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**Governing Council  
of the United Nations  
Environment Programme**

**Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/  
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**  
Nairobi, 21–24 February 2011  
Items 4 (a) and 4 (f) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Policy issues: state of the environment**  
**Policy issues: environment and development**

**Progress report on the implementation of Governing Council  
decision SS.XI/8 on the consultative process on financing  
options for chemicals and wastes**

**Report of the Executive Director**

*Summary*

The present report is submitted to the Governing Council to provide an update on progress in the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes initiated in response to decision SS.XI/8. It includes information on activities by the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, since the adoption of the decision in February 2010.

\* UNEP/GCS.26/1.

## I. Suggested action by the Governing Council

1. The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision along the lines suggested below:

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision SS.XI/8 of 26 February 2010 and the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and wastes agenda;

*Recalling also* the request in that decision to the Executive Director to continue leading the consultative process and to report on the progress made and the direction of the process;

*Recalling further* the request in that decision to the Executive Director to launch, in collaboration with relevant partners, initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes through various avenues, including the media and key international opportunities such as intergovernmental meetings and public events at both the national and international levels;

*Having considered* the progress report submitted by the Executive Director on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes,<sup>1</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the progress made and the work carried out to date by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the consultative process;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue leading the consultative process;
3. *Reiterates* its invitation to Governments and other interested parties, including the private sector, to provide financial and in kind support to the process and to awareness-raising initiatives;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a final report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session on the implementation of decision SS.XI/8 and of the present decision.

## II. Background

2. The consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes was launched by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in recognition of the urgent need to secure adequate financial means and provide strengthened capacity-building and technical assistance towards the implementation of the chemicals and wastes agendas at the national, regional and global levels, recognizing the importance of linking obligations to financial and technical assistance.

3. The process was first announced by the Executive Director at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, held in Geneva in May 2009, as a response to difficulties encountered in reaching agreement on a compliance mechanism owing to concerns that the available capacity and resources for such a mechanism were inadequate.

4. As proposed by the Executive Director, the first set of consultations took place during the run-up to the eleventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, which were held in Bali, Indonesia, in February 2010.

5. The purposes of the first consultations were to analyse the current situation with regard to financing of chemicals and waste management at the national, regional and global levels, including but not limited to the implementation of party obligations under chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements, and to devise strategic, synergistic proposals for improving it.

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1 UNEP/GC.26/11.

### **III. First meeting in the consultative process**

6. The first meeting in the consultative process, held in Nairobi on 24 and 25 July 2009, involved a brainstorming discussion during which participants called upon UNEP to undertake a desk study to explore the funding and support needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The participants also requested that the study should consider relevant ways to support compliance with multilateral environment agreements related to chemicals and wastes and capacity-building, including institutional strengthening and technical assistance for promoting the sound management of chemicals and wastes in broader terms.

### **IV. Second meeting in the consultative process**

7. A desk study requested at the first meeting was produced in advance of the second meeting in the consultative process with the aim of providing participants with information to be used in reviewing possible options for securing adequate financing in the areas of chemicals and wastes.

8. At the second meeting, held in Bangkok on 25 and 26 October 2009, participants discussed tracks for financing that were presented in the preliminary desk study and provided substantive comments on them. They called for the desk study to be revised to incorporate those comments and suggested that the study should focus on fewer tracks. They also agreed that the desk study would become a reference document to be used during further consultations in the process.

### **V. Discussions on the consultative process at the eleventh special session of the Governing Council**

9. Based on the comments made at the second meeting, UNEP undertook additional work on the desk study, presenting it to the Governing Council at its eleventh special session, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 February 2010, as document UNEP/GCSS.XI/INF/8. UNEP also presented an action-oriented summary of policy options for financing chemicals and wastes (UNEP/GCSS.XI/INF/8/Add.1).

10. At its eleventh special session, the Governing Council adopted decision SS.XI/8 on the consultative process. In that decision, the Governing Council recognized the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and wastes agenda.

11. The Governing Council welcomed the establishment of the consultative process and the work carried out by UNEP to date in that regard. It requested the Executive Director to continue to lead the consultative process and to ensure that the comments and contributions of Governments, in particular participating invited parties and stakeholders at the second meeting in the consultative process, were incorporated into a revised version of the note by the Executive Director on financing the chemicals and wastes agenda and into the action-oriented summary of policy options for financing chemicals and wastes.

12. The Governing Council also requested the Executive Director, in collaboration with relevant partners, to launch initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes through various avenues, including the media and key international opportunities such as intergovernmental meetings and public events at both the national and international levels.

### **VI. Implementation of decision SS.XI/8**

13. On the basis of decision SS.XI/8, UNEP sought comments and contributions from Governments and participants regarding the report of the second meeting in the consultative process (UNEP/FOCW/2/1), the desk study and the action-oriented summary of policy options. Sixteen Governments and two civil society organizations provided input.

14. Versions of those documents revised to reflect the input received have been made available on the consultative process website ([www.unep.org/delc](http://www.unep.org/delc)) and to the participants in the third meeting in the consultative process.

15. With the aim of further enhancing the involvement and further drawing on the experience of the multilateral environmental agreements related to chemicals and wastes in the country-driven consultative process, UNEP has established an internal coordination committee comprising representatives of relevant UNEP divisions and the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The coordination committee has met regularly to advancing the consultative process and to prepare for the third meeting.

16. The coordination committee has also discussed options and avenues for undertaking initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

## **VII. Third meeting in the consultative process**

17. The third meeting in the consultative process is scheduled to take place in Pretoria on 10 and 11 January 2011. It will be co-chaired by the representatives of the Governments of Norway and South Africa and will see the participation of representatives of Governments, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

18. The overall goal of the consultative process is to arrive at a package of financing options for enhancing the implementation of the chemicals and wastes agenda at the national, regional and global levels. The aim of such a package is to increase and facilitate the flow of available capacity and resources that will adequately support the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the global, regional and national levels. In developing the package, existing financing mechanisms will be taken into consideration, as discussed in the above-mentioned desk study.

19. The objective of the third meeting is to develop an action plan that contains initial components of the package of financing options, which can then be introduced by Governments at relevant intergovernmental, multilateral and bilateral meetings and financing discussions.

20. The action plan will set out a direction for the consultative process that will enable the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its third session, in 2012, and the Governing Council, at its twenty-seventh session, in 2013, to adopt resolutions and decisions in line with the provisions of decision SS.XI/8. In response to the views expressed during the second meeting in the consultative process, the participants at the third meeting will further review and discuss, in particular, the following four financing tracks:

- (a) Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and wastes into other sectors of the development agenda;
- (b) Public-private partnerships, including the use of economic instruments at the national and international levels;
- (c) New trust fund similar to the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol;
- (d) Introducing safe chemicals and wastes management as a new focal area, or expanding the existing persistent organic pollutants focal area, of the Global Environment Facility.

21. Each of the above-mentioned options is described in the desk study and articulated further in relevant background documents for the meeting, with the aim of fostering a comprehensive discussion of them.

22. It is envisaged that, in addition to the first components of a package of financing options, the action plan will include achievable recommendations for action by the various stakeholders, spelling out responsibilities, as appropriate, and specific timelines for implementation. It will also pay due attention to the development of new partnerships. It will also represent an integrated effort to tackle the financing challenges posed by the sound management of chemicals and wastes, providing an unprecedented example of enhanced cooperation and coordination between a variety of key stakeholders from a wide cross-section of society.

23. The meeting will also provide a platform for initiating discussions on how best to raise awareness of the importance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes through various avenues and how to make the best use of media and key international opportunities, such as intergovernmental meetings and public events at both the national, regional and global levels. The action plan also will contain possible options for awareness-raising and outreach.

24. In line with the requirements of decision SS.XI/8, information on the progress made and the direction of the consultative process will also be conveyed to relevant intergovernmental processes, including to the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their meetings in 2011; to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its nineteenth session, in 2011; to participants in the preparatory meetings for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management; and to the governing bodies of the Global Environment Facility, with the aim of providing a final report for consideration by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session, in 2012, and of facilitating the adoption of resolutions and decisions at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council.

## **VIII. Awareness and outreach activities on the sound management of chemicals and wastes**

25. In response to decision SS.XI/8, UNEP, in close coordination with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, has undertaken various awareness and outreach activities on the sound management of chemicals and wastes, and further such activities are planned for the near future. These activities are described below.

### **A. Side events**

26. Side events will take place in 2011 and 2012 on the margins of intergovernmental and other meetings (including at the regional level) related to the sound management of chemicals and wastes to provide venues for the discussion of financing chemicals and wastes as a contribution to national development.<sup>2</sup> Such side events will provide an opportunity for high-level discussions and presentations of best practices at the national level with regard to the integration of chemicals and wastes issues into national development plans and strategies by identifying clear linkages with health, environment and poverty reduction as a way of enhancing financing for the chemicals and wastes agenda.

27. The discussions during the side events could feed directly into the consultative process and other chemicals and wastes events in 2011 and 2012, such as the International Year of Chemistry and the events outlined in paragraph 24 above.

### **B. United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes**

28. The United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes is a global campaign led by UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, through the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, for ensuring the safety of the environment and human health from toxic chemicals and wastes. Known also as the "Safe Planet Campaign", it has as its objective to demonstrate how individuals around the world can take responsibility for keeping the planet safe from hazardous chemicals and wastes. It highlights specific measures and solutions available through initiatives under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

29. By promoting the sharing of responsibility the Campaign advocates for a life-cycle approach to chemicals and wastes management. It recognizes that effective solutions to the challenges posed by toxic chemicals and wastes require action to be taken by a wide variety of actors working at all levels of society, from government, industry and educational institutions, to community-led initiatives, grass-roots organizations and individual households and consumers.

30. The Campaign responds directly to the awareness-raising and outreach requirements of decision SS.XI/8, and will continue to be promoted at the national, regional and global levels. It will continue to feature prominently at major intergovernmental conferences and meetings with the aim of engaging policymakers in a global dialogue on how best to support the targets laid down at the World Summit on Sustainable Development of achieving the sound management of chemicals and wastes by 2020.

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<sup>2</sup> The exact wording and content of such side events may vary by event depending on the meeting and the target group.

**C. Cooperation in implementing decision SS.XI/8**

31. Through a letter to national Governments, UNEP has invited Governments to cooperate in implementing decision SS.XI/8 by encouraging the organization of national and regional awareness-raising initiatives on the sound management of chemicals and wastes. UNEP has further sought the submission of relevant information about awareness-raising events organized at the national and regional levels, with a view to sharing best practices and information about such initiatives. Upon receipt of such information, UNEP intends to make it available to Governments and other key stakeholders.

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