

## **Response of Civil Society to the Text Proposed by the Chair: 'Framework for an intergovernmental strategic plan on technology support and capacity-building'**

### **Introduction**

The document UNEP/IEG/IGSP/CS/1/2 titled 'Elements of an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building' was provided as a substantive outcome of a civil society consultation convened by the Executive Director of UNEP in Nairobi on 21-22 June 2004. This document was provided as a contribution to the intergovernmental discussions, and the core elements of it were presented for further consideration during the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the High-Level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group in New York on 24 June 2004.

The following document is provided from a civil society consultation held in Nairobi on 1 September 2004 as a contribution to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the High-Level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group. Working within the framework of the Chairs text, and taking into consideration the original civil society recommendations, offered below are textual amendments to the framework document.

This document only includes amendments to the text, where paragraphs are not included, this is not an indication of a wish for these to be deleted from the framework.

### **Amendments for Inclusion within the Existing Framework:**

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#### **Guiding Principles and Strategic Considerations:**

**Para 33(bis) Equal access to capacity building and technology support for both men and women, as gender equality is both an aim and a precondition for sustainable development (JPOI, 2002)**

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### **Contents of the Plan**

#### **Global Level:**

**47(bis). Civil Society should be recognised as a source of experience and knowledge regarding the development and implementation of local and regional strategies for sustainable development**

#### **Regional level**

50. The strategic plan should respond to the regional dimensions emphasized in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It could thus take into account the experience gained in assisting Governments to prepare and finalize the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD,<sup>1</sup> ILAC and the Programme of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) and support their implementation through capacity-building. This approach should be based on the following modalities:

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<sup>1</sup> The action plan was developed with GEF co-financing with UNEP serving as the implementing agency.

Support for the implementation of global and regional environmental conventions and other legal instruments;

- a. Training and enhancement of existing centres of excellence;
- b. Strengthen research and development in the area of technology support and capacity building;
- c. Promotion of South-South cooperation;
- d. Exchanges of best practices and lessons learned **including from the civil society experiences**;
- e. Development of partnerships **amongst other stakeholders**;
- f. Information for decision-making.

### **National level**

Given the specific circumstances of the different countries concerned, each country must be [allowed] **enabled** to identify its own needs **involving all stakeholders** in capacity-building and technology support in order to meet its environmental priorities. As identified in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, entitled “Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building”, environmentally sound technologies and corresponding capacity-building needs encompass a broad range of issues, from which each country might identify elements suitable to its needs in achieving environmental objectives of sustainable development. The multilateral system should ensure the existence of practical arrangements geared towards transforming the needs of each country into a set of strategic priorities and the requisite assistance that would respond to it. Closer cooperation between UNEP, UNDP, GEF and, in particular, the multilateral environmental agreements, would be essential in effectively meeting this challenge.

### **Priority areas**

**Recognising national and regional characteristic, capacity building and technology support should be demand driven stimulated by a self-conducted needs assessment involving all stakeholders. In this regard a number of priority areas have been identified by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and related processes which should be considered for action under the strategic plan, including the following:**

#### **Cross-Cutting Issues:**

- a. Strengthening of national environmental or environment-related institutions (Government institutions, judiciary, enforcement);
- b. Development of national environmental law;
- c. Strengthening of cooperation with civil society and the private sector;
- d. Assistance for facilitating compliance with obligations under multilateral environmental agreements;
- e. Preparation, integration and implementation of environmental aspects of national sustainable development plans;
- f. Poverty and environment, including the implementation of poverty reduction strategy programmes;
- g. Development of national research, monitoring and assessment capacity, including training in assessment and early warning;

- h. Support to national institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends;
- i. Access to scientific and technological information, including information on state-of-the-art technologies;
- j. Facilitating access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how;
- k. Education and awareness raising, including networking among universities with programmes of excellence in the field of the environment;

### **Thematic Issues**

- l. Biodiversity, including biosafety and the issue of invasive species;
- m. Climate change;
- n. Desertification, drought, **flooding** and land degradation;
- o. Freshwater resources;
- p. Conservation of wetlands;
- q. Oceans and seas and coastal areas, including regional seas and the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities;
- r. Chemicals;
- s. Waste management;
- t. Pollution;
- u. Health and environment;
- v. Trade and environment;
- w. Renewable energy;
- x. Transboundary conservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
- y. Environmental emergency preparedness and response;
- z. Taxonomy.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting**

**61(bis) Capacity building and technology support programmes need to undergo ongoing monitoring and review with the support of civil society through the setting of targets and the use of performance indicators based on the achievement of learning and of change this achieves.**

### **Institutional mechanism**

**Governments are recommended to pay particular attention to coordination with and amongst MEAs under this section.**

62. The strategic plan should be based on a coordinated approach within all United Nations organizations and international financial institutions active in relevant priority areas using existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms such as the Environmental Management Group, UNDG and the resident coordinator system.

63. Since, under UNEP's current functional and organizational set-up, its capacity-building activities take place within the work programmes of separate UNEP divisions, there is a need to put in place a comprehensive database of capacity-building and technology support activities which should reflect and be further developed in line with the strategic

approach. This may require further organizational measures by the Executive Director in order to define a clear focal point for reporting and coordination within the organization.

64. Implementation of the framework should be guided by regional capacity-building action plans and could require support from regional mechanisms, building on existing institutions, both at the intergovernmental level and secretariat levels, such as AMCEN, CAMRE and others. The institutional focal point within UNEP would ensure a coordinated approach to the development of programme activities and collaborative initiatives at the global, regional and national levels.

65. Improved coordination with and among multilateral environmental agreements, particularly in terms of enhancing synergies in issue-specific areas and national reporting mechanisms, as well as programmatic clustering for capacity-building initiatives, would facilitate UNEP capacity development activities and ensure the more effective use of financial resources. This should include the equitable and transparent allocation of resources. Similarly, enhanced communication would assist in leveraging limited human resources on matters of common interest, strengthen regional and country level activities and provide a platform for multilateral approaches and consistency in technology transfer.

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### **Financial mechanism**

**75(bis) It is of particular importance to ensure the plan is effectively implemented through the commitment of long-term funding without directing resources away from other programmes.**

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### **Conclusion**

78. The strategic framework and background information contained in this report are intended to provide a basis **for the development of the strategic plan by the Executive Director, to be launched at, and implemented following the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Nairobi in 2005** [a substantive debate by member States at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the basic principles in the development of an intergovernmental strategic plan for capacity-building and technology support. Following the finalization and adoption of this framework, the Executive Director may be requested to develop a prioritised implementation plan in accordance with decisions of the Governing Council for its subsequent session].