

UNEP – environment for development
Eleventh Special Session of the GC/GMEF
Bali, February, 2010

Topics, format and possible outcomes
14 September 2009

Theme for Ministerial Consultations.

The Focus of the Ministerial Consultations has one overarching theme:

‘Environment in the multilateral system’

Under this overarching theme three topics that are high up on the international agenda will be addressed. The opportunity will also be taken to address relevant issues emerging from the Extraordinary COPs of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions within the context of each topic.

The three topics are:

‘International Environmental Governance and sustainable development’

Ministerial Consultations will focus on:

- Reviewing the inputs from the Consultative Group of Ministers or their high-level representatives on IEG and discussing the next course of action.
- Discussing the outcomes from the first meetings of the Extraordinary COPs of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (ExCOP) and the lessons learned for the biodiversity related conventions.
- Discussing reports on the JIU report, including the Secretary-General’s response to the UNGA, and the Executive Director’s response to the Governing Council.

‘The green economy’

Ministerial Consultations will focus on:

- Obtaining a comprehensive update on all of the recent green economy developments within the UNGA, CSD, G8, G20, OECD, and UNEP through its Green Economy Initiative.
- Discussing how the concept of the green economy has been implemented at the country level.

‘Biodiversity and Ecosystems’

Ministerial Consultations will focus on:

- Discussing the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity¹, the progress made towards the 2010 biodiversity target and other relevant targets, including those for MDG 7, and the next steps.

¹ Noting that 2011 will be the International Year of Forests.

- Discussing the The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) progress report and its implications for biodiversity.
- Obtaining an update on, and discussing the progress made, in implementing the decision on the policy/science interface – IPBES.

Context of Ministerial Consultations.

The topics for the Ministerial Consultations are interrelated and build upon the Ministerial Consultations from 2009.²

Each topic is high up on the international agenda and the Consultations will be designed to draw upon recent developments and to contribute towards the current debates on each topic.

The Consultations will provide the opportunity for the world's environment ministers to explore and discuss each topic through the lens of environmental sustainability and to make a meaningful contribution to current debates in relation to each of them.

There are a number of events and processes that have taken or will take place over the coming 12 months whose outcomes or preparations will inform the Consultations³ such as:

- Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate.
- 64th General Assembly of the UN.
- Secretary General's Climate Summit (64th General Assembly).
- G20 Summit.
- GEF 5th Replenishment Process.
- World Climate Conference.
- Meeting of all task-forces of the Marrakech Process on SCP.
- UNDESA High-level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer.
- 15th COP UNFCCC/5th MOP Kyoto Protocol.
- World Economic Forum, including World Economic Forum on Africa and on Asia.
- 18th Session of the CSD: 4th Implementation Cycle: Review Session on Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management (Hazardous & Solid Waste), Mining, and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns.⁴
- 10th COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Preparations within the UN and through informal, and possibly formal, processes for a possible Rio+20 Summit.

Format for Ministerial Consultations.

The Ministerial Consultations will be divided into a series of six sessions, including opening and synthesis sessions.

² The ideas presented and discussed during the Consultations in 2009 can be found in the President's Summary.

³ To be updated.

⁴ First year of two-year cycle with ministerial segment in 2011.

The **opening session** will be a scene setting session where ministers will be provided with a comprehensive update on environment within the multilateral system. This session will serve as a platform upon which informed debate and dialogue can follow based upon a common understanding of the current situation.

The **three Ministerial Consultation sessions** will explore the issues in more detail, with each session structured through a:

- **Keynote/plenary session**⁵ – IEG and sustainable development;
- **Roundtables** – the green economy; and
- **Keynote/moderated plenary session**⁶ – biodiversity and ecosystems.
- These three sessions will be complimented by a **Ministerial Breakfast Roundtable** on UNEP and CSD 18, namely: transport, chemicals, waste management (hazardous and solid waste), mining, and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns (the Marrakesh process).

The **decision making** session will be a session of the GC where Ministers take decisions, including any necessary decisions emerging from the GMEF, and in particular issues that emerge from the IEG and sustainable development session, the Committee of the Whole (COW) and the ExCOP.

The **synthesis session** will be a brief interactive session that draws upon the outcomes from all of the discussions. It will review the draft Ministerial Declaration and the messages it contains to the UN system (including the CSD), to governments, the business community, and civil society on the topics under discussion.

Opportunities to utilize video conferencing will be explored to see if sessions can be opened up to a wider audience.

The **Ministerial Breakfast** on Thursday with a focus on UNEP and CSD 18 will be further complimented by a series of **side events** aligned to the topics of the Ministerial Consultations, including UNEP and CSD 18.

The Ministerial Consultation (MC) sessions will be:

MC Opening session: xxxday xx February 0.00-0.00. **Plenary:** ‘Environment in the multilateral system.’

MC Session 1: xxxday xx February 0.00-0.00 (including coffee break):

Keynote/Plenary: ‘International Environmental Governance and sustainable development’.

MC Breakfast Roundtable: xxxday xx February 0.00-0.00: UNEP and CSD 18.

MC Session 2: xxxday xx February 0.00-0.00 (including coffee break): **Roundtables:** ‘The green economy’.

MC Session 3: xxxday xx February 0.00-0.00 (including coffee break):

Keynote/moderated plenary session: ‘Biodiversity and Ecosystems’.

⁵ Keynote presentations on the report of the Consultative Group, the outcomes of the ExCOP and the reports on the JIU report.

⁶ Keynote presentation to stimulate new thinking on challenges and opportunities; Professionally moderated panel session to expand upon and further explore the ideas emerging from the keynote presentation; Open feedback session from the plenary; Response from the Panel to the open feedback session.

Decision making session: Convening as the GC to take necessary decisions emerging from the GMEF, the COW and the ExCOP.

MC Synthesis session: xxxday xx February 0.00-0.00. **Plenary:** 'Adoption of a Ministerial Declaration containing messages from the world's environment ministers to the UN system, to governments, the business community, and civil society.'

Specific outcomes.

- A thorough review of report of the Consultative Group on IEG and the Secretary-General's and Executive Director's response to the JIU Report.
- An improved understanding of the further interventions that will be necessary to make the transition towards a green economy.
- Advice and guidance on the future challenges and opportunities for addressing biodiversity and ecosystems in the areas of economics, governance and science.
- A **Ministerial Declaration** capturing the messages from the world's environment ministers on International Environmental Governance, the green economy and biodiversity and ecosystems to the UN system (including the CSD), to governments, the business community, and civil society.

The Ministerial Declaration will highlight the central role of environmental sustainability in addressing the topics under discussion.

It will take the place of a President's Summary and will be presented for adoption through a decision of the GC. Its preparation will begin well in advance of the GC and will go through the normal processes of consideration by the CPR.

Background papers.

Brief background papers will be prepared by the Secretariat drawing upon recent events, processes and papers to facilitate the Ministerial Consultations and to provide a source of ideas for possible messages to be included within the Ministerial Declaration.

In relation to topic I, 'International Environmental Governance and sustainable development', the UNEP Secretariat will draw upon available materials to generate a brief scene setting background paper, including by drawing from the following sources:

- Outcome of the Ministerial or High-level Consultative Group established under GC decision 25/4.
- Responses to the JIU Report 2008.
- Report on the 5th Replenishment of the GEF, including Overall Performance Study 4.
- Outcome of UNGA and Secretary General's Climate Summit.
- Outcome of UNFCCC COP 15 and Kyoto Protocol MOP 5.
- Decisions on a possible Rio+20 Summit.

In relation to topic II, 'the green economy', the following materials will be drawn upon:

- Analysis of Governments' 'green' stimulus packages – Case Studies.
- UNEP: Global Green New Deal, Policy Brief 2009.

- Green Economy: A transformation to Address Multiple Crises. An Interagency Statement of the UN System.
- McKinsey: 'Pathways to a Low Carbon Economy'.
- Marrakech Process – elements of the 2nd Public Draft of the 10 Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- The G20 Summit Global Plan for Recovery and Reform.
- Outcome of G8 Summit, including the meetings of Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Development Ministers.
- Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (A/Res 63/303).
- OECD Environmental Outlook to 2030.
- Stern Review: The economics of climate change.
- UNEP: The Natural Fix? The role of ecosystems in climate mitigation.
- Outcome of CSD 17.
- OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2009.
- World Bank: Climate change and the World Bank Group - Phase I: An Evaluation of World Bank Win-Win Energy Policy Reforms.

In relation to topic III, 'biodiversity and ecosystems', the following materials will be drawn upon:

- 2010 Biodiversity Targets.
- Outcome of World Ocean Conference 2009: Manado Declaration.
- TEEB Interim Report, 2008/9.
- Carta di Siracusa on Biodiversity, Outcome of G8 Summit, 2009.
- Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (Draft for peer review scheduled August 2009).
- Outcomes of Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 9, 2008.
- Outcomes of Ramsar Convention, COP 10, 2008.
- Outcomes of Convention on Migratory Species, COP 9, 2007.
- Outcomes of CITES, COP 14, 2007.
- IPBES follow-up to UNEP GC decision 25/10.

Participants.

In addition to the GC/GMEF participants, it is proposed to invite:

- selected Ministers of agriculture/climate change/energy/finance/water/gender;
- heads of UN and other intergovernmental organizations dealing with sustainable development issues;
- CEOs from the private sector;
- heads of financing mechanisms and private foundations;
- leaders of trade unions and civil society; and
- experienced international civil servants and public sector officials dealing with sustainable development and other high profile individuals as appropriate.