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

Twelfth special session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum
Nairobi, 20–22 February 2012

**Draft decision prepared by the subcommittee on international
environmental governance established by the Committee of the
Whole**

Addendum

The annex to the present note sets out a draft decision prepared by the subcommittee on international environmental governance established by the Committee of the Whole. The draft decision is presented as submitted by the subcommittee, without formal editing.

Annex

International environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Taking note of its decision 26/1 of 24 February 2011 on international environmental governance,

Also taking note of the implementation by the Executive Director of the incremental reforms that were identified in the Set of Options presented by the Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level Representatives on International Environmental Governance established under Governing Council decision 25/4 to the Governing Council at its eleventh special session, in February 2010,¹

Also taking note of the on-going consultations for Rio+20 on the institutional framework for sustainable development and considering that the international environmental governance is one of the particularly important components of these discussions,

Recalling the commitment set out in the Nusa Dua Declaration of 2010 to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda and 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, as set out in the Nairobi Declaration of 1997,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of enhancing synergies, including at the national and regional levels, among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives and recognizing their respective mandates, and *encourages* the conferences of the parties of the biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements to strengthen efforts further in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences;

2. *Invites* the Executive Director to undertake, as appropriate, further activities to improve the effectiveness and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties, as well as to enhance cooperation with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to explore the opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats administered by UNEP and to advise on such opportunities to the respective governing bodies of those multilateral environmental agreements;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to explore the possibility of signing or updating memoranda of understanding with other UN bodies and institutions, and in particular with the specialized agencies and regional commissions, in order to coordinate endeavours by the UN secretariats, avoid overlapping, enhance cooperation and build on synergies, to implement the respective programmes and policies in support of sustainable development;

5. *Recalling* the invitation by the General Assembly to the relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building in their overall activities, *calls upon* governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance and capacity building to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan, and *invites* the General Assembly to examine the possibility of developing a system-wide capacity building framework for its implementation;

6. *Invites* the General Assembly to examine the possibility of developing a system-wide strategy for the environment;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to instruct and give guidance to Regional Offices to strengthen the cooperation between UNEP and other UN agencies, including Regional Commissions and other regional bodies, and to promote collaboration between UNEP and secretariats of regional integration organizations, in an effort to promote actions within the environmental dimension of sustainable development;

8. *Encourages* member States to provide, on a voluntary basis, extrabudgetary funding to strengthen the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme.

¹ UNEP/GCSS.XI/11, annex II.