



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



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**Intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the
scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 14–15 January 2004

Item 1 of the provisional agenda*

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work

Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme will be opened at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 14 January 2003, by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. The meeting will be conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Item 2: Organization of the work

(a) Election of officers

2. The Executive Director recommends that the meeting elect its officers in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Governing Council and in pursuance of decision 22/1 I A, which calls for a regionally balanced process.
3. The consultation will be held over two days, Wednesday and Thursday, 14 and 15 January 2004.

(b) Organization of the meeting

4. The provisional agenda for the intergovernmental consultation was distributed with the pre-invitation letter from the Executive Director to all Governments on 30 September 2003. The provisional timetable of meetings of the consultation, as proposed by the Executive Director, is contained in an annex to the present document.
5. The Executive Director recommends that the plenary consider the three questions posed in Governing Council decision 22/1 I A, paragraph 2 (see agenda items 3 (a)–(c) below): Question 1: what are the likely gaps and types of assessment needs with respect to the environment and environmental change? Question 2: how are the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations currently meeting those assessment needs? Question 3: what options exist with respect to meeting any unfulfilled needs that fall within the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme?

* UNEP/SI/IGC/1.

6. In addition, the Executive Director recommends that items 4 (Conclusion and recommendations), 5 (Adoption of the report) and 6 (Closure of the meeting) be considered in the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Thursday, 15 January 2004.

Item 3. Consideration of the key questions on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

7. The Executive Director recommends that the consideration of item 3 include his statement, which will be a short presentation of the synthesis report called for in decision 22/1 I A, paragraph 4, and related information documents.

(a) Session 1: Discussion on question 1 and related considerations: What are the likely gaps and types of assessment needs with respect to the environment and environmental change?

8. The Executive Director proposes that, immediately after these short presentations, the plenary begin its consideration of provisional agenda item 3 (a).

(b) Session 2: Discussion on question 2 and related considerations: How are the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations currently meeting those assessment needs?

9. Provisional agenda item 3 (b) will be considered on the afternoon of Wednesday, 14 January 2004.

(c) Session 3: Discussion on question 3 and related considerations: What options exist with respect to meeting any unfulfilled needs that fall within the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme?

10. Provisional agenda item 3 (c) will then be considered on the morning of Thursday, 15 January 2004.

11. The Executive Director recommends that the following eight considerations outlined in decision 22/1 I A, paragraph 3, be addressed as appropriate and relevant to the main topic of sessions 1, 2 and 3:

- (a) Scientific credibility, saliency, legitimacy and relevance in the assessment processes;
- (b) Interaction between science and policy development;
- (c) Role of existing institutions;
- (d) Possible options including strengthening existing institutions and mechanisms and the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change;
- (e) Links and sectoral integration;
- (f) Duplication, cooperation, complementarity and added value to the work of other assessment processes, international agencies and the multilateral environmental agreements;
- (g) Cost-effectiveness and efficiency; and
- (h) Developing country participation and capacity-building.

Item 4. Conclusion and recommendations

12. The Executive Director recommends that the meeting identify areas of consensus and possible areas that might need further consideration at a later stage for each question considered in sessions 1, 2 and 3. This would then provide the basis for the final conclusion and recommendations from the consultation, which will be forwarded by the Executive Director to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its special session in accordance with decision 22/1 I A, paragraph 5.

Item 5. Adoption of the report

Item 6. Closure of the meeting

Annex
Provisional timetable for the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme
Wednesday, 14 January 2004
Plenary
9.30 a.m.–12.45 p.m.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Item 1: | Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda |
| Item 2: | Organization of work: |
| Item 2 (a): | Election of officers |
| Item 2 (b): | Organization of the meeting |
| Item 3: | Consideration of the key questions on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme |
| Item 3 (a): | Discussion on question 1 and related considerations: what are the likely gaps and types of assessment needs with respect to the environment and environmental change? |

Plenary
3 p.m.– 6.15 p.m.

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| Item 3: | Consideration of the key questions on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme |
| Item 3 (b): | Discussion on question 2 and related considerations: How are the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations currently meeting those assessment needs? |

Thursday, 15 January 2004
Plenary
9.30 a.m.–12.45 p.m.

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| Item 3: | Consideration of the key questions on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme |
| Item 3 (c): | Discussion on question 3 and related considerations: What options exist with respect to meeting any unfulfilled needs that fall within the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme? |

Plenary
3 p.m.–6.15 p.m.

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| Item 4: | Conclusion and recommendations |
| Item 5: | Adoption of the report |
| Item 6: | Closure of the meeting |