

Draft Resolution on Agenda Item 116 “Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit”**Strengthening the environmental activities in the United Nations system**

The General Assembly,

PP1 *Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹,

PP2 *Taking into account* Agenda 21² and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (öJohannesburg Plan of Implementationö)³,

PP3 *Reaffirming* the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance, strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation, better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties, and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building,

PP4 *Recalling* paragraph 169 of the World Summit Outcome Document and in this context its decision to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework to address this need, including a more integrated structure, building on existing institutions and internationally agreed instruments, as well as the treaty bodies and the specialized agencies,

PP5 *Emphasizing* that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

PP6 *Emphasizing further* the need to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations Environment Programme to advance the implementation of agreed international norms and policies, to monitor and foster compliance with environmental principles and international agreements and stimulate cooperative action to respond to emerging environmental challenges,

PP7 *Recognizing* that action on the strengthening of international environmental governance should be undertaken in the context of sustainable development, in accordance

¹ See resolution A/60/1

² Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolution adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex II.

³ Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

with the principles identified in Agenda 21, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and that environmental activities should be mainstreamed in other policy areas,

PP8 *Stressing* the importance of strengthening environmental governance at national, regional and global level and of improving the implementation of agreed norms and policies through enhanced compliance and capacity building,

PP9 *Stressing also* the necessity of sufficient, timely and predictable resources,

PP10 *Recognizing* that the strengthening of international environmental governance is a long-term process, evolutionary in nature, which needs continued discussion in order to reflect emerging challenges and adapt the system to the needs of the international community,

Scientific Assessment, monitoring and early warning capacity

OP1 *Reiterates* that the United Nations Environmental Programme is the leading agency within the United Nations system for the analysis of the state of the global environment and the assessment of global and regional environmental trends, as well as for the provision of authoritative policy advice and early warning information on environmental threats to Member States by catalysing and promoting international cooperation and action, based on the best scientific and technical capabilities available;

OP2 *Stresses* the importance of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme to interact with existing scientific bodies, including academic institutions and centres of excellence and relevant non-governmental organisations, and the scientific competence of specialized agencies and the scientific subsidiary bodies of multilateral environmental agreements in a systematic, coherent and coordinated manner; to strengthen the exchange between environmental and developmental scientific communities; to present scientific findings in a user friendly way and to offer authoritative advice to United Nations Member States;

OP3 *Invites* the Governing Council of United Nations Environmental Programme to support the creation, within the Programme, of a Chief Scientific Capacity, responsible for convening leading scientists from within and outside the United Nations system, for facilitating independent and authoritative knowledge assessments and for managing and overseeing the scientific assessment, monitoring and early warning work of the United Nations Environmental Programme, and to provide the necessary additional resources thereto;

OP4 *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme to continue to deliver support for the scientific work of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and *invites* 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 roles and responsibilities of each of the institutions in the network and *invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme to establish a consolidated research strategy to be updated on a biannual basis;

Coordination and cooperation at the level of agencies

OP5 *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations Environmental Programme, including through the Environment Management Group, to cooperate and coordinate with other United Nations entities and the World Bank on environmental issues, while enhancing the capacities within the United Nations system to integrate environmental objectives into related areas ;

OP6 *Decides* to place the Environment Management Group, managed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, under the direct authority, responsibility and leadership of the Secretary General and requests him to chair high level meetings of the Environment Management Group at least twice a year;

OP7 *Calls upon* the members of the Environment Management Group to set up and work in issue based groups in order to address key environmental areas in an integrated and better coordinated manner and to associate further institutions from within and outside the United Nations system;

OP8 *Calls upon* 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;

OP9 *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to submit to the United Nations membership an annual consolidated appeal containing needs, planned activities and estimated funding levels for all environmental capacity building activities in the United Nations system, including for Multilateral Environmental Agreements and for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and urges Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to assist the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in this task;

OP10 *Stresses* the importance of strengthened cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and international economic, trade and financial organizations both within and outside the United Nations system and *recommends* that the United Nations Environment Programme and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements ask for formal inclusion as observers on all relevant Committees of the World Trade Organization;

OP11 *Welcomes* the Secretary General's efforts to task the Chief Executives Board with ensuring a coordinated approach of the United Nations system to environmental issues;

Multilateral Environmental Agreements

OP12 *Recognizes* the increased importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination amongst Multilateral Environmental Agreements, promoting working in clusters, and rationalising secretariat activities, while maintaining the legal autonomy of those Agreements;

OP13 *Urges* Conferences of the Parties of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to continue to explore the potential for cluster-wise cooperation among the Agreements including by setting up and intensifying the collaboration in thematic, programmatic, scientific and administrative areas and *invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to identify clusters for strengthened cooperation and coordination between the Multilateral Environmental Agreements;

OP14 *Welcomes* progress achieved towards improved collaboration by the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and *encourages* the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to intensify efforts to develop complementarities and synergies in their activities on issues of mutual concern, and to invite the United Nations Environment Programme to join the Group;

OP15 *Calls upon* Conferences of the Parties of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to implement their respective Agreements in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with the priorities of the recipient countries and consistent with the objectives of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

OP16 *Calls upon* Multilateral Environmental Agreements to explore the potential for working in flexible, issue-based and result oriented cooperative arrangements with relevant implementing agencies;

OP17 *Requests* 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;

Regional presence and activities at the regional level

OP18 *Underscores* the importance of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme as entry points for scientific activities, capacity-building and technology support, taking into account the specificities of the regional contexts;

OP19 *Calls upon* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the regional offices of the Programme to facilitate effective support for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building at its national, subregional and regional levels by, inter alia, providing them with the resources to fulfil their capacity building and technology support mandates taking into account the specificities of the different countries;

OP20 *Calls upon* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the regional presence of the Programme and the cooperation of its regional offices with all relevant regional actors, including with the United Nations Economic Commissions;

Bali Strategic Plan, capacity building, technology support

OP21 *Stresses* the need to deepen and broaden capacity-building and technology support throughout the international environment governance;

OP22 *Emphasizes* that the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building should serve as the overarching guiding framework for operational activities of United Nations agencies, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the International Financial Institutions at country level;

OP23 *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Development Group to approve policies and procedures related to environmental sustainability and to appropriately integrate them into the Guidelines for United Nations Country Teams on preparing Common Country Assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

OP24 *Urges* Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams to make full use of the capacities of the United Nations system, particularly those of the United Nations Environment Programme, to respond to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with regard to the strengthening of the capacities of governments in order to achieve the objectives of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

Information technologies, partnerships and advocacy

OP25 *Stresses also* the importance to strengthen key support functions relating to international environmental governance, through, inter-alia, the use of information technologies, expanded partnerships and advocacy activities;

OP26 *Urges* the Secretary General to make available as a matter of priority to the international environmental governance system state-of-the-art information technology in order to enhance cooperation, resource management and knowledge sharing between different parts of that system, taking into account the special needs of the United Nations Office in Nairobi in order to fulfil its mandate;

Financing

OP27 *Underscores* the urgency of improving financing for the international environmental governance system and for environmental activities through timely and adequate funding;

OP28 *Requests* 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;

OP29 *Encourages* Conferences of the Parties of all global Multilateral Environmental Agreements to use the Global Environment Facility as the financial mechanism for the respective Agreement and *asks* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take appropriate decisions to fulfil such functions;

OP30 *Calls upon* countries to help expand the scope of activity of the Global Environment Facility and invites donor countries to achieve a substantially increased fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund commensurate with its strengthened function;

OP31 *Calls upon* the Governing Council of United Nations Environment Programme to provide as a matter of urgency the resources needed for the implementation of measures related to the United Nations Environment Programme activities, as set out in this resolution;

OP32 *Requests* the Secretary General to double the contributions from the regular United Nations budget to the respective budget of the United Nations Environment Programme;

Broader transformation of the international environmental governance

OP33 *Takes note* of the opinions expressed on the issue of the broader transformation of the international environmental governance, and in this regard, *decides* to continue the examination of this issue, taking into consideration the achievements of the present resolution and the results of the informal consultative process of the General Assembly on the Institutional Framework of the United Nations environmental activities;

OP34 *Decides* to continue informal consultations on the international environmental governance, including the roles and mandates of and interaction among the different intergovernmental bodies during its sixty-third session with a view to assess progress achieved at its sixty-fourth session in a formal setting;

Follow-up

OP35 *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an analysis of challenges faced by the United Nations international environmental governance architecture and recommendations on further measures to strengthen it, and decides to consider this issue under the item "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit".

This draft resolution, the talking points for its presentation, and other previous documents of the informal consultative process of the General Assembly on the Institutional Framework of the United Nations environmental activities are located in the following webpage:

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/issues/environmentalgovernance.shtml>