## Intervention of Switzerland on International Environmental Governance

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## Importance of International Environmental Governance

- Strengthening of International Environmental Governance is of utmost importance for Switzerland.
- Currently, we do not have an international environmental governance structure that allow us to tackle environmental challenges in an efficient and effective manner.
- There some promising developments for improving international environmental governance such as the better realization of synergies amongst the three major chemicals- and waste conventions.
- However, much more needs to be done.

## Results of the work of the consultative groups

- We very much welcome the two recent consultative processes on strengthening IEG.
- These processes delivered some interesting results:
  - The processes for example resulted in a common understanding of the functions that IEG system needs to perform.
  - It also delivered some system-wide measures for addressing some of the current deficiencies in international environmental governance.
  - Last but not least, we are slowly moving towards a better common understanding of what the different institutional options are for strengthening IEG and of their advantages and disadvantages.
- However, it is obvious that we are not yet at the point where we need to be. We
  only have identified some of the possible elements for strengthening IEG, but we
  have not yet come to an agreement on a comprehensive package of reform
  measures.
- Neither with regard to incremental measures within the competence of UNEP at this stage we simply have a list of possible measures in the table of working document 3, but no agreement on them and no concrete proposal how to move on – nor with regard to the broader reform proposals.
- Our deliberations have not yet reached the point where they can be transferred to the preparatory process for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development as a contribution to the strengthening of the institutional framework for sustainable development
- The little time foreseen in the preparatory process of UNCSD would simply not allow for in-depth discussions on environmental governance beside discussing governance of sustainable development.

## **Continued IEG process under UNEP**

- The Consultative Group in particular recognized the need to further develop certain options for broader institutional reforms, namely "enhancing UNEP", "establishing a specialized agency such as world environment organization" and "enhancing institutional reforms and streamlining existing structures".
- A better understanding of the financial, legal and comparative advantages of the three options identified in the Nairobi-Helsinki outcome is needed.
- The assistance and advice of experts on the matter might be welcome in this regard. However, the responsibility of evaluating the reform measures and making political choices cannot be delegated to an expert's group. This needs to be done by governments.
- Therefore, we are convinced that we need to continue deliberating the different options under an open-ended intergovernmental process that is facilitated and served by UNEP.
- This process should conclude at the next Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2012 with the adoption of a comprehensive reform package on improving international environmental governance.
- Handing over an agreed reform package would be a valuable contribution of UNEP to the UNCSD process and specifically to the environmental pillar of governance for sustainable development.
- Switzerland is strongly of the opinion that the IEG process should therefore continue under the auspices of UNEP in order to conclude the important work done so far.