



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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New York, November 26th, 2007.

Excellencies:

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

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

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


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CUBA INPUTS ON OPTIONS PAPER SUBMITTED BY CO- CHAIRS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

As for the document submitted by the Co-Chairs on Environmental Governance we have made emphasis on the two Main Chapters:

Chapter 3: Building blocks for strengthened International Environmental Governance (IEG).

The following points should be included in the table determining the principles and conditions to strengthen the IEG:

- To strengthen international cooperation by integrating all its modalities.
- To promote the effective compliance not only with the Bali Strategic Plan but also with Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Implementation Plan and the Millennium Goals.
- To strengthen environmental governance at all levels including the local level.
- Within the option submitted for the issue of financial resources (point 6) of developing countries and the development of current frameworks for resource allocation and management.
- The last point should address by all means the fact that the civil society be not put at the same level of the governments, decreasing its role in the decision-making process.

With regard to priority areas to make up the clusters it is important to stress the need for more strict measures allowing for the effective fulfillment of the Official Development Assistance and avoid by all means possible to equal the Business Communities to the governments.

Building block 1: Scientific assessment, monitoring and early-warning capacity.

To date UNEP has worked on the scientific area related to the environment, without actually having a comprehensive apparatus such as the one that is purported to be created. Once again we favor the strengthening of such functions within the current Programme, without having to create new and complex structures aimed at distorting the very objective of the scientific activity and sciences in general.

It is important to stress the need to enhance the visibility of the impacts of science and systematize such findings.

Building Block 2: Coordination and cooperation at the level of agencies.

National agencies have a large part of the interagency cooperation's success, hence we have to uphold the strengthening of synergic actions among national agencies and the UN at all levels in order to meet the environmental goals set

mainly in such areas wherein a larger degree of uncertainty and vulnerability exists.

We consider important to uphold a diversification, in the current context, of the participation of UN Agencies in the different lines of action and cooperation modalities.

Building Block 3: Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA).

Synergies among MEAs cannot be achieved if single structures are created, or parallel processes are promoted. First and foremost, we should uphold:

- Creation of mechanisms within the very implementation of MEAs leading to differentiate and privilege the response and role of developing countries, with more emphasis on addressing and resolving their problems.
- Facilitate negotiation both at the global and regional levels, mainly in developing countries.
- Increase actions to achieve larger participation of the representatives of developing countries at environmental meetings being held at the international level.
- Develop control structures and mechanisms for financing, based on the assessment of the implementation of the existing ones, promoting the increase of funds.

Building Block 5: Bali Strategic Plan, capacity-building, technology support.

We stress that the little progress made in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan is due to two major questions: lack of financing and poor control of its implementation at the global, regional and national levels.

Building Block 6: IT, partnership and advocacy.

It is not clear in some points which rules and mechanisms of the UN has should be changed. There is no reference to the need to strengthen the national infrastructures for the implementation of all such technology. Once more, in the framework of the associations, it is not clear which their limits are and the principles on which are to be developed. We have to uphold here that they must be carried out in accordance with the sociopolitical and economic needs of the States, in support of the solution of environmental problems.

Building Block 7: Financing.

We must add here the following:

- Need for the financing priorities to coincide with the solution to the main environmental problems identified and to carry put an adequate use of the allocated financial resources.

- Elimination of certain commercial barriers, to which developing countries are mainly vulnerable.
- Need to develop financial and economic mechanisms that allow addressing the main environmental problems.
- Effective fulfillment of the Official Development Assistance.
- To make the access and approval of available fund granting more flexible.
- To duly integrate the environmental dimensions, to the policies, priorities and activities of the economic sector.

Chapter 4: The broader transformation of the IEG system.

On this aspect, we need to leave it clear that all actions and measures promoted in this regard should be on the basis of a strengthened UNEP, based on the development of current structures.