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Twenty-first session
Nairobi, 5-9 February 2001
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION/FORUM

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF
THE WORK OF THE SESSION/FORUM**

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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* UNEP/GC.21/1.

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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Opening of the session/forum

1. The twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the second Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 5 February 2001, by the President of the Council at its twentieth session or, in his absence, by one of the other officers of the Council at its twentieth session.

Item 2. Organization of the session/forum

(a) Election of officers

2. The Governing Council elects its officers at the beginning of each regular session, in accordance with rule 18 of its rules of procedure. The geographical composition of the Bureau from 1981 to 2001 is to be found in annex I to the present document.

3. In keeping with a decision taken by the Governing Council at its twentieth session, the session/forum will be held over the course of five days. Informal consultations in regional groups will be held on Sunday, 4 February 2001, the day before the opening of the session/forum.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session/forum

4. The provisional agenda for the session/forum, as approved by the Council at its twentieth session and amended by the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council, was distributed together with the notification on 13 November 2000 as document UNEP/GC.21/1. The organization of the work of the session/forum, as proposed by the Executive Director, is contained in annex II to the present document.

5. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council meet in plenary and concurrently in one sessional committee (Committee of the Whole) Monday, 5 February 2001, until Wednesday, 7 February 2001. The Executive Director also recommends that the plenary of the Council meet in the form of a round-table ministerial-level consultation, beginning on Thursday, 8 February, through the morning of Friday, 9 February 2001. On the afternoon of Friday, 9 February, the session/forum will meet in its closing plenary meeting.

6. The Executive Director recommends that the plenary consider the following items: 4 (a) (State of the environment); 4 (b) (Emerging policy issues); 4 (c) (Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations); 4 (d) (Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme); 5 (Outcome of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council); 6 (Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions); 7 (Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions); and 8 (Contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development). The Committee of the Whole, if established, could deal with item 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters).

7. The Committee of the Whole will elect its own officers, in accordance with rule 61 of the rules of procedure, with the exception of the Chair. In the past, the Council has designated one of the vice-presidents of the Council as the Chair of its sessional committee. The Council may, therefore, wish to consider designating one of the three vice-presidents of the session/forum to serve as Chair of this Committee.

8. In addition, the Executive Director recommends that items 3 (Credentials of representatives); 10 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial

Environment Forum), 11 (Other matters), 12 (Adoption of the report) and 13 (Closure of the session/forum) should also be taken up in the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Friday, 9 February.

9. It is proposed that, at its opening meeting, the Council elect its officers for the session/forum and adopt the agenda and organization of work of the session/forum. Finally, during this opening plenary meeting, the Executive Director will present his policy statement.

10. The Executive Director proposes that immediately after the formal opening of the session, the plenary session of the council and the Committee of the Whole should meet concurrently. This arrangement is proposed in order to facilitate delivery of the statements of delegations and to allow for integrated and coherent discussion and decision-making in the Committee of the Whole on items that have programmatic, administrative and financial implications. It is envisaged that the Committee of the Whole will conclude its work on the afternoon of Wednesday, 7 February, with the adoption of its report and approval of decisions for consideration by the plenary.

11. As decided by the General Assembly in resolution 53/242, the Governing Council constitutes 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 Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council was held in Malmö, Sweden from 29 to 31 May 2000. The Executive Director recommends that the plenary of the Council meet in the form of round-table ministerial-level consultations, beginning on Thursday, 8 February, through the morning of Friday, 9 February 2001.

12. 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, be open discussion of implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration. Discussion could focus on issues such as energy, specific needs of Africa, UNEP's contribution to implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and international environmental governance. The Executive Director will facilitate discussion of the policy dialogue and will provide a background paper for this purpose entitled "Discussion papers presented by the Executive Director on environment and poverty for the ministerial dialogues" (UNEP/GC.21/5).

13. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration underscored the linkage between environmental degradation and poverty as a fundamental challenge for the world community to overcome in the twenty-first century. As one of the most important elements of basic human needs and human well-being, human health has always been high on the policy agenda in all countries. Furthermore, most environmental problems are associated with health problems. Global environmental issues such as ozone layer depletion, global climate change and persistent organic pollutants are well-known examples of environmental problems causing serious health concerns. At the national level, the most pressing environmental problems are also health problems. A lack of adequate safe water and sanitation, inadequate shelter, contaminated food and indoor air pollution also pose a considerable environmental threat to human health. Energy problems in sustainable development add further complexity to environmental and health problems associated with poverty, particularly in developing countries. In the light of the above, it is suggested that the complex linkages between environment, health, energy, poverty and technology be considered during the ministerial consultation on the afternoon of 8 February. It is hoped that the discussions will heighten consideration 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 entitled "Discussion papers presented by the Executive Director on environment and poverty for the ministerial dialogues" (UNEP/Governing Council.21/5).

14. As emphasized at the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council, the increased intensity and frequency of natural and man-made disasters have an enormous impact on the environment and people around the world. It is suggested that the ministerial consultation consider the environmental hazards of natural and man-made disasters. This discussion will be introduced on the morning of Friday, 9 February. A background paper will be provided by the secretariat

entitled “Discussion papers presented by the Executive Director on environment and poverty for the ministerial dialogues” (UNEP/GC.21/5).

15. As a contribution of UNEP to the United Nations Year for Dialogue among Civilizations, a working dinner for ministers and heads of delegation is proposed for the evening of Wednesday, 8 February, beginning at 8 p.m., to consider the environmental dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations. This subject might be considered from various angles – philosophical, historical, cultural and spiritual. UNEP's work in this field, including publications such as Cultural and Spiritual Value of Biodiversity and Earth and Faith: A Book of Reflection for Action, could provide background. Respect for nature, as highlighted in the Millennium Summit Declaration, might be an additional aspect of the dialogue. Consideration might be given to the central importance of cultural and spiritual values in the appreciation and preservation of all life, indigenous knowledge pertaining to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, the interconnectedness of religious and environmental concerns and the fundamental importance to all traditions of safeguarding the planet as a common heritage. Dialogue on these subjects has an important bearing on the overriding issue of environment and poverty. The subjects will be introduced by a guest speaker, and a background paper will be provided by the secretariat entitled “Discussion papers presented by the Executive Director on environment and poverty for the ministerial dialogues” (UNEP/GC.21/5).

DOCUMENTATION	
UNEP/GC.21/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.21/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work
UNEP/GC.21/INF/1	Report on the state of preparedness of documents for the twenty-first session
UNEP/GC.21/5	Discussion papers presented by the Executive Director on environment and poverty for the ministerial dialogues

Item 3. Credentials of representatives

16. In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives at the twenty-first session of the Council will be examined by the Bureau, which will report thereon to the Council. It should be noted that, under rule 16, each member of the Council is to be represented by one accredited representative, who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers.

Item 4. Policy issues

17. The Council is invited to hold a general discussion on the policy issues raised in the documentation for this item. The Council will have before it the draft decisions on these policy issues provided by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP.

18. As a basis for its discussion, the Council will have the following reports of the Executive Director: “State of the global environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme in addressing environmental challenges” (UNEP/GC.21/2); “Policy responses of the United Nations Environment Programme to tackle emerging environmental problems in sustainable development” (UNEP/GC.21/3); and “Global environmental governance and the United Nations Environment Programme” (UNEP/GC.21/4).

DOCUMENTATION

UNEP/GC.21/2	State of the global environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme in addressing environmental challenges
UNEP/GC.21/3	Policy responses of the United Nations Environment Programme to tackle emerging environmental problems in sustainable development
UNEP/GC.21/4	Global environmental governance and the United Nations Environment Programme

(a) State of the environment

19. The report of the Executive Director contained in document UNEP/GC.21/2 (“State of the global environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme in addressing environmental challenges”) provides a general assessment of the state of the environment and addresses cross-sectoral issues including the Global Environment Outlook project, the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century, promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, reform of INFOTERRA, and changing production and consumption patterns, as called for in Governing Council decisions 20/1, 20/3, 20/4, 20/5 and 20/19 E, respectively. The report contains a brief description on sectoral issues including land degradation, the International Coral Reef Initiative, hazardous chemical, chemicals management and freshwater, as called for in Governing Council decisions 20/10, 20/21, 20/22, 20/23, 20/24 and 20/25, respectively. Regional policy issues regarding the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 20/2) and support to Africa (decision 20/27) are also addressed in the report.

(b) Emerging policy issues

20. Document UNEP/GC.21/3 (“Policy responses of the United Nations Environment Programme to tackle emerging environmental problems in sustainable development”) provides the Executive Director’s policy statement on selected issues. This document includes brief reports on environmental disasters, globalization and the environment.

(c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations

21. The report of the Executive Director on global environmental governance and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.21/4) provides a brief report on coordination with the United Nations and other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, as called for in Governing Council decisions 20/12 and 20/13, respectively.

(d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme

22. The governance structure of the United Nations Environment Programme comprises the Governing Council, the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials and the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The report of the Executive Director on global environmental governance and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.21/4) contains a review of the effectiveness of the governance structure of the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the relevant results of the reform of the United Nations system, as called for in Council decision 19/32.

Item 5. Outcome of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council

23. The report of the Executive Director on global environmental governance and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.21/4) presents a summary of the actions taken or planned to implement the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, as called for in Governing Council decision SS.VI/4.

DOCUMENTATION

UNEP/GC.21/3	Policy responses of the United Nations Environment Programme to tackle emerging environmental problems in sustainable development
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Item 6. Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions

24. The report of the Executive Director on global environmental governance and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.21/4) discusses the follow-up of UNEP to the Millennium Summit, the General Assembly resolution on the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 and other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

DOCUMENTATION

UNEP/GC.21/4	Global environmental governance and the United Nations Environment Programme
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Item 7. Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions

25. The institutional arrangements with and substantive support to environmental and environment-related conventions and the status of conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, as called for in Governing Council decision 20/18 B and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX), respectively, are contained in the report of the Executive Director on global environmental governance and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.21/4).

DOCUMENTATION

UNEP/GC.21/4 Global environmental governance and the United Nations
Environment Programme

Item 8. Contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development

26. The report of the Executive Director on the state of the global environment and the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme in addressing environmental challenges (UNEP/GC.21/2) discusses the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York from 16 to 27 April 2001.

DOCUMENTATION

UNEP/GC.21/2 State of the global environment and contribution of the United
Nations Environment Programme in addressing environmental challenges

Item 9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters

27. The report of the Executive Director on this item is contained in document UNEP/GC.21/6.

28. The report of the Executive Director on administrative and other budgetary matters (UNEP/GC.21/7) provides additional information under this item.

DOCUMENTATION

UNEP/GC.21/6 The Environment Fund budgets: Proposed biennial programme and
support budget for 2002-2003

UNEP/GC.21/7 Administrative and other budgetary matters

Item 10. Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

29. In keeping with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 53/242 on environment and human settlements, the nature and frequency of the meetings of the Governing Council have been changed. The United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements recommended that in alternate years, the Forum should take the form of a special session of the Governing Council, moving from region to region, and that regional issues should feature prominently on the agenda. On the basis of this recommendation, the Executive Director proposes, in keeping with rules 5 and 9 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, a provisional agenda, date and venue for the convening of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

Item 11. Other matters

Item 12. Adoption of the report

Item 13. Closure of the session/forum

Annex I

GEOGRAPHICAL COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
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 American 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	

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

ANNEX II

**PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS OF THE
TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM**

MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2001

PLENARY

10 a.m.	
Item 1:	Opening of the session/forum
Item 2:	Organization of the session/forum
Item 2 (a):	Election of officers
Item 2 (b):	Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session/forum

PLENARY

11:30 a.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues
	(a) State of the environment

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

11:30 a.m.	
	Organization of the work of the Committee of the Whole

PLENARY

3 p.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues
	(a) State of the environment (continuation)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

3 p.m.	
Item 9:	Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters

TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2001

PLENARY

10 a.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues (a) State of the environment (continuation)
Item 8:	Contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development
Item 4:	Policy issues (b) Emerging policy issues (continuation)
Item 5:	Outcome of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council of the Governing Council

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

10 a.m.	
Item 9:	Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (continuation)

PLENARY

3 p.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues (b) Emerging policy issues
Item 5:	Outcome of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

3 p.m.	
Item 9:	Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (continuation)

WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2001

PLENARY

10 a.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issue: (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations
Item 4:	Policy issue: (d) Governance of UNEP
Item 6:	Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions
Item 7:	Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

10 a.m.	
Item 9:	Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (continuation)
Draft decisions	

PLENARY

3 p.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issue: (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations (continuation)
Item 4:	Policy issue: (d) Governance of UNEP (continuation)
Item 6:	Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions (continuation)
Item 7:	Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions (continuation)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

3 p.m.	
Item 9:	Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (continuation)
Draft decisions	
Adoption of report and conclusion of the Committee's work	

THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2001

PLENARY

10 a.m.

Roundtable ministerial dialogue: Open discussion of the implementation and development of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration.

(Discussions may focus on issues such as energy, specific needs of Africa, UNEP's contribution to implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and global environment governance.)

PLENARY

3p.m.

Environment and Poverty: Part 1

(It is suggested that the complex linkages among environment, health, energy and poverty be considered during ministerial consultations.)

PLENARY

8p.m.

Dialogue among Civilizations: environmental dimensions

(A working dinner for ministers and heads of delegation is proposed to consider environmental dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations, as a contribution of UNEP to the United Nations Year for Dialogue among Civilizations.)

FRIDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2001

PLENARY

10 a.m.

Environmental vulnerability of natural and man-made disasters

Environment and Poverty: Part 2 (As a specific aspect of the environment and poverty issue, it is suggested that the ministers consider the environmental vulnerability of natural and man-made disasters.)

PLENARY

3 p.m.

Item 3: Credentials of representatives

Item 10: Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Item 11: Other matters

Item 12: Adoption of the report

Item 13: Closure of the session/forum

SATURDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2001

SIDE EVENT

6 a.m.

Dialogue in the Field: Renewable energy and energy efficiency in Africa

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 and a presentation of Kenya's Olkaria III geothermal project that has been developed by the Global Environment Facility in connection with climate change and energy issues.
