



Distr.: Limited  
22 February 2012  
Original: English



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

---

Twelfth special session of the Governing Council/  
Global Ministerial Environment Forum  
Nairobi, 20–22 February 2012

**Draft decision on the world environmental situation prepared  
by the drafting group established by the Committee of the  
Whole**

**Addendum**

The annex to the present note sets out a draft decision on the world environmental situation prepared by the drafting group established by the Committee of the Whole. It is presented as submitted by the drafting group, without formal editing.

## Annex

### World environmental situation

*The Governing Council,*

*Pursuing* its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and subsequent mandates such as those set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme<sup>1</sup> and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,<sup>2</sup> which include the responsibility to keep the world environmental situation under review to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance are prioritized and receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments and to promote the contribution of relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information,

*Recalling* its decisions 22/1 of 7 February 2003, on early warning, assessment and monitoring, 23/6 of 25 February 2005, on keeping the world environmental situation under review, and 24/2 and 25/2, of 9 February 2007 and 20 February 2011, respectively, on the world environmental situation,

*Taking note* of the publication *Keeping Track of Our Changing Environment: From Rio to Rio+20 (1992–2012)*, which is based on the fifth Global Environment Outlook assessment report and shows how global economic, social and environmental conditions have changed over the 20 years since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1. *Welcomes* the progress in preparing the fifth Global Environment Outlook report;
2. *Takes note* of the endorsement of the Summary for Policy Makers of the fifth Global Environment Outlook by the Intergovernmental Meeting in Gwangju City, Republic of Korea held in January 2012 in accordance with Governing Council decision 25/2;
3. *Notes with great concern* the severe changes that have taken place in the environment, ranging from the impact of climate change, the loss of biodiversity and species extinction to the degradation of land and the deterioration of the water resources and oceans;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director, through the programme of work, to continue developing and implementing an outreach strategy for disseminating the findings of the fifth Global Environment Outlook report;
5. *Recognizes that* the transition to sustainable development varies by country and must be addressed by well governed, effectively managed, innovative, result oriented institutions, able to create appropriate conditions for change;
6. *Also stresses* that the United Nations Environment Programme should provide science-based information to support parties and other relevant stakeholders in their transition to sustainable development;
7. *Calls upon* Governments to demonstrate strong leadership individually and collectively, to implement effective policies to monitor, regulate, sustainably manage and improve the environment and ecosystem services and to continue to cooperate within the framework of multilateral processes that aim to prevent and reverse environmental degradation;
8. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations bodies, international organizations, the private sector, civil society and the public at large to work with the United Nations Environment Programme and other environmental institutions, to integrate science based environmental information including from global, regional and national assessments, in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
9. *Calls upon* Governments, in the lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to assess progress and gaps in the implementation of goals, policies and programmes aimed at tackling environmental degradation so as to facilitate agreement on a way forward;
10. *Recognizes* that there are gaps in our knowledge of the state of the environment resulting from a lack of data and regular monitoring, particularly in areas such as freshwater quality and quantity, groundwater depletion, ecosystem services, loss of natural habitat, land degradation and chemicals and wastes;

---

1 Governing Council decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997, annex.

2 UNEP/GCSS.VI/9, annex I.

- 
11. *Calls upon* Governments and the multilateral system to design and implement programmes to bridge the data gaps referred to above, as appropriate, including by building national and regional capacities and establishing regular processes for data-based environmental monitoring and early warning at the national and local levels, subject to national priorities and policies and the availability of funding;
12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to make it a priority for the United Nations Environment Programme to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen their capacities to collect and analyse data and information and monitor environmental trends, as stipulated in the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Transfer and Capacity-building and making information available to policy makers and the public in an open access format, such as UNEP-Live;
13. *Further requests* the Executive Director, through the programme of work and by working with national and regional environmental authorities, to build capacity and to support technology transfer for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan, to respond to current and future challenges facing humanity:
- (a) By partnering with centres of excellence to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to conduct integrated assessments at the national level to provide compelling evidence for informed decision-making;
- (b) By cooperating with the United Nations system and with other bodies to collect environmental datasets, develop and maintain relevant indicators and promote the exchange of best practices in the area of environmental governance;
14. *Takes note* of the outcome of the first Eye on Earth Summit held between 12-15 December 2011 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and the commitment of the United Arab Emirates government to facilitate and support the special initiatives contained in the Eye on Earth Declaration, particularly the Global Network of Networks Initiative;
15. *Recommends* that coherence continues to be sought between the long-term requirements of UNEP Live and other components of information systems designed for global and regional environmental assessments and data sharing and that UNEP upon request considers undertaking capacity building activities to enhance the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Summit follow-up process.
-