



**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GC.22/INF/11/Rev.1
2 January 2002



ENGLISH ONLY

**Twenty-second session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 3-7 February 2003
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda[?]

**Policy issues: Coordination and cooperation within
and outside the United Nations, including
non-governmental organizations**

**COORDINATION MATTERS:
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
(UN-HABITAT) AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the United Nations Environment Programme**

Summary

The present document has been prepared jointly by the Executive Directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985, on cooperation between UN-HABITAT (formerly the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)) and UNEP, and as requested in resolution 10/3 of 16 April 1987 of the Commission on Human Settlements and UNEP Governing Council decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987 on the same subject. The report highlights the cooperation between the UN-HABITAT and UNEP in the four previously established subject areas (chapter I) and within the system-wide efforts of the United Nations (chapter II), and then outlines the future prospects for cooperation (chapter III). The document has been issued without formal editing.

? UNEP/GC.22/1.

K0260000 030103

INTRODUCTION

1. In its Resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 concerning institutional arrangements for international cooperation in the field of human settlements, the General Assembly urged that the Executive Director of the then United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements meet biennially with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the bureau of its Governing Council “to review together their respective priorities and programmes for improving human settlements and to strengthen and extend cooperation between the two organisations”. In its resolution 35/77B of 5 December 1980, the General Assembly decided that the joint bureaux meetings should be held once a year rather than on a biannual basis. On 17 December 1985, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/199, in which it decided to discontinue the joint meetings of the bureaux altogether.

2. The decision of the General Assembly to discontinue the joint meetings was taken on the joint recommendation of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of UNEP. The recommendation was based on Commission resolution 8/14 of 8 May 1985 and UNEP Governing Council 13/12 of 23 May 1985, in which both governing bodies furthermore (a) expressed satisfaction at the continuing cooperation between the secretariats of the then UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP, and urged intensification of that cooperation; and (b) decided to include in the agenda of their future sessions an item on cooperation between UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP and to discuss the item on the basis of a common progress report of the two Executive Directors.

3. The present report on cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and UNEP has been prepared jointly by the secretariats of the two organisations pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/199 and as requested in Commission resolution 8/14 and UNEP Governing Council decision 13/12.

I. COOPERATION UNDER THE FOUR SUBJECT AREAS

4. This section contains information on the joint activities of UN-HABITAT and UNEP under the four subject areas established by the joint bureaux at its seventh session.

Subject area 1: Assessment of environmental conditions in human settlements

Cooperation on City Environmental Profiles

5. The joint UN-HABITAT/UNEP Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) has supported the development of “environmental profiles” in cities preparing to become participants in the Programme. Profiles involve a broad range of local stakeholders and provide information not only on the state of the physical environment, but also on its implications for social and economic development and on existing environmental management arrangements. Most recently, such environmental assessments have been concluded in Kotte (Sri Lanka), Louga (Senegal), Enugu (Nigeria), Bayamo (Cuba), Vyborg, Kirishi and Pskov (Russian Federation). Furthermore, in support of “Cities Alliance” initiatives, environmental information was compiled in Karo (Nigeria), and in four district towns in Madagascar. A number of long-time SCP participating cities have during the reporting period been supported in developing environmental management information systems (EMIS). Further, efforts are made to ensure closer collaboration on environmental management information between the SCP and the Nairobi River Basin Project. In a related initiative, UNEP/GRID-Arendal is cooperating with UN-HABITAT on the Cities Environment Reports on the Internet (CEROI) programme designed to facilitate access to environmental information for sound decision-making and general awareness-raising in cities.

Subject area 2: Environmental aspects of policies, planning and management of human settlements - both rural and urban

Cooperation on UNEP's new urban environment activities

6. A new UNEP Urban Environment Policy is under development that will increase UNEP's involvement in this area. This policy will identify opportunities for intensifying links between UNEP's mandate and UN-HABITAT's global campaigns, and for bringing the comparative advantages of both organisations to bear in joint initiatives. In addition to ongoing collaboration as indicated in the following, UNEP is increasing its activities in the area of urban environment, in recognition of the fact that rapid urbanisation in developing countries has significant environmental and health impacts and that these impacts have not only serious implications at the local level, but also at the national, regional, and global levels.

Cooperation on Disaster Management

7. UNEP and UN-HABITAT continue to collaborate in disaster management including follow-up to previous joint assessment missions. UNEP and UN-HABITAT have jointly developed a vulnerability assessment tool relating to flooding from an environmental and human settlements aspect. The tool has been applied to the Dongting Lake Basin in China and an assessment is ongoing in Rajshahi, Bangladesh. Also, UN-HABITAT and UNEP are jointly with local partners implementing a GEF project for disaster preparedness and vulnerability reduction in the Lower Limpopo Basin in Mozambique. This initiative links with slum upgrading and vulnerability reduction in four flood prone cities (Maputo, Chokwe, Tete and Quelimane) undertaken by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with UNDP and the Cities Alliance. Further, UNEP and UN-HABITAT undertook a joint mission to Nigeria, to assess the existing disaster management mechanisms. As a follow-up a UNEP project for the development of Nigeria's flood disaster management system has been proposed as a joint initiative of the National Emergency Management Agency, UN-HABITAT, UNEP and UNDP. In future, UN-HABITAT and UNEP intend to field joint disaster assessment missions wherever possible and to work co-operatively on follow-up.

Cooperation in the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP)

8. UNEP and UN-HABITAT cooperation in environmental aspects of policies, planning and management of human settlements entered a new era in 1996 when the two agencies formally established a full partnership in the Sustainable Cities Programme as recommended by Governing Council decision 18/15 of 26 May 1995 and resolution 15/8 of 1 May 1995 of the Commission on Human Settlements. Cooperation improved significantly after UN-HABITAT and UNEP agreed to share equally the cost of an expanded Sustainable Cities Programme core team. This arrangement continued to the end of 2000, when both agencies' programme funding allocations came to an end. In 2001/2002 basic global and administrative operations continued with very limited in-house and donor-earmarked resources. At the same time UN-HABITAT and UNEP have both worked on mobilising new funding for a joint new five-year phase (2002-07). UN-HABITAT has been successful and is about to conclude new long-term funding arrangements. At the same time UNEP has secured funding for its own contribution. Prospects are therefore good for continuing this joint UN-HABITAT/UNEP programme.

9. At the city and national level, the Sustainable Cities Programme has become a primary tool for supporting the implementation of Agenda 21 and for implementing the environment dimension of the Habitat Agenda while at the same time addressing Millennium Development Goals and implementing the targets agreed at WSSD. The Programme, working with more than 20 agency partners worldwide, is an important tool for promoting system-wide collaboration for sustainable urbanisation at city, country, regional and global levels. Despite funding constraints, it maintained momentum in 2001 and 2002 and is supporting city demonstrations in a growing number of countries. Joint demonstration activities in Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific region, Latin America and Europe currently include some 50 city and country-level initiatives. These are at various stages in the Sustainable Cities Programme-process cycle, and the numbers will continue to grow as many participating cities are still at the identification or formulation stage. The demonstrations address inter-alia the development of local capacities for adopting and implementing global

principles and norms for sustainable urbanisation (including related multilateral environment agreements – MEAs). This dimension of SCP activities forms one of the partnership commitments in the “Coalition for Sustainable Urbanisation”. SCP is also the vehicle for UN-HABITAT’s collaboration in the UNEP air pollution in Megacities of Asia (APMA) project.

10. Global and regional activities undertaken during the biennium include the publication of a number of environmental planning and management (EPM) tools, information outreach and advocacy through networking with local partners and international support programmes. A major activity has been new resource mobilization. A 5-year Phase-II plan has been agreed with major donors on the basis of Phase-I achievements and lessons learnt, and on the basis of new challenges and emerging opportunities identified in a number of formal evaluations. The plan emphasises capacity development for national replications, supported by regional resource networks among cities, international programmes and anchoring institutions specialising in urban environmental governance. The plan foresees collaboration with international urban development and capacity building institutions on strategies for environmental infrastructure improvements to benefit particularly the urban poor. It furthermore includes a research component on lessons learnt, and on preparing additional tools for implementing pro-poor strategies and other global norms. Overall it is a long term consolidation and mainstreaming effort with the goal of promoting sustained environmental governance capabilities at local level and independence from programme support at the global level.

Cooperation in the Balkans Task Force

11. As a result of the UNEP/UN-HABITAT rapid assessments done during the Joint Task Force missions in 1999 and 2000 in Kosovo, three key UN-HABITAT programmes have been developed and are under implementation. The Housing and Property Directorate and Claims Commission, restoring lost residential property rights, the Kosovo Cadastral Support Programme, establishing on behalf of UNMIK, the Kosovo Cadastral Agency, and several initiatives supporting local and nascent central authorities, under the general heading of the Municipal Support Programme.

Cooperation on "Managing Water for African Cities" (MWAC)

12. The programme, supported by UNEP throughout inception and resource mobilization, has continued to establish its presence in the region through its awareness campaigns, advocacy and educational initiatives. The World Bank and several donor countries have added their support to the Programme in the reporting period. With a strong demand-side focus, the programme has established a flexible framework for regional cooperation and inter-agency collaboration, leveraging the modest core funds to attract a total outlay of more than \$10 Million in the seven participating countries (Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia). By enhancing institutional and human resources capacity, the programme has created a favourable environment for new investments in water and sanitation. Tanzania has recently joined the programme while several other countries have expressed keen interest for joining the programme. Although progress was slow in the beginning, the "Managing Water for African Cities" (MWAC) programme for Kenya finally took off in cooperation with the Nairobi City Council and the Malindi Municipal Council. Since its inception in 1999, UNEP’s Nairobi River Basin Project (NRBP) has been closely coordinated with the UN-HABITAT MWAC programme, sharing experiences and lessons learned. NRBP is currently replicating successful elements of this collaboration in related urban environmental issues such as solid waste management. During the reporting period many of the cities participating in the MWAC secured additional counterpart funding to support on-going Programme activities. Collaboration with UNEP in this context has also included joint activities with the UNEP/GPA office, for the coastal cities participating in the programme.

Cooperation on Phasing out Leaded Gasoline in Africa

13. As part of a global initiative to promote clean fuels and vehicles in developing countries, in which UNEP is a leading partner, UNEP organised, with support from UN-HABITAT, a workshop for the phase out of leaded gasoline (UN Gigiri, June 2002). The use of leaded gasoline has severe health effects on urban residents, and limits the mental development of children. Although leaded gasoline has been phased out in

most of the world, it is still widely used in Africa. UNEP, in close cooperation with The World Bank, the US Government, and IPIECA (International Petrol Industry Environmental Conservation Association), supported the workshop, which developed an action plan for the phase out of leaded gasoline in East Africa. This activity has been a key factor in the recent introduction of clean fuels in many cities of East Africa

Subject area 3: Environmentally sound and appropriate human settlements technology

14. The International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), which is part of the UNEP Division for Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) continued to cooperate in the Sustainable Cities Programme's capacity-building activities, particularly in the area of transfer of environmentally sound technologies, environmental risk assessment and environmental technology assessment. Specifically, the UNEP Division of Policy Development and Law (DPDL) and IETC participated in the development and publication of an urban air quality management tool following global expert meetings in Cairo and Salt Lake City. In collaboration with DPDL the SCP routinely contributes urban experiences in UNEP's biannual global training programme on environmental law and policies, latest in GTP-5 in 2001. The next training programme will be organised in 2003.

Subject area 4: Research, training and the dissemination of information on environmentally sound human settlements planning and management

15. The joint Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) continued its work on several programme-level support activities for the SCP city network with three streams of products which respond to identified priority needs and which are being put to immediate use in the cities. Based on a synthesis of global experiences, the first stream provides guidance for the demonstration process with an SCP Source Book series covering such elements of the process as city profile, city consultation, environmental issue-specific working groups, strategy negotiation and institutionalization. The second stream offers thematic/topical support with four tools now fully developed, published and disseminated (urban air quality management, environmental management information systems, indicators to measure progress and gender responsive environmental management). The third stream addresses training requirements with "Introductory Training materials and Training modules". This will leverage the expertise and know-how already available, reduce the need for global support and apply the lessons of operational experience to local capacities building. In addition, UN-HABITAT and UNEP provide through the Programme's city network an information service which systematically offers urban environmental management know-how in publications, videos, exhibitions and web sites.

II. COOPERATION IN SYSTEM-WIDE EFFORTS

16. This section contains information on cooperation between UN-HABITAT and UNEP in a number of United Nations system-wide efforts directly relevant to the work and activities of both organisations. This information is given for reference purposes only. Details on the actual state and implications in any of these system-wide efforts for future cooperation between UN-HABITAT and UNEP are given and/or incorporated elsewhere in the documentation for UN-HABITAT and the respective Governing Councils.

Cooperation in the Environmental Management Group (EMG)

17. Proposed by the Secretary General in his "Report on Environment and Human Settlements" and mandated by UNGA resolution 53/242, the EMG is a mechanism designed to support UNEP and UN-HABITAT in their respective inter-agency coordination functions through time-bound issue-specific management groups. UNEP and UN-HABITAT are cooperating in making the EMG an operational reality for selected issues of mutual interest at the nexus of environment and human settlements development.

Cooperation in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

18. In its resolution A/57/468/Add.1 of 17 October 2002 the United Nations General Assembly "endorsed the NEPAD as the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's Development". Accordingly, at its annual interagency consultative meeting the UN system grouped agencies working in Africa around five thematic clusters. UN-HABITAT and UNEP are joint lead agencies of cluster 4 on Environment, Population and Urbanization. Several areas of joint programme development and support have been identified in the cluster and all agencies including UN-HABITAT and UNEP will contribute their respective expertise in such priority areas as natural disaster and risk management, sustainable NEPAD Cities, safer cities, waste management in African towns and cities, global warming and the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

Cooperation with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

19. UN-HABITAT and UNEP helped to organise, contributed to and actively participated in several events during the "Local Government Session" facilitated by ICLEI at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The purpose of this session was to endorse the "Local Government Declaration to the World Summit on Sustainable Development" and convey the message that "Local Action Moves the World" through interactions with national government delegations, presentation and discussion of best strategy cases, achievements, identification of barriers and presentation of new partnership implementation initiatives and commitments. A proposed meeting between ICLEI's management, UN-HABITAT and UNEP was postponed and hence no progress has been made in developing the work programme called for in the Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP, UN-HABITAT and ICLEI. Meanwhile, the ongoing work agreements between UNEP, UN-HABITAT and ICLEI continued in specific thematic areas related to local environmental initiatives.

Cooperation in the Urban Environment Forum (UEF), the World Urban Forum (WUF) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

20. Another notable example of UNEP and UN-HABITAT cooperation has been the Urban Environment Forum established in 1994 as a mechanism for cross-sectoral collaborative programming in sustainable urban development and city-to-city exchange of know-how. In February 2001 CHS-18 recommended that the "International Forum on Urban Poverty" (IFUP) and the "Urban Environment Forum" (UEF) should join forces in an integrated "World Urban Forum" (WUF) to be held biannually. The first WUF was convened in Nairobi in May 2002. The WUF, like the former UEF, continues to offer extra-ordinary opportunities for UN-HABITAT and UNEP to support a global network which joins cities and their partners in international support programmes in a common commitment to improve social and economic conditions in cities through partnerships on shared concerns, and by building on lessons of experience in urban planning and management.

21. UNEP has supported UN-HABITAT in the WUF dialogue series-2 aimed at preparing the contribution of UN-HABITAT and the Habitat Agenda partners for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The main product was the concept of "Sustainable Urbanisation" and arrangements for its implementation through the "Coalition for Sustainable Urbanisation" - eleven partnership commitments for implementing Agenda 21. UNEP is among the key partners in four of these partnership commitments, namely "Local capacities for global agendas", "Demonstrating local environmental planning and management", "National capacities for up-scaling local agenda 21 demonstrations", and "Water for Asian Cities". The UN-HABITAT/UNEP cooperation helps to strengthen these partnerships and mobilise other partners such as UNITAR, ILO, UNDP, WHO. These and similar partnerships support local capacity development through demonstration-replication, training, best practices and city-to-city cooperation in line with Agenda 21, the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals and the WSSD conclusions.

III. FUTURE PROSPECTS

22. UNEP and UN-HABITAT will continue their effort towards greater collaboration and integration of their activities. UNEP's new Urban Environment Policy and UN-HABITAT's evolving Campaigns for "Good Urban Governance" and "Secure Tenure" will help identify specific areas where the two organisations can increase their cooperation in the coming biennium. To help facilitate this, structures and modalities will be put in place to develop and support cooperation in concrete activities. One example could be a joint operations and coordination group for jointly implementing the new phase of the SCP.

23. In the global regions reciprocal engagement and regular exchange of information will be promoted among UNEP's and UN-HABITAT's regional offices so as to identify areas where their respective strengths can be most complementary. The mutual involvement in ministerial fora and other policy-making mechanisms at the regional and sub-regional levels will also be sought.

24. UN-HABITAT and UNEP have been under severe funding constraints during the past biennium as far as their cooperation in the Sustainable Cities Programme is concerned. Now, prospects are good that their intensive resource mobilisation efforts will bear fruit so that their successful cooperation on urban environmental management (which started in 1982 with the joint "Environmental Guidelines for Settlements Planning and Management") may continue and that the expanding opportunities afforded by the Programme may be fully realised.

25. The joint UN-HABITAT/UNEP Sustainable Cities Programmes brings together other international urban programmes in both city-level demonstrations and in global normative work. Thanks to this catalytic potential a major breakthrough has been achieved in ensuring a more effective integration of the activities of the United Nations system with those of local communities and local authorities. Through this joint work, UN-HABITAT and UNEP have positioned themselves at the forefront of a new United Nations development cooperation paradigm, that emphasizes the advancement of collective know-how rather than the provision of ready solutions. It is in such efforts that the United Nations excels, and where UN-HABITAT and UNEP have a unique comparative advantage for linking local operations with global normative work. The management of cities, especially of megacities, is becoming increasingly relevant to sustainable development at the national, regional and global levels. There is an increasing need for developing local capacities for global agendas so as to enable local responses to regional and global environmental conventions and agreements. UN-HABITAT's and UNEP's cooperation will be very important in this respect. It will promote local support to global priority concern such as climate change, land-based impact on the marine environment, protection of biodiversity, management of trans-boundary resources and the control of industrial risks.

26. In the World Urban Forum, UNEP and UN-HABITAT will continue to cooperate within a global network that links not only cities and international programmes, but also other networks from local to global levels and across geographic regions. As an important achievement towards global partnership in sustainable urbanisation, the World Urban Forum is an initiative in which the two organizations can play a facilitating and catalytic role, mobilizing an ever-widening range of cities and international support programmes, helping to focus their collective energy and know-how on concrete improvements in the living environment - and sustainability - of human settlement everywhere.

27. UNEP is in the final stages of mobilising funds that will allow UNEP to join the Cities Alliance, a UN-HABITAT/World Bank initiative to support city development strategies and slum upgrading as per the Millennium Development Goals. The Cities Alliance will provide another vehicle for UNEP and UN-HABITAT to jointly develop initiatives in cooperation with other partners such as the World Bank.
