

MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO



**The Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations**

22 November 2006

Excellency,

We wish to thank you for your active participation in the first round of informal consultations on the issue of the institutional framework for the UN's environmental activities under Paragraph 169 of the Summit Outcome Document held in April and June 2006. We have been encouraged by the constructive climate that characterized our exchange of views.

In her letter dated 5 October 2006 outlining the work ahead for the 61 General Assembly, the PGA informed Member states that she had asked us to resume our consultations following the issuance of the report of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence.

We intend to build the further process upon the results of the first round of consultations as reflected in the Co-Chairs' Summary dated 27 June 2006. The summary as well as other relevant background documents, inter-governmental decisions and resolutions pertaining to the work of the informal consultative process can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/60/summitfollowup/enviro.html>. This web link has been established through the office of the President of the 60th General Assembly.

We are committed to continue carrying out our consultations in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. In order to foster a structured discussion, we invite delegations to address questions as set out in the annex to this letter.

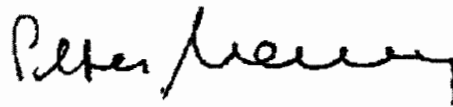
All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

We plan to resume consultations in mid January 2007. In preparation, a short information meeting will be held on 6 December 2006. The exact place and time of the meeting will be announced in the UN Journal.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.



Ambassador
Enrique Berruga
Permanent Representative of
Mexico



Ambassador
Peter Maurer
Permanent Representative of
Switzerland

Implementation at the country level

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of international actors in the area of environment (UNEP, UNDP, other UN entities, the World Bank, the MEAs) in supporting environmental objectives in your country/your area of activity in terms of scientific knowledge, normative/policy advice and operational support?
2. According to your national priorities, what activities should be developed in your country regarding scientific knowledge, normative/policy advice and operational support?
3. How can interaction between your country and the different entities as well as among these entities be improved at country level?
4. What is your assessment of the advancement of the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan and other elements of the Cartagena outcome and how can implementation be improved?
5. How can countries be better supported in their effort to integrate environmental objectives into development planning and operations as well as in economic policies? How can environmental objectives be better addressed in situations of natural disasters and complex emergencies?

Enhancement of global governance: recommendations for the different actors at a global level

6. What are your conclusions, in the light of experiences at country level, with regard to the cooperation of UNEP and UNDP, UNEP and the MEAs, MEAs among themselves, UNEP and other UN entities, UNEP and the WB?
7. How can cooperation and coordination mechanisms be improved within the UN system and globally?
8. Can a strengthened UNEP effectively and fully fulfill its mandate as the environmental pillar of the UN system?
9. What practical measures within existing mandates could be implemented in order to enhance the effectiveness of the UN activities on environment? Are changes in mandate for the different entities necessary?

Funding

10. What are the strengths and weaknesses of present funding schemes in terms of the timely availability of sufficient funds? How can improvements be achieved?

Partnerships

11. How can partnerships of the global environmental governance system with civil society, business and science communities be strengthened?