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**Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to
the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum**

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Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present document summarizes the outcomes of major intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in 2004, in particular those held between the conclusion of the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in March 2004 and 31 December 2004.

* UNEP/GC.23/1.

I. Outcomes of relevant meetings of the principal organs of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies

A. General Assembly

1. The General Assembly, at its resumed fifty-eighth session in 2004, launched the initial phase of a multi-year plan to revitalize its working methods, including measures to truncate its agenda and sharpen the focus of its six Main Committees. In this context, the work programmes of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly have both been linked more closely to the sustainable development agenda by better integration of discussions on poverty, economic development, cultural diversity, human rights and freedoms and threats to peace and security. It is expected that these measures will result in less paperwork and enable the General Assembly to better meet the new challenges of the twenty-first century.

2. The General Assembly also formally decided to postpone the dates of the Mauritius International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States from 30 August–3 September 2004 to 10–14 January 2005. The Assembly also formally approved the 2004–2005 programme budget and commemorated the end of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples by hosting the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 10 to 22 May 2004. The Forum, which was created by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its decision 2000/22, considered efforts to meet the internationally agreed goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹ and the Declaration's impact on indigenous lands and resources.

3. The General Assembly, at its fifty-ninth session, adopted a number of resolutions that call for action by or are directly relevant to UNEP. These include:

(a) Resolution 59/226 of 22 December 2004, entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session";

(b) Resolution 59/227 of 22 December 2002, entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development";

(c) Resolution 59/24 of 17 November 2004, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea";

(d) Resolution 59/25 of 17 November 2004, entitled "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments";

(e) Resolution 59/230 of 22 December, entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development";

(f) Resolution 59/236 of 22 December 2004, entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity", which is related also to resolution 59/234 of 22 December 2004, entitled "Climate change", and resolution 59/235 of 22 December 2004, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

(g) Resolution 59/114 of 10 December 2004, entitled "Effects of atomic radiation";

(h) Resolution 59/4 of 22 October 2004, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization".

4. With regard to the report of the Governing Council of UNEP on its eighth special session, the General Assembly, in the preamble of its resolution 59/226, reaffirmed that UNEP, as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition. It also recalled the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of

¹ General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

the World Summit on Sustainable Development² on the full implementation of the outcomes of the decision on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council, and reiterated the need to ensure that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in environment-related fields remain important components of the work of UNEP, and noted in this regard the ongoing work of the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group to prepare an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building. It also recalled that the Governing Council and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system were, in accordance with previous resolutions, encouraged to submit comments in a timely manner on the important but complex issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, in order to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General on that issue to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixtieth session.

5. In this resolution, the Assembly took note of the report of the UNEP Governing Council on its eighth special session and the decisions contained therein, and the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003. The Assembly noted that the Governing Council had discussed all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance and would continue discussions at its twenty-third session. It called upon all countries to engage further in the negotiations for an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building with a view to its adoption at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council in February 2005.

6. The Assembly noted the differences in the views expressed to that point in time on universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the upcoming consideration of that question at the Council's twenty-third session; and encouraged Member States, the Governing Council and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system that had not yet done so to submit their comments on the matter to the secretariat, including with regard to legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, as contributions to the report of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General was requested to submit a report incorporating those views to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

7. The Assembly emphasized the need for UNEP, within its mandate, to contribute further to sustainable development programmes, the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at all levels and to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the Commission's mandate.

8. The Assembly also emphasized the need to enhance further coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and, in this respect, welcomed the continued participation of UNEP in the United Nations Development Group. It further called upon UNEP to continue to contribute, within its mandate and as a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force, to the preparations for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005.

9. The Assembly noted the decision of the Governing Council to discuss at its twenty-third session issues related to domestic, industrial and hazardous waste management, in particular regarding capacity-building and technology support, and, in that context, to consider innovative ways of mobilizing financial resources from all appropriate sources to support the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in this area. It also noted the decision to review at its twenty-third session the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation on the strengthening of the scientific base of UNEP.

10. Finally, the Assembly reiterated the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP and, in accordance with Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, underlined the need to consider the adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget. It welcomed progress made in the implementation of the provisions of section III. B. of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1 of the Governing Council on strengthening the role and financial situation of UNEP, including the significant broadening of the donor base and increasing total contributions to the Environment Fund, and, in this regard, noted that the Governing Council would review the implementation of those provisions at its twenty-third session. It further requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource

² *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), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

needs of UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Environment Programme and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi.

11. Regarding the implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21⁴ and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the General Assembly, in its resolution 59/227, reaffirmed the continuing need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development; and that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. It also reiterated that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

12. In the resolution, the Assembly called upon Governments, all relevant international and regional organizations, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, United Nations funds and programmes, regional commissions and specialized agencies, international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, as well as major groups, to take action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the Johannesburg Summit and encouraged them to report on concrete progress in that regard. It further called for the implementation of the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the Summit and, to that end, for the fulfillment of the provisions relating to the means of implementation, as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

13. The Assembly took note with interest of the establishment of the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation by the Secretary-General, and looked forward to its contribution to the mobilization of efforts and resources towards the implementation of the commitments, goals and targets agreed upon in these areas. It requested the Secretary-General, in reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session, to submit thematic reports on water, sanitation and human settlements, taking into account their inter-linkages, while addressing the cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission at its eleventh session. It further stressed the importance of the success of the Commission at its thirteenth session in taking policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation on water, sanitation and human settlements; and mobilizing further action by all implementation actors to overcome obstacles and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

14. The Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report on inter-agency cooperation⁵ and requested continued efforts to strengthen system-wide cooperation and coordination for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to report on such inter-agency cooperation and coordination activities and their terms of reference to the Economic And Social Council in 2005. It also noted the convening of the second international expert meeting on a ten-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production, to be held in Costa Rica in September 2005, and urged Member States to consider further support for those activities.

15. In addition to those listed in paragraph 3 above, the General Assembly adopted resolutions that are also highly relevant to UNEP. These include:

(a) Resolution 59/235 of 22 December 2004, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa";

(b) Resolution 59/234 of 22 December 2004, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind";

³ *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 I.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-19/2 of [date], annex.

⁵ E/2004/12-E/CN.17/2004/3.

- (c) Resolution 59/231 of 22 December 2004, entitled “International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)”;
- (d) Resolution 59/233 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Natural disasters and vulnerability”;
- (e) Resolution 59/232 of 22 December 2004, entitled “International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon”;
- (f) Resolution 59/212 of 20 December 2004, entitled “International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development”;
- (g) Resolution 59/228 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Life’, 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources”;
- (h) Resolution 59/229 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”;
- (i) Resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”.

16. Furthermore, there are many other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session which are relevant to the UNEP work programme, including the following:

- (a) Resolution 59/247 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)”;
- (b) Resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries ”;
- (c) Resolution 59/168 of 20 December 2004, entitled “Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly”;
- (d) Resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”;
- (e) Resolution 59/220 of 22 December 2004, entitled “World Summit on the Information Society”;
- (f) Resolution 59/138 of 10 December 2004, entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community”;
- (g) Resolution 59/238 of 22 December, entitled “Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas”;
- (h) Resolution 59/251 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources”;
- (i) Resolution 59/73 of 3 December 2004, entitled “Mongolia’s international security and nuclear -weapon -free status”;
- (j) Resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2002, entitled “Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People”;
- (k) Resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004, entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”;
- (l) Resolution 59/2 of 20 October 2004, entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space”;
- (m) Resolution 59/68 of 3 December 2004, entitled “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control”;
- (n) Resolution 59/237 of 22 December, entitled “United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development ”;

- (o) Resolution 59/10 of 27 October 2004, entitled “Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace”;
- (p) Resolution 59/221 of 22 December 2004, entitled “International trade and development”;
- (q) Resolution 59/224 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Commodities”;
- (r) Resolution 59/249 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Industrial development cooperation”;
- (s) Resolution 59/240 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence”;
- (t) Resolution 59/146 of 20 December 2004, entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly”;
- (u) Resolution 59/242 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin”;
- (v) Resolution 59/170 of 20 December 2004, entitled “Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees”, and related resolution 59/172 of 20 December 2004, entitled “Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa”;
- (w) Resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004, entitled “International migration and development”;
- (x) Resolution 59/41 of 2 December 2004, entitled “Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-sixth session”;
- (y) Resolution 59/132 of 10 December, entitled “Question of New Caledonia”;
- (z) Resolution 59/134 of 10 December 2004, entitled “Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands”;
- (aa) Resolution 59/245 of 22 December 2004, entitled “Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation”;
- (bb) Resolution 59/145 of 17 December, entitled “Modalities, format and organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly”.

17. Further information on the issues arising from the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session which are of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including the details of the above resolutions and their relevance to UNEP, are presented in document UNEP/GC.23/INF/3.

B. United Nations Economic and Social Council

18. The latest session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council took place from 28 June to 23 July 2004 in New York. The session was divided into various segments (high level from 28 to 30 June, coordination from 1 July to 7 July, operational activities from 7 July to 12 July, humanitarian from 12 July to 14 July, general from 15 July to 22 July and the concluding part on 23 July 2004). The theme for the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council session, in accordance with its decision 2003/287 of 24 July 2003, was resource mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010. The 2004 Economic and Social Council session was preceded by two preparatory meetings, held respectively on 17 February and 17 to 18 March 2004.

19. A special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization was also held, on 26 April 2004. During this meeting, attended by senior United Nations officials and heads of agencies, as well as ministers from developed and developing countries, discussions focused on the theme coherence, coordination and cooperation in

the context of the Monterrey Consensus⁶. Three panel discussions took place, on the impact of private investment and trade related issues on financing for development, the role of multilateral institutions in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, and debt sustainability and debt relief.

20. The Economic and Social Council, in consideration of the overarching theme, also discussed during the various segments increased United Nations cooperation and coordination in meeting the internationally agreed goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, and the contribution of the United Nations system to the high level event in 2005, during which implementation of the goals will be considered.

21. The coordination segment focused in particular on two areas, i.e., a coordinated and integrated United Nations response to promote rural development in developing countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development, as well as a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

22. In the concluding segment the theme for 2005 was agreed to be "achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits; progress made, challenges and opportunities".

C. United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

23. The twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development took place from 14 to 30 April 2004. The first three days, 14 to 16 April, were devoted to preparations for the International Meeting for the Review of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. During those days, the Commission served as a preparatory meeting for the Mauritius meeting, and considered a draft strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States.

24. The Commission's twelfth session was the first session of the new two-year cycle during which the Commission will consider implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (the Commission will consider water, sanitation and human settlements during 2004–2005; energy, industrial development, air pollution, atmosphere and climate change during 2006–2007; agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa during 2008–2009; transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a ten-year framework on sustainable consumption and production patterns during 2010–2011; forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountains during 2012–13; oceans and seas, marine resources, small island developing States, disaster management and vulnerability during 2014–15; and an overall appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation during 2016–2017).

25. At its twelfth session, a review session, the Commission considered the first three thematic areas designated for attention in 2004–2005, i.e. water, sanitation and human settlements, and concluded with a high-level segment during 28 to 30 April. In summary, the Commission concluded that, although many countries were not currently on track, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation targets for water, sanitation and human settlements were achievable in the timeframes agreed. Achieving them, however, would require high-level political commitment and strengthened governance at all levels, and sustainable efforts at mobilizing and effectively utilizing resources.

26. The Commission also highlighted its view that the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements were inter-related and central to all the internationally agreed goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that there was an opportunity to approach social, economic and environmental considerations in a holistic manner, so as to enhance poverty eradication.

27. A partnerships fair, which had been introduced at the Commission's eleventh session, was again held at the twelfth session, providing an opportunity to network and to identify and launch new partnerships. The twelfth session also featured a series of side events for sharing experiences and increasing opportunities for dialogue, as well as a learning center where practical knowledge and tools relevant to implementation of sustainable development were available. The session also benefited from the new structure of regional and subregional inputs, and although steps were taken towards

⁶ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2003* (United Nations publication, sales No. E.02.II.A7) chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

strengthening the involvement of major groups in the activities of the Commission, a number of such groups have called for their greater involvement in the run-up to, and during, the Commission's thirteenth session, which will be a policy session and, unlike the twelfth session, be expected to result in a negotiated outcome.

D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

28. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held its eleventh session in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 13 to 18 June 2004. On 18 June 2004, the session participants adopted the Sao Paulo Consensus.⁷ With regard to the relationships among trade, environment and development, the Sao Paulo Consensus, in paragraph 71, states: "Trade and environment could be mutually supportive, and this objective should be pursued in a manner consistent with an open, equitable, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system." It states further, in paragraph 103, that "UNCTAD should continue to provide support to developing countries on issues at the interface between trade and environment, such as market access, agriculture, traditional knowledge, transfer of environmentally sound technology, environmental goods and services, environmentally preferable products, and issues concerning eco-labelling and certification costs, and follow up on trade-related issues contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It should strengthen work on the BIOTRADE Initiative and the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF)."

E. United Nations Commission on Human Rights

29. The Commission on Human Rights held its sixtieth session in Geneva from 15 March to 23 April 2004. The Commission, on 16 April 2004, adopted resolution 2004/17, entitled Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights.

30. In the preamble to the decision, the Commission states its awareness

"of the increasing rate of illicit movement and dumping by transnational corporations and other enterprises from industrialized countries of hazardous and other wastes in developing countries that do not have the national capacity to deal with them in an environmentally sound manner,"

as well as its awareness

"that many developing countries do not have the national capacities and technologies to process such wastes in order to eradicate or diminish their adverse effects on human rights, including the right to life, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and other human rights affected by the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products, including the rights to water, food, adequate housing and work".

31. Also in the preamble, the Commission welcomes the entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade "as a key instrument providing States with a major tool to reduce the risks associated with pesticide use". It also notes that "the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants has the potential to address serious issues of concern, especially for developing countries."

32. In selected relevant paragraphs in the resolution, the Commission:

"Categorically condemns the illicit dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes in developing countries;"

"Reaffirms that illicit traffic in and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes constitute a serious threat to human rights, including the right to life, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and other

⁷ Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its eleventh session (TD/412), chap. III.

human rights affected by the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products, including the rights to water, food, adequate housing and work;”

“Urges all Governments to take appropriate legislative and other measures, in line with their international obligations, to prevent the illegal international trafficking in toxic and hazardous products and wastes, the transfer of toxic and hazardous products and wastes through fraudulent waste-recycling programmes, and the transfer of polluting industries, industrial activities and technologies, which generate hazardous wastes, from developed to developing countries;”

“Invites the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Pesticides in International Trade, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization and regional organizations to continue to intensify their coordination and international cooperation and technical assistance on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, including the question of their transboundary movement;”

“Requests the Governments of developed countries, together with international financial institutions, to provide financial assistance to African countries for the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the First Continental Conference for Africa on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of Hazardous Wastes and Their Prevention, held in Rabat, from 8 to 12 January 2001;”

“Expresses its appreciation to the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat for the Basel Convention, for the support extended to the Special Rapporteur and urges them and the international community to continue to give him/her the necessary support to enable him/her to discharge his/her mandate;”

“Urges the international community and the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat for the Basel Convention, to continue to give appropriate support to developing countries, upon their request, in their efforts to implement the provisions of existing international and regional instruments controlling the transboundary movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes in order to protect and promote human rights, including the right to life, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and other human rights affected by the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products, including the rights to water, food, adequate housing and work;”

“Urges all Governments to ban the export of toxic and dangerous products, substances, chemicals, pesticides and persistent organic pollutants that are banned or severely restricted in their own countries;”

“Calls upon countries that have not done so to consider ratifying the Rotterdam Convention;”

“Urges States to strengthen the role of national environmental protection agencies and non-governmental organizations, local communities and associations, trade unions, workers and victims, and provide them with the legal and financial means to take necessary action;

“Urges human rights bodies to be more systematic in addressing violations of rights associated with the practices of multinational companies, toxic waste and other environmental problems;”

“Decides to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further three years;”

“Reiterates its call to the Secretary-General to continue to make all necessary resources available for the Special Rapporteur to carry out her/his mandate successfully and, in particular:

“(a) To provide her/him with adequate financial and human resources, including administrative support;

“(b) To provide her/him with the necessary specialized expertise to enable her to carry out her/his mandate fully;

“(c) To facilitate her/his consultations with specialized institutions and agencies, in particular with the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, with a view to improving the provision by such institutions and agencies of technical assistance to Governments which request it and appropriate assistance to victims”.

II. Outcomes of other relevant intergovernmental meetings

33. The following are among the outcomes of other relevant intergovernmental meetings which either resulted in calls for action by UNEP or were highly relevant to its work programme.

A. Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

34. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Kuala Lumpur from 9 to 20 February 2004.

35. The Conference of the Parties, in its decision VII/29, entitled Transfer of technology and technology cooperation (Articles 16 to 19), invited the United Nations Environment Programme, upon approval by the Governing Council, to take into account the need for technology transfer and technology cooperation and capacity-building under the Convention when preparing and implementing the intergovernmental strategic plan on technology support and capacity-building, in order to ensure synergy and support in the implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and cooperation, and to work with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the leader on capacity-building in the United Nations system.

36. In this regard, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision VII/30, entitled Strategic Plan: future evaluation of progress, among other things, requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention “to participate in processes arising from the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme relating to consideration of the development and establishment of an intergovernmental strategic plan for implementation support, linked to the outcome of the international environmental governance process, to ensure that it will contribute to the implementation of the Convention.”

37. In its decision VII/6, entitled Assessment processes, the Conference of the Parties recognized the need to strengthen the scientific base for decisions, and requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to cooperate with UNEP on the follow-up of the process on international environmental governance.

38. In its decision VII/19, entitled Access and benefit-sharing as related to genetic resources (Article 15), in its section D concerning an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, the Conference of the Parties invited UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Trade Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants to cooperate with the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in elaborating the international regime.

39. In its decision VII/32 concerning the programme of work of the Convention and the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to “work closely” with UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Millennium Project of the Secretary-General “and others to find ways to more effectively communicate the importance of biodiversity in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,” to “identify and communicate the relationship between biodiversity and human development targets at all levels”, and “to work closely” with UNDP, UNEP, the

Millennium Project and others “to find ways to use the 2010 targets and indicators to help achieve target 9 (to ‘reverse the loss of environmental resources’) of Millennium Development Goal 7 (to ‘ensure environmental sustainability’), and the other relevant Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 1, to halve poverty and hunger, and the health-related goals”.

40. With regard to marine and coastal biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision VII/5, in particular with respect to the issue of the conservation and sustainable use of deep seabed genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction and the study of the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Parties and other Governments and the International Seabed Authority, and in collaboration with international organizations such as the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, if appropriate, to compile information on methods for the identification, assessment and monitoring of genetic resources of the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction; to compile and synthesize information on their status and trends, including identification of threats to such genetic resources and the technical options for their protection; and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

41. Regarding the operations of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision VII/33, invited the Executive Director of UNEP and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity “to review and revise the administrative arrangements” between UNEP and the secretariat of the Convention and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

42. In addition, the Conference of the Parties invited the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre to provide and maintain up-to-date information on marine and coastal protected areas (decision VII/5); to support the Executive Secretary in monitoring implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, working in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (decision VII/10); and to further develop the World Database on Protected Areas in order to assist the monitoring of progress towards the overall objective of decision VII/28.

43. With regard to “indicators for assessing progress towards, and communicating the 2010 target at the global level”, within the context of the strategic Plan and the future evaluation of progress as set out in its decision VII/30, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention, with the assistance of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and other relevant international organizations, to prepare the second *Global Biodiversity Outlook* for publication prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in order to provide an assessment of progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target at the global level and to describe trends in biodiversity related to the three objectives of the Convention. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties further invited the World Conservation Monitoring Centre to support the Convention secretariat in facilitating the compilation of information necessary for reporting on achievement on the 2010 target.

B. First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

44. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held in Kuala Lumpur from 23 to 27 February 2004. By its decision BSI/5, concerning capacity-building, the Meeting of the Parties adopted an action plan for building capacities for the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and invited Parties, Governments, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and scientific organizations and other relevant bodies to support the effective implementation of the action plan. The action plan envisages that, at the international level, development and updating of international guidance may be undertaken by UNEP, FAO, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and others.

C. First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

45. The Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO convened the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade in Geneva from 20 to 24 September 2004. The Conference considered and decided upon a number of issues concerning the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, including institutional arrangements.

46. In its decision RC-1/9 of 24 September 2004, entitled Arrangements by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the performance of the secretariat functions for the Convention, the Conference noted with appreciation “the excellent cooperation between UNEP and FAO and the effective and efficient Secretariat arrangements for the joint programme for the operation of the prior informed consent procedure, the intergovernmental negotiation process and during the interim period between the adoption of the Convention and its entry into force.”

47. While the Conference was “aware that its decision regarding the physical location of the secretariat will have a decisive impact on the arrangements for the provision of the secretariat that, as provided by paragraph 3 of article 19 of the Convention, are to be agreed on between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and approved by the Conference of the Parties”, the Conference invited the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO to make arrangements for the performance of the secretariat functions, possibly based on the same elements as in the earlier arrangements, and to present them to the Conference of the Parties for consideration and approval, if possible, at its second meeting. The Conference also invited the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO to continue to perform the secretariat functions for the Convention based on the existing arrangements until the Conference of the Parties has approved the new arrangements. Furthermore, the Conference invited the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director General of FAO to appoint an Executive Secretary in consultation with the Conference of the Parties through its Bureau.

48. With regard to the physical location of the secretariat, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision RC-1/12, decided to accept the offer of the Governments of Italy and Switzerland to host jointly the secretariat, noting the agreement for the cities of Geneva and Rome to be the location of the secretariat of the Convention.

D. Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

49. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was held in Bangkok from 2 to 14 October 2004.

50. The Conference of the Parties, in its resolution 13.1 concerning the financing and budgeting of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties, approved terms of reference for the administration of the trust fund for the Convention for the financial period beginning on 1 January 2006 and ending on 31 December 2008, which stipulates that “pursuant to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the approval of the Governing Council of UNEP and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, shall continue the Trust Fund for the administration of the Convention.” In the same resolution, the Conference of the Parties invited all Parties “to support, through their representatives in UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank, the requests of the Secretariat for additional funding of CITES projects by the Global Environment Facility”.

51. The Conference of the Parties, in its resolution Conf.13.4, entitled Conservation of and trade in great apes, noted that “the World Summit on Sustainable Development Great Ape Survival Project (WSSD GRASP) Partnership led by UNEP and UNESCO draws on the scientific expertise of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and brings together range and non-range States, international conventions (including CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity), and a range of global and national non governmental organizations”. The Conference of the Parties also, among other things, urged all range States, Parties and relevant organizations to join the GRASP partnership, and called

upon all Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations, as a matter of urgency, to assist range States in any way possible in supporting the conservation of great apes.

52. In its resolution Conf. 13.11, entitled Bushmeat, the Conference called upon relevant international organizations and the secretariats and Parties to international treaties to recognize the important role they can play in providing assistance, especially to range States, in regulating the trade in bushmeat and tackling the associated issues of poverty, habitat degradation, human population growth and utilization of natural resources. The decision was addressed to, among others, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, including its Great Apes Survival Project, and the United Nations Population Fund.

E. Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

53. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal held its seventh meeting in Geneva, from 25 to 29 October 2004. Among the issues considered by it, the Conference adopted a decision concerning international cooperation, by which the Conference requested the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to strengthen further cooperation and synergies with UNEP with regard to the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (along with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and FAO); enhancement of synergies and complementarities between chemicals and waste issues (together with other relevant intergovernmental bodies); enforcement (along with the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol); chemicals-related and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements); and dismantling of ships (along with the secretariat of the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization, the secretariat of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention 1972) and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

F. Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

54. The Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was held in Prague from 22 to 26 November 2004. The Meeting of the Parties, among other issues, adopted decision XVI/34 concerning cooperation between the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol and other related conventions and international organizations. In that decision, the Parties noted that “the United Nations Environment Programme has encouraged an informal institutional dialogue over several years, between convention secretariats, and the Governing Council, at its last general session, in February 2003, encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme to develop synergies and improve cooperation between its existing institutions”. The Parties noted also that “informal dialogue has been taking place more recently between multilateral environmental agreements, including between the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the secretariat on the conventions on persistent organic pollutants and prior informed consent, the secretariat on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the World Trade Organization, and the World Customs Organization to enhance synergies in particular in relation to the environment, health, and trade.”

55. The Parties, “mindful of the need to strengthen cooperation between the Montreal Protocol and the other convention secretariats and international organizations within their respective mandates,” welcomed the enhanced cooperation between the Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol and the other convention secretariats and international organizations, and requested the Secretariat, among other things, to seek opportunities to enhance its cooperation with other relevant conventions or organizations that pertain to issues related to the Montreal Protocol and to reflect on ways of enhancing information flows on matters of common interest with related conventions and organizations of interest to the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

G. Tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

56. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held its tenth session in Buenos Aires, from 6 to 17 December 2004, and took decisions on the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures and other issues. The Executive Director of UNEP delivered a message to the Conference on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Conference, among other things, adopted a decision on capacity-building for developing countries (non-Annex I Parties), in which the Conference invited “relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme, World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme, to incorporate into their own work programmes, scope of needs identified in the capacity-building framework”, and “to cooperate with each other, with the support and facilitation of the secretariat, in order to ensure efficient and coordinated support to capacity-building efforts by developing country Parties .”

H. Regional intergovernmental meetings

57. A number of regional ministerial environmental forums and other regional or subregional intergovernmental meetings which directly involved UNEP or were of high relevance to the UNEP work programme were held during 2004. Information on those regional meetings is found in document UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.7.
