

**Comments by MEXICO to the draft resolution “Strengthening the environmental activities in the United Nations system”**

**June 2008**

Paragraph	Suggestion	Comment
<b>Scientific Assessment, monitoring and early warning capacity</b>		
OP2	Stresses that the importance of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme to interact with existing scientific bodies, including academic institutions and centers of excellence and relevant non-governmental organizations, and the scientific subsidiary bodies of multilateral environmental agreements in a systematic, coherent and coordinated manner; to strengthen the exchange between environmental and development scientific communities; to present <u>and to spread</u> scientific findings in a user friendly way and to offer authoritative advice to the United Nations Member States.	Besides presenting scientific information in a friendly way, we suggest to add that this information be disseminated to members of the United Nations.
OP4	<i>Requests</i> the Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme to continue to deliver support for the scientific work of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and <i>invites</i> Conferences of the Parties of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements to request the scientific bodies of the Agreements to contribute to and cooperate with the Environment Watch Strategy and to conclude Memoranda of Understanding with the United Nations Environmental Programme secretariat in order to define the	We consider important to specify clearly in the paragraph that the aim of creating these synergies will be to avoid duplication of efforts and resources on research being conducted among various multilateral agreements and the UNEP.

	roles and responsibilities of each of the institutions in the network and <i>invites</i> the Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme to establish a consolidated research strategy to be updated on a biannual basis, <u><i>in order to avoid duplication of work between UNEP and MEA's</i></u>	
<b>Coordination and cooperation at the level of agencies</b>		
OP8	<i>Calls upon</i> the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to pursue through appropriate measures their cooperation in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, deepen it at country level and consolidate the two Programmes' interaction with the International Financial Institutions and Multilateral Environmental Agreements in that regard, including by amending the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme accordingly, <u><i>in order to clarify the respective roles and tasks of key operational partners.</i></u>	We think is important to indicate the objective that the amendments to the MoU between UNEP and UNDP would have.
<b>Multilateral Environmental Agreements</b>		
OP17	<i>Requests</i> the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to manage Secretariats of the Conventions under his authority in the most cost-effective manner and to take a proactive role in enabling synergies among the Convention Secretariats, <u><i>ensuring that any savings</i></u>	It is important to specify the purpose or destination of the savings in the Secretariats of the Conventions.  This proposal is consistent with the proposal contained in

	<u><a href="#">resulting from improved coordination and cooperation of MEAs are going to be used to increase implementation activities</a></u>	the options paper prepared in June 2007.
<b>Financing</b>		
OP28	<i>Requests</i> the Secretary General to task the United Nations Environment Programme with the creation and maintenance of a Global Environmental Financial Tracking System, a web-based database relying on voluntary self-reporting by donors and recipients and providing in a user friendly and easily accessible manner transparent and up to date information on the type, amount and direction of multilateral and bilateral financial flows for environmental activities flowing through the United Nations system.	<p>We support this paragraph. Its inclusion would locate more accurately the gaps between available resources and the needs of countries, not only in terms of funding streams, but also the availability of financing and thematic coherence.</p> <p>We think that UNEP is the appropriate agency to house the proposed system.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that the usefulness of the information depends on the quality of "voluntary reports" mentioned, such as technology needs of national communications. Those do not have uniform criteria for determining a relevant baseline.</p>
<b>FINANCING</b>		
OP32	<i>Requests</i> the Secretary General to double the contributions from the regular United Nations budget to the respective budget of the United Nations Environment Programme;	<p>We consider that the proposal for doubling the regular budget resources of UNEP requires a more precise study, due the potential implications it may have on contributions from Member States.</p> <p>On the other hand, this proposal per-se would</p>

		<p>not have additional financial implications in the short-term, since it could be done from a reallocation of resources from the actual UN budget, not from an increase. If that's the case (no increment of the actual UN budget), we could support a reallocation of the resources currently assigned by the SG to UNEP, on the basis of a promotion of efficient use in priority areas and transparent handling of those resources.</p>
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