

Twenty-first session  
Nairobi, 5-9 February 2001  
Agenda item 4 (d)

Draft decision submitted by Sweden (on behalf of the European Union)

International environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Considering that the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 will be a critical opportunity to advance international cooperation for sustainable development,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration, in which the role of the United Nations Environment Programme is confirmed as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Welcoming efforts already made to realize the objectives of the Nairobi Declaration, notably the adoption of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, with the establishment of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the Environmental Management Group and a strengthened United Nations Office at Nairobi,

Recognizing that these reforms constitute first steps in a process of necessary strengthening of the system of international environmental governance in the context of sustainable development,

Also recognizing that stable, predictable and adequate funding is a prerequisite for improving governance,

Recalling the role of major groups as recognized in Agenda 21,

Also recalling the recommendations set out in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration that the 2002 conference should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance, based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity effectively to address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world, and that the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable,

1. Urges the United Nations Environment Programme to continue efforts to implement General Assembly resolution 53/242 with vigour;
2. Decides to establish an ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental working group, incorporating two core members from each of the five regions, to undertake the review called for in paragraph 24 of the Malmö Declaration and to present proposals on how to strengthen international environmental governance as one part of the broader institutional structure for sustainable development, and recommends that the working group appoint two co-chairs to direct its work;
3. Encourages the working group to draw on highly qualified expert advice, from independent institutions, from within the United Nations system as well as from major groups;
4. Invites the working group to consider, inter alia, ways of further strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme, and its relationship with multilateral environmental agreements, with the aim of achieving a more integrated and forceful system, and ways of making such agreements more effective;
5. Requests the working group to include in its report options on methods to stabilize, broaden and strengthen the financial basis of the United Nations Environment Programme, for example through a system of negotiated multiannual agreements or assessed contributions;
6. Further requests the working group to address international environmental governance in the context of broader multilateral efforts for sustainable development, including the further integration of the environmental dimension in the operational functions of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions;

7. Requests the working group to present its report to the Global Ministerial Environment Forum / seventh special session of the Governing Council, which could take place in early 2002, as a contribution to the preparations by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

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