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**Twenty-second session of the Governing Council/  
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Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

**Policy issues: International environmental governance**

**INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**Report of the Executive Director**

**Addendum**

Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change, including through the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change

1. The present report, which contains proposals for strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has been prepared pursuant to Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002, on international environmental governance, following consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The report is submitted for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

**I. ACTION CALLED FOR BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL  
ENVIRONMENT FORUM AT ITS SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION**

2. By paragraphs 4 and 5 of its decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum decided:

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\* UNEP/GC.22/1.

(a) To review the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance at its twenty-second session, subject to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(b) To consider further measures for the strengthening of UNEP at its twenty-second session, in the light of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

## II. BACKGROUND

3. As set down in part I, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, one of the functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council is to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments.

4. In paragraph 8 (e) of its report, as contained in the appendix to decision SS.VII/1, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group stressed that the increasing complexity and impact of trends in environmental degradation required an enhanced capacity for scientific assessment and monitoring and for provision of early warnings to Governments. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> emphasized the role of science, technology and assessments in decision-making (paragraphs 108 to 112). The Plan of Implementation also set out a number of targets in the water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity sectors as well as in other areas that will require monitoring and assessment.

5. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Group recommendations build on the achievements by UNEP in environmental monitoring and assessment and recommend a further strengthening in this area (see subparas. 11 (h) (i) and (ii) and para. 24). In particular, subparagraph 11 (h) (i) calls for the strengthening of the scientific base of UNEP by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change, including, inter alia, through the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change. The Governing Council is also asked to consider measures to enhance the capacity of UNEP in scientific assessment and monitoring and for provision of early warnings to Governments. Subprogramme 1 on early warning and assessment, as defined in the programme of work for 2002-2003 and the proposed programme for 2004-2005, are designed to meet the demands specified in the recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit.

## III. ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

6. Assessments must be policy-relevant, and feed into and support policy and decision-making processes to be useful for environmental management. The relationship between the scientific and decision-making communities are complex, and the institutional architecture of an assessment affects the way in which the two interact. At one extreme is a purely scientific process from which policy makers are excluded and only presented with the findings at the end of the assessment, which might compromise its relevance to those policy makers. At the other is an assessment conducted entirely through political negotiation, which might compromise its scientific credibility.

7. The most successful assessment processes in terms of influencing international policy and decision-making are those that are clearly linked to a policy framework. Furthermore, they often involve government-nominated expertise in setting the priorities for assessments and in actively receiving the findings of the assessments. The assessments under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are prominent examples in this respect.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (A/CONF.199/20), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

8. It is important to tailor UNEP assessment activities to the nature and knowledge needs of the Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum. In this context, a key challenge is posed by the need to assess global environmental change, including its linkages with and implications for the social and economic challenges of sustainable development. Furthermore, keeping the world environment situation under review requires UNEP also to focus on, support and build from activities at the sub-global level.

9. UNEP will strengthen its capacity for scientific assessments by establishing the proposed intergovernmental panel and strengthening the integrated environmental assessment process, including early warning. The enhanced assessment framework will comprise the panel, the participatory Global Environment Outlook process, thematic scientific and technical assessments, improved cooperation with the scientific community, monitoring and data gathering. The close interlinkage between the panel and the Global Environment Outlook assessment process will ensure that the two are mutually supportive.

10. Stronger support for the assessment framework will be provided by a multi-level network of environmental information-gathering partners. These partners will include Global Environment Outlook collaborating centres, umbrella scientific bodies and monitoring and observation systems. The network will tap into the current new data and information being generated by scientific research and monitoring and national, regional and global developments which relate to environmental issues and change.

#### IV. CONSIDERATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

11. The Governing Council has before it the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group recommendation that it should consider strengthening the scientific base of UNEP by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change, including through the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change. The Group recommended that the effective participation of developing countries in the work of the panel should be ensured, and that the mandate, modalities and composition of any mechanism would be decided by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Further consideration of these issues can also be found in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/15.

##### A. Rationale for an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change

12. The main rationale for establishing an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change is to improve the policy and decision-making functions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum through the establishment of regular channels for collaboration between scientists and policy makers. The panel would help frame the international environmental assessment processes and promote a systematic build-up of the knowledge base on global environmental change through targeted scientific and technical assessments tailored to meet policy needs. As a subsidiary organ, the panel would provide the Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum with scientific and technical advice, in much the same manner as the subsidiary bodies under the multilateral environmental agreements.

13. The establishment of the panel would strengthen the scientific base of UNEP through the mobilization of scientific expertise for environmental assessments, a function similar to that performed by the open-ended plenary of IPCC. It would put UNEP on a par with the broader international environmental governance structure, notably the multilateral environmental agreements, which have developed intergovernmental structures and mobilized government expertise for scientific and technical assessments and advice. This would strengthen the authority of UNEP and, by corollary, its ability to fulfil its mandate of promoting cooperation and synergy among the different entities of the existing structure. A more coherent approach in this field would in turn benefit other sectors and users, which have a growing need for reliable and consistent environmental information and policy advice.

14. The panel would also help meet the need for a coherent approach to the consideration of global environmental change and its implications for social and economic development. It would synthesize and integrate the findings of thematic assessments in order to develop a better understanding of the scientific interlinkages and the policy and technology trade-offs among the different issues, such as climate change, ozone, biodiversity and degradation of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. In doing so, it would draw on lessons learned from established assessments and related research in order to streamline and reduce duplication of international assessments. It would help identify policy-relevant and scientific gaps in the assessment structure and could initiate assessments to fill those gaps if desired. It would also assist in identifying the overall environmental contribution to major development challenges and thereby contribute to mainstreaming the environment into sectoral activities.

#### B. Composition, functions and responsibilities of the panel

15. In accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, it is suggested that the panel be established as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. It would be multidisciplinary, with a membership open to any State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It would also be open to observers in accordance with rules 68 and 69. Such an arrangement would be in line with the open-ended composition of IPCC and the scientific and technical subsidiary bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements. This would ensure that the composition of the panel was dynamic in nature, as Governments would nominate expert delegations in accordance with issues on its agenda.

16. The panel's mandate should remain broad and generic, within the relevant functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council. It would play a key role in implementing the Governing Council's responsibility, as mandated in part I, paragraph 2 (c), of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), to keep under review the world environmental situation, in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance received appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments. In this respect the panel would pay particular attention to global environmental change and its consequences for social and economic development. It would also be instrumental in implementing the Governing Council's responsibility, as set forth in part I, paragraph 2 (e), of the same resolution, to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to monitoring and assessment. A key function would be to provide the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies, with scientific and technical advice related to the implementation of the UNEP mandate. Finally it would report regularly to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on all aspects of its work.

#### C. Working modalities and work plan of the panel

17. The Governing Council could request the panel to develop its own working modalities and work plan based on existing experience from similar bodies and input from the Executive Director of UNEP. The panel should also give due consideration to the need for ensuring effective participation of developing countries in the work of the panel and of expert groups working under the panel. Such considerations should also include the need for capacity-building in developing countries.

18. The working modalities should typically ensure that any assessment commissioned by the panel is scientifically independent and credible. Once the panel has identified the need for an assessment the process would be referred to expert groups and supporting external expert institutions and managed by the UNEP secretariat. Members of expert groups and supporting institutions would be chosen on the basis of scientific merit, paying due attention to the need for a balanced geographical and gender representation of experts wherever possible. Their findings would be subject to extensive expert peer review as well as government review prior to consideration by the panel. Summaries for policy makers of specific assessments would be put to the panel for its consideration, and serve as a basis for the development of recommendations and reports to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

19. In accordance with paragraph 3 and 4 of rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the panel would elect its own officers and meet as necessary. In line with the practice for similar scientific and technical bodies it is suggested that the panel should meet annually and that it should constitute its own bureau in line with the rules of procedures of the Governing Council. Furthermore, the panel might want to constitute open-ended working groups for specific tasks. A small secretariat, to be provided by the Executive Director of UNEP, would support the panel's day-to-day functioning.

20. It is envisaged that the thematic scope of the work plan would be determined by the scope of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. In that context, the panel might be required to support the agenda of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in addressing the environmental aspects of one or two selected sectoral issues on an annual basis (such as chemicals, water, oceans), as well as the environmental contribution to major development challenges, as suggested in the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group's recommendation. The panel also needs to consider how to address, among other issues, the environmental contribution to major development challenges, as expressed in the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in the millennium development goals adopted at the Millennium Assembly in September 2000. The panel could promote the assessment and development of conceptual frameworks and tools necessary for addressing the linkages between environment and development.

#### D. Links and cooperation between the panel and other assessments and agencies

21. Given that there are already a number of parallel and independent assessment processes and that the panel will not be able to meet all assessment needs, close links must be forged between the panel and those other assessment processes. One key means of doing this would be for the panel to invite other assessments to present their findings for its consideration, as well as to consider specific issues of common interest. Close cooperation and a clear division of labour should be fostered between the panel and IPCC, the relevant subsidiary bodies under the multilateral environmental agreements and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) under GEF. Joint meetings between the bureaux of these bodies would be an important coordination mechanism. Close linkages should also be established between the panel and existing global assessment projects and processes such as the Global Environment Outlook, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA).

22. By fostering open and transparent intergovernmental processes related to international scientific environmental assessments, the panel would also facilitate the integrated involvement of the UNEP collaborating centres and other existing initiatives in this field. In this way, the panel would not only help promote informed decision-making, but could also provide important support to the United Nations system through the Environmental Management Group and the system-wide Earthwatch Working Party, which are tasked with inter-agency cooperation in the field of the environment.

#### E. Financial and administrative consequences of establishing the panel

23. As a subsidiary organ to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the panel would be served and supported by the UNEP secretariat. The work of the panel would influence the work programme and, through the resulting synergies between the two bodies, would add value to earlier achievements, as for example the Global Environment Outlook process and the thematic assessments. This activity has been incorporated into the UNEP programme of work and budget for 2004-2005, for consideration by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The additional financial and administrative implications of the panel should be considered in the light of experience from IPCC and other intergovernmental scientific assessments. The key components of such financial implications would be:

- (a) Cost of annual plenary meetings, including interpretation, documentation and travel for participants from developing countries;
- (b) Secretariat costs;

(c) Costs of targeted scientific and technical assessments under the auspices of the panel, including expert group meetings, travel costs for experts, peer review of documentation, contracts with external supporting institutions and additional secretarial support in UNEP;

(d) Publication costs of technical reports, summaries for policy makers and other products.

24. The costs related to these components are set out in the table below. The variables that would affect the final costs are the number of languages used and the number of targeted assessments commissioned by the panel. The Governing Council may wish to authorize the Executive Director to establish a trust fund to cover the above-mentioned activities of the panel and secretariat. These activities would be subject to the availability of funds.

Table. Estimated annual costs related to the establishment and operation of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change

	Documentation and meeting costs	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
A. Annual meeting costs	One language	US\$ 100,000		
	Three languages		US\$ 250,000	
	Six languages			US\$ 400,000
	Travel support	US\$ 600,000	US\$ 600,000	US\$ 600,000
B. Secretariat costs (including one P-5, one P-3 and one G-4)		US\$ 500,000	US\$ 500,000	US\$ 500,000
C. Operational costs	One annual assessment report (each include four expert group meetings, review and report writing)	US\$ 600,000		
	Two annual assessment reports		US\$1,200,000	US\$ 1,200,000
D. Report publication (editing, design, graphics, translation, printing, distribution, Internet and CD ROM)	One assessment report One language	US\$ 150,000	US\$ 600 000	
	Two assessment reports Six languages			US\$ 1,200,000
Total		US\$ 1,950,000	US\$ 3,150,000	US\$ 3,900,000

V. KEEPING THE STATE OF THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW  
AND PROVIDING EARLY WARNING ON EMERGING ISSUES OF  
INTERNATIONAL CONCERN

25. Regular monitoring and assessment of trends in environmental change are needed to ensure that decision makers have relevant, reliable, and timely information to underpin effective policy for sustainable development. In response to the decisions of the Governing Council at its seventh special session, UNEP proposes to meet its responsibilities in this field through three interlinked processes within the assessment framework – integrated environmental assessments, thematic assessments and early warning. Each process will contribute a set of targeted products to the policy development cycle.

26. The results and findings of UNEP assessments will be submitted to the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, including the panel, for consideration, comment and incorporation in the programme of work as necessary.

A. Integrated environmental assessments

27. UNEP will strengthen its integrated environmental assessments process and flagship report using the Global Environment Outlook approach. Early warning of environmental threats is one of the desired outcomes of observing, assessing and monitoring the environment. At the same time, expanding the integrated environmental assessment activities and networks will have related increased cost implications. To make the products more relevant and timely, UNEP will produce the following sets of outputs:

(a) Annual Global Environment Outlook statements: UNEP will provide annual statements on the environment. Each annual statement will include global and regional elements highlighting significant environmental events and achievements during the year, and raising awareness of emerging issues from scientific research and other sources, and indicators showing progress towards environmental sustainability. For each annual statement UNEP will solicit and incorporate inputs from all regions and from at least a subset of collaborating centres. As it is a statement of the Executive Director of UNEP, the annual Global Environment Outlook statement will not undergo formal review by Governments;

(b) Comprehensive Global Environment Outlook report: UNEP will continue to produce the comprehensive Global Environment Outlook report as the major authoritative United Nations environment assessment, supporting the international environmental governance and sustainable development processes, such as the follow-up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The proposed five-year interval between reports will facilitate better measurement of changes in the global environment and improve the identification of trends and emerging issues. The comprehensive Global Environment Outlook reports will be produced through the full consultative, participatory process used to prepare previous such reports, which will involve the full network of collaborating centres and be coordinated by UNEP at global and regional levels;

(c) Sub-Global Environment Outlook assessments (regional, subregional, national and local): UNEP will support the preparation of these assessments to meet the requirements of decision-making processes at the relevant levels. Collectively, these environment outlook assessments will provide the foundation for the comprehensive Global Environment Outlook report. UNEP will promote the same integrated and participatory partnership processes for the sub-global assessments and its role in their preparation may range from process advice and stakeholder capacity-building to full coordination;

(d) Early warnings of environmental threats: these reports will build on the priority issues and trends identified in the integrated environmental assessment process and will provide – through further analysis – early warning of potential threats that may pose a risk to humans and ecosystems.

## B. Thematic assessments

28. UNEP will continue to play the sort of catalytic role in thematic assessments required to gain a thorough scientific and technical understanding of emerging sectoral or cross-sectoral environmental issues of international significance. These will include the focal areas of the multilateral environmental agreements and of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

29. UNEP will take cognizance of and, where practical, support major international assessments, including those commissioned by IPCC, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, GIWA, the World Water Assessment Programme, the proposed Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands and activities related to the programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests such as the global forest resources assessment. Recent new initiatives include the call by the World Summit on Sustainable Development for a regular process of global reporting and assessment of the marine environment and the World Bank/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) initiative on the consultative process on an international assessment of agriculture. Further information on these undertakings can be found in other documents before the Governing Council at the current session, including UNEP/GC.22/INF/27, UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.5 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/19.

## VI. STRENGTHENING ASSESSMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS FOR KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

30. In line with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, an important dimension of the assessment framework implementation is through a strengthened regional focus, including, as its main components, capacity-building, technology transfer and partnerships for data, information and knowledge management.

### A. Building capacity and technology transfer

31. The overall goal of capacity-building within the assessment framework is to build up a global network of people and institutions able to undertake and participate in integrated and thematic environmental assessment processes and to contribute substantively to the knowledge management and dissemination systems which support assessments.

32. Targeted capacity-building, with implementation at regional and national levels, will enhance institutional capabilities for integrated environmental assessment in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and strengthen contributions from those countries to global assessments and the panel. Interregional technology transfer, including methods and tools used in integrated environmental assessment, will form an important component of the strategy. This targeted capacity-building will continue to depend upon bilateral donor support specifically earmarked for this purpose.

### B. Managing environmental data, information and knowledge

33. Effective mechanisms and tools to identify, make accessible and use authoritative data, information and knowledge on a broad range of environmental issues are essential for the assessment and early warning activities conducted by UNEP at global, regional and national levels.

34. Recent years have seen a proliferation of activities, particularly Internet-based, aimed at improving the development, management and dissemination of environmental data and information. In this context – and recognizing the important advances in technology and in their applications – UNEP is re-evaluating its role in supporting the development of environmental information data and systems, and proposes:

(a) To continue working with a wide range of partners in the United Nations system – through the system-wide Earthwatch – as well as other partners in the non-governmental organization and private sectors, to develop global and regional databases to support the integrated environmental assessment process. A comprehensive database, presented through the Global Environment Outlook data portal, was used successfully for the production of the third Global Environment Outlook report and is being further developed to support regional and subregional integrated environmental assessments, in partnership with relevant agencies. The methodologies and systems used for the management of data are being provided to countries as part of the UNEP capacity-building programme;

(b) To continue working closely with the agencies participating in the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) partnership and relevant observing and monitoring systems such as the Global Environmental Monitoring System Freshwater Quality Programme, and to facilitate the application of scientific data from the global observing systems to support the UNEP assessment and early warning process.

(c) To strengthen further the environmental assessment component of the UNEP corporate environmental information system, building on the experience of INFOTERRA – the UNEP global environmental information exchange network, UNEP.Net, and other relevant UNEP initiatives. In this context, UNEP will facilitate the development of electronic tools to access, analyse and disseminate environmental data relevant for assessments and early warning, in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter 40 of Agenda 21, and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

(d) To support the development of regional and national environmental data networks and systems, as part of the process to build capacities to support the integrated environmental assessment and early warning processes conducted by UNEP.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON THE STRENGTHENING OF  
THE CAPACITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR  
SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING, AND FOR PROVISION OF EARLY  
WARNING TO GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision along the lines suggested below.

Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change, including through the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, and in particular section I, paragraphs 2(a), (b), (d) and (e),

Recalling also relevant Governing Council decisions pertaining to data, information, monitoring, assessment and early warning (18/27C, Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 20/1, 20/4, Malmo Ministerial Declaration), and in particular decision GCSS VII/1 on international environmental governance and on capacity-building, paragraphs 8(e), 11(h) (i) and (ii), 24 and 31,

Noting the provisions contained in paragraphs 108 to 112 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the role of science, technology and assessment as a basis for decision-making on environment for sustainable development,

Commending the Executive Director on the production of the third Global Environment Outlook report, following the full participatory, consultative approach as requested in Governing Council decision 20/1 of 4 February 1999, and its publication in May 2002, prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the benefits of South-South and North-South cooperation, partnerships and networking inherent in the integrated environmental assessment process of the United Nations Environment Programme and the enhanced capacities of national and regional institutions to carry out assessments and supportive data management as a result of the United Nations Environment Programme capacity-building,

Underscoring the importance of international cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, Governments, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, private enterprises and appropriate national institutions in exchanging information and scientific knowledge on environmental matters, inter alia, through the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change including the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change (UNEP/GC.22/4/Add.1,

1. Decides to establish an Intergovernmental Panel on Global Environmental Change as a subsidiary organ to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in the form of a multidisciplinary forum of government nominated experts open to participation by any State Member of the United Nations, or member of a specialized agency or the International Atomic Energy Agency;

2. Decides that the Panel shall strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme mandate in exercising the following functions and responsibilities:

(a) Keep under review the global environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate attention by Governments, having particular regard to global environmental change and its implications for social and economic development;

(b) Promote the contribution of relevant international scientific and other professional communities to monitoring and assessment of global environmental change;

(c) Provide the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with scientific and technical advice related to its mandate;

(d) Report regularly to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on all aspects of its work;

3. Requests the Panel to agree on its working modalities and work plan taking into consideration the experience of other environmental assessment processes and panels, and the need for ensuring effective participation of developing countries in the work of the Panel;

4. Requests the Executive Director to provide the secretariat for the Panel, to convene the first meeting of the Panel and to present a report proposing the working modalities and the work plan in accordance with paragraph 3 above;

5. Authorizes the Executive Director to establish a trust fund to finance the activities of the Panel and its secretariat;

6. Invites organizations implementing environmental assessments of international significance, United Nations agencies and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements to submit relevant findings through the Executive Director for the consideration of the Panel, and to cooperate with the Panel to develop a more coordinated approach to environmental monitoring and assessment;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue keeping under review the world environmental situation, and providing early warning on emerging environmental issues of wide international significance by:

(a) Producing annual Global Environment Outlook statements on the environment, inter alia, highlighting significant environmental events and achievements during the year and raising awareness of emerging issues from scientific research and other sources;

(b) Preparing the comprehensive Global Environment Outlook report series, following the full participatory and consultative Global Environment Outlook approach, every five years, with the next report for 2007;

(c) Supporting sub-global integrated environmental assessment processes, including the production of regional, subregional and national environment outlook reports, in partnership with relevant authorities and institutions;

(d) Providing early warnings of emerging threats of international significance;

(e) Supporting thematic assessments on emerging or cross-cutting issues;

(f) Cooperating with Governments and relevant organizations to develop up-to-date and harmonized integrated databases and indicators that provide the basis for early warning, monitoring and assessment;

(g) Promoting networking with relevant institutions to enhance the exchange and dissemination of environmental data and information, including through the use of information and communication technologies;

8. Urges Governments to provide additional funding for the strengthening of targeted capacity-building by the United Nations Environment Programme in integrated environmental assessment and related data, information and knowledge management, and the identification of emerging issues at global, regional and national levels.

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