretariat it hosted at its Regional Office for Europe; and that UNEP should improve transparency in the allocation of resources to different subprogrammes and activities.

103. Following the discussion, the representative of the secretariat concluded the item by responding to certain of the comments made by representatives. He said that UNEP accepted the need for a mid-term strategy and was working on one for presentation at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Regarding the user-friendliness of the programme of work and budget document, he said the design was stipulated by the head budget office of the United Nations, but efforts would be made to make it more readily usable, for example by producing a guide to the document. He also said that UNEP was striving for greater efficiency, better use of resources, and increased transparency; that further details would be presented on GEF-related activities and UNEP contributions thereto; that a long-standing programme continued to be implemented in the north polar region; and that efforts would be made to enhance the UNEP contribution to biodiversity-related activities. Finally, he stressed that the Bali Strategic Plan would be mainstreamed through the work programme and throughout UNEP institutions, but significant contributions would be required to support the plan.

104. At its 9th meeting, on the morning of 9 February, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the draft decision on the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2008–2009 and the draft decision on trust funds and earmarked contributions (UNEP/GC/24/CW/L.4), both as amended by the working group on the budget and programme of work.

VII. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 8)

105. At its 8th meeting, on the evening of Thursday, 8 February, the Committee considered a draft decision on the provisional agendas, dates and venues of the tenth special session and the twenty-fifth session of the Council/Forum, which had been circulated in a conference room paper. Following discussion, the Committee approved the draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Council, as orally amended.

VIII. Other matters

106. At the Committee's 2d meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 6 February, Mr. R.K. Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, gave a presentation on the Panel's fourth assessment report, entitled "Climate Change 2007", and on the IPCC programme of work, outlining recent IPCC activities and describing the soon to be released fourth assessment report.

107. At the Committee's 4th and 5th meetings, on the morning and afternoon of Wednesday, 7 February, representatives of a number of multilateral environmental agreements gave presentations on recent and planned activities taking place under the aegis of those agreements. The speakers, in the order in which they spoke, were: Mr. Marco Gonzales, Executive Secretary, Ozone Secretariat; Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary, Basel Convention; Ms. Maria Nolan, Chief Officer, Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol; Mr. Maged Younes, Head of UNEP Chemicals (speaking on the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions), Mr. Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification,

Particularly in Africa, and Mr. Robert Hepworth, acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. In addition, statements were read on behalf of Mr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, and Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. There was also a presentation by Mr. Ravi Sharma, Programme Manager with the Global Environment Facility.

108. At the Committee's 6th meeting, on the morning of Thursday, 8 February, Mr. Michael Wilson, of the Department of Early Warning and Assessment, gave a presentation on the UNEP partnership with Google Earth. The UNEP Atlas of Our Changing Environment was available on the Google Earth website and users of the program could view before and after satellite images of 100 environment hotspots on a virtual planet Earth. He said the scheme helped bridge the information gap by making the atlas available to a worldwide audience of Google Earth users.

109. At the Committee's 8th meeting, on the evening of Thursday, 8 February, a representative of the secretariat read a statement on behalf of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which outlined UNEP efforts to implement Governing Council decisions SS.VII/7 and 22/1/V in that area, highlighting in particular activities in the field of capacity-building and training. In response, one representative expressed concern that the limited resources of UNEP and the United Nations system generally were being used purportedly for post-conflict activities in areas where conflict was in fact ongoing. He recommended that UNEP consult with the Security Council to ascertain whether hostilities had in fact ceased in a given area prior to undertaking such activities.

IX. Adoption of the report

110. At its 8th meeting, on the evening of Thursday, 8 February, the Committee adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in documents UNEP/GC.24/CW/L.1, as orally amended, and Add.1 on the understanding that the report would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

X. Closure of the meetings of the Committee

111. The 9th and final meeting of the Committee of the Whole was declared closed at 12.35 p.m. on 9 February 2007.

Annex III

Policy Statement by Mr. Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

The present annex sets out the transcript of a speech in which Mr. Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, delivered his policy statement on the occasion of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The transcript is presented without formal editing.

Policy Statement by Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director at the twenty-fourth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF)

President of the Governing Council, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

I would like to make this statement a policy statement of major issues and priorities alongside reporting back to you on our activities at UNEP since taking up the post of Executive Director seven months ago.

However let me begin by stating something referred to a number of times this morning-- this Governing Council may just be a Governing Council like others before it, some times interesting, some times important and some times controversial.

But all too often the GC and the GMEF have not been moments when the world's environment ministers met and the world listened.

In fact, very often we meet in the context of GCs and GMEFs and talk about some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Yet apart from documents to the UN committees that report on our work, can we truly say that we are being heard in the world?

Can we truly say that we are making the most of this extraordinary opportunity, indeed this responsibility when we gather the world's environment ministers from over 140 nations?

The Secretary-General's High Level Panel described the Global Ministerial Environment Forum as the most important policy platform that the world has to address environment issues.

The question that many of you and many outside ask is how can member states and ministers of the environment-- as custodians of the environmental sustainability concerns of our societies-- truly make a difference?

I believe that we are meeting here in the first week of February 2007 at a moment unlike any other that we have seen perhaps for 20 years.

A moment in which one environmental issue has graduated from being seen as primarily or purely an environmental concern to an economic, a security and an energy policy and ultimately a livelihood issue. I am of course talking about climate change.

Twenty five years ago, when the first scientific hypotheses and models on climate change were being put into the broader public arena, the world in some ways turned away and said: "Oh, here we have another doomsday scenario."

And then a few years later it is equally remarkable that we moved forward and actually agreed, in Rio at the 1992 Earth Summit on a global Convention to combat climate change.

It was, and remains a pioneering instrument because for the first time in the history of this planet 190 nations agreed to work together on tackling something that they were just beginning to recognize as a major issue.

A few years later negotiations were initiated on the Kyoto Protocol. Kyoto is acknowledged by all to be imperfect.

Yet it represented the most tangible step by most of the nations of this Earth towards dealing with this emerging crisis. Kyoto established new and completely novel instruments to try and deal with the question of how to tackle CO2 emissions.

Here we are today in Nairobi, Kenya just one week after the press conference of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) held at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris.

The measure of public interest in the issue was manifest in Paris. Last week there was a hall full of 400 or 500 journalists, dozens of TV cameras and channels reporting live about a scientific report using language that is probably to this day difficult for most of us to follow.

Honorable ministers,

The world is therefore expecting the UN and governments to pay attention to an issue—an issue that is on the one hand an environment issue and on the other hand one that is truly an issue about the future of humanity on this planet.

Ultimately it is also a question of how nations on this planet can come together to address these kinds of pressing issues.

Environment in the 20th century was largely an issue of awakening—an awakening still to a large extent based upon imperfect science. We struggled to understand the phenomena of environmental change being observed.

Environment was also often focused on local environmental issues, for example lakes, river basins, forests and threatened species.

The great difference of the environmental sustainability agenda of the 21st century is a very simple fact—namely that we have moved from focusing on the degradation of local environmental assets to fundamentally affecting the systems that support life on this planet.

Climate change is the ultimate illustration of how everyone on this planet will be affected by the actions of others—of how we have succeeded with our rapid industrial and economic development to compromise the capacity of nature and of our natural systems to ultimately sustain life as we know it today.

There are still some that will argue that global warming does not matter—that melting ice caps do not matter because they think they can take care of themselves.

Well this is another harsh reality of the 21st century. Two or three decades ago environment was often seen as a preoccupation of the rich, or indeed the privilege of the rich. Climate change has turned that upside down.

The environmental phenomenon of global warming is first and foremost going to affect the poorest, the most vulnerable and least prepared on this planet.

That fundamentally changes, or must begin to change, the discourse with which we tackle the issue of environmental sustainability as an integral part of the economic development process.

The atmosphere, the ecosystems, the kinds of data and figures that you will find this week- and here in the new Global Environment Outlook Year Book 2007 that we are launching today-- are no longer just warnings.

They are actually giving us end points, and some of these end points come in our lifetimes.

Amongst the most frightening of these is research that says that in the lifetime of many of the younger people in this room—in 2050-- we will no longer have any commercial fisheries in our oceans.

Imagine for a moment the implication of what we are saying here. Take a world map and think for a moment.

How is it possible that we, as humanity, have managed in less than 100 years to drive a natural resource to a point where we may in fact no longer have commercial fisheries?

This is one example of the kinds of boundaries that we are hitting, and we are beginning to hit, within our lifetimes and not any longer in an inter-generational context.

So the environmental agenda that UNEP has to capture and reflect—that indeed the multilateral system as a whole has to reflect-- has evolved even though the politics of the day is struggling to keep up with the science of yesterday.

This is in many ways the most striking feature of the IPCC report--we have the evidence before us yet our political mechanisms, tools and processes for working together as a global community are lagging far behind this scientific information.

The question that many pose now is: “What has UNEP, what have ministers of environment and what has the GMEF to offer in the way of leadership on the issue of climate change and on the broader issue of environmental sustainability?”

Ministers and distinguished delegates,

I would urge you to make these days in Nairobi, as days when you as the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of environment- representing over 140 nations- provided our international community with a sense of direction and of collective purpose.

Because one can blame many things on institutions and on individuals, but ultimately we have to come back to the fact that the United Nations-- and thus also the United Nations Environment Programme-- is a product of what its member states would like it to be.

Ministers of the environment, just like ministers of trade, of finance or of health have a particular responsibility and agenda.

The question is why, in the year 2007 is the portfolio of environment all too often regarded as the least influential and the least powerful?

Why is this the case when the whole world right now is looking at environmental issues as among the most dramatic challenges to our future on this planet?

It again begs the question as to why a meeting of the GC/GMEF largely leaves very few ripples in the rest of the world?

So I would urge ministers to reinvent the power and to rediscover the voice of this forum. Because this GC and this Ministerial Forum has in the past triggered initiatives on a global scale that made a difference-- and without which we would be a great deal poorer today.

One way to achieve this is for us all to take a step back from the current impasses that so often characterize contemporary international negotiations—impasses of the kind touched upon earlier in the side event on trade and environment.

I think we have reached a point where environment must be viewed as an issue of collective and joint responsibility where the imperfection of the international system and the unfairness of some of the economic frameworks—particularly as they relate to developing countries--is something we address openly.

We also have debates that must seem bizarre to an outsider because we are essentially moving the agenda of the environment like pawns on a chess board—while at the same time, our citizens, our colleagues and our youth see a different reality of a world undergoing dramatic change of the kind reflected in the harrowing images of the film which opened this GC/GMEF.

Honorable Ministers,

As Executive Director for 7 months now, I also report to you today about UNEP in 2006.

I want to begin by acknowledging the work and the extraordinary contribution that my predecessor, Klaus Töpfer, made.

Among his many contributions was, with your support, to give UNEP an identity and a sense of direction that I am continuing with as Executive Director today.

This direction I speak of is the bringing to an end the mythology that environment and development are two separate issues.

We can use different terminology such as environment for development, or sustainable development or environmentally sustainable development.

But the fact of the matter is that there will ultimately be no development without a sustainably managed environment.

Equally, the environment cannot be protected and managed in a nation or in a world of 6, 7, 8 billion people without development, economic opportunity and economic growth taking place.

I think it is part of this forum's role and its responsibility to develop the next generation of sustainable development thinking--just as you have done in the past.

Honorable ministers,

We have today an institution, the United Nations Environment Programme that in many ways surprised me when I arrived.

Surprised me because of the immense array of activities it undertakes and also because of the high regard in which the organization is held by so many government ministries around the world.

UNEP also surprised me in terms of the competence, the talent and the dedication of many of the staff that work within the organization.

However, UNEP also confirms something that I saw before and something that I see now that I am inside this institution.

Namely that we have, to some extent, a washing line along which we hang many activities but question marks hang over the overall impact that UNEP makes on the broader development questions facing this planet.

The other question mark is, above all, what kind of institutions do governments really want in the 21st century when they look at UNEP today?

I believe we have enormous challenges. Some of these challenges fall within the purview of the management, the Executive Director and his staff.

I will report in a moment on how I have begun to tackle them in the hope of receiving your backing and support.

But many of them also relate equally to you as our Governing Council and how you empower this institution--indeed how you empower us as staff in the Secretariat and also how you empower the United Nations to tackle the great questions of environmental sustainability in our time.

2006 was not always an easy year. Many crises, many conflicts and many tragedies were in the news and UNEP struggled to keep up with them.

However, we have continued to implement the programme of work that you approved two years ago. I believe that we are making significant progress, even though the bigger question of where the ultimate destination is still hangs in the air.

We also expanded- and I think that is an important part of the legacy of my predecessor-the constituencies that understand environment not as a threat, but actually as an ally and as perhaps their greatest potential partner in the future.

Let me use as an example the Labour and Environment Summit that was organized in Nairobi last year. It has led has led to a very intense dialogue with the trade unions around the world.

The summit addressed the question of whether the environment means job losses or can jobs actually be created through a more environmentally sustainable approach to development decisions.

Honorable Ministers let me here also mention the Deputy Executive Director. The smooth transition between the previous Executive Director and myself owes a great deal to my colleague and deputy Shafqat Kakakhel.

He held the fort for three months and he has been an incredible ally and support in helping me to find my way into and around this institution during these first few months.

Here and I would like to thank him for his dedication to this institution which he has served for many years. Please will you join me in a round of applause for Shafqat.

Together, the Deputy Executive Director and I have set out with our staff on a process of reviewing, rethinking and also reforming UNEP along the lines that many of you have requested.

I think the strategic challenge that we face essentially falls into two categories: a programmatic one and a managerial one.

The programmatic one is the phenomenon I referred to earlier-- many dispersed and under resourced activities, often spread too thinly and not necessarily following a cohesive purpose.

Also ones that ultimately fail to answer the question of where does UNEP have the greatest opportunity to make a difference rather than just being present. This is a question where I look to you for guidance in this GC and in future ones.

Honorable ministers,
I set out initially by looking not outside the institution but essentially inside the institution for some of these answers.

There have also been discussions with the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and we have the also the report by Dahlberg that was commissioned by my predecessor.

The upshot of all this was the identification of a number of task teams, drawn from within my team at UNEP, to address questions within the institution and they fall broadly into three areas.

The first one falls into the programmatic, cohesion and coordination theme and the question of how the Bali Strategic Plan fundamentally influences the way UNEP does business.

We had to do this in less than six weeks after my arrival because of the deadlines that were put in place at the time by the UN planning processes and in order to be ready for this Governing Council.

The 2008-2009 programme does not yet capture the full logic of trying to make Bali part and parcel of the way we do business.

However, I think you can see in the programme significant efforts to take the strategic guidance that you as member states have given to UNEP—in other words to be more responsive in terms of country and regional needs and to be more effective in capacity building and in technology support.

In a nutshell, this path is aimed at truly developing the resources inside the institution to respond to the needs of many more governments than we have done in the past rather than UNEP exhausting itself in say five years of pilot projects implemented in three countries.

Some have looked at the Bali Strategic Plan as somehow a separate programme within UNEP. I have come back to you through the CPR, and also now through the Governing Council, to argue that if we try and follow that path there are two fundamental problems.

The Bali Strategic Plan has a menu of issues and areas of work that overlaps with close to 70% of the entire UNEP programme of work.

It is thus very difficult to distinguish when, for example, you are doing biodiversity capacity-building or chemicals work if this falls under the so-called Bali mandate or is part of the programme of work.

So to think of Bali and the programme of work as separate would to my mind create an artificial sense of parallel activities that ultimately would not add value to what we are trying to do.

It is equally important to note that the Bali Strategic Plan will not translate into 50 million dollars of extra funding for UNEP, at least right now.

So I would propose to you that the programme of work for 2008-2009 needs to prove that everything we do in this institution ultimately echoes to the intent and the directions that you set out in the Bali Strategic Plan.

Therefore let me underline my commitment to Bali, not in the context of a shopping list. But in a way that reflects the intentions you had when you requested this direction of UNEP at the time-- when governments requested a different response from the programme of this institution.

I will also do this to the best of UNEP's abilities and subject to (and this is not an excuse) resources being made available.

There are discussions to be had on this subject because so far this plan has not translated into any additional resources.

Honorable ministers,

I also approached the issue of management by looking at the financial and administrative and organizational aspects of the institution with another task team.

We have identified significant potential for reforming the business processes, the administration of this institution and the financial management.

I believe there are significant gains to be made here--gains in terms of the efficiency of our own management, but ultimately also in terms of our accountability to you as member states.

I view some of the reports that we provide you currently as being of very little analytical value to member states.

There are lists and there are long reports of inputs and activities that UNEP has implemented. However, the question remains as to whether they really deliver clarity on whether this institution is being effective in implementing its mandate?

I personally do not believe that this is the case. So I have initiated a number of reforms that will begin in the next few weeks.

Some however have already begun in terms of looking at how we can improve the transparency and accountability of this institution and, through that also to improve the capacity of managers to manage effectively. Efficiency and effectiveness are a primary issue here.

Another related area is the Information and Communication Technology framework of this institution. You would be surprised at the level of ICT development we have in UNEP today--I consider it to be between 15 and 20 years behind.

I do not say this to offend my colleagues in the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON) who have tried in the last couple of years to make significant progress on these issues. But we are an institution that operates far below the threshold of the horizons of what modern technology can offer (including the difficulties of me sending an email to all my staff).

This is the reality in 2007. We have no knowledge network, we have no intranet and we do not have some of the most basic modern management and analytical tools that could boost the efficiency of this institution and the productivity of its staff.

Equally on human resources I also put a task team together. One, because on my arrival I found that there was a major backlog in recruitment terms and two, to take the opportunity to look at the possibility for recruiting fresh blood into the institution.

We advertised positions that were in the recruitment pipeline and I'm pleased to say that for 46 of the P and D level positions we received 13,000 applications.

I only want you to know about this because of the work and effort that goes into screening these applications and identifying candidates. It also goes to show that in terms of diversity and professional competence, UNEP in Nairobi does not have problems in recruitment.

However, in terms of gender we do have problems. In terms of the D positions in particular only one out of nine applicants was a woman.

This is a major problem for this institution in terms of gender equity as well as for the whole question of gender in the context of our environmental work.

I am therefore also addressing the issue of human resources management by putting in place a human resources management strategy.

UNON is contracted to administer our human resources. But within the institution we really have no planning in terms of future career development and for identifying the skills we need.

We also need to look at people within the institution who, with particular training, could be promoted or rise through the ranks. This also responds to the call of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for greater mobility.

I will not go into the details of the new appointments I've made as I think you all have received the information. However I am pleased to say that in 7 months, and that is unfortunately the time it took me, I have virtually a full senior management team in place.

In addition, I will complete in a few weeks time the formation of a strategic implementation team. I mention this to you because I want to underline the seriousness with which I take our capacity to reform the institution and in the way it manages itself.

This implementation team will have 5 senior advisors for a limited time of three years working under Shafqat and myself and in cooperation with the Divisional Directors.

The team will be tasked with moving reforms forward in five areas—

- programme coordination and cohesion.
- resource mobilization, financial management and budgeting.
- human resources management.
- implementation of the gender action plan.
- reform of the information and communication technology infrastructure and processes of the institution.

All of this has been developed in what for reference purposes I have called the 3, 12, 24-month framework. By the end of 2007, the 12 month part of this initiative will be completed so that the process of change management is not an open-ended affair but has a clear end point.

We will implement our activities with these new arrangements so that by the end of 24 months we should be able to account to you whether they have made a difference.

Honorable Ministers,

I would like to mention 4 filters as I have called them that also encapsulate my priorities and will also guide my future direction of this institution.

The first is my avowed belief that the nexus between the economy and the environment is one that must be central to UNEP's work now and over the coming years.

We are at a point in time where environmental considerations have very powerful economic rationales. We do not simply have to argue from a biological, ethical or other point of view.

What happens to the environment matters to the economy and visa versa. The return on investment in environmental assets and sustainable management of our resources has immediate and direct impacts on our economies.

I believe that is an area of work where UNEP truly can provide the kind of nexus that we are looking for.

Secondly, UNEP must first and foremost be clearly understood and defined as the environment programme of the United Nations.

Environmental activities happen elsewhere within the UN family—for example work on sustainable fisheries or sustainable health policies or sustainable industrialization rests with other agencies and organizations too.

This then begs the question of where UNEP fits within the context of a family of institutions that make up the multilateral system.

Therefore a first priority is to rethink and revisit the issue of how we best work together with our fellow agencies and also how we use the Environmental Management Group effectively and successfully.

In other words, how do we make the EMG truly a platform able to respond to the Secretary-General's call to make the UN family work together on these issues?

I'm sure it will not come as a surprise when I tell you that UNEP to this day does not offset its CO₂ emissions.

Indeed across the UN we have less in place in these good environmental housekeeping areas than most medium-scale businesses in many economies.

It is really not a shining example to those we exhort to do better—be they countries, or entrepreneurs or industry or civil society or consumer.

So we have many things to do together as a UN family. In terms of UNEP, I believe that we have to prove through example and leadership that we truly are the environment programme first and foremost--and only secondly as an institution that thinks about its own place and its own funding in that system as a whole.

This will not be easy, but I believe that the whole UN reform momentum that is now in place will help us to move forward on this front.

I think the fact that our colleagues are here today from UNDP, UNIDO, WTO, UNWTO, and UN-Habitat is proof that the message of cohesion and cooperation is alive and well and moving in that direction.

I had planned some more substantive elements of my presentation but time flies. So I would like to end by touching again and expanding on my theme at the outset.

Why does this Governing Council matter? I touched upon some of the context and the extraordinary times within which this meeting is taking place, not least in respect to climate change.

However, we also have two topics on our agenda in the GMEF as well as a number of decisions in the Committee of the Whole that are potentially far-reaching.

The discussion about globalization and the environment is not meant to be a philosophical discourse.

It is to take seriously the notion that environment and economics are inextricably linked in the 21st century and that UNEP, the GC and environment ministers must find a clearer voice on how that linkage can be made reality.

We have looked at the discussions around globalization and environment as a possibility for ministers of the environment to engage with one another on how to maximize the opportunities and minimize the risks of globalization.

This is inextricably linked too with the question of UN reform and how, in a globalized economy the future of global environmental governance will evolve.

We have today a situation where the economic instruments are at the centre stage of negotiations at the WTO and many other multilateral fora. However the truth is that global environmental governance-- the elements that ensure sustainability- are lagging far behind.

You only have to look at the Probo Koala toxic dumping incident in Cote d'Ivoire or the accumulating levels of electronic waste to witness this gap.

Cases like the Probo Koala are some of the darker sides or what one might call the underbelly of this enormous machine called globalization that is affecting people in many places across the globe.

Honorable Ministers,

We have with us this week Ambassadors Maura and Beruga of Switzerland and Mexico in New York. They, as you know, have been asked by the General Assembly to facilitate the discussions on the future of global environmental governance.

They will be joining us to receive from you, as ministers of the environment, a sense of direction and purpose from this week's dialogue.

I hope it will inform them and take us further forward in addressing the question of what kind of UNEP the world needs now and in the future; what kind of global environmental governance framework is needed; how do we bring some cohesion and also bring about the synergies that so many of you have looked for.

These are discussions and debates that may not be answered in one meeting but I think leadership, guidance and direction needs to emerge from a meeting of the world's environment ministers in order to provide impetus to these processes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I will conclude my remarks by saying that as a new Executive Director I am deeply committed to this institution for a very simple reason and the same reason I became a candidate for this post.

I believe that unless governments can, in the years ahead find a different, a better and a more collective approach to working together on environmental issues, all other efforts – by NGOs, in the market place and within the private sector – will ultimately be constrained.

Citizens, but also companies in the global marketplace, look to the intergovernmental process to provide the frameworks within which to operate.

For it is within these frameworks that nations and regions of the world have the greatest possibility to shape the future direction of our economic, social and ultimately our cultural developments.

UNEP is perceived as weak by some, criticized as perhaps ineffectual by others within the multilateral system and sometimes held up in the media as a talk shop where real action rarely materializes.

But I have already found in UNEP so many examples of what can be done when nations agree. Thus it would be a tragedy to not give this institution the lease of life it deserves at the beginning of the 21st century.

There are many who are involved in giving that lease of life to the environmental sustainability agenda-- but it begins with you, as ministers of the environment.

No one else will take that responsibility. It is not for the sake of the United Nations Environment Programme that either I or you are here. It is for the sake of humanity and for the sake of sustainable development on this planet.

For let us not forget that this planet is indeed in deep trouble. So I appeal to you, this week in Nairobi, to give voice to the sentiment that we have the possibility of making a different future.

I am committed to working with you in the next four years because I believe we truly have the possibility of making a difference. Thank you.

Annex IV

President's summary of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegation at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme

Summary

1. Ministers and heads of delegation from 140 United Nations Member States attending the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2007 held ministerial consultations to discuss the themes of globalization and environment and United Nations reform. During those consultations, the ministers and heads of delegation put forward their views on how to maximize the opportunities arising from globalization and discussed how to be better prepared to face the challenges it posed. In addition, they took note of the United Nations reform activities currently under way and the emerging consensus in areas where forward movement appeared possible. The aim was to place on record their opinions on how progress should be made in those areas over the coming months and to set out options for achieving that goal.
2. The twenty-fourth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was attended by a significant number of heads of United Nations bodies. They included: Mr. Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Mr. Francesco Frangiali, Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization; Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organization; Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Director General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
3. The discussions were conducted under the leadership of the President of the Council/Forum, Mr. Roberto Dobles of Costa Rica, with the assistance of ministers and heads of delegation from Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Congo, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America.
4. In the panel and roundtable discussions which formed part of the ministerial consultations, the President of the Council/Forum was assisted by a number of distinguished scholars and leaders of civil society organizations. They included: Ms. E. Dano of the Third World Network; Mr. J. Gerber of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; Mr. J. Leape of WWF International; Ms. J. Marton LeFevre of the World Conservation Union; Ms. J. McGlade of the European Environment Agency; Mr. J. Rockstrom of the Stockholm Environment Institute; Mr. G. Ryder of the International Trade Union Confederation; Mr. D. Runnalls of the International Institute for Sustainable Development; Mr. R. Ortiz-Menendez of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development; Ms. L. Tubiana of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales (IDDRI)); and Mr. K. Otto-Zimmerman of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Local Governments for Sustainability.
5. The President of the Council/Forum also had the benefit of contributions by the co-chairs of the informal consultative process initiated by the President of the United Nations General Assembly on the institutional framework for United Nations environmental activities, Mr. Enrique Berruga and Mr. Peter Maurer. Also assisting the President in the plenary discussions were Mr. Y. de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Mr. H. Diallo, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; and Mr. A. Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
6. A new format for the ministerial consultations, introduced at the current session, facilitated exchanges between ministers and heads of delegation and contributed to a rich, wide-ranging and interactive dialogue. The format consisted of panellists introducing the broad contours of topics in plenary to set the stage for smaller, simultaneous roundtable discussions. Participants in the roundtable discussions then reported their conclusions in plenary and received feedback from a final group of panellists. The discussions underscored the need to develop a range of clear and specific policy options based on the activities outlined in the present document, in close collaboration with trade and environment ministers and with relevant international agencies and stakeholders, and to prepare options on the matter to be presented to the Council/Forum at its tenth special session, in 2008, for consideration by ministers. The discussions also underscored the need for greater precision in future deliberations on the United Nations environment reform exercise.
7. The present document is a summary of the rich and interactive dialogue among the ministers and other heads of delegations attending the meeting; it reflects the ideas presented and discussed rather than a consensus view of all points.
8. The present document is issued without formal editing.

I. Summary of ministerial discussions on globalization and environment

A. Context

1. Globalization in its many dimensions (economic, social, ecological, political, technological and cultural) has become one of the main defining trends of our times, with significant consequences for the environment. As globalization is unfolding alongside growing evidence of serious degradation of the world's ecosystems, it is increasingly urgent for policy-makers, business leaders and civil society to consider the implications of these converging trends and make sure that globalization works for the environment and human well-being for all.⁷⁴

2. The discussions on globalization and the environment were held both in plenary sessions through panel discussions and, for the first time in a session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in smaller roundtable discussions. The objective of the panel presentations in the plenary and roundtable discussions was to encourage an open and frank discussion on the main challenges and opportunities globalization presents for environmental protection and sustainable development. The aim was to identify tangible ways of making globalization more environmentally sustainable. The new format worked very well and the ministers and heads of delegations, as reported in the plenary sessions, made full use of it.

B. Discussions in Plenary

3. The discussions in plenary began with a panel discussion entitled "Globalization and the environment in a reformed United Nations". The panellists talked about the need to incorporate environmental dimensions into measures of growth and development so as to ensure that trade, industry, and tourism all contribute to sustainable human development. The panelists underlined that economic globalization is a reality and that no country is in a position to resist it. We must therefore proactively respond to the environmental challenges that globalization poses and equip ourselves to benefit from it.

4. A second panel discussion entitled "Overview" the ministers and heads of delegation debated the need to correct market failures to internalize environmental costs and the potential for using payments for ecosystem services to help ensure that the environment is taken into account. It was felt that UNEP could take on the challenge of developing methodologies and undertaking valuation of the environment to help support countries and inform trade and investment decisions at both the national and global levels. The next plenary panel, entitled "*Response options*", focused on what the multilateral system can do to respond to the needs of countries. In a final plenary session entitled "*Feedback*" the urgency of international action involving all stakeholders and the critical role of UNEP in the current policy debates was highlighted.

5. These plenary discussions helped provide the context for the ministerial roundtables discussions, which looked in further detail at the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization and helped to identify some concrete opportunities, challenges and options for Governments, UNEP and the international community to consider.

6. Discussions centred on the twin notions that globalization poses both risks and opportunities for the achievement of sustainable development. The underlying assumption of the discussions was recognition of the value of minimizing the negative impacts while maximizing the positive effects of globalization.

C. Opportunities

7. Ministers noted that globalization creates and enhances many opportunities for better promotion of sustainable development, provided that it is well managed to optimize the positive effects and minimize associated risks. Among the opportunities identified were:

(a) **Poverty alleviation:** By contributing to economic development and thus the alleviation of poverty, economic globalization provides many countries with greater means for environmental protection. There is an increasing awareness among Governments and business that the degradation of ecosystem services has real economic costs and is constraining future development. This awareness provides environment ministers with an opportunity to engage economic and trade policy makers in

⁷⁴ Discussions were carried out in line with relevant UNEP legislative mandates that have a direct bearing on globalization and the environment (see UNEP/GC/24/11 for further details).

constructing new policies for sustainable development. Many speakers observed that poverty and environmental problems are interlinked;

(b) Harnessing market power: Economic globalization allows individuals, Governments, companies and organizations to harness the power of companies and markets in the service of sustainable development. Tools for such integration include voluntary initiatives with the private sector, such as the Tour Operators Initiative of UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization the United Nations World Tourism Organization, mechanisms for drawing on the power of consumers, such as certification schemes and valuation of and payments for ecosystem services. It was pointed out, however, that payment for ecosystem services is but the obverse of “polluter pays” and that the question of who pays and who receives should be resolved in relation to legitimate entitlements to environmental resources. A globalized economy also provides a larger market for environmental goods and services, which provides greater incentives for their development and production and greater possibilities for their dissemination;

(c) Environmental technology transfer: Another benefit of economic globalization lies in the possibility of easier and more widespread distribution of environmentally sound technologies. The need to promote research and development in clean technologies and a new compact on intellectual property rights to enhance dissemination of the same was stressed;

(d) Enhanced communication possibilities: International communication has become a very efficient and rapid tool, creating many channels for the distribution of environmental information. Better communication tools allow stakeholders interested in protecting the environment to work together more efficiently and effectively, for example in public-private-civil society partnerships.

D. Challenges

8. While acknowledging the myriad opportunities presented by globalization, ministers also agreed that globalization entails potential challenges to the achievement of sustainable development goals. Among the risks identified were:

(a) Uncontrolled growth in the context of inadequate governance: Economic globalization can lead to rapid development in different industry sectors. Particularly for sectors that have strong environmental impacts, such growth can pose problems if it is not well managed, such as where environmental governance, including laws and regulations, has not kept pace with economic globalization. While the “polluter pays” principle needs to be emphasized, harmonization of standards may force unacceptable economic and social costs for developing countries. Common but differentiated responsibilities were recognized;

(b) Competitiveness problems: Unfair competition in the market place owing to a lack of internalization of environmental costs and subsidies is exacerbated by economic globalization. If one community acts sustainably and another does not, the passive one may have an economic advantage. There is a need for a multilateral response to globalization to ensure a level playing field. In setting environmental standards and norms efforts should be made to ensure that competition is not impeded and that the public is informed of the scientific basis of the risks to be addressed and that due consultations are carried out with trade partners and relevant stakeholders;

(c) Rising energy demand and climate change: The livelihoods of the poor are most at risk in the face of environmental impacts like climate change linked with growing transport and travel and rising energy use. This increased demand for energy, especially biofuels, may have negative consequences for biodiversity and ecosystems if not properly managed;

(d) Spread of invasive species: The tremendous increase in the flow of goods and people has led to an accelerated introduction of invasive species throughout the world;

(e) Spread of consumerism and the loss of cultural diversity: Economic globalization promotes standard patterns of consumption. The rapid dissemination of information made possible through globalization enables global actors to spread information, including marketing efforts, around the world. There is a concern that without an approach to maintaining traditional knowledge, globalization will lead to a decrease in cultural diversity. Increased consumption worldwide can lead to a proliferation of waste;

(f) **Concentration of power, information and financial resources:** The benefits of globalization, and its attendant economic development, do not always reach local communities. Economic globalization and the globalization of knowledge can widen the gap between the rich and the dispossessed (within and between nations). Local communities and civil society must be linked to the ongoing globalization process. In this context the empowerment of women as key players in small scale economic activities should be further pursued.

E. Options for action

9. Ministers presented and discussed various options for action for consideration by Governments, UNEP and the international community. The options enumerated below reflect views expressed during the discussions. Their inclusion does not mean that they are without controversy or that each option has been fully considered by each Government. They provide for Governments, UNEP and the international community a fertile source of ideas from which to undertake further exploration.

1. Actions by Governments

10. Possible actions by Governments include:

(a) **Policy coherence and integration:** Promote coherence between national environment, trade and sectoral (e.g., agriculture) ministries. Integrate environmental considerations into national development and poverty reduction strategies, trade negotiations and implementation and governmental and institutional bilateral assistance policies. Redirection of resources from the Millennium Development Goals agenda to the environment, a zero sum game between the environment and poverty alleviation, is not the way forward. Ensure decisions adopted in various international negotiating forums are consistent to avoid potential conflicts;

(b) **National governance:** Identify national environmental policy-making priorities in order to ensure adequate resources for implementation. Developed countries should provide leadership to ensure globalization contributes to sustainable development;

(c) **Environmentally friendly technologies:** Provide economic incentives and increased investment in research and development for environmentally friendly technologies. Promote the involvement of business and the financial sector in the development of these technologies;

(d) **Economic instruments and valuation:** Promote valuation of ecosystem services, greater use of green accounting (satellite) techniques and life-cycle analysis. Consider indicators such as quality of life, education, and health, not only gross domestic product, when measuring levels of development. Reduce or eliminate subsidies that distort prices of natural resources and adopt the polluter pays principle. Support the use of market-based mechanisms and consumer information;

(e) **Impact assessment:** Develop and implement tools for impact assessments at the national level. Strengthen and ensure public participation in this process;

(f) **Public and private sector:** Encourage public-private partnerships to promote sustainable development. Identify creative means for turning environmental protection into economic gain, such as businesses focused on environmentally-friendly consumption and production. Encourage industries to take voluntary measures to introduce more sustainable patterns of production. Understand, however, the limitations of private sector initiatives and ensure implementation of strong public sector rules and institutions;

(g) **Others:** Ensure full implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in word and deed. Reform national energy policies. Involve civil society in efforts to promote environmental sustainability. Design an educational system that reflects the long-term objectives of sustainable development. Develop systems that preserve and stock information using traditional knowledge and experience to ensure it is not lost in a rapidly globalizing world.

2. Actions by UNEP

11. There was widespread agreement that UNEP has an important role to play in helping countries seize environmental opportunities and minimize risks of globalization. Many of the roundtables proposed that UNEP be strengthened, especially to enable it to deal with the environmental implications of globalization. Some expressed support for further exploring proposals to transform UNEP into a specialized agency, while others preferred that UNEP be strengthened as it retains its present structure. Yet others felt that strengthening UNEP would make it more effective in implementation of its mandate.

All agreed that greater financial resources would be required for the various suggested initiatives listed above. Specific ideas to emerge from the roundtables for possible UNEP follow up and future considerations by the Governing Council include:

- (a) **Linkages:** Explore and develop a conceptual framework on the linkages between globalization, ecosystem services, human well-being, fairness and equity, possibly through an informal consultative process involving Governments, civil society, the private sector and relevant international organizations;
- (b) **Trade and environment:** Contribute substantively to the dialogue on global trade to help shape trade-related rules and institutions which affect the environment. Work with the World Trade Organization on the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment, i.e., the benefits of environment for trade and the benefits of trade for environment;
- (c) **Economic instruments:** Promote the use of incentive measures and market mechanisms to steer production and consumption patterns towards environmental sustainability. Strengthen work on promoting economic instruments (such as environmental accounting and fiscal policy) for environmental protection and sustainable investments. Develop criteria for internalizing environmental costs (pricing), identify barriers for internalization of costs and support developing countries (and others) in the application of such criteria;
- (d) **Ecosystem services:** Provide guidance and support to Governments on the payment for and valuation of ecosystem services. Consolidate valuation methodologies and techniques and undertake valuation of natural resources at the global and national levels. Improve integration of ecosystem services in national development processes and poverty reduction strategies;
- (e) **Capacity-building and technology transfer:** Strengthen the capacities of ministries of environment to help them in their dialogue with other ministries and sectors. Promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including both clean and efficient technologies. Identify environmental friendly technologies at the global level and support their implementation at the national level, ensuring a balanced mix of modern and traditional knowledge and technology. These could be undertaken as part of the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
- (f) **Partnerships:** Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between countries by creating a network of institutions. Establish new mechanisms for information exchange, advisory services and collaboration between UNEP and other relevant forums to assist in mainstreaming environmental considerations in intergovernmental deliberations;
- (g) **Policy guidance:** Provide guidance in outlining a set of principles for sustainable outsourcing, investing and trading in a globalized world (in collaboration with relevant agencies and other relevant stakeholders including the private sector) for industry and large corporations to guide their interventions and investments in developing countries. Monitor and evaluate existing global environmental objectives and actions;
- (h) **Multilateral environmental agreements:** Promote coordination and collaboration between multilateral environmental agreements to maximize the use of resources and achieve synergies. Support effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the national level;
- (i) **Way forward:** A number of countries suggested that the UNEP Executive Director develop a range of clear and specific policy options based on the activities outlined above in close collaboration with ministers of environment and trade and with relevant international agencies and stakeholders and prepare options on this matter and present these to the special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2008 for the consideration of ministers.

3. Actions by the international community

12. Possible actions by the international community include:

(a) **International coordination among intergovernmental organizations:** Promote coherence and coordination between international organizations working on issues related to sustainable development (UNEP, UNDP, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UN-Habitat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNIDO). Establish new mechanisms for information exchange, advisory services and collaboration among international organizations to assist in mainstreaming environmental considerations in intergovernmental deliberations and implementation processes. Strengthen and revitalize international organizations in order to facilitate and promote inter-sectoral dialogue in national Governments. Strengthen enforcement and compliance mechanisms of multilateral environmental agreements;

(b) **Governance:** Strengthen international environmental governance to respond to globalization processes and to ensure greater parity among international organizations promoting sustainable development (e.g. multilateral environmental agreements and the World Trade Organization). Invite the United Nations Secretary-General to include globalization issues in the current international environmental governance discussions;

(c) **Other issues:** Develop both technologies and technology transfer mechanisms relevant to least developed countries, as well as capacity-building activities to support such technology transfer.

II. Summary of ministerial consultations on United Nations reform

13. Ministers presented and discussed various options for action for consideration by Governments, UNEP and the international community. The options enumerated below reflect views expressed during the discussions. Their inclusion does not mean that they are without controversy or that each option has been fully considered by each Government. They provide for Governments, UNEP and the international community a fertile source of ideas from which to undertake further exploration.

A. Context

14. The current discussions on environmental governance take place in the framework of United Nations reform measures approved by heads of State and Government in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Paragraph 169 of the Outcome document sets out areas for further reflection on the current institutional framework of United Nations environment work. These areas include: enhanced coordination; improved policy advice and guidance; strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation; better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties; and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building.

15. The General Assembly established an informal consultative process to consider these areas, which commenced in March 2006. At the same time the Secretary General, as mandated by paragraph 169, convened a High-level Panel on System Wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. The report of the Panel has been transmitted to the General Assembly, but has yet to be considered.

16. The informal consultative process in the General Assembly culminated in a co-chairs summary which has formed the basis for further consultations that commenced in January 2007. The backdrop to the discussions on improved environmental governance finds its genesis in the “Cartagena Outcome” contained in UNEP Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance, adopted in February 2002.

17. The aim of the panel and roundtable discussions at the current session was to provide further impetus to implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan and UNEP partnerships with other United Nations system entities, as well as to provide input to the ongoing and forthcoming discussions in the General Assembly.

B. Plenary sessions

18. The discussion commenced in a plenary session entitled “Overview”, with an introduction by one of the co-chairs of the General Assembly informal consultative process, following which panellists from Germany, India and the United States of America intervened. It was emphasized that environmental challenges needed to be integrated into development planning and economic strategies. Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan would assist in this regard, as would encouraging new partnerships between UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO and others in the United Nations system.

19. Support was expressed for a reformed United Nations institution for the environment as well as for an increase in its financial resources. Complex, growing and interlinked environmental challenges urgently require coordinated responses, including in policy sectors other than environment. A variety of measures were discussed, including better coordination among the institutions currently involved in the environment, more cooperation with multilateral agencies with economic and developmental mandates, strengthening UNEP or upgrading it into a specialized agency with the commensurate authority to foster better coordination, and the establishment of a new United Nations environment organization. The introductory plenary session set the stage for six ministerial round table discussions that explored the challenges, opportunities and possible improvements with respect to environmental governance.

20. At a concluding plenary session, entitled “Feedback”, ministers and heads of delegation heard from a number of panellists including ministers from Congo, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as representatives from WWF International, IDDRI and the Third World Network. They pointed out that the urgency and magnitude of environmental problems had outgrown the capacity of existing institutions and that meant that a United Nations environment organization or a strengthened UNEP was necessary. It was underscored that the Secretary General of the United Nations should take urgent steps to advance this process in the United Nations General Assembly. It was mentioned that a reformed United Nations institution for the environment should have closer relations with the World Bank and the World Trade Organization. In reference to the report of the High-level Panel on System Wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, it was suggested that UNEP should co-chair the proposed sustainable development board.

21. It was further stressed that United Nations reform should provide greater opportunities for developing countries and civil society to contribute more towards international governance. The United Nations must reflect the current reality that its vast membership is from the developing countries and therefore must ensure that its governance structures and decision making respond to this reality.

C. Challenges

22. There was wide agreement that while the international community had created a variety of bodies to deal with environmental issues, deterioration of natural resources had not been successfully halted or reversed. Uncoordinated approaches at the global, regional and national levels, as well as duplication and fragmentation of mandates, had exacerbated this situation.

23. Lack of coordination was not limited to the United Nations system, but also involved Governments, the private sector and civil society. In the United Nations system the respective mandates of the various agencies, funds and programmes should be better coordinated.

24. There is increased recognition that environmental issues are interlinked not only with development and sustainable economic growth, but also with trade, agriculture, health, peace and security and that these interlinkages increased the need for global environmental leadership.

25. While UNEP, as the environmental pillar of the United Nations system, has achieved important results in discharging its mandate, a lack of sufficient and stable funding has hampered its ability to address emerging threats. The magnitude and severity of environmental challenges in relation to climate change, biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services threaten to overwhelm the United Nations response and are already constraining prospects for economic development in many countries and regions.

26. The need for predictable resources for UNEP to effectively fulfil its mandate and the expectations of the international community was, however, only one problem that needed to be addressed. With regard to the Global Environment Facility, the roles of the implementing agencies

required more attention, as did the relationship between UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank on the one hand and the multilateral environmental agreements on the other.

27. Mainstreaming gender in addressing environmental deterioration continued to present a challenge, as did equity concerns relating to costs associated with the negative impacts of unsustainable management of the environment. These areas require further reflection.

28. With regard to changes to the institutional structures that deal with the environment, a number of countries said that there was a need to discuss the issue of the restructuring of UNEP based on a detailed proposal with the basic elements required to strengthen global environmental governance, including various options and with specific reference to the role of UNEP, and that such a detailed proposal should be formulated for consideration by Governments.

29. There is often a lack of coordination among relevant government ministries with responsibility for the environment at the national level. Implementation of multilateral environmental agreement obligations at the domestic level is often hampered by a lack of capacity. Many Governments feel burdened by a proliferation of reporting requirements, a drain on technical expertise and a multitude of international meetings.

D. Opportunities

30. The current United Nations reform process presented an opportunity for strengthening United Nations environmental activities; options for reforming or upgrading UNEP should be seen in this context. A steady increase in the political attention being accorded to the environment has supported this process and there is growing recognition that environmental sustainability can not be de-linked from sustainable development and economic growth. Mainstreaming the environment across other sectors, and in the process enhancing the role of environment ministries, would allow such integration.

31. The view was expressed that there was a need for greater effectiveness in disseminating existing knowledge available in scientific institutions and for UNEP to improve its scientific base, as well as its monitoring, assessment and early warning capacity. UNEP should also expand its partnerships with the private sector and civil society and incorporate results-based management.

32. Full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan was stressed as a vehicle to assist developing countries in building their capacities to address environmental challenges. This would require additional funding and an emphasis on partnerships between UNEP, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders.

33. Strong support was expressed for the increase in cooperation between UNEP and UNDP, as it would address requests for UNEP to have an operational capacity and enhance effectiveness in environmental capacity-building. The ongoing pilot programmes jointly undertaken by UNEP and UNDP could be expanded to tackle complex subregional environmental challenges.

34. Some suggestions focused on the need for UNEP to have a country presence on a temporary basis as required or through UNDP representation. It was also proposed that United Nations resident coordinators should ensure joint programming and full integration of environmental dimensions in project activities.

E. Possible options/improvements for environmental governance

35. Proposals were made for UNEP to receive greater political authority and for it to have the ability better to coordinate global responses to environmental threats and regional and national implementation. Some suggestions related to an enhanced role for UNEP as the United Nations authority on environment in increasing the coherence of the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the national level, while its regional offices could be strengthened better to take into account regional environmental needs. Some suggestions focused on UNEP establishing regional centres for capacity-building and technology transfer.

36. Various ideas were voiced on whether clustering of multilateral environmental agreements could bring about synergies and coherence. These ranged from sectoral clustering to administrative improvements. Some suggestions centred on the role that UNEP could play in ensuring programmatic interlinkages and synergies among multilateral environmental agreements, while proposals were also made that would require the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements to explore the

frequency of meetings, rationalization of knowledge management and the development of a consistent and methodological approach to enforcement and compliance measures.

37. With regard to improving institutional structures it was widely agreed that any new or improved entity should be based in Nairobi and should build on the current strengths of UNEP. Some suggestions favoured the strengthening of UNEP within its current mandate, while there was significant support for upgrading UNEP to a specialized agency. With regard to the proposal to establish a United Nations environment organization, however, a divergence of opinions persists.

38. While some are of the view that such an organization could provide better political guidance, legitimacy and effective coordination, others remain unconvinced that it is necessary or desirable, that funding for a new institution would be at higher levels than UNEP has at present or that it would ensure efficiencies. Continued discussions on the possible establishment of a United Nations environment organization, which would also be part of the United Nations system, should not detract from the current need to strengthen UNEP. In that regard it was important to elucidate the functions required to be delivered before agreeing on the form that any such institution might take. Other views expressed took into account the various mandates that exist in the field of the environment and the possibility that an umbrella type arrangement could facilitate synergies, coordination and inter-linkages. A reformed or upgraded UNEP could fulfil this role.

39. Discussions have demonstrated the need for greater precision in the future deliberations on the United Nations environment reform exercise. In that regard ministers took note of the growing consensus in areas where forward movement is possible and options for such progress to be developed in the next several months. They also undertook, as stewards of environmental sustainability in their respective countries, to provide leadership and proposals for taking the United Nations reform process forward. A number of countries requested that the Executive Director assist them through regional and other mechanisms in obtaining relevant information to enable them to engage meaningfully in efforts to strengthen UNEP.

Annex V

Statement by the President of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the proposed international centre For judicial capacity-building in environmental law in Cairo, Egypt

An important draft decision has been circulated to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum regarding a proposed international centre for judicial capacity-building in environmental law in Cairo, Egypt. For lack of time, the members were not able to explore the draft decision thoroughly. I hereby make the following statement which will be incorporated in the proceedings of the twenty-fourth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

A draft decision was brought forward by the Group of 77 and China to the Governing Council on behalf of the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in respect of the development of a proposal for the establishment of an international centre for judicial capacity-building and judicial training in environmental law in Cairo, Egypt.

The proposal underscored the importance of capacity-building for judges and other legal stakeholders in the field of environmental law, as recognized by the Governing Council in its decision 22/17 II of 7 February 2003. It acknowledged that national judges play an important role in the interpretation, elaboration, implementation and enforcement of environmental law. Further, it recognized the need for the judiciary in all developing countries to be well informed of the rapidly expanding boundaries of environmental law and highlighted the role and the responsibilities of the judiciary in promoting the effective implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

The Governing Council welcomes with deep appreciation the generous offer that has been made by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and encourages the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Executive Director of UNEP to intensify the ongoing consultations relating to the further development of the proposal for the establishment and operationalization of the Centre, including resource mobilization for the activities of the Centre, without placing any financial burden on the core budget of UNEP or any of its existing trust funds, and to report to the Governing Council at its special session in 2008 on the progress made in these consultations.
