



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Ref: EO/SGB

20 November 2008

Notification by the Executive Director Twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Nairobi, 16–20 February 2009)

1. The twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16 to 20 February 2009, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council and in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 53/242 (Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements) of 28 July 1999. The Council/Forum will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 16 February 2009 and will be preceded by an informal consultation among regional groups on Sunday, 15 February 2009, at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.
2. The provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.25/1), as adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session, is being circulated as annex I to the present notification.
3. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 53/242, the Governing Council constitutes the annual ministerial-level global environmental forum in which participants gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. In view of this, the Executive Director recommends that the plenary of the Council/Forum should meet in the form of ministerial-level consultations, beginning on the afternoon of Monday, 16 February, and continuing until and including the morning of Friday, 20 February.
4. It is also recommended that the discussions at the ministerial consultations should be devoted to the emerging policy issues under the thought-provoking topics of "Globalization and the environment", focusing on the theme of "Global crisis: national chaos?" and "International environmental governance and the United Nations reform": international environmental governance: help or hindrance?" These themes will provide environment ministers with the opportunity to discuss in a comprehensive manner how to meet the multiple environmental and development challenges of globalization at the country level and enable them to receive a comprehensive update on the recent developments in international environmental governance so as to respond to the needs and priorities of countries. Ministerial consultations will begin during the afternoon of Monday, 16 February and continue through to the afternoon of Thursday, 19 February.
5. The Council/Forum will also consider reports as requested at relevant previous sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the following: decision 24/1, section III (Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme), paragraph 7; section IV (Strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme), paragraph 16; decision SS.X/5 (Global Environment Outlook: environment for development), paragraph 7; decision SS.X/1 (Chemicals management, including mercury and waste management), paragraphs 3 and 4; decision 24/6 (Small island developing States), paragraph 5; decision 24/8 (Support to Africa in environmental management and protection), paragraph 10; decision 24/12 (South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development), paragraph 6; decision 24/16 (Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme), paragraph 2 (e); decision 24/9 (Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009), paragraph 30; and decision 22/18,

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section II (Long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues), paragraph 5. The Council/Forum will also have before it the report and relevant addendum on the future and current programmes for the development and periodic review of environmental law (Montevideo Programmes III and IV, respectively), together with the report on the outcome of the ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 November 2008.

6. The attention of Governments is drawn to the pre-session events, namely, the tenth Global Civil Society Forum, which will be held in Nairobi on Saturday, 14 February, and Sunday, 15 February, and the Forum of the Network of Women Ministers for the Environment, to be held on Sunday, 15 February.

7. The Executive Director will hold an informal consultation with regional groups on Sunday, 15 February, at 3 p.m. The consultation will facilitate the work of the Council/Forum by identifying the principal issues to be deliberated upon and recommendations on the organization of work, including the composition of the Bureau of the Governing Council (see annex II to the present notification).

8. A list of the member States of the Governing Council during the period 2008–2011 is provided in annex III to the present notification. Under rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as the delegations may require, shall represent each member of the Council.

9. Members of the Governing Council are accordingly requested to submit to the Executive Director, by 19 December 2008, the names of their representatives, alternate representatives and advisers who will participate in the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Eligible States not members of the Governing Council wishing to participate in the work under rule 67 of the rules of procedure are also requested to communicate the names of their representatives to the Executive Director by 19 December 2008.

10. Since the Council/Forum is expected to discuss matters that have been considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP and, in view of the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, Governments may wish to consider including their Permanent Representatives in their delegations.

11. The twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will have before it two types of documents: documents in the series UNEP/GC.25/... (working documents in the six United Nations languages), which will be confined to subjects requiring substantive review or action by the Council/Forum, and documents in the series UNEP/GC.25/INF/... (information documents in English only), which will provide Governments with relevant supplementary information.

12. Documents for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be available on the UNEP website from 9 January 2009 and can be accessed by selecting the link "Twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum" at the following internet address: <http://www.unep.org/gc/gc25>.

13. It should be noted that there are some documents that will not comply with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents for the Council/Forum, owing to the scope of the information contained therein and the need to reflect relevant resolutions of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, which will be adopted late in 2008. These documents are as follows:

- (a) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed biennial programme and support budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2010–2011: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.25/12/Add.1);
- (b) Issues arising from the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.25/INF/3);
- (c) Status of the Environment Fund and other sources of funding: Note by the

Executive Director (UNEP/GC.25/INF/5).

- (d) Policy statement by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.25/2);
- (e) UNEP Yearbook 2009: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.25/INF/2).

14. In an effort to make the twenty-fifth session of the Council/Forum as climate-neutral and environmentally friendly as possible, various measures are in place. These include offsetting for greenhouse gas emissions caused by participants' travel to and stay in Nairobi for participants sponsored by UNEP, reducing the number of hard copies of all documents, maximum possible use of 100 per cent recycled paper for documentation, making increased use of recyclable materials and goods in the conference venue, in addition to providing relevant information and communications campaigns. With regard to the distribution of the pre-session documents, delegations will receive one copy each of all documents, while delegates are encouraged to visit the relevant website and download the documents. Governments wishing to receive additional copies of the documents should so inform the secretariat, which will transmit the requested number of documents, or provide the same at the conference site. Furthermore, a "green guide" will be made available on the UNEP website to provide delegates with information on how to assist in making the event more environmentally friendly. All participants are recommended to consider offsetting for the greenhouse gas emissions caused by their travel to and stay in Nairobi.

15. Registration of participants will take place from 1 p.m. on Thursday, 12 February 2009. The pre-registration form is attached and can be downloaded from the above-mentioned website. Information for participants regarding hotel accommodation, medical requirements and visa regulations, together with the registration forms, will be provided on the UNEP website.

16. All communication concerning the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should be addressed to:

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Annex I

Provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
 - (a) State of the environment;
 - (b) Emerging policy issues;
 - (c) International environmental governance;
 - (d) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters;
 - (e) Coordination and cooperation with major groups;
 - (f) Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility.
5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.
6. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2010–2011 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters.
7. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
 - (a) Eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
 - (b) Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the session.

Annex II

Geographical composition of the Bureau of the Governing Council

Year	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009
African group	VP Kenya	Rapp Uganda	Pres Nigeria	VP Kenya	VP Algeria	VP Burundi	Rapp Uganda	Pres Uganda/ UR Tanzania	VP Burkina Faso	VP South Africa	VP
Asian group	Rapp Jordan	VP Indonesia	VP Philippines	Pres Pakistan	VP India	Rapp Iran	VP Indonesia	VP Rep. of Korea	Pres Indonesia	VP Pakistan	Rapp
Eastern European group	Pres Bulgaria	VP Czecho-slovakia	Rapp Poland	VP Romania	VP Russian Fed.	Pres Slovakia	VP Poland	Rapp Czech Republic	VP Romania	VP Czech Republic	Pres
Latin American and Caribbean group	VP Colombia	VP Guyana	VP Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	Rapp Chile	Pres Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	VP Mexico	VP Cuba	VP Colombia	Rapp Bahamas	Pres Costa Rica	VP
Western European and others group	VP Finland	Pres Netherlands	VP Denmark	VP United Kingdom	Rapp Canada	VP Netherlands	Pres Canada	VP Netherlands	VP Switzerland	Rapp Austria	VP

Pres: President

VP: Vice-President

Rapp: Rapporteur

Annex III

Members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2008–2011

A. Breakdown by alphabetical order (indicating terms of office)

Algeria *	Hungary ***
Angola **	India **
Antigua and Barbuda *	Indonesia *
Argentina *	Iran (Islamic Republic of) **
Australia *	Israel **
Austria *	Italy **
Bahamas **	Japan *
Bangladesh **	Kazakhstan **
Belarus **	Kenya *
Belgium *	Mali **
Benin **	Mauritius **
Botswana *	Mexico **
Burundi *	Monaco **
Canada *	Netherlands **
Chile *	Niger **
China *	Pakistan *
Colombia **	Republic of Korea *
Congo **	Romania *
Costa Rica **	Russian Federation *
Croatia **	Saudi Arabia **
Cuba **	Somalia **
Czech Republic *	South Africa *
Democratic Republic of the Congo *	Spain **
Fiji **	Thailand *
Finland **	Tunisia **
France *	Tuvalu **
Germany *	Uganda *
Guinea **	United States of America *
Haiti *	Uruguay *

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2009.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2011.

*** On 23 July 2008 at the 115th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, Hungary announced its intention to relinquish its seat on the Governing Council as from 31 December 2008, in favour of Serbia, in accordance with the rotation agreement within the Eastern European group. An election was conducted at that same meeting, as a result of which Serbia was declared to have been elected a member of the Governing Council for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2009 and expiring on 31 December 2011.

B. Breakdown by geographical groups (indicating terms of office)

African group

Algeria *

Angola *

Benin **

Botswana *

Burundi *

Congo **

Democratic Republic of the Congo *

Guinea **

Kenya *

Mali **

Mauritius **

Niger **

Somalia **

South Africa *

Tunisia **

Uganda *

Asian group

Bangladesh **

China *

Fiji **

India **

Indonesia *

Iran (Islamic Republic of) **

Japan *

Kazakhstan **

Pakistan *

Republic of Korea *

Saudi Arabia **

Thailand *

Tuvalu **

Eastern European group

Belarus **

Croatia **

Czech Republic *

Hungary ***

Romania *

Russian Federation *

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2009.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2011.

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Latin American group

Antigua and Barbuda *

Argentina *

Bahamas **

Chile *

Colombia **

Costa Rica **

Cuba **

Haiti *

Mexico **

Uruguay *

Western European and others group

Australia *

Austria *

Belgium *

Canada *

Finland **

France *

Germany *

Israel **

Italy **

Monaco **

Netherlands **

Spain **

United States of America *