

ENVIRONMENTAL
AMBASSADORS
RECOENDATIONS
(IF ACCEPTABLE)
INCORPORATED

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Committee of Permanent Representatives to
the United Nations Environment Programme
Joint Subcommittees I and II
Nairobi, 17 January 2008

**DRAFT DECISIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE TENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM**

The secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) submits herewith draft decisions for submission to the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, as extracted from the sections on suggested actions of the relevant working documents. This document is being submitted in support of the work of Joint Subcommittees I and II.

The tentative titles of these draft decisions are as follows:

- 1. Response to the findings of the fourth Global Environment Outlook report**
- 2. Chemicals management**
- 3. Mercury**
- 4. Waste management**
- 5. Medium-term strategy for the period 2010-2013**

1. Response to the findings of the fourth Global Environment Outlook report

The Governing Council,

Pursuing its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15th December 1972, including to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance are prioritized and receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments and to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information,

Recalling its decisions 22/1 of 7 February 2003 on early warning, assessment and monitoring, 23/6 of 25 February 2005 on keeping the world environmental situation under review and 24/2 of 9 February 2007 on the world environmental situation,

Welcoming with appreciation the presentation by the Executive Director of the findings of the fourth Global Environment Outlook report and the in-kind contribution from experts, Governments, United Nations bodies, collaborating centres, the private sector and civil society in promoting the consultative and capacity-building process underpinning the assessment,

1. *Remains* deeply concerned over the evidence in the assessment of unprecedented environmental changes at all levels, including the natural and social time lags involved in addressing these changes and the risk of approaching tipping points beyond which there may be abrupt, accelerating and possibly irreversible changes, and their potentially negative implications for human well-being and economic and social development, especially for the poor and vulnerable groups in society;
2. *Acknowledges* that current environmental degradation represents a serious challenge for human development, peace and security, and that the benefits of early action outweigh the costs and represent opportunities for private sector investment, consumer choices, local communities and strengthened cooperation at the national and international levels towards sustainable development;
3. *Stresses* that the transition towards sustainable development may involve hard choices among different concerns and interests in society which need to be supported by well-governed, innovative and results-oriented institutions which are able to create the appropriate conditions for change, and that it is the vision of the United Nations Environment Programme, as set out in the draft Medium-term Strategy for 2010–2013, to serve as a champion in this respect;
4. *Urges* Governments, United Nations bodies, international organizations, the private sector, civil society and the public at large to work with the United Nations Environment Programme and other environmental authorities at the global, regional, national and local levels for sustainable development by:
 - (a) Utilizing the evidence, projections and options for actions related to environmental change and its impacts on development and human well-being, which are highlighted in the fourth Global Environment Outlook report, to identify environmental targets for their activities;
 - (b) Integrating environmental targets into private and public sector decision-making by making effective use of legal regimes, financial instruments, standards, participatory processes and other evolving tools and capacities in order to create an enabling environment for:

- (i) Increased private sector investments in technological innovations and initiatives for mitigation and adaptation to environmental change, including through sustainable production and consumption and improved resource efficiency;
- (ii) Consumer and household investment in mitigation and adaptation to environmental change;
- (iii) Expanding, in an equitable manner, the capabilities of people to mitigate and adapt to environmental change, paying particular attention to the needs of poor and vulnerable groups and their dependence on ecosystem services.

(c) Reviewing the effectiveness of environmental performance of different social and economic sectors measured against environmental targets;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director, through the programme of work and by working with national and regional environmental authorities, including through capacity-building and technology transfer, to respond to the present and future challenges facing humanity using an understanding of complex environmental interlinkages as a basis for the programme approach. The programme approach addresses six priority areas: climate change; disasters and conflicts; ecosystem management; environmental governance; harmful substances and hazardous waste; and resource efficiency-sustainable consumption and production, as well as other environmental challenges by:

(a) Partnering with centres of excellence and other stakeholders to develop a coherent and multi-scaled programme to provide compelling evidence through integrated environmental assessment on the interlinkages between environmental change and its impacts on development and human well-being;

(b) Cooperating with other bodies in the United Nations system in the development of environmental targets and the promotion of the exchange of best practices in the areas of policies, regulations and use of economic instruments;

(c) Reviewing and monitoring long-term achievements and effectiveness of environmental programmes in the United Nations system, including within the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as of environmental programmes of Governments that wish to subject themselves to such reviews, measured against agreed environmental targets;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director in building on the experiences gained from the fourth Global Environment Outlook report, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other recent developments in the area of assessments, indicators and short- and medium-term environmental projections, to develop a scientifically credible and policy-relevant global assessment in close consultation with Governments, the scientific community, the private sector and civil society to be concluded in time to strategically inform the development of the programme of work for the period 2014–2015.

2. Chemicals management

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006, by which it endorsed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, as adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006,

Recalling also its decision 24/3 II of 9 February 2007 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

1. *Acknowledges* the report of the Executive Director on the explorations of the Strategic Approach secretariat of ways to make more effective use of the funding provisions of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to identify those areas that can support implementation of appropriate and relevant objectives of the Strategic Approach, and the endeavours by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in implementing the Strategic Approach;
2. *Supports* the initiatives undertaken by the Executive Director to inform the heads of the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol of the invitation set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy to consider whether and how they might support implementation of appropriate and relevant Strategic Approach objectives, within their mandates;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to broaden the funding basis for the Strategic Approach and to report on progress to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session;
4. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others in a position to do so to contribute financially and in kind to the Strategic Approach secretariat, the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund;
5. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue the excellent cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Approach at regular intervals.

3. Mercury

The Governing Council,

Recalling decision 24/3 IV on mercury,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the progress of the ad hoc open-ended working group on mercury;¹

1. *Notes* the progress made by the ad hoc open-ended working group at its first meeting;
2. *Encourages* the ad hoc open-ended working group to build on that progress and continue its discussions at its second meeting;
3. *Encourages* Governments to support the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group by providing both information and, as appropriate, financial support;
4. *Reiterates* its request in paragraph 32 (b) of decision 24/3 IV that the ad hoc open-ended working group submit a final report on its work reflecting all views expressed and presenting options and any consensus recommendations to the Governing Council/Global Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth regular session;
5. *Reiterates* its request in paragraph 38 of decision 24/3 that the Executive Director present a report on progress in the implementation of decision 24/3 to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session.

¹ UNEP/GCSS/X/5.

4. Waste Management

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 24/5 on waste management,

Reaffirming that waste management is an important issue, especially for developing countries, and that international agencies should undertake more focused and coordinated actions to address current gaps in the support provided to assist developing countries' efforts,

Noting that comprehensive waste management programmes need to be launched at the local level,

Also noting that the United Nations Environment Programme should continue to strengthen its support for the political processes relevant to the realization of a life cycle economy, for the dissemination of best practice on integrated waste management and the scientific knowledge on resource-efficiency through initiatives such as the Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the United Nations Environment Programme/ Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Life Cycle Initiative,

Further noting that the United Nations Environment Programme should continue to broaden its activities and support other international initiatives such as the "3Rs" (recovery, reuse, recycle) Initiative and multilateral environmental agreements, particularly the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which are expected to provide greater clarity and practical strategies to promote waste minimization and resource augmentation through the recovery, reuse and recycling of waste,

Noting that stronger efforts are needed to assist national Governments in developing national policy frameworks to encourage a shift from an "end-of-pipe" approach to waste management to an integrated resource management approach,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, as an integral part of the United Nations Environment Programme's work on waste management, to provide further assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to strengthen national implementation of waste-related multilateral agreements, bearing in mind the impact that waste has on global demand for resources and the role of the "3Rs" approach and the circular or life cycle economy in addressing the issue of resource management at a broader level, and strengthen the synergy between various initiatives;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to facilitate international efforts to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in developing economic and market-based instruments with a view to raising funds for waste management and making it a financially self-sustainable business opportunity;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to strengthen support for capacity-building and technology support, in line with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, focusing in particular on:

(a) Recycling and reduction in the use of materials and energy, and identification and assessment of environmentally sound technologies for treatment and disposal of residual waste;

(b) Demonstration and pilot projects with extensive replication potential with an emphasis on integrated waste management strategies and action plans, in support of the Basel Convention activities that address the environmentally sound management of special wastes such as e-waste and health care waste, and with a particular focus on recovery and

reuse, which will be complemented by the development of technical guidelines, case studies, and training and awareness-raising packages;

(c) Public-private partnerships and dialogues between Governments and other stakeholders in waste management in order to help generate and disseminate among stakeholders vital information on the appropriate actions to develop infrastructure and secure greater resources from financial institutions for the construction of the necessary waste facilities and infrastructure;

(d) More intensive awareness-raising designed to change the attitude of waste generators, particularly industrial and municipal ones, consumers and the informal sector with respect to the need for proper segregation, reuse, recycle and disposal of waste;

4. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations to undertake and provide additional financial resources to the United Nations Environment Programme and in support of the Basel Convention in order to facilitate the implementation of the activities outlined above and the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially least developed countries, to develop and implement integrated waste management plans.

5. Medium-term Strategy for the period 2010-2013

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 13 of its decision 24/9, by which it requested the Executive Director to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a medium-term strategy for 2010–2013 with a clearly defined vision, objectives, priorities, impact measures and a robust mechanism for review by Governments, for approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session,

Noting with appreciation the open, transparent and extensive consultation process undertaken by the Executive Director with the Committee of Permanent Representatives in developing the medium-term strategy called for in decision 24/9,

Also noting with appreciation the consultation with the multilateral environment agreement secretariats administered by the United Nations Environment Programme and with civil society and the private sector in developing the medium-term strategy,

Recommending to national governments to replicate UNEP relationship and partnership with NGOs and other major groups in documents development

Further noting with appreciation that the medium-term strategy developed by the Executive Director is well focused, results-based and incorporates a logical hierarchy of mutually reinforcing results and that it elaborates six cross-cutting thematic priority areas of work and various means of implementation as a way of focusing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the period 2010–2013,

Welcoming the medium-term strategy's particular emphasis on significantly enhancing the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme to deliver on the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;² on the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal United Nations body in the field of environment; on ensuring that United Nations Environment Programme interventions are founded on sound science; and on fully implementing results-based management,

Promoting mixed (government and non-government) delegation on meetings

Noting the time set by the United Nations secretariat in the Instructions issued for the preparation of the Strategic Framework 2010–2011 by each Fund, Programme and Department of the United Nations secretariat,³

Acknowledging that in order for the medium-term strategy developed by the Executive Director to be linked in a meaningful fashion with the strategic framework and subsequent programme of work 2010–2011 it is essential that the Governing Council should first approve the medium-term strategy at its tenth special session,

1. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue to strengthen results-based management in the United Nations Environment Programme and, working within the approved Programme of Work 2008–2009, to use the period 2008–2009 to commence the implementation of the transition to becoming a fully results-based organization;

2. *Approves* the United Nations Environment Programme Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013;⁴

² Adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in decision 23/1 I.

³ Proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2010–2011, Instructions, issued by the United Nations Programme Planning and Budget Division on 11 October 2007. The Instructions will be made available at <http://ppbd.un.org>.

⁴ UNEP/GCSS.X/8, annex.

3. *Emphasizes* that the Environment Fund must be the bedrock of United Nations Environment Programme activities, enabling the effective implementation of the Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council, at its eleventh special session in 2012, a progress report providing a two-year review of the Medium-term Strategy, together with a report on the implementation of the programme of work 2010–2011.