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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

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

**Organization of work**

**Annotations to the provisional agenda**

**Item 1: Opening of the session**

1. The twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 20 February 2012, by one of the officers of the Council/Forum at its twenty-sixth session.

**Item 2: Organization of work**

**Item 2 (a): Adoption of the agenda**

2. The Council/Forum will adopt its agenda (UNEP/GCSS.XII/1). The provisional agenda, as adopted by the Council/Forum at its twenty-sixth session, and subsequently amended, has been distributed with the notification. The tentative programme of meetings of the Council/Forum may be found in the annex to the present document.

3. The list of documents may be found in document UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/1. Additional information on the Council/Forum is available on the dedicated website for the session ([www.unep.org/gc/gcss-xii](http://www.unep.org/gc/gcss-xii)). Updated information on all meetings and events may be found in the journals that will be issued daily for the duration of the session and also displayed on video screens around the conference premises.

**Item 2 (b): Election of officers**

4. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, at its opening plenary meeting the Council/Forum will elect the President nominated by the Western European and other States, in addition to two Vice-Presidents, one nominated by the Asian and Pacific States and the other by the Eastern European States.

5. This election is to confirm the nominations by the Western European and other States and the Asian and Pacific States to replace the incumbent President and Vice-President, respectively, who were nominated by the respective groups as their representatives and elected at the twenty-sixth session.

6. This election is also required as a result of the election of 29 member States of the Governing Council conducted by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, in November 2011. As a result of those elections, Hungary, the Vice-President of the Governing Council elected at its twenty-sixth session and nominated by the Eastern European States as their representative, ceased to be a member

\* UNEP/GCSS.XII/1.

of the Governing Council as from 1 January 2012. Consequently, the representation of the Eastern European States on the Bureau fell vacant on 1 January 2012, with the need to maintain equitable geographical representation within the Bureau requiring such election.

7. The amendment to the provisional agenda as adopted by the Council/Forum at its twenty-sixth session to include the present item was approved by the Bureau at its meeting on 21 July 2011 and communicated to all Governments in the notification by the Executive Director of the twelfth special session.

### **Item 2 (c): Organization of work**

8. Pursuant to section I of decision 26/17 and the subsequent decision by the Bureau, the twelfth special session will be held over three days, from 20 to 22 February 2012. Informal consultations in regional groups will be held on Sunday, 19 February.

9. The Executive Director recommends that, following the election of officers and the adoption of its agenda, the Council/Forum at its plenary meeting on the morning of Monday, 20 February, should consider the organization of work under agenda item 2 (c). The Executive Director also recommends that the Council/Forum at its opening plenary meeting should establish sessional committees, including a committee of the whole.

10. During this meeting, the Executive Director will present his policy statement, as referred to in document UNEP/GCSS.XII/2, which will be made available to participants and placed on the relevant website following its delivery.

11. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, the Governing Council constitutes an annual ministerial-level global environmental forum to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. In view of this mandate, the Executive Director recommends that the Council/Forum meet in the form of ministerial-level consultations, beginning on the afternoon of Monday, 20 February, with meetings continuing until the morning of Wednesday, 22 February. The Executive Director also recommends that, at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday, 22 February, the Council/Forum consider the outcome of the ministerial-level consultations, the report of the Committee of the Whole and the relevant draft decisions.

12. In this regard, the attention of the Council/Forum is drawn to the draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, as set out in document UNEP/GCSS.XII/L.1. These draft decisions are submitted in keeping with the Committee's mandate as set out in decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997.

13. In addition, the Executive Director recommends that items 3 (credentials of representatives), 5 (other matters), 6 (adoption of the report) and 7 (closure of the session) should be considered during the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday, 22 February.

14. The proceedings of the Council/Forum, including the plenary meetings, the plenary meetings of the ministerial-level consultations and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole, will be conducted with simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations.

#### **(a) Ministerial consultations**

15. During the ministerial consultations, ministers and heads of delegation are expected to engage in interactive discussions under the overall theme of "The environmental agenda in the changing world: from Stockholm (1972) to Rio (2012)". It is envisaged that the discussion will focus on the three topics: the Global Environment Outlook and emerging issues; setting effective global environmental goals; the green economy; and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The first will be discussed in the form of a high-level symposium entitled "Environmental challenges and global responses in 2012", while the others will be considered in parallel ministerial round-table discussions. The ministerial consultations will conclude on the morning of Wednesday, 22 February, when the topic of "Rio+20 and beyond: responding to the challenges" will be discussed.

16. In the past, the President of the Council has prepared a summary of discussions. This summary is expected to provide an opportunity for ministers and heads of delegation collectively to send a message on the key issues discussed, including to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. In the sessions held in 2000 and 2011, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum adopted important political declarations aimed at the international community on crucial issues in the field of the environment.

**(b) Committee of the Whole**

17. The Committee of the Whole is expected to begin its work during the afternoon of Monday, 20 February. The Committee will elect its own officers in accordance with rule 61 of the rules of procedure, with the exception of its Chair. In the past, the Council/Forum has designated one of its vice-presidents as the Chair of the Committee.

18. The Executive Director recommends that the Committee take up all items of the provisional agenda that are not taken up in plenary meeting. Substantive topics to be considered are described in the paragraphs below.

19. It is envisaged that the Committee will conclude its work during the morning of 22 February with the adoption of its report. That report will be submitted to the Council/Forum for consideration at the plenary meeting during the afternoon of Wednesday, 22 February.

**(c) Pre-session events**

20. The Council/Forum will be preceded by the thirteenth session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, on 18 and 19 February 2012. Some Forum representatives will also participate in the intergovernmental deliberations at the Council/Forum.

**(d) Special events and exhibitions**

21. Special events will be held during the lunch break each day on matters of relevance to the Council/Forum's deliberations. Details of these events, along with those of social events and relevant parallel events, may be found in the daily journal. Representatives are encouraged to participate in these events.

22. Several environment-focused exhibitions will be held during the session.

**(e) Greening the Governing Council**

23. In an effort to make the current session as climate-neutral and environmentally friendly as possible, various measures have been put in place, including a paper-smart meeting system and greenhouse-gas offsetting for the travel to and stay in Nairobi of participants sponsored by UNEP.

24. The paper-smart meeting system will give participants online access to all pre-session and in-session documentation. To that end, participants are encouraged to bring their personal laptops to the meeting. Those who are unable to do so may request laptops at the registration desk for use during the session and for return at the close of the session. Additional information about the system may be found in the information note for participants and on the dedicated website for the session. A helpdesk will be situated at the conference venue to provide technical support to participants. One paper copy of each pre-session document will be transmitted to each Government. Representatives are invited to visit the above-mentioned website to download any additional copies required.

25. It is recommended that all participants consider offsetting the greenhouse-gas emissions created as a result of their travel to and stay in Nairobi.

**Item 3: Credentials of representatives**

26. In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives at the twelfth special session of the Council will be examined by the Bureau, which will report thereon to the Council/Forum. It should be noted that, under rule 16, each member of the Council is to be represented by one accredited representative, who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers.

## Item 4: Emerging policy issues: environment and development

27. Under this agenda item the Council/Forum will have before it the following documentation:

| <i>Document symbol</i>  | <i>Description</i>  |
|---|---|
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/3</b><br>International environmental governance: report of the Executive Director  | Pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision 26/1, the report suggests that the Council adopt a draft decision on incremental improvements in international environmental governance, and provides relevant information. It also provides a progress report on the implementation of decision 26/1, pursuant to paragraph 7 of that decision.  |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/4</b><br>World environment situation: report of the Executive Director   | The report provides a summary of the progress in the preparation of the fifth Global Environment Outlook report, including findings and related output, and suggests that the Council adopt a decision in the light of those findings. In addition, pursuant to paragraph 14 of decision 26/2, the document provides information on the pilot proof-of-concept phase of a UNEP-Live platform, and an interim report on the status of the platform.<br><br>Documents UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/2, UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/6 and UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/9 also provide relevant information. |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/5</b><br>Chemicals and waste management: report of the Executive Director  | Pursuant to paragraph 36 of decision 26/3, the report provides information on progress in the implementation of decision 26/3 in relation to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.  |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/6</b><br>Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services: report of the Executive Director  | Pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision 26/4 on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, the report provides information on the progress of the implementation of that decision, including the outcome of the first session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform, held in Nairobi from 3 to 7 October 2011.   |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/7</b><br>Sustainable consumption and production: report of the Executive Director  | Pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision 26/5, the report provides information on the implementation of the decision in anticipation of the contribution of UNEP to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. It suggests that the Council adopt a decision in this regard.  |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/8</b><br>Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes: report of the Executive Director  | The document provides a final report on the implementation of decisions SS.XI/8 and 26/7. It suggests that the Council adopt a decision in this regard.<br><br>Documents UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/7 and UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/8 also provide relevant information.   |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/9</b><br>Biennial programme of work and budget for 2012–2013: report of the Executive Director   | Pursuant to paragraph 18 of decision 26/9, the report provides information on progress in the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements that it administers. It suggests that the Council adopt a decision in this regard.  |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/9/Add.1</b><br>Biennial programme of work and budget for 2012–2013: Addendum: Results of the review of the needs and potential of regional offices: report of the Executive Director | Pursuant to paragraph 21 of decision 26/9, the report provides a review of the needs and potential of the UNEP regional offices in assisting countries in mainstreaming their environmental priorities and maintaining the strategic presence of UNEP at the national and regional levels.  |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/10</b><br>Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group: report of the Executive Director                                       | Pursuant to paragraph 4 of decision 26/11, the report provides information on progress in the Environment Management Group's work and suggests that the Council adopt a decision in this regard.  |

| <i>Document symbol</i>  | <i>Description</i>  |
|---|---|
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/10/Add.1</b><br>Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group: Addendum: Progress report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme: report of the Executive Director | Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the decision 26/11, the report provides information on progress in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme.  |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/11</b><br>Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster: report of the Executive Director   | Pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision 26/12, the report provides information on progress in the consultative process. It also suggests that the Council adopt a decision in this regard.  |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/12</b><br>Water policy and strategy: report of the Executive Director  | Pursuant to decision 24/16, the report provides information on progress in the implementation of the water policy and strategy, covering information on activities undertaken pursuant to the policy and strategy since the twenty-fifth session of the Council, and lessons learned from implementation. Given that the water policy and strategy will conclude in 2012, it also proposes a way forward. |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/13</b><br>Background paper for the ministerial consultations: Global Environment Outlook and emerging issues: setting effective global environmental goals: discussion paper presented by the Executive Director   | The document provides background information for the ministerial consultations.   |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/13/Add.1</b><br>Background paper for the ministerial consultations: addendum: green economy: discussion paper presented by the Executive Director  | The document provides background information for the ministerial consultations.   |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/13/Add.2</b><br>Background paper for the ministerial consultations: addendum: institutional framework for sustainable development: discussion paper presented by the Executive Director  | The document provides background information for the ministerial consultations.   |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/3</b><br>Outcomes of major intergovernmental meetings on the environment held in 2011, including issues arising from the resolutions of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly: note by the Executive Director  | The document describes the outcomes of major intergovernmental meetings on the environment held in 2011, including issues arising from the resolutions of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.  |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/4</b><br>Progress made in respect of each of the subprogrammes and their relevant expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget: note by the Executive Director  | Pursuant to decision 26/9, the document provides information on the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for 2010–2011, in addition to information on the execution of the budget.  |
| <b>UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/5</b><br>Regional consultations with major groups and stakeholders: note by the Executive Director   | The document sets out statements and recommendations by major groups and stakeholders prepared during regional consultations held in preparation for the thirteenth session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.  |

## Item 5: Other matters

28. The Council/Forum will consider any other matters raised by its members and observers.

**Item 6: Adoption of the report**

29. The Council/Forum will consider and adopt its report.

**Item 7: Closure of session**

30. The Council/Forum is expected to conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 22 February 2012.

## Annex

## Tentative programme

|             | 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 10 a.m.   | 11 a.m. | Noon | 1 p.m.   | 2 p.m. | 3 p.m.  | 4 p.m.                             | 5 p.m. | 6 p.m.                | 7 p.m.   | 8 p.m. |
|-------------|--------|--------|---|---------|------|--|--------|---|------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--|--------|
| Sat         |        |        | 9.30 a.m.–1.30 p.m.<br>Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum   |         |      |  |        | 2.30–5.30 p.m.<br>Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum  |                                    |        | 6–8 p.m.<br>Reception |  |        |
| Sun, 19 Feb |        |        | 9.30 a.m.–1.30 p.m.<br>Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum   |         |      |  |        | 2.30–5.30 p.m.<br>Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum   |                                    |        |                       |  |        |
|             |        |        |   |         |      |  |        |   | 4–5 p.m.<br>Informal consultations |        |                       |  |        |
| Mon, 20 Feb |        |        | 10 a.m. –1 p.m.<br>Plenary<br><i>Opening plenary</i><br><b>Item 1:</b> Opening of the session<br><b>Item 2:</b> Organization of work<br>(a) Adoption of the agenda<br>(b) Organization of work<br><i>Policy statement by the Executive Director</i> |         |      | 1–2 p.m.<br>Special events<br>1–2 p.m.<br>Press events |        | 3–6 p.m.<br>Ministerial consultations<br><b>Item 4: High-level symposium: Environmental change and global responses in 2012</b><br>3–6 p.m.<br>Committee of the Whole<br><i>Organization of work</i><br><b>Election of the Rapporteur</b><br><b>Item 4:</b> Emerging policy issues: environment and development |                                    |        |                       | 7–9 p.m.<br>Social function                          |        |
| Tue, 21 Feb |        |        | 10 a.m. –1 p.m.<br>Ministerial consultations<br><b>Item 4: Ministerial round-table discussion on the green economy</b>  |         |      | 1–2 p.m.<br>Special events<br>1–2 p.m.<br>Press events |        | 3–6 p.m.<br>Ministerial consultations<br><b>Item 4: Ministerial round-table discussion on the institutional framework for sustainable development</b><br>3–6 p.m.<br>Committee of the Whole<br><b>Item 4</b>  |                                    |        |                       | 7–9 p.m.<br>Sasakawa Awards ceremony and gala dinner |        |
|             |        |        | 10 a.m. –1 p.m.<br>Committee of the Whole<br><b>Item 4</b>  |         |      |  |        |   |                                    |        |                       |  |        |
| Wed, 22 Feb |        |        | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.<br>Ministerial consultations<br><b>Item 4</b><br><i>Moderated plenary discussion on Rio+20 and beyond: Responding to the challenges</i>  |         |      | 1–2 p.m.<br>Special events<br>1–2 p.m.<br>Press events |        | 3–6 p.m.<br>Plenary<br><i>Summary discussion on the outcome document</i><br><b>Adoption of decisions</b><br><b>Item 3:</b> Credentials<br><b>Item 6:</b> Adoption of the report<br><b>Item 7:</b> Closure of the session  |                                    |        |                       |  |        |
|             |        |        | 10 a.m. –1 p.m.<br>Committee of the Whole<br><b>Item 4</b><br><b>Item 5:</b> Other matters<br><i>Approval of decisions</i><br><i>Conclusion of the work of the Committee</i>  |         |      |  |        |   |                                    |        |                       |  |        |