



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/SGB

8 December 2004

Notification by the Executive Director

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

(Nairobi, 21–25 February 2005)

1. The twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 21 to 25 February 2005, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council and in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 53/242 (Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements) of 28 July 1999. The session/forum will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 21 February 2005, and will be preceded by an informal consultation among regional groups on Sunday, 20 February 2005, at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.
2. The provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.23/1), as adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-second session, is being circulated as annex I to the present notification.
3. Governments may wish to bear in mind that, in accordance with a decision taken by the Council at its twenty-second session, the duration of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be five days. It is proposed that the session/forum conduct its work in plenary meetings in the form of ministerial consultations devoted to discussions at the ministerial or equivalent level on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration within the context of gender and environment, and policy issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements, and in a sessional committee of the whole, where programmatic, administrative and budgetary matters will be addressed. International environmental governance will also form part of the ministerial discussions.
4. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 53/242, the Governing Council constitutes the annual ministerial-level global environmental forum in which participants gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. Consequently, the eighth special session of the

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Governing Council constituted the fifth Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which was held in Jeju 29 to 31 March 2004. In view of this, the Executive Director recommends that the plenary of the session/forum meet in the form of ministerial-level consultations, beginning on Monday, 21 February through the morning of Wednesday, 23 February 2005.

5. The meetings of the plenary in the form of ministerial consultations will address the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration, with particular emphasis on Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) within the context of environment, Goal 3 (promote gender equality and empower women) within the context of gender and the environment, bearing in mind section K (women and the environment) of the Beijing Platform for Action and the forthcoming 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and Goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability) together with policy issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements. It is envisaged that the outcome of the ministerial consultations will be a “Nairobi initiative on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration” with specific emphasis on Goals 1, 3 and 7 mentioned above.

6. The session/forum will also consider and approve the work programme and budget of UNEP for the biennium 2006–2007, in the context of Council decision 22/20 (Environment Fund budget: Proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2004–2005) of 7 February 2003. It is desirable, during the first four days when the work programme and budget are being considered, that delegations comprise technical advisers in environmental matters and financial specialists for the budget discussions.

7. The attention of Governments is drawn to the three pre-session events, namely the Tunza Global Youth Retreat, which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16 to 18 February 2005; the Sixth Global Civil Society Forum, which will be held in Nairobi, on 19 and 20 February 2005; and the Global Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Global Environment Outlook-4, which will be held in Nairobi on 19 and 20 February 2005. The informal consultation among regional groups preceding the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will take place on Sunday, 20 February 2005, at 3 p.m. The consultation will facilitate the work of the session/forum by identifying the principal issues to be deliberated upon and recommendations for the organization of work, including the composition of the Bureau (see annex II to the present notification).

8. A list of the member States of the Governing Council during the period 2004–2007 is provided in annex III to the present 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.

9. Member States of the Governing Council are accordingly requested to submit to the Executive Director, by 3 January 2005, the names of their representatives, alternate representatives and advisers who will participate in the twenty-third 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 3 January 2005.

10. Following past practice, the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will have before it two types of documents: Documents in the series UNEP/GC.23/... (working documents in the six United Nations languages), which will be confined to subjects requiring substantive review or action by the session/forum, and documents in the series UNEP/GC.23/INF/... (information documents in English only), which will provide Governments with relevant supplemental information. The Executive Director has significantly reduced the number of documents for the session/forum. Most of the working documents will highlight the essential elements on which the session/forum is requested to deliberate and decide. This will greatly reduce the overall volume of documentation produced, in keeping with the expressed wishes of Governments.

11. 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 due to the scope of the information contained therein and the need to reflect relevant resolutions of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, which will be adopted late in 2005. Those documents are the following:

(a) State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme in addressing substantive environmental challenges: Addendum: Outcome of the International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the role of the United Nations Environment Programme: Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.6/Rev.1);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed biennial programme and support budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2006–2007: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/8/Add.1);

(c) Issues arising from the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly: Note by the secretariat (UNEP/GC.23/INF/3);

(d) Status of the Environment Fund and other sources of funding: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/6).

12. Documents for the twenty-third session/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be available on the UNEP web site from 3 January 2005, and can be accessed by selecting “Twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum” at the following internet address:
<http://www.unep.org/gc/gc23/>.

13. Since the session/forum is expected to discuss matters that have been considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP 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.

14. Registration of participants will take place from 1 p.m. on Thursday, 17 February 2005. Information for participants regarding hotel accommodation, medical requirements, visa regulations, etc., will be provided, together with registration forms, six weeks before the session/forum. That information will also be provided on the UNEP web site.

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

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Annex I

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

Provisional agenda¹

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment.
5. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
6. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
7. International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance.
8. Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters.
9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
10. Provisional agenda, date and place of:
 - (a) The ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
 - (b) The twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the session.

¹ As adopted in decision 22/24 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum) of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of 7 February 2003.

Annex II

Geographical composition of the Bureau of the Governing Council of UNEP

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
Regional group															
African group	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP
Asian group	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres
Eastern European group	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP
Latin America and the Caribbean group	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp
Western European and others group	Rapp	VP	Pres	VP	VP	Rapp	VP	Pres	VP	VP	Rapp	VP	Pres	VP	VP

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

Annex III

Members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2004–2007

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

Antigua and Barbuda *	Kenya *
Argentina *	Kyrgyzstan **
Bahamas **	Mexico **
Bangladesh **	Monaco **
Belgium *	Morocco **
Brazil **	Myanmar *
Bulgaria **	Namibia *
Burkina Faso **	Netherlands **
Cameroon **	Nicaragua *
Canada *	Nigeria *
Cape Verde **	Poland **
Chad *	Republic of Korea *
China *	Romania *
Colombia **	Russian Federation *
Congo *	Saudi Arabia **
Costa Rica **	Senegal **
Cuba *	Somalia **
Czech Republic *	Sudan *
France *	Sweden **
Germany *	Switzerland *
Ghana **	Syrian Arab Republic *
Greece *	Turkey **
Hungary **	Tuvalu **
India **	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **
Indonesia *	United Republic of Tanzania **
Iran (Islamic Republic of) **	United States of America *
Israel **	Uruguay *
Japan *	Zambia *
Kazakhstan **	Zimbabwe *

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2005.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2007.

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

African group

Burkina Faso **
Cameroon **
Cape Verde **
Chad *
Congo *
Ghana **
Kenya *
Morocco **
Namibia *
Nigeria *
Senegal **
Somalia **
Sudan *
United Republic of Tanzania **
Zambia *
Zimbabwe *

Latin American group

Antigua and Barbuda *
Argentina *
Bahamas **
Brazil **
Colombia **
Costa Rica **
Cuba *
Mexico **
Nicaragua *
Uruguay *

Asian group

Bangladesh **
China *
India **
Indonesia *
Iran (Islamic Republic of) **
Japan *
Kazakhstan **
Kyrgyzstan **
Myanmar *
Republic of Korea *
Saudi Arabia **
Syrian Arab Republic *
Tuvalu **

Western European and others group

Belgium *
Canada *
France *
Germany *
Greece *
Israel **
Monaco **
Netherlands **
Sweden **
Switzerland *
Turkey **
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **
United States of America *

Eastern European group

Bulgaria **
Czech Republic *
Hungary **
Poland **
Romania *
Russian Federation *

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2005.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2007.