

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE TWENTY-
THIRD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL
ENVIRONMENT FORUM**

In keeping with rule 60 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, at each session the Council may set up sessional committees and working parties, which may further set up sub-committees and sub-groups. Subject to the agreement of the Bureau and that of the Council, the Executive Director recommends that the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum establish the following sessional committees:

- Committee of the Whole;
- Drafting Group.

If the Committee of the Whole considers it necessary, in the interest of the expeditious completion of its work, the following sub-committees could be established, after it has held a general discussion on these subjects under Agenda Item 9: (i) Working Group on the Programme of Work and the Budget; and (ii) Contact Group on Chemicals.

Proposed Programme of Work of the Committee of the Whole

The Committee of the Whole is scheduled to meet every day from Monday afternoon, 21 February 2005, until Thursday, 24 February 2005, when it will approve draft decisions and its report for transmission to the Plenary.

The COW is tasked with the discussion of the following items:

- 4 (Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment);
- 7 (International Environmental Governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or their Representatives on International Environmental Governance)
- 8 (Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters);
- 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters); and
- 10 (Provisional agenda, date and place of: (a) the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum; (b) the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum).

Agenda items will be introduced to the Committee by the representatives of the Secretariat, who will also present the relevant draft decisions and respond to the queries raised by Delegations.

Monday, 21 February 2005

It is proposed that, on Monday, 21 February 2005 afternoon, after organizing its work and electing a Rapporteur, the Committee of the Whole receive the *Statement on the outcome of the Roundtable Meeting on Advancing Millennium Development Goals through the Rule of Law*, to be delivered by Mr. Guy Canivet, First President, *Cour de Cassation*, France.

The Committee would then receive presentations by the Secretariat on: (i) Agenda Item 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters); (ii) UNEP's Water Policy and Strategy; and (iii) Chemicals Management.

The Secretariat will also introduce the relevant draft decisions on Agenda Item 9.

Tuesday, 22 February 2005

It is proposed that the Committee of the Whole start its work on Tuesday, 22 February 2005, with the *Statement on the Progress of Work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* to be delivered by Dr Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The Committee of the Whole would then resume the general discussion on Agenda Item 9, which would last until the end of the morning session of Tuesday, 22 February 2005.

It is also proposed that the Committee start the discussion of Agenda Item 7 (International Environmental Governance) in the afternoon of Tuesday, 22 February 2005.

Wednesday, 23 February 2005

It is further proposed that, on Wednesday morning, 23 February 2005, the Committee continue the debate on Agenda Item 7 (International Environmental Governance), and take up Agenda Item 8 (Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters).

That same morning, it is proposed that the Committee allow 10-minute presentations by each of the UNEP-administered MEA Secretariats (i.e. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol).

The Committee would then consider Agenda Item 4 (Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment).

Thursday, 24 February 2005

It is also proposed that on Thursday, 24 February 2005, the Committee take up Agenda Item 10 (Provisional agenda, date and place of: (a) the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum; (b) the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum) and any outstanding issues that need to be resolved. In the afternoon, the Committee will adopt the draft decisions, as well as its report, for submission to the GC Plenary on Friday.

Drafting Group

The Executive Director will propose to the GC Bureau the establishment of a Drafting Group, which will finalize draft decisions. The text of the draft decisions is contained in document UNEP/GC.23/L.1. These drafts decisions have originated from Governments or have been initiated by the Secretariat and have been discussed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The brackets around some parts of the decisions signify unresolved issues.

It is proposed that the Drafting Group start considering the draft decisions on Tuesday morning, 22 February 2005. As is normally the case, the Drafting Group will be open-ended - however, it is recommended that all regional groups be represented in the Drafting Group.

All new draft decisions should be submitted to the Secretary of the Governing Council as soon as possible, bearing in mind that the Drafting Group would start working on Tuesday morning and complete its work on Wednesday evening.

If the Drafting Group considers it necessary, it may wish to establish a Contact Group on Chemicals, which would start its work on Tuesday afternoon, 22 February 2005, and conclude it by Wednesday evening, 23 February 2005.

Working Group on the Programme of Work and Budget

If established by the Committee of the Whole, an open-ended Working Group on Programme of Work and Budget would commence its work on Tuesday morning, 22 February 2005, starting with non-programmatic issues and moving to programme/budget linkages thereafter. The Working Group would conclude its work by Wednesday evening, by finalizing draft decisions for approval by the Committee of the Whole and subsequently the Plenary.