

**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 Outcome<sup>1</sup>,

**PP2** *Taking into account* Agenda 21<sup>2</sup>, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development<sup>3</sup>, the Nairobi Declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme<sup>4</sup>, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”)<sup>5</sup>,

**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,

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<sup>1</sup> See resolution A/60/1.

<sup>2</sup> *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 1, annex II.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25)*, annex, decision 19/1, annex.

<sup>5</sup> *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.

**PP6** *Recalling* the mandate 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** *Stressing* in this regard the need for an efficient, effective and equitable international environmental governance as a contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and addressing negative impacts of environmental degradation on the poor,

**PP8** *Recognizing* that action on the strengthening of international environmental governance should be undertaken in the context of the three pillars of sustainable development, in accordance 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,

**PP9** *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,

**PP10** *Stressing also* the necessity of sufficient, timely, predictable, new and additional resources, as well as the responsibility to the efficient use of resources,

**PP11** *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 promote research and interact with existing scientific bodies in all

geographic regions in a systematic and coordinated manner, including with academic institutions and centres of excellence and relevant non-governmental organisations, taking into account the role and the scientific competence of specialized agencies as well as scientific subsidiary bodies of multilateral environmental agreements; to strengthen the exchange between environmental and developmental scientific communities; to present and diffuse 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 further strengthen scientific activities and to consider 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 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, in cooperation with all relevant actors, to establish on a biannual basis a consolidated overview of research activities in order to identify gaps and duplications and to assist Member States in their effort for adequate policy response;

### **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 all parts of the United Nations system and relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements 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 encourages the integration of the Environment Management Group within the framework of the Chief Executives Board in order to ensure a coordinated approach of the United Nations system to sustainable development;

**OP7** *Recommends* the Environment Management Group to structure its work around 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, in order to clarify their respective roles and tasks;

**OP9** *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, building on existing efforts, to present 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 the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and for Multilateral Environmental Agreements and invites Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to collaborate with 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;

### **Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

**OP11** *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;

**OP12** *Emphasizes* the need for 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, in collaboration with Multilateral Environmental Agreements, clusters for strengthened cooperation and coordination between the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and advise Conference of the Parties accordingly;

**OP13** *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;

**OP14** *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced efforts at national level to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and *stresses* that implementation efforts should be 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;

**OP15** *Encourages* the Parties of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to implement their respective Agreements and *calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the Global Environment Facility to closely cooperate with them in the implementation of their Agreements;

**OP16** *Invites* 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 administer Secretariats of the Conventions under his authority in the most cost-effective manner and to take a proactive role in promoting synergies among the Convention Secretariats, ensuring that any savings resulting from improved coordination and cooperation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements will be used to increase implementation activities;

### **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, including environmental assessments and monitoring, 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;

**OP20** *Calls upon* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the strategic presence of the Programme in the regions and the cooperation of its regional offices with all relevant regional actors, including with the United Nations Regional Commissions, agencies, funds, programmes and other relevant entities directly related to environmental activities or dealing with broader sustainable development issues;

### **Capacity Building and Technology Support**

**OP21** *Stresses* the need to deepen and broaden capacity-building and technology support for developing countries, as well as of countries with economies in transition, throughout the international environment governance, at all levels;

**OP22** *Urges* the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, as a component for strengthening the international environmental governance;

**OP23** *Emphasizes* that Chapter 34 of the Agenda 21 and 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;

**OP24** *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Development Group to approve activities to implement 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;

**OP25** *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**

**OP26** *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;

**OP27** *Urges* the Secretary General, in improving Information Technologies throughout the United Nations system, to make available as a matter of priority information technology to entities dealing with environmental issues in order to enhance cooperation, resource management and knowledge sharing between different parts of the United Nations system, taking into account the special needs of the United Nations Office in Nairobi in order to fulfil its mandate;

**Financing**

**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* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to apply a voluntary indicative scale of contributions;

**OP30** *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;

**OP31** *Asks* the Secretary-General to submit recommendations for ensuring new and additional resources, including innovative sources of financing, in his report on the implementation of 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;

**OP33** *Invites* donor countries to achieve a substantially increased fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund commensurate with its strengthened function;

**Further consultations to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework of the international environmental governance**

**OP34** *Takes note* of the opinions expressed on the issue of a more coherent institutional framework, including a more integrated structure 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;

**OP35** *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**

**OP36** *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 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>