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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues: State of the environment

**STATE OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

SUPPORT TO AFRICA

This document has been prepared in pursuance of Governing Council decision 21/15 of 9 February 2001. It is submitted herewith for the Council's consideration.

A. Support to Africa for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and participation in international forums

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. With the support of the Government of Norway, UNEP organized a meeting of Climate Change Negotiators from Africa on 27 and 28 September 2001 in Kampala. The meeting was attended by negotiators from 18 countries, together with experts from Belgium, Canada, Spain and UNEP. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the outcome of the resumed sixth session of the Conference of the Parties and discuss the issues before the Conference at its seventh session, especially as they related to the operationalization of the Kyoto Protocol, and to narrow differences and forge a common position.
2. Additional support was given to the negotiators during the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties through the provision of interpretation facilities throughout their negotiations.

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3. UNEP organized another meeting in Nairobi of the key African Climate Change Negotiators prior to the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, from 4 to 6 October 2002. The objective of the meeting was to build consensus on the key issues for the negotiations. In the margins of the meeting, a meeting was organized with the principal representatives of the least developed countries to discuss UNEP support for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action.

Biodiversity and biosafety

4. In collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP supported the participation of African countries in the following meetings:

- (a) Open-ended Expert Meeting on Capacity-building for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Havana, 11-13 July 2001;
- (b) International Workshop on Financial Support for National Biosafety Frameworks, Havana, 14 July 2001;
- (c) New Biotechnology Foods and Crops: Science, Safety and Society, Bangkok, 10-12 July 2001;
- (d) Meeting of Technical Experts on Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of Living Modified Organisms, Paris, 13-15 June 2001;
- (e) Open-ended Meeting of Experts on a Compliance Regime under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Nairobi, 26-28 September 2001;
- (f) Liaison Group Meeting of Technical Experts on the Biosafety Clearing House, Nairobi, 27-28 September 2001;
- (g) African regional preparatory meeting for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nairobi, 19-21 March 2002.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

5. UNEP provided support for the implementation of the Convention in many African countries, and especially for the preparation of national action plans. A UNEP/GEF project on land degradation assessment in drylands was formulated in whose implementation African countries affected by drought and desertification are to be fully involved.

Support to regional agreements

6. UNEP has endeavoured to mobilize the political will of African Governments in a bid to revitalize the Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region. The attention of Ministers of environment was drawn to the need for revitalization, and the fifth and sixth Conferences of the Parties, meeting in Accra from 20 to 24 March 2000 and in Abidjan on 16 and 17 May 2002, took decisions in that direction. UNEP has helped develop a funding mechanism that will ensure the financial reliability, predictability and sustainability of the budget for the Abidjan Convention; also, it has helped develop an effective coordination system and has provided financial support for operationalization of the Regional Coordination Unit in Abidjan.

7. With regard to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, a variety of activities, including a new biennial work programme for 2002 – 2003, were developed for review by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, in Maputo, 5-7 December 2001, which also considered a regional strategy on coral reefs and associated ecosystems.

8. UNEP continued consultations with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU)/African Union (AU) for the review of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to take into account developments since the Convention was adopted. The third UNEP/IUCN/OAU Inter-Agency Meeting to review the draft was held in Addis Ababa on 25 and 26 July 2001, and a meeting of experts convened by OAU, meeting in Nairobi from 14 to 18 January 2002, approved it. The document (UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/4/Add.3) was considered by AMCEN at its ninth session, in Kampala, 1 to 6 July 2002. AMCEN requested that further consultations with countries that had reservations should be undertaken, but nevertheless agreed that the draft should be referred to the session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Durban, South Africa, from 1 to 3 July 2002. Consultations are ongoing to ensure that the final, agreed text is put before the Council of Ministers of the African Union at its session in February 2003.

9. UNEP continued to support and assist Parties in the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora.

10. UNEP also supported participation by African countries in the expert meetings to develop guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements held in Geneva in August 2001 and in Nairobi in October 2001. It also provided support for a stakeholder workshop for law enforcement agencies, held in Kampala from 16 to 18 October 2001.

B. Support to Africa for the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

11. UNEP, with funding from donor Governments, provided support for the African preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Five subregional consultative meetings were organized under the auspices of the five subregional organizations, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development / Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (IGAD/COMESA), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). These consultative meetings considered regional assessments of achievements in implementing Agenda 21, the constraints encountered and the way forward. They also provided elements for the African common position that was developed at the African Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

12. UNEP, working with Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the joint expanded secretariat for the preparation of the Summit, organized the African Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Preparatory Conference which was held in Nairobi from 15 to 18 October 2001. Ministers responsible for environment and socio-economic development in Africa approved the assessment report (UNEP/(ROA)/WSSD/1/1 and Add.1) on African progress in implementing Agenda 21, the constraints encountered and the way forward. They also agreed a Ministerial statement which was a political declaration of African perspectives on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the way forward.

13. In association with the African Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, UNEP also organized an industry workshop as an input to the Ministerial segment of the Conference, and a meeting of non-governmental organizations. It also facilitated statements by youth and trade union movements to the Conference.

C. Support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

14. UNEP continued to provide the secretariat function for AMCEN, Africa's leading forum for high-level environmental policy development. Following the revitalization which was agreed by AMCEN at its eighth session, in Abuja in April 2000, UNEP organized a meeting of the AMCEN Inter-sessional Committee in New York in April 2001, on the margins of the meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and facilitated a meeting of the AMCEN Bureau on the

margins of the third meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, in Algiers in September 2001.

15. A special session of AMCEN was held in Nairobi on 16 October 2001, during the African Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to consider the environmental component of the Summit and the draft Ministerial statement. It also discussed and adopted resolutions on other matters, including the implementation and operationalization of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol; the Least Developed Country Fund; the AMCEN work programme 2000-2004; the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

16. UNEP contributed financially and technically in organizing the ninth session of AMCEN, in Kampala, from 1 to 6 July 2002. The ninth session launched the African Environment Outlook Report, endorsed the Framework Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, took a number of key decisions and released the Kampala Declaration, inter alia calling the attention of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to current, new and emerging environmental issues that Africa needs to tackle, with or without the assistance of the international community.

D. Cleaner production and sustainable consumption patterns

17. In view of the need to improve industrial production processes and raise awareness of the issue in Africa, UNEP was involved in the first meeting under a new initiative, the Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption Round Table for Africa. A regional coordinating committee was established, with representation from the five subregions, to organize future round tables, and UNEP was requested to assist it with follow-up. Also, UNEP and UNIDO have jointly established national cleaner production centres in seven African countries.

18. With regard to the mining sector, during 2000 an environmental impact assessment was undertaken of the acid wash wastes from a fluorspar mining company in Kenya, and a workshop was organized in Perth, Australia for 25 mining countries, including three from Africa, to examine environmental regulations for accident prevention in mining. UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) concluded an agreement whereby Habitat would incorporate the awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level (APELL) programme into conferences in West Africa on urban themes.

19. The UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) organized workshops on eutrophication in lakes, advisory services on waste management and round tables on air quality and on trenchless technologies for laying utility lines.

20. A Sustainable Energy Advisory Facility has been established and provides advice to developing countries, including Botswana, Ghana and Mali. A programme to establish small private-sector energy companies in Africa based on renewable energy, the African Rural Energy Enterprise Development Initiative (AREED), was initiated in Botswana, Ghana, Mali, Senegal and Zambia. Support was also given to other renewable energy projects in Egypt and Zimbabwe.

21. The OzonAction Programme continued to provide considerable assistance to African countries, to support their compliance with the Montreal Protocol, through the Protocol's Multilateral Fund.

22. The UNEP Chemicals programme facilitated:

(a) A project on management information exchange and networking for Africa, in collaboration with the United States Environmental Protection Agency;

(b) Case studies on persistent organic pollutants in five African countries;

(c) Training workshops on polychlorinated biphenyl and dioxin/furan chemicals policy and legislation, and on the phase-out of leaded petrol in selected African countries.

23. As requested by the countries, UNEP launched six country projects on trade liberalization and environment and three on the selection, design and implementation of economic instruments for environmental protection. The countries involved included Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.

24. UNEP continued to undertake industry outreach activities. A Global Reporting Initiative was organized in South Africa in collaboration with the Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa, and a symposium, "The Global Compact for the African Business Community", was held in Tunis in May 2001.

E. Environmental conservation

Great Apes Survival Programme

25. In May 2001, the Executive Director launched an initiative to seek political support for great apes conservation under the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP). He appointed as Special Envoys for Great Apes Mr. Russ Mittermeier, President of Conservation International and Chair of the IUCN Special Survival Committee; Ms. Jane Goodall, world-renowned chimpanzee expert; and Mr. Toshisada Nishida, past president of the International Primatological Society. UNEP worked with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the African Wildlife Foundation, the Ape Alliance, the World Wildlife Foundation and other partners to draw worldwide attention to the ape survival crisis. The envoys, supported by a small team of experts, began visiting each range State and obtaining endorsements, at the highest political level, for improved protection, and also strengthened support for conservation and for the preparation and adoption of national great ape survival plans.

Turtles

26. A Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and Their Habitat of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, which entered into force on 1 September 2001, was signed by nine States. UNEP offered financial assistance for the first three years of the secretariat's operation.

International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)

27. Activities to conserve the coral reefs of the Indian Ocean coast of East Africa were implemented through the International Coral Reef Action Network, an umbrella activity developed by UNEP in collaboration with the World Fish Centre (ICLARM) to address the declining state of coral reefs. ICRAN is a key activity for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), a Government/non-governmental organization partnership that is committed to the conservation and management of coral reefs.

F. UNEP/GEF activities in Africa, 2001

Regional and country projects

28. UNEP, as a GEF implementing agency, provided support to African countries in the GEF focal areas of climate change, biodiversity and international waters and also to the emerging priority areas of land degradation, persistent organic pollutants and biosafety. The UNEP/GEF portfolio in Africa includes 61 activities with a total budget of some \$48,000,000.

29. Within the portfolio are two major, full-size projects (i.e., projects involving more than \$1 million of GEF financing) addressing land degradation, which UNEP is implementing jointly with UNDP:

(a) "Biodiversity conservation through rehabilitation of degraded lands of arid and semi-arid transboundary areas of Mauritania and Senegal": total project cost \$12,400,000; GEF financing, \$8,000,000; completion expected in May 2004;

(b) “Management of indigenous vegetation for the rehabilitation of degraded rangelands in the arid and semi-arid zones of Botswana, Kenya and Mali”: total project cost \$13,400,000; GEF financing, \$9,000,000; completion expected in May 2006.

30. Fourteen activities in the Africa portfolio were approved during 2001, with total funding of \$8,400,000, including \$4,700,000 in GEF resources. These include three medium-sized projects, three projects in Project Development Facility block B, one in block A and seven enabling activities.

Global projects

31. The UNEP/GEF portfolio includes a number of full-size projects that are truly global in scope, and involve participation by African countries. These include “Development of national biosafety frameworks” and “Assessment of the impacts of and adaptation to climate change in multiple regions and sectors”, both of which began in 2001.

32. Several global assessment activities, including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), have involved Africa, and Project Development Facility block B funding was approved for the Dryland Land Degradation Assessment.

Multi-country and transregional projects

33. Several UNEP/GEF transregional projects also involve African countries.

G. Support to subregional organizations

34. UNEP worked with the subregional organizations; the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development / Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (IGAD/COMESA), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to ensure that the environmental agenda is fully integrated into the subregional and national development agendas. The process of preparing the African regional reports for the World Summit on Sustainable Development has increased cooperation with these subregional organizations

35. In June 2001, UNEP established a liaison office in Addis Ababa to further enhance cooperation with ECA and the Organization of African Unity, now the African Union.

H. Initiatives for Africa

The United Nations Special Initiative in Africa

36. Under the United Nations Special Initiative in Africa, UNEP assisted African countries in reinforcing their capacities in environmental management and in formulating and implementing key water resource policies and management programmes. Efforts were also made to assist Governments in creating a “water forum”, at the request of African Ministers responsible for water.

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

37. UNEP was closely involved with the establishment of NEPAD, which originated as the New African Initiative, established by OAU at its thirty-seventh session, held in Lusaka in July 2001. UNEP participated in the preparatory process for NEPAD and contributed to the development of its environmental component. Resources to help implement that component were secured through the UNEP GEF Office. A framework for an action plan has been developed and endorsed by AMCEN at its ninth session, in Kampala. Specific thematic workshops are planned during the last quarter of 2002 and first half of 2003.

I. Specific regional activities

Water activities

38. Under the United Nations Special Initiative in Africa, UNEP assisted African countries to strengthen key water management programmes and policies.
39. UNEP provided extensive support for the launching of an African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW), which will serve as a forum for policy dialogue between African Ministers responsible for water management.
40. UNEP is also actively participating in the African Water Task Force, which is aimed at promoting integrated water resource management in the region.
41. At the request of the SADC member countries, UNEP provided technical support for the SADC Water Sector Regional Strategic Action Plan. UNEP also provided technical support for integrated water catchment management and water policy reviews, including integration of environmental assessments into the management plans for the major African river basins. Support was given also to local, pilot-phase projects for demonstration purposes, such as the Nairobi River Basin Project.
42. In collaboration with Habitat, UNEP continued to assist cities in the region in implementing their activities under the Water for African Cities programme. For the city of Nairobi in particular, focused support was extended to the Nairobi River Basin Project. Pollution assessment activities were undertaken and a second phase, focusing on community education programmes about pollution to build capacity amongst stakeholders, has been initiated on the basis of the results from phase I activities.

Capacity-building

43. UNEP has developed a strategy to build the capacity of African negotiators in order to enable them to participate in international negotiations for multilateral environmental agreements and related meetings. Implementation of the strategy continued throughout the intersessional period.
44. Numerous training workshops and seminars on environmental issues were organized by UNEP for stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, civil society, youth and the private sector. The World Environment Day celebrations and the "Clean up the World" activities supported by UNEP in cities such as Nairobi also helped raise awareness of environmental issues. It should also be noted that the media was brought closer to the work which UNEP does in Africa. In this regard, several publications on environment issues in Africa have been and continue to be published. Also, training workshops for African journalists on environmental issues have been organized by UNEP.

Resource mobilization

45. UNEP continued to help mobilize resources for addressing environmental issues in Africa, including resources from the Least Developed Country Fund established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Environmental law

46. Legal advisory services were provided by UNEP to assist African Governments in formulating and reviewing environmental legislation. Seven countries - Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania - were assisted in their reviews of their environmental legislation. UNEP also provided support for regional and subregional cooperative frameworks in this area and secured funds in that connection from the Government of the Netherlands. A number of other Governments have provided support for capacity-building in environmental law and institutions. African experts benefited also from regular training workshops on environmental law.

Assessment

47. At the request of AMCEN, UNEP prepared an assessment report, the African Environment Outlook Report, on the state of the African environment. The report was so presented to AMCEN at its ninth session, in Kampala in July 2002, and was launched by the President of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. UNEP also provided support for African countries to strengthen their capacity to address environmental threats and emergencies and the impact on Africa of global environmental change.

Policy development

48. Since the adoption of Governing Council decision 21/15 and to date, UNEP has provided and continues to provide encouragement and assistance to countries in the region to review their policies in the light of new developments and priorities.

H. Linkages between poverty and environment

49. UNEP continued its efforts to achieve an understanding of the linkages between poverty and environment, with special emphasis on Africa. Since more than half the least developed countries are in Africa, the need to emphasize those linkages is especially urgent in the African context. A meeting to develop guidelines and a strategy for addressing the linkages was held in Nairobi in September 2001, with the target of making the guidelines available during 2002.

50. For the purpose of further amending and testing the guidelines, UNEP plans to organize workshops in a number of African countries, to be selected taking into account the subregional balance, to focus explicitly on the importance of the environment-poverty nexus, to provide a forum to discuss the ecosystem-capability approach and obtain feedback from it in order to revise and amend the guidelines, and to hand over ownership of those guidelines to the Governments and stakeholders in the countries in question.
