First meeting of the Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level Representatives on International Environmental Governance Nairobi, 7 – 9 July 2010

Draft 'Roadmap' on the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision SSXI/1 on International environmental governance

Summary

By its decision SSXI/1 the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) decided to build upon the work of the Consultative Group that was established under GC decision 25/4 and presented a Set of options to the 11th special session of the GC/GMEF and to consider broader reform of the international environmental governance system.

Background

At the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum held from 24-26 February 2010 in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia the Governing Council adopted decision SSXI/1 on International Environmental Governance. The decision stated that:

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 25/4 of 20 February 2009, in which it decided to establish a consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives, which was requested to conclude its work and present a set of options of improving international environmental governance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at the current session, with a view to providing inputs to the General Assembly,

Expressing thanks to the Governments of Serbia and Italy for hosting the meetings of the consultative group in Belgrade and Rome, respectively, and gratitude to the Minister of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy and the Minister of Environment and Mineral Resources of Kenya for co-chairing the consultative group and appreciation to the Executive Director for serving as adviser to the group,

- 1. Welcomes with appreciation the result of the process requested in the above-mentioned decision;
- 2. *Takes note* of the set of options for improving international environmental governance identified by the consultative group, which is set out in the annex to the present decision;
- 3. Requests the Executive Director to identify, in full consultation with all Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the incremental changes in the set of options, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, that can be immediately implemented during the biennium 2010–2011 and those to be integrated into the development of the programme of work for the period 2012–2013, and to present a report on the matter to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session;
- 4. *Invites* the President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as an input to the continuing process of improving international environmental governance;
- 5. Decides to establish a regionally representative, consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives, inviting each United Nations region to propose between four and six Governments to participate, while remaining open to participation by other interested Governments, and in this regard requests the Executive Director to seek additional extrabudgetary resources to facilitate the further participation of representatives of developing countries in addition to the nominated regional representatives;
- 6. Also decides that the group will have two co-chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, and requests the Executive Director to participate as an adviser to the group, which will also comprise high-level representatives of relevant United Nations agencies, designated through the Environment Management Group;
- 7. Requests the Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the Environment Management Group, to invite the United Nations system to provide input to the group, including by assessing gaps, needs and considerations related to how the system is currently achieving the identified objectives and functions for international environmental governance;
- 8. *Decides* that the group will consider the broader reform of the international environmental governance system, building on the set of options but remaining open to new ideas;
- 9. *Invites* the consultative group, through the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat, to seek relevant inputs from civil society groups from each region in the process of further strengthening international environmental governance:
- 10. Decides that the group will conclude its work in a timely fashion and present a final report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session in anticipation of the Council's contribution

in time for the second meeting of the open-ended preparatory committee of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

- 11. *Requests* the Executive Director to seek extrabudgetary resources to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries in the group's meetings;
- 12. *Requests* countries in a position to do so to provide financial support for the participation of representatives of developing countries.

Annex to decision SS.XI/1

Set of options for improving international environmental governance

Implementing the decision

The decision firmly builds upon Governing Council decision 25/4 that established the Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level representatives for improving international environmental governance, whose mandate it was to present a Set of options to the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

The objective of this decision is to establish a Consultative Group of Minister or High-level representatives that will advance the work of the previous Consultative Group by facilitating the implementation of identified incremental changes through UNEP in consultation with governments and by considering broader reform of international environmental governance both in accordance with the Set of options.

The decision provides a strict timeline for the Consultative Group to conclude its work as well as a clear mandate to contribute its work to that of the General Assembly and the preparatory committee of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

As in decision 25/4 there is a role prescribed for 'each UN region' in relation to the establishment of the consultative group. Given that it is a decision of the Governing Council of UNEP, and that it is intended to provide inputs to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the role of 'each UN region' described in the decision will be channeled through the regionally representative Governing Council Bureau, working together with the heads of each UN regional group in Nairobi, and with capitals as appropriate.

The Executive Director will participate as an adviser to the group, and provide secretariat support to assist the Consultative Group, as appropriate.

An essential element of success will be to continue to ensure complete openness, transparency, and inclusiveness in how the process is managed. In this context, in addition to keeping the CPR fully informed, steps will also be taken by the President to ensure that New York is informed of progress in implementing the decision.

Elements of the 'roadmap' ahead

There are eleven essential steps to implementing the decision:

- the Executive Director to identify, in full consultation with all Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) the incremental changes in the set of options, within the mandate of UNEP, that can be immediately implemented in 2010-2011:
- 2. the Executive Director to present a report on that matter to the GC/GMEF at its twenty sixth session;
- 3. the President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its 64th session;
- 4. the Governing council Bureau to assist establish a regionally representative, consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives;
- 5. each United Nations region to propose between four and six Governments to participate;
- 6. the consultative group nominating two co-chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country;
- 7. the Environment Management Group (EMG) to designate high-level representatives of relevant United Nations agencies to participate in the group;
- 8. the Executive Director, as chair of the EMG to invite the United Nations system to provide input to the group, including by assessing gaps, needs and considerations

- related to how the United Nations system is currently achieving the identified objectives and functions for IEG;
- 9. the Executive Director to seek relevant inputs from civil society groups in the further process of strengthening IEG;
- 10. the consultative group to conclude its work in a timely fashion and present a final report to GC/GMEF at its twenty sixth session in anticipation of the GC's contribution in time for the second meeting of the open-ended preparatory committee of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, and to the UN General Assembly;
- 11. the Executive Director to seek extrabudgetary resources to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries.

Annex: Calendar of major intergovernmental meetings July 2010 – March 2011

Steps	Action	Timing	Status
The Executive Director to identify, in full consultation with all Governments through the CPR the	Set date for consultations with the CPR.	By mid-March 2010	√
incremental changes in the set of options, within the mandate of UNEP, that can be immediately implemented in 2010-2011 and those to be integrated	Provide table showing identified incremental changes, including steps necessary to realize them and bodies involved.	By late March 2010	√
into the development of the programme of work for the period 2012–2013.	Consult with CPR.	15 April 2010 3 June 2010	√
	Ensure relevant changes are reflected in the PoW 2010-2011.	By end of April 2010	
	Ensure changes to be integrated in PoW 2012-2013 are highlighted and necessary divisions in UNEP aware of.	By early April 2010	
The Executive Director to present a report on that matter to the GC/GMEF at its twenty sixth session.	Prepare report on implementation of incremental changes as identified by the Executive Director in consultation with the CPR and with input from relevant Divisions.	By end of December 2010	
The President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its 64 th session.	Letter by President of the GC to the President of the GA.	By mid-April 2010	√
The Governing Council Bureau to assist establish a regionally representative, consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives.	Governing Council Bureau to inform representatives of regional groups in Nairobi about nomination process by email.	First Bureau meeting 14 April 2010	√
Each United Nations region to propose between four and six Governments to participate.	Regional groups in Nairobi to liaise with capitals and nominate 4-6 Governments of each region.	By 16 April 2010	V
The consultative group nominating two co-chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country.	By email through the Governing Council Bureau and regional groups in Nairobi.	By mid-April 2010	√
The EMG to designate high-level representatives of relevant United Nations agencies to participate in the group.	Letter from ED to EMG alerting to GC decision SSXI/1 and inviting it to designate high-level representatives to participate in the group by 1 May.	Mid-March 2010	√
The Executive Director, as chair of the EMG to invite the United Nations system to provide input to the group, including by assessing gaps, needs and	In same letter, invite the EMG to comment on the EMG paper 'Environment in the UN system' and invite freestyle comments on gaps, needs and considerations related to the UN system.	Mid-March 2010	√
considerations related to how the United Nations system is currently achieving the identified	Preparation of compendium with input through the Secretariat.	May 2010	
objectives and functions for IEG.	Meeting at margin of First PrepCom meeting to discuss input.	May 2010	√
	Communicating input to all governments.	At first meeting	
The Executive Director to seek relevant inputs from	Letter from ED inviting input from civil society groups through Division	By beginning	$\sqrt{}$

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Steps	Action	Timing	Status
civil society groups in the further process of strengthening IEG.	for Regional Cooperation (DRC) Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch on the EMG paper on "Environment in the UN system" as well as general comments on IEG reform with a deadline of 1 May.	of April 2010	
	Summary transmitted to 1 st consultative group meeting.	June 2010	
	Hold global stakeholder consultations for defined number of civil society representatives.	Sidelines of CSD/ PrepCom (17- 19 May 2010)	√
	Letter from ED inviting comments from civil society groups on documentation for 2 nd consultative group meeting on broader reform as well as general comments.	August 2010	
	Compile responses and communicate to Governments.	September 2010	
	Hold a second global meeting for defined number of civil society representatives	TBD (sidelines of GA or ECOSOC)	
First meeting of consultative group	Determine date, venue for meeting.	By beginning of April 2010	√
	Determine agenda for first meeting.	By end of March 2010	√
	Determine documentation for first meeting. Executive Director's Paper to address:	By end of March 2010	
	 i. gaps, needs and considerations related to how the UN system is currently achieving the identified objectives and functions for international environmental governance; 		
	ii. the nature and scale of existing costs and financing of environmental activities; and		√
	iii. the normative and institutional aspects of international environmental governance, including the role of the Rio Principles in underpinning the environmental pillar of sustainable development;		
	Documentation for first meeting: - 'Environment in the UN system' - Ideas for broader reform	First draft: 29 April 2010	
	Outline of UN programmes, Specialised Agencies and a World	Final:	V

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Steps	Action	Timing	Status
	Environment Organisation – MEA types	4 May 2010	
	Hold first meeting.	7 - 9 July 2010	
	Finalisation of report by the group through the co-Chairs.	By mid July 2010	
Second meeting of consultative group	Determine date, venue for meeting.	By beginning of August 2010	√
	Determine agenda for first meeting.	During first meeting of the group	
	Preparation of concrete suggestions for broader reform. Paper by the Executive Director to address: iv. options for broader reform to fully achieve the identified objectives and functions for international environmental governance and how each option would better meet the needs of countries; and v. the cost effectiveness and financial implications of all potential options. As well as: i. enhancing UNEP; ii. a new umbrella organization for sustainable development; iii. a specialized agency such as a World Environment Organization; iv. possible reforms to ECOSOC and the Commission on Sustainable Development; and v. enhanced institutional reforms and streamlining of present structures.	August 2010	
	Electronic/web-based consultations with Governments, UN system through EMG, and civil society representatives.	September 2010	
	Finalisation of paper and circulation to Governments.	Four weeks prior to second	

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Steps	Action	Timing	Status
		meeting	
	Hold second meeting.	November 2010	
timely fashion and present a final report to the GC/GMEF at its 26 th session in anticipation of the GC's contribution in time for the second meeting of the open-ended preparatory committee of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, and to the General Assembly.	Finalisation of the report by the group through the co-Chairs.	November 2010	
	Submission to GC26/GMEF.	February 2011	
	GC26/GMEF (President/Executive Director) submitting outcome to preparatory committee. Modalities to be decided by consultative group.	Immediately before or after CSD 19	
	President of the GC submitting report to General Assembly at its 65 th session. Modalities to be decided.	Check timing	
Political work carried out by the Consultative Group members and interested Governments	Members of the Group and interested Governments to promote the work of the Group at intergovernmental meetings, including at those annexed to this roadmap.	Throughout the process	

Annex: Calendar of major intergovernmental meetings July 2010 – March 2011

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	
1										
2										
3				GEO Plenary VII						
4					Ministerial Summit	UNFCCC COP16, Cancun, Mexico				
5										
6										
7	1st meeting of the								2 nd meeting of Rio+20 PrepCom	
8	Consultative Group on IEG								Rio+20 PrepCom	
9	Group on IEG									
10										
11				5 th meeting of the						
12				5 th meeting of the COP-MOP to the Cartagena Protocol on	COP-MOP to the	G20 Summit, Seoul, Korea				
13										
14				Biosafety (COP- MOP 5)						
15				,	GEF Council					
16					meeting.					
17					Washington DC, USA					
18										
19										
20			65 th session							
21			level Plenary	UNGA - High- level Plenary					26 th session of the	
22			Meeting on MDGs	CBD COP 10 (27-	Tentative - 2 nd meeting of the			Governing Council/Global		
23				29 Oct High Level	Consultative Group on IEG (3			Ministerial		
24				Segment) Nagoya, Japan	days)			Environment Forum		
25										
26										
27										
28										
29					UNFCCC COP16					
30										
31										