



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



Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GC.21/L.4
8 February 2001

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-first session
Nairobi, 5-9 February 2001
Agenda item 9

GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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

The Governing Council,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex), especially paragraphs 64-72, which stress the importance of engaging and supporting youth in environmental work, and paragraphs 104-107, emphasizing the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and decision-making,

Further recalling chapter 25 of Agenda 21, which states inter alia that “the involvement of today’s youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21”,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing work of the United Nations Environment Programme with young people, involving the Global 500 Youth Environmental Award, Global Youth Forums, the Global Youth Retreat, the Youth Advisory Council, the International Children's Conference on the Environment,

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promotional activities for children, global networks for children and youth and publications for children and youth, and the need to further enhance young people's involvement,

1. Requests the Executive Director to develop a long-term strategy on how the United Nations Environment Programme intends to engage and involve young people worldwide in environmental issues and debates;
2. Decides to discuss at its twenty-second session ways of engaging and involving young people in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme;
3. Further requests the Executive Director to declare the engagement and involvement of young people a priority by giving consideration to efforts to:
 - (a) Encourage and support the active and consistent input of young people into United Nations Environment Programme decision-making, negotiations, meetings and initiatives;
 - (b) Facilitate and support young people's involvement in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and in the preparations for the Summit;
 - (c) Initiate and support, in partnership with youth environmental organizations and networks, capacity-building projects for youth leaders, which should include the strengthening of the Youth Advisory Council, training and exchange programmes, and work to increase the number of and access to environmental information materials and publications for young people;
 - (d) Create opportunities for young people to gain experience and contribute inputs to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme through internships;
4. Commits to finding the human and financial resources that the activities enumerated above will require.
