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Date: 02 December 2006

Beverly Miller  
UNEP

RE: State of the Environment and Contribution of UNEP to addressing substantive environmental challenges

Dear --Sir/Madame,

Thank you very much for sending us the advanced copy of the Report on the state of the environment and contribution of UNEP to addressing substantive environmental challenges. In this regard we would like to give you our feedback:

1. We believe that we have an abundance of strategic reports for every possible environmental case scenario. It is of particular significance to note that these studies and reports cut across horizontal and vertical environmental concerns. It is important to note also that the reports are being closely linked to poverty and underdevelopment which include conflict areas and those devastated by natural calamities.
2. The abundance of information on the current state of the environment is a sign that UNEP is exerting effort to tie together the initiatives of governments, international agencies and local stakeholders in monitoring the environment as well as in addressing environmental problems and concerns.
3. Data is useful only if it serves the purpose of being processed into useful information to guide present and future policies and actions. At the moment we might get drowned in the enormity of data that we have gathered and the information that we have processed. A system to integrate all these information is imperative.
4. It should be highlighted at this point that a serious effort from UNEP is being undertaken to stitch the lessons of these report together through different mechanisms one of which is the Environmental Watch project. A structure if not a procedure for compiling, analyzing and cross-referencing these reports to come up with scenarios and assessments at the local, national and regional levels.
5. It would be interesting to receive additional information on the status of the Environmental Watch and other projects to synthesize the reports.
6. It would be good to publish the feedback on these reports coming from stakeholders. This is a good gauge of the effectiveness of these reports or, in practical terms, if they are converted into actual policies and programs.

We look forward to our involvement in future UNEP discussions.

Best regards,

Habiba Al Marashi  
Chairperson

Board Member, UN Global Compact

Together for a better environment  
NGO with accredited status with UNEP and UNCCD

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