



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**  
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New York, January 31th, 2007.

Excellencies:

I would like to enclose herein the Cuba inputs for the Informal Consultative Framework for the UN's Environmental Activities.

It is our sincere hope that these inputs contribute meaningfully to the process of consultations on such complex issue.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz,  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

H.E. Enrique Berruga, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN

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## **CUBA INPUTS FOR THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE UN'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES.**

Any discussion or debate on environmental issues should fall within the concept of sustainable development, wherein preservation of the environment is one of its pillars, along with economic development and social progress.

We uphold the strengthening of UNEP, on the basis of the structures already created, mainly in the financial and scientific areas, and the decision-making forums such as the Management Council and the Global Ministerial Forum, which should fulfill their function more thoroughly.

### **IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNABILITY: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DIFFERENT ACTORS AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL**

***Conclusions, in light of the experiences at the country level, with regard to cooperation of UNEP and UNDP, UNEP and MEAs, between MEAs themselves, UNEP and other UN bodies, UNEP and World Bank.***

The synergies between the different UN bodies, the MEAs, and others should start with their adaptation to the countries actual needs, foster the agile and transparent mechanisms so as they can address more the national priorities. Let us highlight that the needs and requirements of the developing countries are substantially different from the developed ones. The actual problems would not lie on "balancing positions between developing and developed countries", but in differentiating and privileging the developing countries in said attention. In this regard, we must:

- Improve the already created structures of the different UN Agencies, UNEP and UNDP, and strengthen the inter-agency cooperation mechanisms.
- Further strengthen with concrete actions the relation among the MEAs Secretariats, and between them and the Agencies of the UN System, especially those with an implementation character.
- Generate mechanisms within the implementation of MEAs itself that lead to differentiate and privilege the answers and the developing countries role, with more attention to statements and solution of their problems.
- Facilitate the negotiation level both global and regional of the countries, mainly of the developing ones.
- Increase actions to achieve grater participation of the developing countries representatives in the environmental forums held in the international sphere.
- Improve the control structures and mechanisms for financing on the basis of the evaluation of the implementation of the existing ones, promoting

the increase of funds without restrictions to interferences and conditioning from the developed countries.

***How can the coordination and cooperation mechanisms within the UN system and globally be improved?***

- Promoting the strengthening of strategic alliances.
- Demanding the fulfillment of multilateral environmental agreements.
- Favoring information sharing, access to technologies and effective financing mainly for developing countries, devoting a larger proportion of resources to the available agreements to the execution of direct projects in the countries.
- Respecting the principle of sovereignty of the States and the effective establishment of common but differentiated responsibilities, budgets accepted by all countries in 1992, and which today more than ever should be put in force.
- Improving the existing institutional structures, instead of creating new ones that lead to long, tortuous and confusing implementation processes instead of promoting environmental development of the countries.
- Favor real decision-making in environmental matters in the negotiation Forums created to that end, and which currently do not fulfill their function.

***Can a totally strengthened UNEP fulfill efficiently its mandate as an environmental pillar of the UN system?***

UNEP has played an excellent role in strengthening the environmental strategy at all levels. We regard it as a pillar within the UN system, because of the seriousness and commitment with which it takes up environmental issues and their solution in all countries. While there are many rough edges to be knocked, among them its cooperation with other UN agencies and national bodies, which in a way has had influence in the very state of the environment at the global level, the work has been satisfactory.

UNEP has fostered the creation of many MEAs, has noticeably contributed to the improvement of sustainable development programs and the implementation of strategic instruments such as the Bali Plan – still with deficiencies in its implementation –, the Strategic Approach for the management of chemicals to mention but a few, whose lack of progress in its implementation is due largely to the scarce will to prioritize and support the environmental issues of some countries.

In this regard, we consider that UNEP should be strengthened, on the basis of the structures already created, mainly in the financial and scientific areas, and the decision-making forums such as the Management Council and the Global Ministerial Forum, which should fulfill their function more thoroughly.

UNEP should strengthen its links with the MEAs' Secretariats, as well as its relation with the Sustainable Development Commission and other institutions both of the United Nations and at the regional and national level that have a bearing on the environment's state. In this same regard, the work of the Regional Offices should be strengthened with more resources and priorities.

***What practical steps could be taken within the existing mandates in order to improve the effectiveness of the UN activities on the environment? Are changes in the mandate of the different entities needed?***

The different strategic documents on environmental matters should be integrated by fostering:

- Institutional, legal and control improvements, rather than creating new structures.
- Revision of the MEAs effectiveness as instruments of the international strategy and their influence at the national levels.
- Development of methodologies for the implementation of economic mechanisms in accordance with the developing countries realities.

### **FINANCING.**

***Strengths and weaknesses of the current financing schemes in terms of opportune availability of sufficient funds. How can they be improved?***

Some limitations and challenges are registered as for the financing schemes.

#### ***Limitations***

- Granting of funds by the international bodies according to the priorities and issues of interest of the developed countries. The agencies, funds and programs impose regulations regarding the percent of funds assigned to each item. It is necessary that the technical assistance be ample, without conditionings.
- In the bilateral level the financial support is many times conditioned to political prerogatives and non-priority issues for the country.
- Some commercial barriers still persist, to which mostly developed countries are vulnerable.
- Scarce development of the economic and financial mechanisms that allow tackling the main environmental issues.
- Need for more strict measures that allow effectively fulfilling the Official Development Assistance (transfer of financial resources are ever decreasing as well as technology transfer commitments.)
- Difficult process of access to and granting of available funds, being polarized toward a group of countries. Generally, requirements of co-

financing are established, which are difficult to fulfill for developing countries.

- **Poor integration of environmental dimensions to the strategies, priorities and activities of the economic sector.**

### **Challenges**

- **Improvement of the economic and financial mechanisms that also tackling the main environmental issues.**
- **Strengthening of the mechanism of implementation and control of funds.**
- **Synergic cooperation between the bodies in charge of its implementation and the thematic action areas, so as not to duplicate efforts.**
- **Necessity that the financing priorities coincide with the solution of the main identified environmental issues and carry out an appropriate use of the financial resources assigned.**