



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Our Reference: BAM/fwm

13 November 2000

NOTIFICATION BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

(Nairobi, 5-9 February 2001)

1. The twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5 to 9 February 2001, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council and in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999. The session/forum will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 5 February 2001, and will be preceded by an informal consultation among regional groups on Sunday, 4 February 2001, at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.
2. The provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.21/1) is being circulated with the present notification. The annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.21/1/Add.1), containing the Executive Director's recommendations concerning the organization of work of the session/forum and a proposed provisional timetable of meetings, will be circulated together with all documents six weeks before the session/forum.
3. Governments may wish to bear in mind that, in accordance with a decision taken by the Council at its twentieth session, the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global devoted to work in plenary and in a sessional Committee of the Whole, where programmatic, administrative and budgetary matters will be addressed. The last two days of the week will be devoted to discussions on emerging policy issues at the ministerial or equivalent level.
4. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 53/242, the Governing Council provides an annual ministerial-level global environmental forum to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. Consequently, the first Global Ministerial Environment

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Forum was held in the context of the sixth special session of the Governing Council Sweden, from 29 to 31 May 2000. In view of this, the Executive Director recommends that the plenary of the Council should meet in the form of ministerial-level round-table consultations, beginning on Thursday, 8 February through the morning of Friday, 9 February 2001.

5. In order to set the scene for policy dialogue on important and emerging policy issues, it is suggested that the first ministerial consultation on the morning of Thursday, 8 February should comprise discussions on the implementation may focus on issues such as energy, the specific needs of Africa, UNEP's contribution to the second Earth Summit and international environmental governance. The Executive Director will facilitate the discussions. The secretariat will provide a background paper for this purpose. No guest speaker will be invited during this meeting.

6. It is suggested that the complex linkages between environment, health, energy, poverty and technology should be considered at the ministerial consultation on the afternoon of 8 February. Two eminent persons will introduce subjects for the ministerial dialogue. It is hoped that the ministerial discussions will deepen the consideration by ministers of environment-poverty problems, with a particular focus on health and energy as cross-cutting issues. A background paper will be provided by the secretariat.

7. session of the Governing Council, the increased intensity and frequency of natural and man-made disasters has an enormous impact on the environment and peoples' lives around the world. As a specific aspect of the "Environment and poverty" issue, it is suggested that the ministerial consultation meeting should consider the vulnerability of the environment to natural and man-made disasters on the morning of Friday, 9 February. Two eminent persons will introduce the subject. A background paper will be provided by the secretariat.

8. A working supper for ministers and heads of delegation is proposed on 8 February at 8 p.m. to consider the environmental dimensions of dialogue among civilizations, as a contribution by UNEP to the United Nations Year for Dialogue among Civilizations. This subject might be considered from various angles - philosophical, historical, cultural and spiritual. The dialogue on these subjects will have an important bearing on the overriding issue of environment and poverty. A guest speaker will introduce the subject. A background paper will be provided by the secretariat.

9. The session/forum will also consider and approve the programme and budget of UNEP for the biennium 2002-2003, in the context of Council decisions 19/1 (Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of t

Declaration). It is desirable that during the first three days, when the work programme and budget are being considered, delegations should comprise technical advisers in environmental matters and financial specialists for the budget discussions.

10. UNEP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights are partners in the Global Compact initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In the context of this initiative a forum for business-labour-

Sunday,

4 February 2001. Participants will include representatives of non-governmental organizations, business, industry, trade unions and academia.

11. On Saturday, 10 February, in order to enhance understanding of energy issues, which will also be discussed at the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, a dialogue on renewable energy and energy efficiency in Africa will be organized in the field for ministers and heads of delegation. It will include a visit to a geothermal power plant at Olkaria near Naivasha

Global Environment Facility in connection with climate change and energy issues.

12. The informal consultation among regional groups preceding the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will take place on Sunday, 4 February 2001, at 3 p.m. This will facilitate the work of the session/forum by identifying the principal issues to be deliberated upon, and the appropriate organization of work, including the composition of the Bureau (see annex II).

13. A list of the member States of the Governing Council during the period 2000-2003 is provided in annex I to this Notification. Under rule 16 of the rules of procedure, an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as the delegations may require, shall represent each member of the Council.

14. Member States of the Governing Council are accordingly requested to submit to the Executive Director by 18 December 2000 the names of their representatives, alternate

representatives and advisers who will participate in the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Eligible States not members of the Governing Council wishing to participate in the work under rule 67 of the rules of procedure are also requested to communicate the names of their representatives to the Executive Director by 18 December 2000.

15. Following past practice, the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will have before it two types of document: documents in the and/or action which will provide background information not requiring substantive review or action by the Council. For the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the Executive Director has significantly reduced the number of documents. Most of the documents will highlight the essential elements on which the Council is requested to deliberate and decide. This will greatly reduce the overall volume of documentation produced, in keeping with the expressed wishes of Governments.

16. The Executive Director wishes to inform Governments that there are a few documents which will not comply with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents for the session/forum owing to the scope of the information contained therein and the need to reflect the resolutions of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, which will probably be adopted late in the year. These documents are as follows:

- (a) The Executive financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1998-1999 and on the observations of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Administrative Questions on the information document on measures to implement audit recommendations;
- (b) The comments of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Administrative Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: Proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003;
- (c) Decisions of the General Assembly requiring action by the Governing Council.

17. The documents for the Council at its twenty-first session/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be available over the Internet beginning 18 December 2000, and can be accessed by selecting **Twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum** at the following address:

http://www.unep.org/gc_21st

18. Since the Committee of the Whole is expected to discuss matters that have been considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and in view of the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, Governments may wish to consider including their Permanent Representatives in their delegations.

19. Registration of participants will take place from 1 p.m. on Thursday, 1 February 2001. Information for participants regarding hotel accommodation, medical requirements, visa regulations, etc. will be provided, together with registration forms, six weeks before the session/forum.

20. All communications concerning the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should be addressed to:

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Annex I

MEMBER STATES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE CURRENT PERIOD (2000 - 2003)

A. Breakdown by alphabetical order (indicating terms of office)

Antigua and Barbuda *	Malawi *
Argentina *	Marshall Islands **
Austria *	Mexico **
Bahamas **	Netherlands **
Belarus *	New Zealand **
Belgium *	Nigeria *
Benin **	Norway *
Botswana *	Pakistan *
Brazil **	Poland **
Burkina Faso **	Republic of Korea *
Burundi *	Republic of Moldova **
Cameroon *	Russian Federation *
Canada *	Samoa **
China *	Saudi Arabia **
Colombia **	Senegal **
Comoros *	Slovakia **
Cuba *	Sudan *
Denmark **	Suriname **
Egypt **	Syrian Arab Republic *
Equatorial Guinea **	Thailand **
France *	Turkey **
Gambia **	Uganda **
Germany *	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **
Hungary *	United States of America *
India **	Venezuela *
Indonesia *	Zimbabwe *
Iran (Islamic Republic of) **	
Italy **	
Jamaica *	
Japan *	
Kazakhstan *	
Libyan Arab Republic**	

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2001.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2003.

MEMBER STATES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME FOR THE CURRENT PERIOD 2000 - 2003

B. Breakdown by geographical groups (indicating terms of office)

AFRICAN GROUP

Benin **
Botswana *
Burkina Faso **
Burundi *
Cameroon *
Comoros *
Egypt **
Equatorial Guinea **
Gambia **
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya **
Malawi *
Nigeria *
Senegal **
Sudan *
Uganda **
Zimbabwe *

ASIAN GROUP

China *
India **
Indonesia *
Iran (Islamic Republic of) **
Japan *
Kazakhstan *
Marshall Islands **
Pakistan *
Republic of Korea *
Samoa **
Saudi Arabia **
Syrian Arab Republic *
Thailand **

EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP

Belarus *
Hungary *
Poland **
Republic of Moldova **
Russian Federation *
Slovakia **

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN GROUP

Antigua and Barbuda *
Argentina *
Bahamas **
Brazil **
Colombia **
Cuba *
Jamaica *
Mexico **
Suriname **
Venezuela *

WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP

Austria *
Belgium *
Canada *
Denmark **
France *
Germany *
Italy **
Netherlands **
New Zealand **
Norway *
Turkey **
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland **
United States of America *

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2001.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2003.

Annex II

GEOGRAPHICAL COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU OF THE
UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, 1981-2001

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
REGIONAL GROUP													
African Group	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp
Asian Group	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP
Eastern European Group	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP
Latin America and the Caribbean Group	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP
Western European and Others Group	Rapp	VP	Pres	VP	VP	Rapp	VP	Pres	VP	VP	Rapp	VP	Pres

Note: Pres - President
 VP - Vice-President
 Rapp - Rapporteur
