

UNEP
5 January 2006

Committee of Permanent Representatives to
the United Nations Environment Programme
Joint Subcommittees I and II
Nairobi, 5 January 2006

**INPUTS BY ACCREDITED INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
TO THE UNEDITED ADVANCE ENGLISH COPY OF DOCUMENTS OF THE NINTH
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL
ENVIRONMENT FORUM**

The secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has the honour to submit herewith, for the information of Joint Subcommittees I and II, the inputs to the unedited advance English copy of document UNEP/GCSS.IX/3/Add.1 (International environmental governance: Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building: Report of the Executive Director), submitted by the following international non-governmental organization accredited to the Governing Council: Emirates Environmental Group; Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity and Agricultural Revampment with Human Rights (FEEDAR & HR); and World Harmony Foundation.

Emirates Environmental Group

Ref: EEG/AD2-21/3531/05

Date: 18 December 2005

Ms. Beverly Miller

Chief, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch

UNEP Nairobi

CC. Mr. Denis Ruyschaert

UNEP

RE: Comments on the Discussion Papers

Dear Ms. Miller,

Greetings from EEG!

In reference to your letter on 01 November 2005, we would like to thank you for sending us the document "Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building: Report of the Executive Director", for our comments. The report provides a comprehensive view of how UNEP plans to accomplish the Bali Strategic Plan. It would be good if the report can elaborate on benchmark accomplishments of UNEP in selected countries. This would boost the promotion of services of UNEP under the Bali Strategic Plan.

We also commend UNEP's collaboration with UNDP (points 71-74), as this would be instrumental in the achievement of the millennium development goals.

Thank you very much for the opportunity of sharing our thoughts. We look forward to more collaborative effort with the UNEP.

With best regards,

Habiba Al Marashi

Chairperson

Together for a better environment

NGO with accredited status with UNEP and UNCCD

5774/AD2-21/GL/05

**Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity and
Agricultural Revampment with Human Rights (FEEDAR & HR)**

Dear sir/madam;

I very much support the document after a concise review and hope for its realization.

Tcharbuahbokengo NFINN
FEEDAR & HR

World Harmony Foundation

Submitted by Richard Jordan, CEO, World Harmony Foundation

Part 1 - Introduction - In para 6, the list of actors at all levels does not include the private sector.

Prt 2 - Given the pending change of the UN ICT Task Force into the Global Alliance, some provision should be made to incorporate the outcome documents of both the Geneva phase and the Tunis phase of the WSIS into para 8.

Even though dealt with in para 48 in a general way, much can also be garnered from the Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, A/60/39, especially paras 16 (UNDP TECHNUNET), para 24 (Web of Information for Development [WIDE] initiative), para 26 (new financing modalities), para 34 (knowledge management) and para 53 (the discussion is timely re the Second South Summit, Doha, 2005, and the September 2005 Summit's outcome document).

Therefore, I would suggest some mention of south-south cooperation, whether here or elsewhere, but at the outset seems to be the proper place.

In 2.2, para 13, would it be useful to bring in either education perhaps in terms of paras 36 and 37 of the Declaration and Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 or the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development?

Additionally, Addecco, a member of the UN Global Compact (neither the Global Compact nor the UNEP Financial Initiative are mentioned anywhere in the document (hinted at in para 52 through the Paris office reference), as far as I can see), has an excellent programme for training of former Olympic athletes, in place since 1998. A presentation was made in Nairobi in november 2005 at the UNEP-Intl. Olympic Committee meeting on Sports and the Environment.

Provision for the training of athletes in model programmes in the five UN regions is in progress by Addecco. Aspects of technology building capacity might be looked at here, perhaps in general terms not to single out any single actor.

In para 14, the concept of knowledge management as based in the UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs, might be included.

para 16 - there are now 61 Observer delegations to the General Assembly, many of which appear to be regional economic groupings. Should these be mentioned anywhere?

para 17 - can the MoU be attached to the present document as an annex? Hard to comment on it if it is not provided, even though section 3.3 deals with examples of activities under the MoU. later on, paras 71-74 also deal with the MoU, but the actual MoU is never shown.

para 18 - again, here the model of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) that was chaired by former USG Nitin Desai, might be instructive, and

certainly the concept of knowledge management might be linked to the comprehensive database -- additionally, are there line items in the budget for the maintenance of the database?

para 21 - Concerning wastewater: the WSIS Technopreneur winner (a 20-year old Beijing student, Wu Yang, who also wrote an article on sports for UNEP's Tunza Youth Magazine) has developed a computer-based system for the recycling of wastewater in new buildings in China. It seems that somewhere within section 3.2 a link be made to the UNEP document for this meeting, UNEP/GCSS.IX.7, Mid-term progress report on the implementation of the long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues.

While Wu Yang's project is not referred to, discounting youth as providers of technical assistance marginalizes the youth who can contribute to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.

Section 3.3, the contributions of both the scientific sector (is the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment referred to anywhere in this document?) and the religious sector in terms of regional work is not mentioned.

Specifically, the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Vartolomeos, has held a number of environmental consultations in the area of the Black Sea (especially the one in 1999 that visited all of the catchment countries of the Black Sea) -- sectors such as the religious sector (UNEP's UN office has for many years had an Interfaith Partnership for the Environment) are not taken into account, although it could fall into the "civil society" category.

Concerning Section 4.3, how will the re-design of the Commission on Science and Technology (I assume during ECOSOC) affect this section of the document?

para 44, I do not see the Almaty Plan of Action referred to -- would this fall under the Regional Environment Action Plan in Central Asia mentioned in para 44?

para 54 - how will the post conflict branch work within the context of the Peacebuilding Commission and civil society entities such as the Foundation for Post-Conflict Development?

para 59 - When the expert meetings for the GEO occur, such as the one in February 2005 in Nairobi just prior to Governing Council, would it be of benefit to open those meetings up to experts in fields such as ICT, knowledge management and former members of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

para 63 - Perhaps meetings additionally utilizing the expertise of women within the idea of gendermainstreaming, such as meetings of women ministers of the environment, held in the regions, could prove worthwhile, expanding the general idea of regional meetings in general. (Here again the list of Observer entities in the UN General Assembly would be useful.)

para 68 - Interagency coordination: the question is, how could this participation be enhanced, perhaps with reports to the CEB?

paras 78-79 -- the results of the Bilbao meeting held in early November just prior to the Tunis phase of the WSIS may be of interest here.

para 82 - if this is so (Environmental Management Group serving as the inter-agency instrument and mechanism for strategic interactions and networking), then how would DESA's role in terms of partnerships and knowledge management fit in here, or would it, assuming, I think correctly, that information and communication technology (ICT) fall under DESA?

para 88 - The Ffd process has often brought the private sector (the group of business interlocutors out of the Monterrey process) in for seminars to UN Headquarters. In terms of developing new financial products to support tech transfer, could there be a link here (and to para 89 point 3 of this text)?

para 92 - re collaboration with the business community, is it useful to mention the Zedillo report on the UN and the private Sector (actually entrepreneurship)?

para 96 - To what degree do we know of either ICT initiatives or knowledge management in the regional development banks (Mr. Danello Piagessi of the Inter-American Development Bank has worked on the ICT aspect for the Bank, but I am not aware of initiatives in other regional banks).

para 101 -- "whole of government adopted priority needs" -- this phrase seems slightly awkward and not one that I seen previously in my 22 years spent in the NGO-civil society area.

Last two comments: in general, when the budget may be presented or defended to meetings of the ACABQ, how would one ensure that the implementation of the BSP does not have funds cut?

In terms of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, are there synergies that can be built in terms of technology with IUCN, which along with ICOMOS serves as main advisor to the Committee?

Submitted by Richard Jordan, CEO, World Harmony Foundation, and will be present in Dubai for both Civil Society Forum and the Ministerial Segment as observer.