

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las 1 Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة



联合国环境规划署

Ref: EO/SGB/JA/TO 17 November 2010

Notification by the Executive Director Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Nairobi, 21–24 February 2011)

- 1. The twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be held in Nairobi from 21 to 24 February 2011, pursuant to section II of Governing Council decision 25/17 of 20 February 2009. The session will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 21 February, and will be preceded by an informal consultation between regional groups at 4 p.m. on Sunday, 20 February, at the headquarters of UNEP in Nairobi.
- 2. The provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.26/1), as adopted by the Council/Forum at its twenty-fifth session, is being circulated as annex I to the present notification.
- 3. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, on the report of the Secretary-General on the environment and human settlements, 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. The ministerial consultations during the twenty-sixth session will focus on emerging policy issues under the overall theme of contribution of UNEP to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (also known as "Rio +20"), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012. Specific themes to be taken up at the session are "Green economy" and "International environmental governance". The Council/Forum will also consider reports submitted by the Executive Director on various issues as requested by decisions of the Council adopted at previous sessions. In addition, the Council/Forum will take up any other issues that may be raised by its members.
- 4. It is recommended that, at its twenty-sixth session, the Council/Forum should conduct its work primarily in plenary meetings and hold its interactive ministerial-level dialogues through a blend of plenary meetings and ministerial round tables. The Council/Forum may decide to establish sessional committees, including a committee of the whole, to take up programmatic, administrative and budgetary matters.
- 5. Delegates' attention is drawn to the twelfth Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, an event to be held prior to the twenty-sixth session, on Saturday and Sunday, 19 and 20 February, at the same venue.
- 6. A list of Governing Council member States for the period 2010–2013 is provided in annex II to the present notification. Under rule 16 of the rules of procedure, 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. Since the Council/Forum is expected to discuss matters considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, and in view of the role of the Committee as a subsidiary organ of the Council/Forum, Governments may wish to consider including their permanent representatives to UNEP in their delegations.
- 7. Governing Council members are accordingly requested to submit to the Executive Director, by 10 January 2011, the names of their representatives, alternate representatives and advisers who will participate in the twenty-sixth session. 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 10 January 2011.
- 8. Relevant information for the twenty-sixth session will become available on the UNEP website from 1 December 2010, and may be accessed by selecting "twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum" at the following address: www.unep.org/gc/gc26.
- 9. Various measures are being taken to make the twenty-sixth session as climate-neutral and environment-friendly as possible. These include the offsetting of greenhouse-gas emissions caused by participants' travel to and stay in Nairobi for participants sponsored by UNEP, a reduction in the number of hard

copies of all documents, and communication campaigns. Electronic copies of all pre-session and in-session documents will be made available in conference rooms through dedicated portals. To make the best use of this service, delegates are encouraged to bring laptop computers to the session. With regard to the distribution of documents prior to the session, delegations will receive one copy each of all pre-session documents, and delegates are encouraged to visit the relevant website and download any further copies required. All participants are invited to consider offsetting the greenhouse-gas emissions caused by their travel to and stay in Nairobi.

- 10. Registration of participants will take place between noon on Friday, 18 February 2011, and noon on Thursday, 24 February.
- 11. In accordance with rules 16 and 17 of the rules of procedure, members are requested to submit the credentials of the representatives, alternate representatives and advisers who will constitute the delegations of their countries. The credentials of representatives, which should be issued by a Head of State or Government, or by a minister for foreign affairs, should be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting of the session of the Council/Forum.
- 12. Information for participants regarding hotel accommodation, medical requirements and visa regulations, together with registration forms, will be provided on the UNEP website.
- 13. All communications concerning the twenty-sixth session should be addressed to:

Secretary of the Governing Council United Nations Environment Programme P.O. Box 30552-00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Telefax: +254 20 762 3929/762 3748/762 3186

E-mail: unep.gc26@unep.org

Annex I

Provisional agenda of the twenty-sixth 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) Environment and development.
- 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 2012–2013 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) Twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
 - (b) Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
- 8. Other matters.
- 9. Adoption of the report.
- 10. Closure of the session.

Annex II

Members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2010–2013

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

Antigua and Barbuda ** Japan ** Argentina ** Kazakhstan * Kenya ** Australia ** Bahamas * Lesotho ** Bangladesh * Malaysia ** Belarus * Mali * Belgium ** Mauritania ** Mauritius * Benin * Brazil ** Mexico * Canada ** Monaco * Central African Republic ** Mozambique ** China ** Netherlands * Colombia * Niger * Congo * Pakistan ** Costa Rica * Republic of Korea **

Croatia *** Romania **

Cuba * Russian Federation ** Czech Republic ** Saudi Arabia * Fiji * Serbia * Finland * Somalia * France ** Spain *

Gabon ** Switzerland **

Germany ** Trinidad and Tobago ** Guinea * Tunisia * Hungary ** Tuvalu *

India * United Republic of Tanzania ** Indonesia ** United States of America **

Iran (Islamic Republic of) * Uruguay ** Israel * Zambia **

Italy *

Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2011.

Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2013.

On 28 July 2010, the General Assembly, acting on a request from the representative of Croatia to the United Nations (A/64/869) contained in a letter of 22 July 2010 announcing that his country would relinquish its seat on the Governing Council for the remainder of its term in favour of Belarus, elected Belarus, as endorsed by the Eastern European States to the Governing Council, for a one-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2011 and expiring on 31 December 2011.

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

African group Latin American group

Benin * Antigua and Barbuda **

Central African Republic **

Congo *

Bahamas *

Gabon **

Guinea *

Kenya **

Lesotho **

Mali *

Argentina **

Colombia *

Colombia *

Costa Rica *

Cuba *

Mexico *

Mauritania ** Trinidad and Tobago **

Mauritius * Uruguay **

Mozambique **

Niger *
Somalia *
Tunisia *

United Republic of Tanzania **

Zambia **

Asian group Western European and others group

Bangladesh * Australia ** China ** Belgium ** Canada ** Fiji * India * Finland * France ** Indonesia ** Iran (Islamic Republic of) * Germany ** Japan ** Israel * Italy * Kazakhstan * Malaysia ** Monaco * Netherlands * Pakistan ** Republic of Korea ** Spain *

Saudi Arabia * Switzerland **

Tuvalu * United States of America **

Eastern European group

Belarus *
Croatia ***
Czech Republic *
Hungary *
Romania **

Russian Federation **

Serbia *

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2011.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2013.

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