



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Scenario Note for the 25th Session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Nairobi, 16-20 February 2009

19 December 2008

1. The present note is intended to assist delegates in preparing for the twenty-fifth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Council/Forum). It provides information on the objectives and expectations as regards the outcomes of the meetings and how the work of the Council/Forum is proposed to be conducted, subject to the formal approval of the Council. Detailed information on the Council/Forum is found on the website at the following address: <http://www.unep.org/gc/gc25>.

I. OBJECTIVES

2. The main objectives of the Council/Forum are: (i) to facilitate ministerial-level discussions on important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment, in particular Globalization and the Environment, and International Environmental Governance and U.N. Reform; (ii) to approve the programme of work and budget of UNEP for the biennium 2010-2011; and (iii) to provide guidance to the Executive Director on specific programmatic subjects, such as those related to International Environmental Governance, State of the Environment, Chemicals Management, Youth involvement in environmental issues, Environmental Law, and the establishment of an Inter-Governmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

II. AGENDA

3. The provisional agenda of the Council/Forum is set out in document UNEP/GC/25/1. The annotated agenda for the meeting (document UNEP/GC/25/1/Add.1) identifies the topics of discussion and the working and information documents prepared by the UNEP secretariat.
4. The provisional draft agenda will be adopted by the Council/Forum at its first meeting on 16 February 2009, following the opening session.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

5. The twenty-fifth session of the Council/Forum will be held over five days, from 16 to 20 February 2009. The Council/Forum will be opened on Monday, 16 February 2009 at 10.00 a.m. and is expected to conclude on Friday, 20 February 2009 at 6.00 p.m.
6. The work of the Council/Forum will be conducted through its Plenary, open to all delegates; Ministerial Consultation Plenary Sessions open to all delegates; ministerial-level roundtables attended by heads of delegation, each assisted by one member of delegation; and, if established, a Committee of the Whole open to all delegates and invited representatives of International Governmental Organizations and International NGOs. Meetings of the Council/Forum Plenary will be convened by the President and presided over by him/her and a member of the Bureau designated by him/her.
7. The Council/Forum will meet in Plenary on 16 February 2009 for the ceremonial opening of the session, election of the Bureau, and adoption of the agenda. The Bureau will consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among its members. Those regional groups which have not yet provided the secretariat with the nominations for the Bureau are urged to do so as soon as possible.

a. Ministerial Consultations

8. The Council/Forum will focus on two themes “Globalization and the Environment – ‘*Global Crisis: National Chaos?*’” and “International Environmental Governance and the United Nations Reform – ‘*IEG: Help or Hindrance?*’”. The Themes for the Ministerial Consultations are interrelated and will be dealt with collectively – enabling environmental governance issues to be addressed in the context of real life challenges and opportunities to meet multiple environment and development needs that are being confronted both at global and country level.
9. The consultations are expected to provide the world’s environment ministers with the opportunity to address in a comprehensive manner how to meet multiple environmental and development challenges at the country level, and to capture the opportunities that might arise to move towards a green economy; and how national and international environmental governance, including financing mechanisms, could better support such endeavours.
10. During the morning plenary meeting of the Council/Forum on Monday, 16 February 2009, the Executive Director of UNEP will make a policy statement.
11. The Council/Forum will thereafter consider the subjects of “Globalization and the Environment – ‘*Global Crisis: National Chaos?*’” and “International Environmental Governance and the United Nations Reform – ‘*IEG: Help or Hindrance?*’” through a number of plenary/panel sessions and roundtables to provide ministers and heads of delegation with opportunities for substantive debate and direct interaction. The outcome of the Ministerial Consultations is proposed to be a message from the world’s environment ministers to the international community and the UN system, of the central importance of meeting multiple environmental and development challenges and capturing opportunities to move towards a ‘green economy’.
12. The opening session of the Ministerial Consultations on Monday afternoon, 16 February 2009, will set the scene and will have the title “Global crisis: national chaos? -- *The nature and scale of current environment and development challenges and opportunities*”.
13. The plenary discussion will resume on Tuesday morning, 17 February 2009 on “Global crisis: national chaos? -- *Towards a ‘Green Economy’*”. On Wednesday morning, the Ministerial Consultation session will involve the panel discussion in the Plenary on “Global crisis: national chaos? – *Coping with multiple challenges and capturing opportunities*”. On Thursday morning, 19 February 2009, the panel discussion in the Plenary will focus on “IEG – Help or hindrance? – *IEG from a country perspective*”.
14. The Ministerial roundtables will take place on 17 and 19 February 2009. Three parallel ministerial roundtables will be supported by a facilitator and by three Ministers (two co-Chairs and one Rapporteur) for each session. The sessions will be closed and each delegation to the Ministerial roundtables will include the Head plus one member of each delegation. Environment Ministers will be joined by a small number of high-level invitees such as heads of United Nations agencies, Ministers from other sectors, and business and civil society leaders. Each roundtable report will be developed in the form of possible messages for inclusion in the President’s Summary to be relayed to the UN system, to governments, the business community, and civil society.
15. Rapporteurs from plenary/panels and respective roundtables will convene each day to synthesize messages coming from their discussions. The reports/messages from the plenary sessions and roundtables consolidated each day will be presented in the Synthesis Plenary Session on Thursday late afternoon, 19 February 2009, by 3 Rapporteurs to be chosen amongst the 6 Rapporteurs of the roundtables.
16. The consolidated report/messages will result in a Conference Room Paper (CRP), as developed by the Rapporteurs, and will form the basis for subsequent preparation of the draft report of the President on the Ministerial Consultations. The President’s summary will be formally presented to the plenary meeting on Friday, 20 February 2009, and will succinctly and faithfully reflect the main points/messages made by delegations.

b. Sessional Committees

17. As in previous Council/Forum sessions, it is expected that the Council/Forum at the opening plenary meeting will establish sessional committees, including a Committee of the Whole and a Drafting Group.

18. The Committee of the Whole (COW), if established, will commence its work in the afternoon of Monday, 16 February 2009. The COW will consider UNEP's Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-2011. The COW will also address substantive topics, in accordance with the Provisional Agenda of the Council/Forum. A detailed calendar of the COW work will be agreed during its first session and made immediately available as a Conference-Room Paper. The COW may establish working group(s) to address specific issues of concern to delegates. As in previous sessions, it is envisaged that the COW may establish a working group on the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-2011 and a working group on Chemicals/Mercury.
19. The Drafting Group is expected to begin its work on Tuesday morning, 17 February 2009 to consider draft decisions, prepared by the CPR and those which may be submitted by members of the Council.
20. The report of the COW and any draft decisions will be adopted by the Plenary meeting on Friday, 20 February 2009.

IV. PRE-SESSION EVENTS

21. Informal consultations with the Regional Groups will be held on Sunday, 15 February 2009, i.e. the day before the opening of the session.
22. The Council/Forum will be preceded by the tenth Global Civil Society Forum, attended by representatives of non-governmental and civil society organizations, on 14 and 15 February 2009. Held regularly since 2000, the Forum serves to enable Major Groups and Civil Society Organizations to interact with Governments on the issues on the agenda of the Council/Forum. A limited number of Forum representatives will also participate in the intergovernmental deliberations at the Council/Forum.
23. Another pre-session event on Sunday 15 February will be the meeting of the [Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment \(NWMLE\)](#). The meeting will discuss the themes under consideration of the 25th GC/GMEF from a gender point of view and decide on a list of concrete priority actions that the international community and individual governments need to address in order to improve the lives of women and men.

V. SPECIAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND EXCURSION

24. The UNEP secretariat has organized special events in collaborations with partners on key topical issues related to the themes of the Ministerial consultations. These events will be held during the lunch hours every day from Monday, 16 February, to Friday, 20 February 2009. Details of these events are available on the website and on the Provisional Timetable, as well as in the Journal on a daily basis.
25. Several environmentally-focused exhibitions in form of audio visual materials and posters will be ongoing throughout the duration of the Council/Forum.
26. A field excursion has been organized for interested delegates to visit Olkaria geothermal plant in the Rift Valley.