

Comments by  
Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour  
Representative of the I. R. of Iran  
On  
Co-Chairs' Position Paper;  
"Informal Consultation Process on the Institutional Framework  
for the United Nations' Environmental Activities in follow-up  
to paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome"  
Monday, 10 September 2007  
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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Maurer of Switzerland and Ambassador Heller of Mexico for conducting the informal consultative process on the Institutional Framework for the United Nations' Environmental Activities in an excellent manner. I also would like to appreciate the efforts you have done to incorporate all positions and views in the Co-Chairs' Options Paper before us. I believe the proposed phased process can be pursued in order to narrow down the differences between various, and in some cases, opposing views on the ways and means for strengthening environmental activities. Before making my remarks, I align myself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. Co-Chairs

My comments will be divided into two parts of procedural and substantive. As per procedures, my delegation agrees, as I stated earlier, to pursue a phased process by discussing the proposed Building Blocks in the Options' Paper, and gradual reform. By doing so, we will take the time for further negotiations and try to minimize the differences on various aspects of the subject under consideration. I can go along with the conclusion and proposal of page 16 on the time frame for the adoption of the terms of reference. As envisaged by the distinguished Co-Chairs, I believe it would not be appropriate, at this juncture, to set deadline for the conclusion of negotiations. I found also myself in agreement with the proposal to continue the informal consultations in the framework of the General Assembly. Needless to emphasize the necessity of reaching consensus on a negotiating text at the end of negotiations which will indicate the results of this informal process.

With regard to the substance, it seems most of the elements raised by the Member States are included in the Co-Chairs' Options Paper. However, there are some points which should not be neglected in the course of negotiations.

1. There is a need to stick to the terms used in paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, such as "a more coherent institutional

framework" and avoid other terms which might be controversial and make negotiations more complicated.

2. Thanks to the Co-Chairs, many references are made in the Paper to the significance of adequate funding, tech-transfer and capacity building in the developing countries while considering a more coherent institutional framework for the United Nations environmental activities. However, the text falls short of reflecting the views of developing countries about the need for further cooperation and undertaking more responsibility by the developed countries to provide additional and predictable financial resources and transfer appropriate and advance technologies on concessional terms to the developing countries. Mentioning, just for one time, the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" does not clarify adequately this responsibility.
3. In order to make the best use of negotiations and adopt an effective decision on ways and means for a more coherent institutional framework for the United Nations' environmental activities and in that context strengthening the United Nations Environment Program, more clarification is required as per the role of relevant international financial institutions such as World Bank and Global Environment Facility in materialization of any decision. Again, the developed countries should commit themselves, more than ever before, and increase significantly the level of their contributions through those bodies. ODA, any other fund which exists, or might be established in the course of negotiations.
4. The seven blocks proposed in the Paper, are inter-related and the consensus on each block in any decision can be reached whenever there will be agreement on all of the blocks. In addition, the term "international cooperation", which is being used in many resolutions and decisions in the United Nations system, should be added to block 6 along with "partnership". Equally important is more involvement of the developing countries and their scientific communities in building blocks including block one, so called, scientific assessment, monitoring and early warning capacity. In the course of deliberations, there were many references to environmental consequences of natural disasters and the need for preparedness in order to prevent or minimize such consequences. It seems those points are not adequately reflected in the Co-Chairs Paper.
5. It seems stronger references and more clarity on the role of the civil societies particularly NGOs in the Paper in environmental activities is required in order to make more effective any decision in this regard.
6. Adequate attention should be paid, during the negotiations, to prevent from undermining or weakening the legal status and strength of the existing Multilateral Environmental Programs. All existing MEAs have their own *raison d'être* and their invaluable contributions to the protection of the environment are undeniable.

In conclusion, I would like once again thank the distinguished Co-Chairs for their tireless efforts and the excellent manner they have so far conducted the informal consultations.