



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

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**Ninth special session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Dubai, 7–9 February 2006

**Proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial
Environment Forum at its ninth special session**

Introduction

The ninth special session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at the Dubai International Convention Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 7 to 9 February 2006. It was convened in pursuance of paragraph 1 (g) of Governing Council decision 20/17 of 5 February 1999, entitled “Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements”; Governing Council decision 23/12 of 7 April 2005, entitled “Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum”, paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, entitled “Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements”; and paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, entitled “Pattern of conferences”; and in accordance with rules 5 and 6 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council.

I. Opening of the session

A. Ceremonial opening

1. The ceremonial opening of the ninth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held on Monday, 6 February 2006, in conjunction with the award ceremony for the third Zayed International Prize for the Environment.

2. The international jury of the prestigious environment-related Zayed Prize unanimously decided in 2006 to award the 2005 Prize for Global Leadership to Mr. Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General. It also awarded the Prize for Environmental Action Leading to Positive Change in Society to Ms. Angela Cropper of the Cropper Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago and Mr. Emil Salim, State Minister for Environment and Development of Indonesia; and the Prize for Scientific and Technological Achievements in Environment to the team of experts whose work had made the United Nations Millennium Ecosystem Assessment a success. The last-mentioned prize was accepted on behalf of the team by the Assessment’s director, Mr. Walter Reid.

3. The awards were presented by the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid al-Maktoum, patron of the Zayed International Prize.
4. During the ceremony, statements were made by Mr. Mohammed Ahmad bin Fahad, Chair of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, President of the UNEP Governing Council, and Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP.
5. In his acceptance speech, the Secretary-General noted that the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates had learned the importance of using scarce resources efficiently, recognizing that sustainable development would not succeed without conservation of the world's natural capital – the environment. That understanding also lay at the heart of the United Nations' global mission of peace and development.
6. He highlighted the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which had shown the terrible toll that human activities were inflicting on the resources and networks supporting life on earth, noting that there would be little peace and much greater poverty if that assault continued. He announced that he would use the funds bestowed by the prize as seed money for a foundation which he would establish in Africa to promote agriculture and girls' education. The full text of the Secretary-General's acceptance speech is contained in annex V to the present proceedings.

B. Formal opening

7. The ninth special session was formally opened at 10.45 a.m. on Tuesday, 7 February 2006. The Minister for Health of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Hamad A Al Midfaa, welcomed participants to the session. Mr. Töpfer also made welcoming remarks. Following those welcoming statements, opening addresses were delivered by Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, State Minister for the Environment of Indonesia and President of the Council/Forum. In addition, keynote addresses were delivered to the Council/Forum by Mr. Moritz Leuenberger, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Mr. Yahya Jammeh, President of the Gambia.
8. Mr. Midfaa welcomed participants to the session of the Council/Forum in Dubai, the first to be held in the region. He said that the three main themes of the session – energy and environment, chemicals management and tourism and the environment – were interrelated, and were closely linked to sustainable development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. All three were integral to the economy of the United Arab Emirates, which had accorded them priority in national planning, policy development and legislation. He expressed appreciation to UNEP for its unremitting efforts to promote sustainable development.
9. Mr. Töpfer expressed appreciation for the accolades and good wishes that he had received on the occasion of his imminent retirement from UNEP. He said that the three previous special sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum had all had major outcomes: the Malmö Declaration in 2000; the Cartagena decision on international environmental governance in 2002; and the Jeju Initiative of 2004. The current meeting had already received a promising signal in the conclusion of the International Conference on Chemicals Management with the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, and he looked forward to the successful implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. He saw the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building as a very promising initiative to promote sustainable development in developing countries.
10. Ms. Tibaijuka spoke of the renewed commitment to the important partnership between UN-Habitat and UNEP. Given the growing importance that Governments were according to sustainable development, she highlighted the natural nexus between the two organizations and noted that the environment was inextricably linked to poverty reduction and issues of urbanization. Observing that poverty could also be a source of environmental degradation, she stressed the need to consider the economic aspects of sustainable development in order to address the huge chasm between rich and poor. She highlighted some of the projects that UN-Habitat was involved in, but noted that the organization was currently struggling to deliver on seven of the Millennium Development Goals and said their attainment would require continued efforts to ensure access to adequate shelter together with the provision of clean water, sanitation and electricity. Finally, paying tribute to Mr. Töpfer for his work over the years, which had benefited both UNEP and UN-Habitat, she once again stressed the need for both organizations to continue their strong cooperation towards the mutual goal of sustainable development.

11. Mr. Witoelar noted that the current session of the Council/Forum represented the first occasion that a United Nations body had met in West Asia and expressed the view that it was particularly fitting that the venue should be the United Arab Emirates, a country which had demonstrated exceptional diligence in its care of and attention to the environment and thus served as a role model for the rest of the world. Reviewing the significant progress achieved toward the goals of international environmental governance since the previous session of the Council/Forum, including through implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan and increased South-South cooperation, he recalled the reaffirmation by the United Nations General Assembly at its high-level plenary meeting in 2005 that sustainable development constituted a key element of the frameworks of the United Nations and urged member States to work together to achieve the targets set out in the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals.

12. In his keynote address, Mr. Jammeh affirmed that the ninth special session was taking place at a defining moment in the history of humankind. The international community had agreed on ambitious poverty reduction and development goals over recent years, which the Governing Council should help to achieve through approval of a new global compact building on the commitments in the Bali Strategic Plan. He paid tribute to the outstanding work of Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, and Mr. Töpfer, who were both due to retire during 2006. On behalf of the States of the African region, he presented Mr. Töpfer with a gift in recognition of his efforts.

13. He recalled that six African countries, including his own, had been selected as pilot countries for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan. Each of those States had demonstrated its commitment to implementation of the Strategic Plan by allocating domestic resources to its implementation. The effectiveness of the Strategic Plan would, however, depend heavily upon the provision of adequate financial support, as well as cooperation between Governments, all relevant United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions, civil society and the private sector. Accordingly, consideration of the financing and implementation of the Strategic Plan had to remain at the core of the forthcoming discussions, and it would be necessary to give thought to the establishment of a special trust fund to support its implementation. In conclusion, he presented a statement of commitment by those six States to implement the Strategic Plan, which they had adopted at a meeting of the African Union on 23 January 2006.

14. In his keynote address, Mr. Leuenberger illustrated the importance to the future health, well-being and economic prosperity of humankind of safeguarding the diversity of the global environment, and he averred that such measures as finalizing the agreement on a strategic approach to international chemicals management would be crucial to the success of that undertaking. It was also necessary to recognize that the roles of developed and developing countries differed, and it was important to abide by principles requiring those who consumed natural resources or polluted the environment to pay appropriately for their actions.

15. On the international level, he said that there was a need for clearly articulated policies and goals for the environment. There was also a need for a strong United Nations institution to develop and monitor environmental indicators and to provide guidance and coherence in rule-making. The World Trade Organization had played such a role with respect to trade-related issues, and the highly fragmented system of international environmental governance would benefit from a similar institution. Citing the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Millennium Development Goals as inspiring accomplishments, he urged the Council/Forum to set its sights on defining and achieving global environmental goals. In conclusion, he reiterated his message that humankind had to strive to create a prosperous and sustainable future by protecting biodiversity through a healthy symbiosis of social welfare, economics and environmental protection.

C. Report on the International Conference on Chemicals Management

16. At the opening session, the representative of the secretariat briefly apprised the Council/Forum of the outcomes of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which had successfully concluded the previous evening. Those outcomes were designed to facilitate attainment of the goal stated in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation that, by 2020, chemicals were “used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment[.]” The Conference had adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which comprised three documents: the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action. The Strategic Approach documents included sections, among others, on needs and objectives, supporting financial mechanisms,

principles and approaches and implementation activities. She expressed the hope that the agreement would be endorsed by the governing bodies of UNEP and of other relevant international organizations.

17. It was envisaged that UNEP would play a leading role along with the World Health Organization in the secretariat according to their areas of expertise and in accordance with their mandates and upon approval of their governing bodies. UNEP was to undertake activities in support of implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, perform secretariat and administrative functions, oversee intersessional work and manage a trust fund for a Quick Start Programme, using funds recently pledged for that purpose. Those activities, among others, were designed to lead to the targeted goals by 2020.

18. As indicated in chapter IV, below, the Council/Forum adopted decision SS.IX/1, set out in annex I to the present proceedings, in which it endorsed the Strategic Approach.

II. Organization of the session

A. Attendance

19. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented at the session:¹ Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay.

20. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were represented by observers: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Bahrain, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Venezuela, (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

21. The observer for the Holy See to the United Nations also participated.

22. The following United Nations bodies, Secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Safety and Security, secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ozone Secretariat, secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, secretariat of the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, secretariat of the United Nations Chief Executive Board for Coordination, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Forum on Forests, secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations University

¹ The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 29th plenary meeting of the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, held on 22 October 2001, the 59th plenary meeting of the fifty-eighth session, held on 10 November 2003, and the 43rd plenary meeting of the sixtieth session, held on 3 November 2005.

23. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations World Tourism Organization, World Bank, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization

24. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Union Commission, Caribbean Community secretariat, Commonwealth secretariat, European Commission, IUCN – The World Conservation Union, League of Arab States, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Southeast Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

25. In addition, representatives of non-governmental and private-sector organizations attended as observers. The full list of participants is contained in document UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/16/Rev.1.

B. Election of officers

26. The President of the Bureau of the Governing Council informed the Council/Forum that the General Assembly had on 3 November 2005 elected 29 member States of the Governing Council for the period 2006–2009 and that Switzerland had not been among those elected. As a result, the office of Vice-President of the Bureau which had been held by Mr. Beat Nobs of Switzerland, representing the group of Western European and other States, had become vacant on 1 January 2006.

27. In that regard, he recalled that the Council/Forum had agreed at its twenty-third session that, in the event that Switzerland was not elected to the Governing Council for the period 2006–2009, Mr. Nobs would be replaced by a representative of a State member of the Governing Council from the group of Western European and other States. In accordance with that agreement, the group had put forward Ms. Lena Sommerstad, Minister for Environment of Sweden, to take Mr. Nobs's place.

28. Following the election by acclamation of Ms. Sommerstad as Vice-President of the Bureau, the officers of the Council/Forum at the ninth special session were as follows:

President:	Mr. Rachmat Witoelar (Indonesia)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Sulfina Barbu (Romania) Ms. Lena Sommerstad (Sweden) Mr. Sedogo Laurent (Burkina Faso)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Donald Cooper (Bahamas)

C. Adoption of the agenda

29. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Council/Forum adopted the following agenda for the session, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/GCSS.IX/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment.
5. Policy issues:
 - (a) Energy and environment;
 - (b) Chemicals management;
 - (c) Tourism and the environment.

6. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
7. International environmental governance.
8. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
9. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the session.

D. Organization of the work of the session

30. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Council/Forum considered the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/GCSS.IX/1/Add.1) and organization of work as agreed by the Bureau.

31. The Council/Forum agreed that plenary meetings during the current session would take the form of ministerial-level consultations, beginning with the 2nd meeting and continuing through the morning of Thursday, 9 February 2006. In those consultations, the plenary would consider agenda item 5 (Policy issues), through discussions on the policy themes: “Energy and environment”, “Chemicals management” and “Tourism and the environment”), and agenda item 7 (International environmental governance), with a particular focus on the issue of universal membership of the Governing Council.

32. The Council/Forum also decided to establish a committee of the whole and, for the sake of continuity in the work of the Committee, elected Mr. Nobs as its chair, on the understanding that that appointment would not constitute a precedent for UNEP or any other United Nations body. The Council/Forum agreed that the Committee of the Whole would consider agenda items 4 (Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment), 6 (Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development), 7 (International environmental governance), 8 (Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum) and 9 (Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council).

33. It was further agreed that the Council/Forum would consider agenda items 3 (Credentials of representatives), 10 (Other matters), 11 (Adoption of the report) and 12 (Closure of the session) at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Thursday, 9 February 2006.

E. Report of the Committee of the Whole

34. The Committee of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Mr. Nobs, held four meetings from 7 to 9 February to consider the agenda items assigned to it. The Council/Forum took note of the report of the Committee of the Whole at its 6th plenary meeting, on 9 February. The report of the Committee is contained in annex II to the present proceedings.

III. Credentials of representatives

35. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the ninth special session. Representatives of 57 of the 58 member States attended the session and their credentials were found to be in order. The Bureau so reported to the Council/Forum, which approved the Bureau’s report at the 6th plenary meeting, on 9 February 2006.

IV. Adoption of decisions

36. At its 6th plenary meeting, on 9 February 2006, the Council/Forum adopted decision SS.IX/1, entitled Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The text of the decision is contained in annex I to the present proceedings.

V. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment (agenda item 4)

37. Agenda item 4, assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment, was considered in the Committee of the Whole. The report of the deliberations of the Committee is contained in annex II to the present proceedings.

VI. Policy issues (agenda item 5)

38. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 7 February 2006, the Council/Forum began its consideration of agenda item 5 in the form of ministerial consultations on the two policy issues of energy and environment and tourism and the environment. The ministers and other heads of delegations had been scheduled to hold consultations on the third policy issue of chemicals management, but owing to time constraints, submitted it to the Committee of the Whole for its consideration prior to its further consideration by the Council/Forum in plenary. As noted in chapter IV, above, the Council/Forum adopted a decision on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which is contained in annex I to the present proceedings.

39. The ministers and other heads of delegations began discussion of the policy issue of energy and environment at the 2nd plenary meeting, on 7 February, and continued it at the 3rd plenary meeting, on 8 February. They discussed the policy issue of tourism and the environment at the 4th plenary meeting, on 8 February. Mr. Töpfer opened each discussion, introducing keynote speakers who addressed the ministers prior to each discussion in order to stimulate debate, and each discussion was served by two moderators. The ministers had before them reports of the Executive Director on the two policy issues (UNEP/GCSS.IX/9 and Add.1 and 3); a number of civil society statements to the seventh Global Civil Society Forum (UNEP/GCSS.IXINF/7 and Add.1–6); and notes by the Executive Director on a summary of the UNEP energy programme and the status of, trends in and prospects for renewable energy (UNEP/GCSS.IXINF/11) and the activities of UNEP in the area of tourism (UNEP/GCSS.IXINF/12).

40. The President of the Council/Forum prepared a summary of the ministers' and heads of delegations' discussion, which he submitted for consideration by the Council/Forum. The ministers and other heads of delegations expressed their overall satisfaction with the summary, and there was widespread agreement on many of the points contained in it. It was agreed, however, that while the summary was an accurate recapitulation of the issues discussed by the ministers and other heads of delegations during the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, there was no consensus on a number of the issues included in it. On that understanding, the ministers and other heads of delegations agreed that the text of the summary, which is entitled the "United Arab Emirates Initiative" and is attached as annex III to the present proceedings, should be transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development as the contribution of UNEP to the work of the Commission at its upcoming fourteenth session, at which the Commission would review the question of energy and environment.

41. During the consultations on tourism and environment, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed the view that current arrangements pertaining to tourism and environment were inadequate and piecemeal. What was needed, she said, was a coherent, strategic, long-term approach, along the lines of that advocated in a publication entitled "Nature-Based Tourism – a Draft International Covenant". She asked that her intervention be reflected in the present proceedings and that a written submission that her country had circulated be annexed to the President's summary on the issue.

VII. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (agenda item 6)

42. Agenda item 6, follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was considered in the Committee of the Whole. The report of the deliberations of the Committee is contained in annex II to the present proceedings.

VIII. International environmental governance (agenda item 7)

43. Agenda item 7, international environmental governance, was considered in the Committee of the Whole. The report of the deliberations of the Committee is contained in annex II to the present proceedings.

44. Item 7 was also considered in plenary, in the form of ministerial consultations, on 8 and 9 February. The Executive Director introduced the item, and the ministers and heads of delegations were addressed by a keynote speaker, Ms. Nelly Olin, Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development of France, who outlined a proposal for the transformation of UNEP into a United Nations environmental organization that would be based in Nairobi and would have the status of a United Nations specialized agency. The ministers and other heads of delegation were also addressed by Mr. Adnan Amin, Director of the UNEP office at United Nations Headquarters in New York and Executive Director of the Secretary-General's Panel on United Nations system-wide coherence, who spoke on international environmental governance, including recent developments in efforts to increase efficiency in the management of environmental issues in the United Nations system.

45. The ministers and heads of delegations then discussed the issues. A summary of their discussion prepared by the President of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum is set out in annex IV to the present proceedings. The summary reflects a variety of views expressed and does not constitute a consensus.

IX. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 8)

46. Agenda item 8, outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, was considered in the Committee of the Whole. The report of the deliberations of the Committee is contained in annex II to the present proceedings.

X. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council (agenda item 9)

47. Agenda item 9, implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council, was considered in the Committee of the Whole. The report of the deliberations of the Committee is contained in annex II to the present proceedings.

XI. Other matters (agenda item 10)

48. The Council/Forum took up no other matters at the current session.

XII. Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

49. The present proceedings were adopted at the 6th plenary meeting of the session, on Thursday, 9 February 2006, on the basis of the draft reports of the plenary meetings and of the Committee of the Whole contained in documents UNEP/GCSS.IX/L.1 and Add.1 and UNEP/GCSS.IX/CW/L.1, respectively, and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with their finalization and that they would consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP regarding that part of the proceedings reflecting the discussions taking place during the sixth plenary meeting.

XIII. Closure of the session (agenda item 12)

50. Prior to closure of the meeting, one representative expressed concern at certain aspects of the manner in which the current session had been conducted, in particular the fact that the Council/Forum had been asked to approve an annex to the report of the meeting containing a summary of the ministerial discussions on international environmental governance which, due to time constraints, the Council/Forum had not had the opportunity to review. To avoid similar situations in the future, the representative suggested that the Bureau and the secretariat should consult with the member States regarding their plans for the conduct of future sessions of the Council/Forum. The representative also requested that her remarks be reflected in the present proceedings.

51. During the customary exchange of courtesies, many representatives paid tribute to Mr. Töpfer for his long and highly effective years of service as the Executive Director of UNEP. Following those tributes and the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the ninth special session closed at 6.15 pm on Thursday, 9 February 2006.

Annex I

Decision adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session

SS.IX/1. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 of 7 February 1997, 20/23 of 4 February 1999, SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002, 22/4 of 7 February 2003 and 23/9 of 25 February 2005 concerning global policies related to chemicals management and the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Recalling paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation¹ adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development on 4 September 2002, and paragraph 56 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 2005, in which the development of such a strategic approach was endorsed by heads of State and Government,

Noting the support expressed for the development of a strategic approach at the tenth regular session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, on 30 June 2004, the fifteenth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, on 4 November 2005, the 2,697th meeting of the Council of the European Union, on 2 December 2005, and the seventeenth session of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for the Environment, on 21 December 2005,

Welcoming the spirit of coordination and cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,

Also welcoming the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, consisting of the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action, as adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006²,

1. *Endorses* the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as contained in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to convene the future sessions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management provided for in the Overarching Policy Strategy, where appropriate to be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to establish and assume overall administrative responsibility for the Strategic Approach secretariat and authorizes the participation of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Strategic Approach secretariat in accordance with relevant decisions of the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;

4. *Invites* all Governments, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, including from the private sector, to provide voluntary extra-budgetary resources in support of the Strategic Approach secretariat in the fulfilment of its functions;

5. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to establish and manage the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to support initial implementation of the Strategic Approach;

¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publications, Sales no. E.03.II.A1) chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

² *Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7)*, annexes I, II and III.

6. *Urges* Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to make contributions to the voluntary trust fund established by the United Nations Environment Programme to support Strategic Approach implementation activities under the Quick Start Programme³;

7. *Invites* Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute resources to support the Strategic Approach implementation activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Quick Start Programme;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on initial activities and planning in support of Strategic Approach implementation activities by the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.⁴

3 SAICM/ICCM.1/7, annex IV, resolution 1.

4 UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1.

Annex II

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. George Krhoda (Kenya)

Introduction

In pursuance of the decision of the Governing Council on the organization of the work of its ninth special session, adopted at the 1st meeting of the session, on 7 February 2006, the Committee of the Whole held four meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. Beat Nobs (Switzerland), from 7 to 9 February, to consider agenda items 4 (Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment), 6 (Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development), 7 (International Environmental Governance), 8 (Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum) and 9 (Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council). The Committee also considered a draft decision prepared by the International Conference on Chemicals Management and proposed for adoption by the Council/Forum.

At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 7 February 2006, the Committee of the Whole elected Mr. George Krhoda (Kenya) to serve as Rapporteur of its meetings.

The Chair proposed, and the Committee agreed, to follow the programme of work set out in a conference room paper circulated to Committee members at its 1st meeting. During the meetings of the Committee of the Whole, the secretariat introduced every item considered, after which representatives expressed their views thereon.

I. Opening

1. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the Committee's first meeting by thanking the Bureau and the member States for electing him to continue as Chair. He also welcomed the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to the meetings of the Committee and said it would be his pleasure to work with all delegations.
2. Turning to the programme of work, the Chair drew attention to further procedural points and requested participants to be clear, concise, succinct and thematically focused in their interventions.

II. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment (agenda item 4)

A. Presentation

3. The Committee took up the item at its 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 8 February 2006. In considering the item, the Committee had before it a report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment and the contribution of UNEP to addressing substantive environmental challenges (UNEP/GCSS.IX/10); and notes by the Executive Director on the GEO Year Book 2006 (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/2), the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/8) and the Global International Waters Assessment (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/9).
4. The representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the various assessments conducted by or with the involvement of UNEP, notably the *GEO Yearbook 2006*, the third report in the Global Environment Outlook yearbook series; the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; and the Global International Waters Assessment.

5. She informed the Committee that the feature focus of the *GEO Yearbook 2006*, on energy and air pollution, highlighted three key areas: indoor air pollution resulting from the use of solid fuels, which represented the tenth most serious health risk in the world; urban air pollution, which was responsible for 800,000 premature deaths every year; and long-range air pollution. The report stressed the need to increase energy efficiency without compromising the energy needs of the poor. On the credit side, the report had observed the increasing availability and competitiveness of sustainable and environmentally friendly energy sources and clean technologies. She also informed the Committee that work was well under way on *GEO-4*, due to appear in 2007, and called for Government participation in the peer-review process, which was shortly to commence.

6. Turning to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, concluded in June 2005 at the end of a four-year process, she noted that, at the ceremony held at the commencement of the current session, the Assessment had been awarded the Zayed Prize in category II, for scientific or technological achievement in environmental work. The Assessment sounded a warning: 60 per cent of the world's ecosystem services were being degraded, in particular under the influence of human activities, and the poorest populations in the poorest countries were those worst affected. The Global International Waters Assessment presented data drawn from 66 regions and subsystems. Its findings showed a steady deterioration in all the major parameters assessed.

7. On a more positive note, she welcomed the decision by the United Nations General Assembly, by its resolution 60/30 of 29 November 2005, to proceed with the initial phase of implementation of a regular process for assessment of the global marine environment, for which UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC) had been requested to act as the secretariat and which included the conduct of an initial assessment of assessments. Finally, she introduced the recently published *One Planet, Many People: Atlas of Our Changing Environment*, the best selling publication ever produced by UNEP, the satellite images in which dramatically illustrated how the surface of the Earth had been visibly scarred by human activities.

B. Discussion

8. All representatives taking the floor welcomed the assessments, applauding UNEP on its assessment work, which, as some pointed out, also included other, smaller undertakings such as the report entitled *Breaking the Waves: Assessment of the Buffering Capacity of Mangroves and Coral Reefs*, which was singled out for particular praise. Several representatives called for increased coordination between interested organizations in assessment work and for UNEP to play an even stronger role in that area, which was of particular importance for awareness-raising. The representative of Norway said that one-third of the substantial funds pledged under her country's framework agreement with UNEP would be earmarked for this programme area.

9. Several representatives noted the warning sent out by the assessments that humankind was living on borrowed time and stressed the urgent need to implement their findings, including by reducing the ecological footprint of developed countries. Some speakers described problems and successes in their own countries and at the regional level in dealing with negative environmental trends. Positive measures included the promotion of renewable energy resources, conversion from solid fuel to gas and the development of clean technology through such innovations as hybrid cars.

10. Attention was drawn to the need for capacity-building in developing countries, in particular through full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan. Attention also was drawn to the pilot projects under way in six African countries aimed at implementation of the Strategic Plan and, in the interest of seeing the Plan still further, the secretariat was requested to provide guidance on how it could be applied to implement the recommendations of, and follow-up to, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Given the transboundary nature of the problems, the need for international cooperation was also stressed, including through the exchange of experience and such measures as the clean indoor air partnerships already established between a number of countries. Many noted that the environmental problems identified impeded attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and, given that the issues were so closely interconnected, called for a holistic approach to solving them. In that light, it was said that conservation of natural resources was key to attainment of all the goals, not just Goal 7 on environment.

11. A cautionary note was sounded about the possible proliferation of assessments and the need to avoid duplication. One representative regretted that there had not been more consultation between UNEP and national institutions in the preparation of the reports; others suggested that more use could be made of national and regional institutions in gathering data, and requests were made to UNEP for guidance as to how to use the data in the assessments at the national level.

III. Policy issues: chemicals management (agenda item 5 (b))

12. The Committee took up the item at its 2nd meeting, on the morning of 8 February, at which time it considered a draft decision endorsing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. Following debate, a drafting group was formed to consider minor changes that had been proposed. At its 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of 8 February, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the draft decision as amended by the drafting group.

IV. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (agenda item 6)

Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 8)

A. Presentation

13. The Committee took up agenda items 6 and 8 jointly at its 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 8 February 2006. In considering the items, the Committee had before it reports of the Executive Director on chemicals management (UNEP/GCSS.IX/6 and Add.1) and outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (UNEP/GCSS.IX/8); and notes by the Executive Director on energy and environment (UNEP/GCSS.IX/9/Add.1), the *GEO Year Book 2006* (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/2), issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session of significance to UNEP (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/3); and the UNEP energy programme and the present status of, major trends in and future prospects for renewable energy (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/11).

14. Introducing the items, the Deputy Executive Director recalled that the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit entailed far-reaching implications for the environment, not the least of which was a reaffirmation of the mandates of UNEP. He noted that the Summit had identified poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development as key elements of sustainable development, and he drew attention to the detailed commitments of global leaders to sustainable development, especially under Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Highlighting paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome⁵, he noted the general recognition of the need to enhance the coherence and efficiency of environmental activities in the United Nations system.

B. Discussion

15. Many representatives emphasized that the ministerial discussions on energy issues at the current session of the Council/Forum would be an important contribution by UNEP to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. They highlighted the linkage between energy and major global environmental issues such as climate change, air pollution and the Millennium Development Goals in the overall context of sustainable development. Some representatives stated their hope that, as the forthcoming session of the Commission would be the review year of the 2006–2007 implementation cycle, it would provide a useful platform for exchanging experiences and lessons.

16. Regarding the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in particular its paragraph 169, many stressed that it was important for UNEP to pursue the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance. In that context, a number of issues were highlighted, including implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan; enhancing synergies between chemicals-related and wastes-related multilateral environmental conventions; financing, including the replenishment of the

⁵ General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 6 September 2005.

Global Environment Facility; and enhancing coordination among relevant United Nations bodies and agencies. The view was also expressed that UNEP should pursue implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and prepare a list of global environment goals on which agreement had been reached in recent years, such as those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in order to provide focus and visibility. The list, it was suggested, should be complemented by criteria and indicators for its implementation.

17. Referring to the same paragraph, some representatives stated that there was a need to strengthen the institutional framework through the establishment of a United Nations environment organization, while others said there was a need both to assess ways and means of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of existing institutional arrangements and also to examine the implications of any change in those arrangements. Some representatives pointed out, however, that exploring the possibility of a more coherent institutional structure did not necessarily warrant the establishment of a new organization; accordingly, they did not support the creation of such an organization or the introduction of universal membership of the Governing Council of UNEP.

V. International environmental governance (agenda item 7)

A. Presentation

18. The Committee took up the item at its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 7 February 2006. In considering the item, the Committee had before it reports of the Executive Director on international environmental governance (UNEP/GCSS.IX/3), implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building (UNEP/GCSS.IX/3/Add.1) and the proposal for a UNEP Environment Watch system (UNEP/GCSS.IX/3/Add.2); notes by the Executive Director on the financing of UNEP (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/6), implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan in the programme of work for the biennium 2006–2007 (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/13) and the report of the high-level consultation on South-South cooperation (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/14).

19. Introducing the item, the Deputy Executive Director focused on three aspects of international environmental governance: the proposed “Environment Watch” system; the status of the Environmental Management Group; and the Bali Strategic Plan. He reviewed progress in the implementation of those measures.

20. In particular, he noted that, at its seventh special session, the Council/Forum had called for the strengthening of the scientific base of UNEP and had adopted specific measures to broaden it. UNEP had also undertaken activities to increase coordination between multilateral environmental agreements and had made efforts to revitalize the Environmental Management Group, which could become a useful mechanism for promoting cohesion between United Nations entities.

B. Discussion

21. The Chair took note of the view expressed by some representatives that the discussion of the question of universal membership of the Governing Council of UNEP should be the result of a formal dialogue through official channels, given that the outcome of that discussion was to be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a contribution to his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. The Chair said that he would convey those sentiments to the President of the Council/Forum, who would make a decision on the issue.

1. Environment Watch system

22. Within the context of strengthening the scientific base of UNEP, the representative of the secretariat reported on an updated Environment Watch proposal. He said the original proposal had been updated on the basis of feedback from Governments and that issues requiring further consideration included the orientation of the updated proposed architecture of the Environment Watch system; the need for further consultations and preparatory work before the proposal could be considered for adoption by the Council/Forum; the manner in which the system would relate to existing national, regional and international information networks, the setting of long-term priorities for the programme of work and the need for capacity-building and technical assistance.

23. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives endorsed the need for further consultations in order to clarify how the Environment Watch system might meet the needs of Governments and relate to existing national, regional and global structures such as the European Environmental Information and Observation Network, the African Environment Information Network and the Global Earth Observation

System of Systems. Some concern was expressed at the current complexity of the system and the need for further development to ensure that it was user-friendly and met the need to reduce national reporting burdens and avoid duplication. Several representatives supported incremental development of the system, perhaps starting with a few pilot schemes.

24. Several representatives said more clarity was required on the role of focal points, particularly at the national level, and how they were funded. If the system was to have a strong national and regional component, experts from developing countries would have to play a major role to enable them to assist in building national capacity. Coordination with the Bali Strategic Plan and twinning arrangements between focal points in different regional networks would assist technical and institutional capacity-building. It was generally felt by the representatives that the environment watch system required further improvement before it would be ready to be considered for approval by the Governing Council. Representatives, however, expressed the view that the importance of capacity-building and technology support in that area were such that they should not be held up by the continuing consideration of the Environment Watch framework.

25. The representative of an intergovernmental organization reported that his organization had followed with keen interest the work on the Environment Watch system and had provided some comments on the structure and wished to be involved in the process.

2. Environmental Management Group

26. The representative of the secretariat reviewed the development by the international community of system-wide coordination of environmental activities, culminating in the establishment, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 10 August 1999, of the Environmental Management Group. In response to a February 2005 evaluation of the performance of the Group, the Executive Director had decided to put in place more effective arrangements by upgrading the directorate handling the Group's activities and convening a high-level forum in Geneva in January 2006 with broad participation from other United Nations and multilateral environmental agencies.

27. The forum had provided the Group and other participants with an opportunity to deliberate collectively on how a revitalized Environmental Management Group could serve the United Nations more effectively by enabling its members to agree on common and coordinated approaches to the environmental challenges of the time. Participants had reviewed the Group's terms of reference and working methods in the light of emerging issues with a view to its general revitalization. The discussions had also focused on a support structure for the Group, including regular financing and the possibility of the Group becoming more results-oriented.

28. The representative of UNESCO then spoke on the outcome of the forum on behalf of the specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations system and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements that had attended it. He noted the desire of all those bodies collectively to respond to the current international demands for greater system-wide coherence and cooperation in the field of environment and human settlements. He said that, as a follow-up to the forum, they intended to convene in 2006 a partnership forum that would provide an opportunity to consult Governments and concerned parties on their views on the future work of the Environmental Management Group. He appealed to Governments, development cooperation partners and the international community to extend the necessary support to ongoing efforts aimed at reinvigorating the Group so that it could fully meet the expectations of General Assembly resolution 53/242.

29. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives acknowledged the work which the Group had done thus far. One representative, noting that the progress achieved was a step in the right direction, urged the Group to strive to be more results-oriented in order to foster coordinated action. The matter of what constituted priority issues for the Group to tackle was also discussed, particularly in relation to sustainable procurement. The view was expressed that the Environmental Management Group had not lived up to expectations and therefore needed to be strengthened. While some representatives welcomed the idea of partnerships, others stressed the need for the work of the Group to be considered as part of the continuing United Nations reform process and the ongoing work of the United Nations on system-wide coherence. It was also argued that the Environmental Management Group should not duplicate existing work, but instead build on the activities of the UNEP Division of Environmental Conventions such as the provision of support to multilateral environmental agreements. The issue of relocating the Environmental Management Group offices either to UNEP headquarters in Nairobi or to an undetermined location close to other international organizations was also raised.

3. Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

30. The representative of the secretariat presented a report on the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, with particular reference to the six pilot countries in Africa selected for projects aimed at implementation of the Plan. She noted that the biennium 2006–2007 would be a transitional and learning period with regard to the Plan's implementation and that further detailed discussions with partners would be required. She explained that, within the overall framework of the approved 2006–2007 programme of work, UNEP support for implementation of the Plan could be summarized as meeting the following four needs: assistance to country-driven needs assessments and priority setting; streamlining and focusing UNEP capacity-building and technology support activities; strengthening the contribution of UNEP to implementation of the Plan; and improving coordination with all parties, in particular UNDP. In conclusion, she reviewed certain significant actions which had already been taken towards meeting those needs.

31. The representative of the Gambia outlined the latest developments in the six pilot countries in Africa where projects aimed at implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan had been initiated. Noting that the Plan was fully in line with the aims of Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals and the capacity-building goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), he reported on a meeting that had been held in Khartoum on 23 January 2006 in the margins of a special session of the African Union to gauge what had been achieved and to chart a way forward. Given the high level of commitment in the African countries – a commitment which, they hoped, would be matched by the development partners – he stated his expectation that the needs assessment would be completed in all six countries by the end of the pilot phase.

32. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives acknowledged the successful implementation of the pilot projects in the six African countries and expressed the hope that those lessons and experiences would be expeditiously applied in other countries that had shown a commitment to the Bali Strategic Plan. Concerns were voiced about the financing mechanisms for programmes implemented under the Plan, with several representatives urging UNEP and industrialized countries to be engaged proactively in mobilizing resources for those projects, noting that the lack of a financial plan beyond voluntary contributions hampered implementation efforts. Other representatives, however, emphasized that existing resources should be used more efficiently. Greater coordination between UNEP and other bodies of the United Nations, particularly UNDP, and the active participation of UNEP in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, were highlighted as steps towards the more efficient use of existing technical, administrative and financial resources. The secretariat was requested to develop a study on how UNEP might work with UNDP, GEF, multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant actors active at the country level, and to present it to the Council/Forum at its next session. It was suggested that the memorandum of understanding with UNDP would be a good starting point for the study. Several representatives stressed the importance in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan of avoiding duplication and taking into account needs analyses and assessments already undertaken by countries.

33. Other points raised in the discussion included the need for broader and deeper South-South cooperation as well as North-South cooperation, most importantly for capacity-building and technical support; integration of implementation efforts with the Environmental Management Group in order to improve coordination and avoid duplication of effort; and the need for further cooperation between UNEP and other international institutions.

34. Representatives of UNDP reaffirmed the commitment of their organization to mainstreaming environmental issues in development activities and to collaborating with UNEP as part of the United Nations reform process. They stressed the importance of employing local resources in project implementation and of being inclusive in the priority-setting process so that partnerships involving UNDP, UNEP and other international organizations were coherent and responsive to local conditions.

35. Representatives of civil society commented favourably on the plans to improve coordination among UNEP and other United Nations institutions and urged that South-South cooperation not be limited to Government-to-Government interactions but also include dialogue between Government and civil society.

4. UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative

36. The Minister for the Environment of Rwanda, Ms. Patricia Hajabakiga, introduced the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative. Her presentation focused on the implementation of the initiative in Rwanda and on lessons learned, which could assist in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan. Noting that the sustainable use of resources would enhance development and poverty reduction, she said that Rwanda was the first country where the joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative project had been developed jointly from the very beginning. She expressed her country's appreciation to Belgium, the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom for the financial support which they had provided for the project, which was important to Rwanda because of the economy's heavy reliance on natural resources.

37. In addition to the need for capacity-building for environmental mainstreaming, she stressed the importance of strong commitment and leadership from the Government, significant resources, coordination between donors and a harmonization of procedures of the agencies involved, as such factors brought considerable benefits.

38. Comments from the representatives included wide appreciation for the example of country-driven prioritization of needs in the project, as well as for the close collaboration between UNEP, UNDP and the Government. Many speakers described implementation of the initiative in Rwanda as an important component of the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.

39. The representative of a non-governmental organization noted the importance of bearing in mind the commitments made under the Bali Strategic Plan and of taking into account the contribution which civil society had to offer. There was much goodwill for adequate financing, but that needed to be turned into real action. She recommended, among other actions, a further strengthening of the Environmental Management Group and incorporation of the Rio principles agreed at the 1992 Earth Summit.

VI. Implementation of the programme of work of UNEP and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council (agenda item 9)

A. Presentation

40. The Committee took up the item at its 2nd meeting, on the morning of Wednesday, 8 February 2006. In considering the item, the Committee had before it reports by the Executive Director on the draft updated water policy and strategy of UNEP (UNEP/GCSS.IX/4), environmental emergency response and disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early warning systems (UNEP/GCSS.IX/5), chemicals management (UNEP/GCSS.IX/6 and Add.1), mid-term progress in implementation of the long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues (UNEP/GCSS.IX/7), and the state of the environment and the contribution of UNEP to addressing substantive environmental challenges (UNEP/GCSS.IX/10); and notes by the Executive Director on the *GEO Yearbook 2006* (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/2), execution of the budget of UNEP for the biennium 2004–2005 (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/4), implementation of the programme of work of UNEP and relevant decisions of the Governing Council (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/5), findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/8), the Global International Waters Assessment (UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/9) and a progress report on activities to implement the water policy and strategy of UNEP (UNEP/GCSS.IX/10).

41. Introducing the draft updated water policy and strategy, the representative of the secretariat said that the intention was that the final document for ultimate consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session would provide strategic direction for UNEP activities in the area of water for six years, and a basis for the development of the UNEP biennial programmes of work. She noted the need, following discussion of the document during the current session, for further development of more specific details for implementation through greater elaboration of the annex.

42. Turning to the topic of environmental emergency response, she said that a series of disasters in 2005, including the Indian Ocean tsunami and the Asian earthquake, had highlighted the need to devise a more detailed strategy for environmental disaster management. UNEP had been working with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other partners to develop a strategy and mechanisms to guide environmental recovery, while avoiding duplication of effort.

43. The representative of OCHA read a message from Mr. Jan Egeland, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, emphasizing the importance that OCHA placed on collaboration with UNEP, for example through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, and providing information on recent actions to strengthen that collaboration.

44. Introducing the progress report on the involvement of young people in environmental issues, another representative of the secretariat drew attention to the success of the Tunza programme, which had used events, publications, competitions, regional initiatives, youth representation and other means to raise awareness of environmental issues among young people. He said that private sector partnership had provided the largest proportion of the funding for the programme, and underlined the increasing cooperation of the programme with other United Nations agencies.

B. Discussion

45. In the ensuing debate, wide support was expressed for the updated version of the draft water policy and strategy, although some issues remained unresolved. Concerns were raised about the issue of transboundary water systems, including the right of intervention by UNEP; the frequency of the monitoring process; the lack of consideration of patterns of production and consumption in the strategy; and the privatization of water and sanitation services. Some representatives felt that the UNEP water policy and strategy should identify and place greater focus on the organization's comparative advantages, for example in promotion of an ecosystem approach and measures to improve sanitation, and should also further elaborate how its implementation would dovetail with the work of other United Nations bodies.

46. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of developing countries, said that the need for infrastructure development for delivery of water services, including large-scale water projects, was of such urgency that it should not be dependent upon institutional and governance reform but should rather be pursued in parallel. In addition, care should be taken to tailor integrated water resources management programmes to the individual needs of countries, responding to short-term, medium-term and long-term needs. Strong commitments were expected from development partners to assist in those areas.

47. The proposals to improve environmental emergency response were welcomed. Suggestions to improve the process included a regular review for the integration of new findings into the strategic framework, including the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015; and the creation of a task force to strengthen mechanisms to help mitigate the impact of hurricanes and other natural disasters. Another representative highlighted the vulnerability of island and coastal States in the Caribbean region to tsunamis.

48. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the progress of the Tunza programme, and at the element of cooperation with the private sector. Some representatives requested assistance in helping implement the ideas at national level.

49. The representative of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) stressed its role in the integrated management of wetland ecosystems and reiterated the commitment of the Convention to work with UNEP in developing policy in areas of mutual concern such as biodiversity and response to natural disasters and climate change.

50. In summary, the Chair said that all suggestions would be considered in the further development of the relevant documents and programmes, and urged representatives to submit suggested new wording in writing as a means of facilitating that process.

VII. Closure of the Committee of the Whole

51. The Chair of the Committee declared the work of the Committee complete and its fourth and final meeting closed at noon on 9 February 2006.

Annex III

United Arab Emirates Initiative

Summary report of the President of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegation at the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme

Summary

1. Ministers and heads of delegation of 151 United Nations Member States attending the ninth special session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at Dubai, from 7 to 9 February 2006, met to discuss the themes of energy and environment and tourism and the environment.
2. These discussions were carried out under the leadership of the President of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Mr. Rachmat Witoelar (Indonesia), with the assistance of ministers from Argentina, Ghana, Iceland, Jordan, Pakistan, Spain and the United States of America.
3. Following keynote addresses by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, Ms. Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Ms. Deirdre Shurland, Director, Caribbean Alliance for Tourism of Trinidad and Tobago, ministers and heads of delegation addressed the themes of energy and environment as well as tourism and the environment.
4. A rich, wide-ranging and interactive debate took place, which underscored the conviction of all ministers and heads of delegation that heightened attention needed to be given to the environmental aspects of energy and tourism. The present President's summary attempts to draw on the major thrusts of the discussion among ministers and other heads of delegation attending the meeting, rather than provide a consensus view on all points.
5. A future ministerial discussion on globalization and environment was proposed and consideration of timing and modality encouraged.
6. Ministers and heads of delegation requested the President of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to convey the President's summary to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

A. Energy and environment

1. On 7 and 8 February 2006, the Council/Forum held discussions on energy. On the afternoon of 7 February, Ms. Christine Churcher, Minister for Environment and Science of Ghana, and Ms. Cristina Narbona Ruiz, Minister for Environment of Spain, chaired the discussions among ministers, while on Wednesday, 8 February, that function was performed by Ms. Sigridur Anna Thordardottir, Minister for Environment of Iceland, and Mr. Khalid Al-Irani, Minister for Environment of Jordan.
2. The ministerial consultations on energy began with keynote statements by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan and Ms. Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Those statements provided perspectives on energy issues and set the tone for the ensuing dialogue among ministers. Both speakers emphasized the importance of changing existing patterns of energy provision and use for climate and energy security reasons, while stressing the simultaneous need to expand the availability of energy services to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
3. The keynote statements⁶ on energy and environment highlighted the role of good government policies in providing the conditions under which investment decisions favouring cleaner technologies were made. The need for stable long-term policies was underlined as a prerequisite for a real transition towards more sustainable energy systems and as crucial to ensuring private sector investment. The issue of enhanced regional cooperation was highlighted, along with the value of broad international partnerships such as those established after the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Both speakers underlined that, in order to address the three overriding concerns of energy security, energy access and climate change, a broad menu of solutions was required that struck a balance between what were sometimes seen as competing objectives; there was no panacea or single solution. Energy efficiency and renewable energies showed impressive progress, but in the coming decades cleaner use of fossil fuels would be a key area for many countries.
4. Many ministers and heads of delegation underlined the critical role that energy played in every society, and agreed with the moderators' observation that the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum had an excellent opportunity to bring a strong credible message on the need for integrated action on energy, environment, and development to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions.
5. Many ministers and heads of delegation agreed that expanding access to cleaner forms of energy was central to achieving the ultimate goals of sustainable development and those of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Many speakers stressed that current patterns of energy production, distribution and use were not sustainable, and that providing modern energy services in a sustainable manner to the nearly two billion persons worldwide that lacked access to those services was the single biggest energy challenge for the twenty-first century. Several speakers stated their concern that the slow progress on improving energy access would make it difficult to achieve the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration in the agreed time frame.
6. Many speakers emphasized that climate change was a serious challenge with the potential to affect every part of the globe and that the energy sector was the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. They further noted that all countries, particularly the developing countries, faced an increased risk from the negative impacts of climate change. Many speakers noted that capacity-building, technology transfer and market mechanisms that engaged the private sector were critically important in assisting and supporting developing countries in addressing climate change. A number of speakers pointed out that, given their expanding energy needs, developing countries in particular had a good opportunity to expand access to energy services using cleaner technologies and approaches, thus coupling environmental and development objectives.
7. In a similar vein, many ministers and heads of delegation pointed out that many development projects presented the opportunity to improve local environmental quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions without creating negative consequences for development. Several speakers recommended using official development assistance in more creative ways to bring about greater investment and engagement by the private sector in the development of cleaner energy infrastructure, including involving technologies transferred between countries with developing economies.

⁶ Both keynote statements are attached as appendices I and II to the present summary report.

8. A number of ministers and heads of delegations also said that in almost all countries there existed wide scope for strengthening energy efficiency and conservation policies in the context of wider efforts to achieve sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Almost all speakers stated that improving energy efficiency offered the greatest immediate scope for reducing the anticipated growth in energy demand while also lowering emissions of many types of pollutants, including greenhouse gases. Such efforts were also mentioned by some speakers as improving energy security by reducing energy demand. Numerous speakers recommended that Governments should take steps to promote energy efficiency on both the supply and demand sides, including by adopting energy efficiency codes and standards for key end uses such as buildings, lighting, appliances, agriculture, industry and transportation equipment, as appropriate. The importance of improving energy efficiency in the buildings sector was highlighted, as was the market-making power of Governments as purchasers of energy efficient goods, equipment and services. In this context, the minister of Finland announced that his government was launching a task force on sustainable building and construction in the framework of the Marrakech process, and invited Governments to participate in its work.

9. Many ministers and heads of delegation recommended the rapid expansion of the use of renewable energy resources, and many examples of successful national policies and programmes were presented by speakers who took the floor. In that context, several delegations noted that significant progress had been achieved since the international community had met and discussed energy issues on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

10. In particular, it was recalled that the International Conference on Renewable Energies held in Bonn in 2004 and the subsequent Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference in 2005 had given increased impetus to the use of renewable energy sources. The progress achieved by the major energy initiatives established at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, such as the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development, the Global Village Energy Partnership, the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, was specifically highlighted in that context. Several speakers mentioned the establishment of the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the Twenty-First Century (REN21) as a specific follow-up to the Bonn Renewable Energy Conference that would take forward policy dialogue on renewable energy.

11. Several ministers and heads of delegation recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development should put in place a monitoring and review process to assess progress achieved on the recommendations embedded in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. They suggested that that process could be combined with the specific monitoring effort envisaged for the commitments made at the Bonn Renewable Energy Conference, and that UNEP could play a role in that regard. It was further suggested that those efforts should build on existing partnerships and reporting mechanisms.

12. Many speakers recommended that Governments should use market-oriented incentives and stimulate demand for more efficient and cleaner technologies, including technologies that tapped renewable sources of energy and made cleaner use of fossil fuels, including transport fuels. National examples and best practices were presented on different policy approaches. The need to share experiences more widely was recognized as a way to accelerate learning and replication, with the observation that in many instances countries with developing economies had successes that they could share with one another and with the industrialized countries.⁷

13. That greater investment was needed in the clean energy sector was made clear by numerous speakers. As the high transaction costs of initial investments in renewable sources of energy and efficiency remained an investment barrier, ministers and heads of delegation recommended that Governments should revise their energy tax and pricing frameworks to ensure that they reflected the full costs of energy production, consumption and use, and phase out environmentally harmful subsidies in favour of other energy sources. Such measures applied equally to developed and developing economies. Some speakers noted the advantages of establishing a funding mechanism that would support activities that increased access to modern forms of energy for the almost two billion people currently unserved. Other speakers noted that this was particularly urgent given the needs of vulnerable and post-conflict areas.

⁷ Examples of best practices identified by Governments and submitted to the secretariat in the area of energy and environment are presented in part 1 of appendix III to the present summary report.

14. In the area of finance, it was emphasized that the private sector played a key role. Speakers further noted that, in order to attract finance, it was critical to have a long-term and stable national policy framework combined with specific short-term actions to show commitment. Such frameworks were especially important for attracting finance from the private sector in areas such as renewable energy and energy efficiency investments, and were key to ensuring real transfer of technologies. Several speakers also noted that the private sector often held the intellectual property rights to new technologies and was thus instrumental to technology transfer efforts.
15. A number of ministers and heads of delegation noted that emerging carbon markets offered a potentially interesting means of introducing greater efficiency to the pricing and allocation of carbon emissions throughout economies. Many delegations did, however, note that successful application of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was hampered in their countries, often by the small scale of potential projects. In the light of its potential to bring both economic and environmental benefits to developing countries, many speakers emphasized that Governments that had ratified the Kyoto Protocol should increase use of the Clean Development Mechanism.
16. A number of speakers noted that energy use, particularly through poor fuel combustion, had serious consequences for human health, and urged that more attention should be given to the problem of indoor air pollution from biomass combustion in developing countries and that countries should give greater attention to improving the quality of transport fuels.
17. It was noted that, despite decades of progress, the production, transformation and use of energy still had a large impact on the environment and human health. The need to ensure that energy projects were designed and operated to high environmental standards was emphasized. Many speakers recommended that Governments should require the use of environmental impact assessments, risk assessments, environmental management systems and other project-based tools and approaches that were critical to reducing the environmental impacts of energy sector projects in all countries.
18. It was pointed out that the energy sector was inherently technology-based and that new and improved technologies held the promise of reducing the environmental and health impacts of energy use. Many ministers and heads of delegation argued that increased support should be given for research and development of cleaner energy technologies and the more rapid deployment of existing and new technologies in all countries. Joint public-private support for research and development was particularly important, they pointed out, in the case of emerging technologies such as hydrogen.
19. Many speakers drew attention to the capacity development needs in developing countries in particular, noting that those were significant but not always very well defined. A number of speakers pointed out that the Commission on Sustainable Development could be instrumental in facilitating a move from generic discussions on that issue to discussions that identified specific priority areas that would help overcome the major barriers to more sustainable energy systems. Such specific focus would ensure that support could be targeted to those areas with greater effect.
20. Several delegations expressed strong interest in bioenergy, and a number of specific new national initiatives in that area were presented, particularly regarding biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel for transport applications, use of which had the added advantage of creating jobs in rural areas. Other delegations stressed the significant increases in wind and geothermal applications and the growing attraction of photovoltaic technologies. The discussions on renewable energy technologies in general made clear that whether or not a specific technology was suitable in a given location depended in part on the renewable resource potential available, but that most countries had some renewable resource base to tap.
21. Given the expected growth in supply from bioenergy sources and the large number of sectors potentially affected by large scale bioenergy production, some speakers pointed out that Governments should conduct risk assessments of bioenergy schemes with a view to determining potential environmental impacts through their entire fuel cycle. Greater confidence about the environmental integrity of biomass-based energy systems would hasten their development and the acceptance of biomass fuels in particular.
22. In view of both the large hydropower potential in developing countries in particular and the concerns about potential negative environmental and social impacts associated with many dams, several speakers stressed that Governments should apply due diligence procedures in developing and operating hydropower projects, drawing on the large knowledge base and body of experience that now existed. Several ministers and heads of delegation spoke of the need to increase investment in environmentally

sound hydropower schemes, underlining the need to preserve ecosystems in catchment areas to ensure long-term availability of the resource.

23. Numerous ministers and heads of delegation noted that fossil fuels were expected to meet a large share of the anticipated growth in demand for energy in the coming decades, particularly in developing regions, and recommended that Governments should promote the development, transfer and accelerated deployment of cleaner technologies to developing countries. Several speakers noted the need to focus on better-established, commercially proven technologies in the short term, while others stressed that it was equally important to involve developing countries in programmes related to emerging technologies such as hydrogen and carbon capture and storage.

24. Ministers and heads of delegation repeatedly emphasized that the challenge to Governments was one of balancing competing objectives – a challenge illustrated by the failure of the existing energy system to internalize unaccounted-for costs of energy production, consumption and use. That notwithstanding, many noted that trade-offs were not always unavoidable and that corrective action in certain areas had the potential to bring about multiple gains, notably with regard to improvements in energy efficiency that brought environmental, economic and energy-security gains.

25. A number of delegations commended UNEP on the work that it had carried out and called upon the organization to increase its efforts in the energy area, in particular by providing policy guidance to developing countries, stimulating financial sector support of cleaner energy approaches and sharing best practices.

26. Ministers and heads of delegation invited the President of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to present his summary of the discussions to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth session.

B. Tourism and the environment

27. The ministerial-level consultation at the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on tourism and environment was chaired by Mr. Atilio Savino, Secretary for Environment of Argentina, and by Ms. Claudia McMurray, Assistant Secretary Designate for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs at the United States Department of State.

28. Ms. Deidre Shurland, Director of the Caribbean Association for Sustainable Tourism (CAST), delivered a keynote speech in which she addressed the tourism stakes in the Caribbean and highlighted the important role that Governments and businesses played in the development of strategies that promoted sustainable development in the tourism sector. Expressing concerns about the weakening of ecosystem resilience and the harmful effects of their wide-scale degradation, she suggested that tourism could become an ally to environmental and social development by reversing such trends⁸.

29. The ministerial round-table that followed provided a rich and productive exchange of views. Many ministerial statements focused on the main challenges of tourism and environment in their respective countries. The discussions, touching upon policies, strategies, tools, poverty alleviation and multilateral environmental agreements, as well as on the potential role of UNEP in promoting environmentally sound tourism in the framework of sustainable development, were structured around the following issues: Governments' role in promoting sustainable tourism; tourism as a tool for environmental conservation; promoting sustainable consumption and production in the tourism sector; and the required assistance from United Nations agencies to promote sustainable tourism.

30. The secretariat background paper, based on contributions from various private and civil society organizations, was welcomed, as it presented interesting options for Governments to promote sustainable forms of tourism. Those ranged from planning regulations to economic instruments and set out 12 sustainable tourism goals, their resultant policy implications, necessary collaborative structures and strategies needed at the national and local levels. The need to further promote and strengthen cooperation and partnership between UNEP, the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other concerned international agencies, as well as with civil society and non-governmental organizations, was stressed.

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Ms. Shurland's keynote statement is contained in appendix IV to the present summary report.

31. Ministers and heads of delegation highlighted the importance of tourism in their economies within the wider context of sustainable development, paying due attention to environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability. Overall, tourism should mainstream sustainability, including mass tourism as well as cultural, sports and ecotourism, by maximizing the social and economic benefits at national and local levels, particularly in developing countries. Ecotourism was also mentioned as a way forward. In that regard, following the request of some delegations, a definition taken from the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism is provided in appendix V to the present summary.

32. Ministers and heads of delegation discussed ways to support the integration of sustainable tourism policies. They highlighted ways of supporting the integration of sustainable tourism policies in local and national development plans, giving due consideration to the roles of the various ministries and subregional and local level governmental bodies. The need for the better integration of tourism and environmental policies was raised, and suggestions for achieving that goal included:

- (a) Strengthening institutional structures to improve coordination and cooperation among stakeholders;
- (b) Exchanging information on best practices, such as the creation of natural parks and community based tourism (a summary of best practices in the area of tourism is contained in part 2 of appendix III to the present summary);
- (c) Adopting adequate tools, economic and legislative instruments;
- (d) Supporting the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements related to conservation and environmental protection;
- (e) Promoting the prevention and control of pollution, as well as the sound management of natural resources.

33. The need to consider and integrate poverty issues in the international tourism agenda to maximize the potential of tourism activities to alleviate poverty was highlighted by many ministers and heads of delegation, particularly in relation to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In that context, concerns were expressed about the potential negative social, cultural and environmental impacts of tourism, and how appropriate management and regulation could contribute to reducing those impacts, while improving the situation of the poor. It was said that tourism should integrate efforts that shared benefits among all stakeholders, particularly indigenous people and local communities.

34. The need to expand research and exchange of knowledge and raise awareness was also cited, in particular with regard to environmental damages and nature conservation at national, subnational and local levels. Speakers stressed that national strategy papers, including poverty reduction strategy papers and action plans, should include tourism as a high priority sector in the framework of sustainable development.

35. Sustainable consumption and production considerations were cited by many delegations as playing a key role in promoting sustainable tourism in general and ecotourism in particular. The main challenges noted included the following needs:

- (a) To increase political support, transparency and integration;
- (b) To engage the private sector, encouraging businesses to integrate sustainability in their policies and operations;
- (c) To improve water and energy efficiency, promote the use of clean energy and reduce waste;
- (d) To promote sustainable building and construction practices, as well as incorporation of natural parks in urban areas;
- (e) To expand knowledge and build capacity;
- (f) To strengthen the implementation of available tools to stimulate action on the ground and the skills and resources for effective implementation;
- (g) To ensure the effective participation of indigenous people and local communities in decision-making processes.

36. Many ministers and heads of delegation emphasized the links between climate variability and tourism. Some agreed on the need to stimulate demand for more efficient public transport options at destinations as one step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It was also stressed that the tourism sector and tourists should be encouraged to minimize negative impacts and maximize positive impacts related to biodiversity and local culture preservation through their consumption choices and behaviour.
37. Ministers and heads of delegation concurred that the tourism sector could significantly contribute to environmental protection, conservation and restoration of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources. It was noted that tourism, especially nature tourism, was closely linked to biodiversity and the attractions offered by a rich and varied environment. Governments at all levels should directly involve and support indigenous peoples and local communities in the development of criteria, indicators, early warning systems and guidelines that embraced both the cultural and ecological aspects of biodiversity.
38. Certification, as an important tool in creating a market demand for sustainable tourism products, was highlighted, considering its potential to promote sustainable development. To that end, Governments, operators and other stakeholders in the tourism sector needed to have access to information, training and technology. Countries with experience in developing sustainable tourism certification schemes noted that there was no “one-size-fits-all” solution to address the question of sustainability in tourism development and that certification was not a tool that could be used in isolation.
39. The need to improve awareness and the exchange of knowledge between those responsible for and those affected by tourism and nature conservation at national, subnational and local levels was raised by many ministers. In addition, it was noted that national biodiversity strategies and action plans should include consideration of tourism issues. It was noted that tourism plans should likewise include full consideration of biodiversity issues and that national plans should balance development of tourism with protection of natural and cultural resources.
40. Several ministers and heads of delegation called upon the tourism industry to integrate effectively sustainable practices in tourism businesses in a more responsible manner, in particular in developing, emerging and post-conflict economies. It was also stressed that security and stability were necessary for promoting sustainable tourism. Many speakers insisted on the need adequately to plan tourism development following an integrated approach and giving due consideration to land use management, resource use, infrastructure and transport, building and protection of sensitive areas.
41. Awareness and preparedness for natural disasters were noted as critical issues. Ministers and heads of delegation discussed the need to define and implement measures to improve disaster preparedness in communities, especially those in disaster-prone coastal tourism destinations. Many noted that those measures should be developed in cooperation with local authorities, the tourism industry and neighbouring communities.
42. The importance of the role played by UNEP in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns and engaging business and industry in the tourism sector was emphasized, in accordance with Governing Council decision 22/6 of 7 February 2003. In that context, the Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development of France announced that her Government was launching a task force on sustainable tourism in the framework of the Marrakech Process. Many ministers and heads of delegation voiced their support for and interest in that task force.
43. Various ministers and heads of delegation also requested a stronger role for UNEP and stressed, in particular, that it should perform the following functions:
- (a) To cooperate with all relevant national and international partners to provide support in developing national level sustainable tourism strategies, and to identify ways effectively to engage the relevant organizations, including the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, other concerned United Nations bodies and multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, and to maximize synergies among programmes and activities;
 - (b) To promote regional cooperation, networking and exchange of knowledge and experience;
 - (c) To provide assistance, as appropriate, to establish policies based on sustainable tourism goals and principles;

(d) To strengthen its Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level programme, adapting it, where appropriate, to support tourism destinations in developing countries, enabling them to be better prepared to deal with natural and man-made disasters.

44. It was highlighted that capacity-building efforts should strive to develop and strengthen the capacities within Governments and all stakeholders to improve the elaboration and facilitate the effective implementation of guidelines, codes of conduct, impact assessment studies and sustainable tourism policies at local, national, regional and international levels. In that regard, it was stressed that the decision-making process aiming to promote sustainable tourism should therefore be enhanced and strengthened through an effective multi-stakeholder participatory approach.

Appendix I

Keynote statement made by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan

1. Ladies and Gentlemen, the environment of our region, West Asia and North Africa, or WANA to give it its appropriate acronym, has suffered the neglect of all victims of conflict and distrust. Political discord and social instability have allowed our leaders to overlook their responsibility to nurture hope of a better life for present and future generations. But the imagined notion of limitless resources and a patient and subservient environment is showing itself to be the chimera it always was. Time is running out and contingent planning by arbitrary decree has no place in a schema of environmental deterioration.
2. We must rise above partisan politics and look beyond our neighbourhood as merely a troubled patchwork of states and ethnicities. The future happiness and well-being of our peoples depends on good management of the human environment, and to that end, I would ask this gathering to take away with it the seed of an idea that has awaited planting in fertile soil for many years.
3. We in WANA and greater Asia are in dire need of a supra-national resource cooperative to balance human and physical resources and needs. Only a regional water and energy community freed from unilateral state interests can serve the needs, present and future, of our inter-dependent communities.
4. The achievement of such an ambition seems daunting in an increasingly troubled political climate, yet it has its precedents. Existing energy partnerships include the Energy Charter Treaty, an international agreement originally based on integrating the energy sectors of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe at the end of the Cold War into the broader European and world markets.
5. The European Energy Charter, which was originally signed in December 1991, contains a declaration of principles for international energy including trade, transit and investment, together with the intention to negotiate a binding treaty. This agreement was signed in Lisbon in December 1994 and came into effect in April 1998.
6. The substance of this treaty provides a useful template for innovators in our region. The document focuses on five broad areas: (i) the protection and promotion of foreign energy investments; (ii) free trade in energy materials, products and energy-related equipment, based on WTO rules; (iii) freedom of energy transit through pipelines and grids; (iv) reducing the negative environmental impact of the energy cycle through improving energy efficiency; and (v) mechanisms for the resolution of State-to-State and/or Investor-to-State disputes.
7. If Europe, the last century's most turbulent battleground, can lay down its weapons and share a table to agree comprehensive resource management, then surely even our troubled region can stave off a looming catastrophe in a similar fashion.
8. I have sometimes been accused of offering pipedreams to the operatives of real politique. But can you blame me for seeking an alternative to a pipeline nightmare? Producers, consumers and those who live around energy production facilities and pipelines all have a stake in the current energy network.
9. Ladies and Gentlemen, Asia and North Africa, needs its own Water and Energy Charter to improve our general human condition and to ensure regional energy security. Looking further into the future, a body of trans-regional charters from around the world must be welded together to form an international body that regulates investment in, as well as trade and transit of energy.
10. This is a call that has gone unheeded in the past. In 1946 Pandit Nehru convened in Delhi an Asian relations conference to examine and explore the intra-independence between the nations of our West Asian region and of South Asia. Now, some 60 years after that initiative was inspired by one of the last century's great statesmen, we should all be statesmanlike in dealing with the dire crises affecting us.

11. We need more than ad hoc policies which narrowly focus on the exchange of oil and manpower, to ensure enduring growth in the quality of our citizens' lives. Indeed, moving beyond a short-sighted fixation on supply and demand of these dual 'commodities' is long overdue.

12. In 1988, a statement of deputies of the Japanese Diet recognised what Nehru and others had perceived some four decades earlier – the security and contentment of our continent rests on a common resource-focussed community of oil producers and the hinterland states. Today, the need for human resource development programmes to satisfy a hunger for opportunity and for hope in the region has never been greater.

13. The 2005 World Bank Report on Economic Developments and Prospects in the MENA region states that close to 100 million new jobs will be needed over the next 20 years to keep pace with the new labour force entrants and absorb those currently unemployed. Such employment growth would require real economic growth rates averaging 6%-7% a year for a sustained period of time. But the benefits of this growth must be shared throughout society or the gains will lead to nought.

14. Hard economics must be motivated by the scientific requirements of all humanity, and the politics of energy security must place people over pipelines. We might refer to this approach as 'anthropolicy', an approach that combines the human and physical needs of all humanity. Perhaps only such a sea-change in policy-making can avert the impending tragedy threatening a region without a commons and without adequate governance.

15. Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe a gathering like this is an appropriate forum to ask how we can expect the peoples of our region to cooperate in local communities when our prime ministers and their cabinet colleagues neglect to meet and form lasting institutions to deal with regional needs.

16. In this valuable UNEP meeting, I believe, discussion will focus on the three major challenges facing our human and physical environment; energy security, climate change, and providing ease of access to energy in the developing world to enhance economic growth and quality of life.

17. I would like to mention here the "Limits to Growth Report" which was presented to the Club of Rome in 1972, and was updated some 30 years later. The earlier report predicted social, economic and environmental decline; and three decades later confirmed that humanity has dangerously overshot the limits of our planet's carrying capacity. Another important report is "The Feedback on Climate Change" by David Wasdell. These reports and numerous other studies must be taken seriously, considered thoroughly, and acted upon immediately by governments and NGOs alike.

18. It is no secret that our entire planet is in crisis. A bird's eye view would put Sub-Saharan Africa at its epicentre, with continuing food insecurity, a rise of extreme poverty, stunningly high child and maternal mortality, and large numbers of people living in slums.

19. Our own continent, Asia, appears the most dynamic on paper, in terms of the Millennium development Goals, but in the shadow of high-rise development, hundreds of millions of people populate the slums of extreme poverty.

20. Pessimists assert that even if the UN millennium development Goals were met, in 2015 the world would still have 900 million people who have to walk more than a mile a day to get drinking water, 1.6 billion people with no sanitation facilities; and in 2020, more than 2 billion people would still live in urban slums.

21. Yet, in the face of this vista, the world's producers of prosperity remain its only consumers. How can we accept a situation where 20% of the world's population produces 80% of its environmental degradation? With the diminishing capacity of the natural world to neutralize the generated carbon dioxide; the problems created by growing energy use can only increase exponentially.

22. Indeed, we have no choice but to concentrate our abilities on alleviating the suffering of man and the environment. Total worldwide energy used today is 8 billion tons of oil equivalent per year, which will increase to 40 billion tons by the year 2060. Thereafter, the known deposits would only be adequate for the next 80-100 years depending upon the speed at which consumerist development steams ahead.

23. The Global Marshall Plan Initiative of 2004 provides a possible solution to rapid and unbalanced globalisation, and provides a workable alternative to growing social inequality and environmental degradation. If properly funded, this integrative approach could rapidly provide a broad and fast-growing network of stakeholders from politics, business and civil society.

24. Environmental proposals and regulations by affluent countries should not permit the purchase of other people's right to the use of fossil fuel, as a license to contribute additional carbon to the atmosphere. This while depriving large sections of the human family of their right to the minimum basic needs.

25. Many research initiatives show that the technology to change course already exists. The outcome of two scientific studies for the German Government, conducted by a think tank at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and supported by the Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy Cooperation, TREC, concluded that all energy demands for power generation and sea water desalination, for MENA and EU regions, can be solved by:

- Deserts as sources of solar energy
- Available solar thermal power technologies.

26. When will the Earth Charter, the declaration of international values and principles that is necessary for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful future, be endorsed by the United Nations? This potentially visionary document was drafted from early 1997 to March 2000, through an international, open process, yet has received no official endorsement so far.

27. If the United Nations cannot take the lead in environmental management, then we must initiate progress at a regional level. The first step is dialogue with a determined timescale for real progress.

28. In March, I will host a conference in Amman entitled: "Voices from Asia: Promoting Dialogue and Mutual Effort". The meeting is part of a continuing joint project with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation which aims to encourage partnership within the West-Asian and East-Asian region, which culturally includes Africa.

29. I believe that such an initiative is needed to marshal the political will for a Common Humanitarian Agenda, including the vital component of environmental responsibility. The fears of many in our region that the struggle for energy security is damning the poorest of the world's inhabitants to political and economic torpor drives this belief in the need for increased communication on many levels.

30. I believe a broad base of interaction is needed not only between governments, but among think tanks, NGOs and civil society. We hope to see West Asia/Africa getting closer to South and East Asia through a process of joint effort so that relations develop not only on the basis of oil, but also the rich cultural heritage - the federation of cultures - in our regions. This approach should expand the 'space' for resolving urgent issues like environmental security, the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and the reconstruction of Iraq.

31. How else can we Asians avoid the dire consequences of an ever-increasing drive for energy security, particularly in the United States, Europe and China? This seemingly unquenchable thirst for energy continues to dictate obdurate policies that hold no hope of a better future for a silenced majority in Asia.

32. Ladies and Gentlemen, the future security of the human environment is dependent upon the intimate involvement of our people. Only by making citizens into stakeholders in their built and natural environment can we successfully promote civil society and that harmonious democratising process that sometimes seems so elusive. Good governance within states, between states and within regions provides the key to unlocking human and environmental development potential.

Appendix II

Keynote statement Ms. Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1. Your Royal Highness, Mr. President, Excellencies, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen.
2. I am honoured to speak on energy and the environment. I would like to thank the government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this event, particularly during this time of mourning and extend my condolences to on the passing away of His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum. I also thank UNEP for their excellent preparatory work for this conference.
3. The interaction between energy use and the environment is fundamental to our way of life. A healthy and stable environment is a pre-requisite for sustained growth and prosperity, equally growth and prosperity require adequate supplies of energy. All too often we have traded our environment in return for energy, but we should not be so foolish as to think we can do this indefinitely. The time has come for a new paradigm whereby we can achieve growth and prosperity without compromising the long-term ability of our environment to support us.
4. In Johannesburg it was recognised that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals will to a large extent be dependent on our ability to provide energy to all those who need it – many people each year die because they do not have the benefits brought by access to energy services. Paradoxically many of the ways we currently use energy bring their own detrimental effects on the energy users – studies highlighted by UNEP have suggested that indoor air pollution accounts for some 2.5 million premature deaths each year, which is a staggering 4 to 5 % of the global burden of disease, mostly affecting women and children under the age of 5. That we are currently on course to miss almost all of the Millennium Development Goals shows not only the scale of the problem, but also the burning need to address this with much greater urgency and commitment than we have done previously.
5. At the same time we face, in climate change, the greatest threat to long-term peace and stability of our time. I spent last year deeply involved in the UK's G8 presidency – climate change, along with Africa, was our top priority. I was delighted that we gained a common understanding of the urgent need for action to tackle climate change and agreed to an ongoing dialogue to find common solutions and develop new thinking, taking forward the Gleneagles Plan of Action. I was thrilled to be present in Montreal where there was a landmark agreement on a process to take forward discussions on the future possibilities for global greenhouse gas reduction.
6. A further layer of complexity is added when we consider that most energy related decisions are based not on an understanding of energy and the environment, but on consideration of energy security. Just as a sound environment provides a basis for economic growth, that economic growth is dependent on a reliable energy supply. With background of recent energy price rises and increasing demand energy security is rising up the agenda, and with it concerns over the sustainability of the global economy. I welcome the focus on energy security by the current G8 Presidency Russia.
7. There are some positive signs – overall energy consumption in the UK has risen by around 15% since 1970, whilst the economy has more than doubled. So it is possible to decouple growth from emissions and we have made a start in doing this, but now in the UK we face a new challenge in maintaining our energy security and emissions profile as our domestic supplies of gas run low.
8. There is no panacea, no cure all technology to wait for, much as we all might wish for it. The solutions are real, and are here and now. Energy efficiency, renewable energy and the cleaner use of fossil fuels are all within our grasp – but we, as governments must chose to pursue them and provide the right climate for investment. It is a challenging agenda, but it also represents a huge market opportunity. If we work together to harness the best of innovative thinking then our businesses and universities stand to reap the benefits. For example, since 1998 world-wide production of wind power has increased at a rate of up to 40% per year, creating jobs for over 70,000 people and providing electricity for 35 million people.

9. The UNEP background report prepared for this session highlights the fact that where we have been successful in promoting, for example renewables, it has been a result of a combination of policies pursued at different levels of government to create a long-term framework for investment. Business leaders have made it very clear, crystal clear in fact, to governments over the last few years that policy signals and regulatory frameworks - at the national and global level - need to be long term and need to align with the timeframes for investment. How can we expect business to invest in capital with 20-30 year life spans if we only provide certainty and predictability for 5 or 10 years?

10. To design solutions in a way that answers not only our environmental, but also our economic and social concerns requires involvement of all sectors of society. I believe that the Kyoto and Gleneagles dialogues will be an important part of this at a global level, but equally important will be increased collaboration at the country level. The new partnerships and networks such as the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, REEEP and the Renewable Energy Network for the 21st century, REN21, show the value of working in unison and I believe that organisations such as these will become increasingly important in providing a platform to devise ways to address all our energy concerns in a sustainable way. Because of this my department will continue to fund REEEP at a level of £2.5m for the next two years, and REEEP will continue to seek to collaborate with and add value to the activities of its partners. I was delighted to learn that UNEP will be hosting the REN21 secretariat in Paris and the UK looks forward to continuing its involvement in this initiative.

11. In 3 months we will meet once more in New York and energy will once again take centre stage. At the Commission on Sustainable Development we will of course need to address the issue of access to energy to meet basic human needs. It will also be important to address some of the central issues underlying our energy use such as sustainable consumption and production. The SCP agenda provides a framework for targeting such issues as energy-use in production processes and buildings, eco-design in energy-using products, and using procurement practices to influence markets for these products. As governments we are large purchasers on products, all of which depend on energy – so we are in a position to lead by example, not only in designing our policies, but also in our own actions.

12. In determining our energy futures, it will be increasingly important for us to understand the environmental consequences of different approaches. The work of UNEPs Energy Programme as well as their work with the International Energy Agency and others should help provide the type of information decision makers need to steer the world onto a markedly different and sustainable energy path. I very much hope that in our discussions over the coming days we can send a strong message to the CSD on how we can meet the increasing demand for energy services with long-term solutions, which avoid significant impacts on resources and adverse effects on the environment.

Appendix III

Best practices identified by Governments

Ministerial consultations at the ninth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Summaries of submissions to the UNEP secretariat

The following summaries of best practices in the areas of energy and environment and tourism and environment have been prepared by the secretariat on the basis of submissions from Governments. The summaries have been prepared for information only, and the actual submissions of Governments can be found at: <http://www.unep.org/gc/GCSS-IX/Ministerial-Consultation.asp>. The submitted documents were very diverse, ranging from descriptions of policies and actions to presentations of best practices.

Part 1: Best practices in the area of energy

A. Improving policies and management in the energy sector

Australia

Energy market reform began to gather force internationally in the 1980s and was given impetus in Australia in the early 1990s through a major reform programme by the state, territorial and federal Governments, including disaggregation, corporatization and privatization of utilities. While energy market reform remains an ongoing process, it has already delivered significant benefits, adding AU\$ 1.5 billion a year to the economy as a whole from lower prices, better investments and the flow-on benefits of these to the competitiveness of Australian industries.

Cyprus

A 2003 plan to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases through, among other things, efficiency and conservation measures, is now being strengthened by an emissions trading scheme. Similarly, a 2004 renewable energy programme setting minimum generation targets for 2010 has been complemented with a package of financial incentives in the form of grants for investments and/or tariff subsidization. These are financed through a special fund created from a levy on electricity consumption.

Finland

With "Combined Heat and Power" (CHP) technology, Finland has reduced energy consumption by 11 per cent. Combined with district heating, it saved 8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in 2004, half of Finland's annual reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol. Bioenergy accounts for 20 per cent of energy consumption, and the country aims to increase this to 35 per cent over the next decade. A biomass heat entrepreneurship programme has been successful. Farmers started producing heat to supply schools and houses on a small scale in the 1990's, and by 2004 there were 150 entrepreneurs with 254 small-scale heating plants with a total heat output of 129 MWth and an annual turnover of \$10 million. Voluntary conservation agreements and state-subsidized energy audits are encouraged. The country has also started a Task Force on Sustainable Building and Construction as part of the Marrakech Process, which aims to increase the energy efficiency and sustainability of the built environment globally.

Finland has produced an eco-efficiency manual for major sporting events. This guide helps organizers of such events to make them more environmentally sustainable. The focus is on promoting use of public transport and renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency. Waste management is encouraged by recycling and using recyclable and reusable construction materials.

Sweden

Dedicated policies, most notably a 1996 town council decision to halve emissions of greenhouse gases by 2010 and the specific measures implemented to achieve this, have made it possible for Växjö, a small town in southern Sweden, to increase to 44 per cent the share of renewable energy sources in its energy mix. Most of this energy is produced from biomass, which the municipality has been using for district heating since 1980. Expertise in bioenergy is now a valuable Växjö export, while the burgeoning renewable energy industry that has flourished around this initiative has created jobs and attracted investment.

B. Improving access to energy for the underserved in developing economies

Kenya

Mbuiro, a village about 185 km north of Nairobi, recently built a micro hydropower plant that benefited from a Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant. The plant generates 18 kW of electricity and serves some 200 households that were not connected to the national electricity grid. The local community contributed free labour for building the weir, digging the canal and building the power house. Their participation in its construction gave them the skills needed to maintain the plant, thus ensuring its operation. The community, which owns the power generated, pays a small surcharge to cover maintenance and the eventual costs of replacement. It sells power to members for lighting, curing tobacco, pumping water and charging batteries, among other uses, which have boosted the local economy.

C. Promoting renewable sources of energy

Australia

Renewable electrification technologies in remote areas of Australia encounter large barriers compared to conventional energy supply options. The Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme (RRPGP), launched in 1999, aims to increase the uptake of renewable energy technologies in remote areas of Australia by providing rebates of up to 50 per cent of the capital costs of renewable energy equipment, with a view to reducing diesel use in those areas. Bushlight, an initiative under the RRPGP, provides design, information and education services to help maintain renewable energy power systems and link them to energy service networks. The rationale behind the initiative is that communities that understand their power systems and know how to look after them develop a beneficial sense of ownership.

Bangladesh

In rural households of Bangladesh, solar home systems based on photovoltaic technology have been installed in almost 16,000 homes, providing electricity for lighting, television and radio. This private sector initiative was undertaken by an organization called Grameen Shakti, which has plans to extend the programme using funds obtained through the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Government believes that there is a large market for the installation of photovoltaic technology to provide electricity services to the rural households of low-income groups.

Belgium

The Belgian regional and federal Governments have launched a common green electricity certificate scheme to ensure that by 2010 renewable energy sources make up six percent of the electricity supply. At the regional level, governments require electricity producers to meet a certain renewable energy quota, which is adjusted annually. At the federal level, the Government establishes a base price for green certificates, with a view to ensuring a minimum rate of return and thereby attracting investors. The base price is based on an obligation from the electricity grid operator to buy back green certificates from producers at a guaranteed price, fixed according to the type of technology used.

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has undertaken a number of measures to make its energy institutional framework consistent with other European Union countries. A new energy law supports electricity generation from renewable sources, while the regulatory system has been overhauled. Various pricing incentives and feed-in tariffs are being used to support biomass-based “green” electricity. The aim is to achieve 8 per cent of renewable energy (as a fraction of the overall gross electricity consumption) by 2010. Over 25,000 jobs are estimated to be created.

The Philippines

The Philippines has recognized that it has a large potential for renewable energy and is taking steps to increase the percentage of renewable energy in its energy mix. The country is currently the second largest user of geothermal energy, is a manufacturing centre for photovoltaic cells with ambitions to become the southeast Asian hub of such manufacturing, and has plans to further tap its extensive wind and hydroelectric resources. The Clean Development Mechanism is being used to support development of renewable energy projects.

Slovenia

With support from a GEF-funded project, Slovenia has been promoting the use of biomass, which has a long tradition in the country. A coordinated, long-term approach to awareness raising and capacity-building has attracted investment for, in particular, biomass district heating. This has further led to the development of an informal network of professionals in the field of biomass. As a result, Slovenia boasts one of the largest shares in biomass-based district heating, as well as high efficiency standards for biomass boilers and high reliance on biomass for co-generation.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

In 1999, installation was completed of three wind turbines in Saint Helena, a British overseas territory with no indigenous conventional energy resources. Atypical wind regimes, which resulted in more frequent breakdowns than had been envisaged, and a lack of local expertise to maintain the turbines, led to the progressive abandonment of the project, and by 2003 only one of the three turbines was operational. In 2005, the Saint Helena Energy Division engaged an experienced engineer and invested in training for local staff, with the result that the turbines were refurbished locally. While the system remains highly dependent on the skills of a few individuals, and problems with blowing fuses remain, public confidence is returning and wind is now contributing significantly to Saint Helena’s energy needs.

D. Promoting energy efficiency on either the supply or demand sides

Belgium

The Belgian Federal Plan for Sustainable Development, spanning the period 2004–2008, calls upon the Government to lead by example and reduce the environmental impact of its own operations. In this context, the Belgian Federal Investment Company established a public limited company, FEDESCO, to provide third-party financing for energy efficiency improvements in buildings, focusing initially on Government buildings. To this end, FEDESCO sponsors energy audits to identify potential interventions and provides pre-financing to carry them out. FEDESCO clients are required to earmark all savings resulting from energy efficiency gains for reimbursing the costs FEDESCO incurs, which ensures that there is an incentive for both parties to achieve the maximum gains in the shortest time possible.

E. Demonstrating new approaches to the financing of cleaner energy

Bulgaria

In September 2002, Bulgaria and Austria signed a memorandum of understanding by which Austria would purchase emission reduction credits resulting from the operation of hydropower plant on the Vacha River. For both countries this represented their first experience with the joint implementation mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. Bulgaria intends to build on this experience to identify additional potential joint implementation projects, in particular in the area of geothermal energy.

F. Reducing the environmental impact of energy service provision

Egypt

Due to an increase in reserves of natural gas, Egypt has a goal of converting the transportation sector and power plants to operate on this cleaner fuel. Policies have been developed to shift demand from liquid fuel oil to natural gas, due to its positive economical and environmental aspects. Measures have included interest rate subsidies on loans for conversion projects and establishment of a certification centre for testing the performance of heavy vehicles. The positive result is that the use of natural gas has expanded in the industrial and commercial sectors, replacing liquid fuels.

G. General

Armenia

Armenia has included in its 2003 poverty reduction strategy paper the improvement of energy security by developing alternative energy sources and promoting energy efficiency. The country's commitment to promoting renewable resources relates to its need to diversify its energy resource base and reduce energy imports. Higher tariffs are allowed for newly constructed small hydropower plants to encourage their construction.

Burundi

Poor use of wood for energy purposes has contributed to desertification in Burundi, and the Government is now committed to promoting renewable energy, in particular through tapping the country's significant hydroelectric and solar potential. Government priorities include the expansion of existing hydropower plants, the promotion of photovoltaic devices and a national electrification plan. Burundi, however, needs technical and financial assistance in order to carry out these projects and to develop sustainable energy solutions.

Israel

Energy security is Israel's primary concern, as the country is almost entirely dependent on imported fossil fuels, mainly coal and oil. Changes are underway, however, and the use of natural gas will increase in coming years. Energy efficiency upgrades of existing electric power stations are planned. The climate of Israel offers a large potential for solar energy. All new buildings are required to have solar water heating systems and about 75 per cent of households now have domestic solar water heaters, one of the highest rates in the world. Premium payments are provided to renewable energy producers based on the external costs of displaced air pollutants by type and quantity, the first step to an environmental quality tariff.

Japan

Japan obtains most of its primary energy from foreign countries, and to increase its energy security it has developed different energy technologies. It aims to decrease the cost of photovoltaic energy from JPY 49/kwh presently to JPY 23/kwh in 2010. A model demonstration project for clean coal technology was started in 2005. The Top Runner Program is Japan's approach to energy efficiency and conservation measures. It sets target standard values for producers to better products in given categories. A national strategy for biomass utilisation was adopted in December 2002, called the

“Biomass Nippon Strategy”. The aim is to use waste and unused biomass for energy resources. A target for biofuels with 3 per cent bioethanol in gasoline has been promoted in some regions.

Latvia

The Ministry of Environment in Latvia sees a good potential for renewable energy in the country, primarily biomass and wind. Tapping these would improve the situation with regard to energy security. Improving energy efficiency is also a priority, particularly in district heating systems.

Mozambique

Combating poverty is the overarching concern for the Government, and energy sector development is a critical element of its overall development plans. National electrification is a priority, as only 5 per cent of households have access to electricity. Mozambique has the largest operating hydroelectric power station in Africa and as yet unexploited hydropower resources. Extensive coal reserves exist, but the Government is committed to ensuring that if these are tapped as a source of energy, appropriate technological measures are used to prevent degradation of the environment.

Republic of Moldova

Moldova currently imports 94 per cent of its energy, and reducing imports is recognized as a key goal of improving the country’s energy security. Greater exploitation of indigenous renewable energy resources (wind, solar, hydropower, and biomass) is one part of this goal. The overall national strategy for achieving sustainable development in the energy sector is based on increasing energy efficiency and tapping renewable energy resources. The Government is restructuring the energy sector to make it more competitive and favourable for investment. The shift from coal to cleaner energy sources is also viewed as bringing improved environmental quality to Moldova.

United Republic of Tanzania

The power system master plan of Tanzania follows a least costs logic, and thereby excludes renewable sources of energy due to their high upfront costs. However, a draft rural energy master plan has been completed recently that includes various indigenous energy resources such as biomass, wind, geothermal, small hydropower, natural gas and solar energy. To this end, and in addition to the Tanzanian government’s own efforts, support from donors has been sought.

Part 2: Best practices in the area of tourism

Armenia

Armenia highlights the importance of regulating all actions that can cause damage to the environment. Armenia considers that the creation of national parks must be undertaken in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well other relevant conventions that refer to the conservation of natural assets. Its projects and activities consider, among other things, the importance of the creation of awareness and information dissemination to all stakeholders as well as the long-term monitoring of tourism’s impact on biodiversity.

Australia

The Government of Australia presented as a best practice the role of the private sector in sustainable tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), an Australian Government statutory authority, is responsible for the overall planning and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This organization established processes for the engagement of the private sector, including development of the Marine Park’s zoning and plans of management.

Belgium

Belgium highlights as best practices the adoption of guides to and criteria for the development and implementation of new thematic tourist areas in particular rural and natural areas, as well as the renovation of urban areas to plan the use of natural and urban spaces, through transversal actions aiming at creating an environment that enables tourism development (e.g., creation of green areas, improvement of mobility and natural preservation).

Bolivia

The Bolivian government presents the Sajama National Park as an example of how it is working in cooperation with indigenous communities in Bolivia's protected areas. Tomarapi Lodge, a community-based ecotourism enterprise, was highlighted as one of the results of working in protected areas.

Burundi

Referring to the pillars of sustainable development, Burundi focuses for promoting sustainable tourism on the protection of local flora and fauna, combating desertification and preserving biological diversity. Special attention is also given to the development of tourist enterprises, which is considered a priority in the investments code of the Country. The Burundi Government is planning, among other things, a system of sharing revenue from tourism with the surrounding population and specific actions to create indirect employment from tourism.

Cyprus

Cyprus highlights “sustainable tourism action” as a way forward to promote sustainable tourism in Cyprus. Some of the best practices submitted by Cyprus are:

- (a) Implementation of tourism policies and regulations aiming at the adoption of quality and environmental standards in tourist establishments and providing an incentive scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (b) Development of land use planning regulations and policies to achieve environmental preservation.

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has developed a sustainable tourism programme based on:

- (a) “Green certification” (ISO 14001, EMAS and ECOLABEL) for all tourism stakeholders such as tourism service providers, tour operators and tourist destinations;
- (b) Network centres for environmentally–friendly tourism;
- (c) Capacity-building course for guides;
- (d) Creation of marked-trails;
- (e) Certification for accommodation services;
- (f) Creation of geoparks in order to support ecotourism development.

Egypt

The Egyptian Government mentions the conservation project of Samadi Dolphins House as one model for implementing ecotourism policy and strategy. It aims to reach sustainable finance for biodiversity conservation through revenue generation by using economic instruments (service fee). The engagement of the local community and local stakeholders in the decision-making process for the development and monitoring plans for the area was stressed as an important factor in its success.

Greece

At a policy level, Greece highlights a master plan for tourism that aims to provide guidelines for tourism development in various areas of the country, taking into consideration the tourist areas' carrying capacity. Rural tourism programmes in Greece seek to develop tourism as a basis for rural development, providing supplementary income and employment opportunities to rural communities through the development of tourist accommodation and linkages to local products and cultural activities. A special awareness campaign has been launched countrywide to raise awareness on tourism issues, including environmental management.

Israel

Israel highlights two best practices on sustainable tourism:

(a) **Bird watching:** The ministries of tourism and environment have recently carried out a research project to examine the economic potential of bird-watching tourism. The study confirmed the economic feasibility of establishing a national network of bird-watching sites in Israel. Consequently, 13 bird watching stations, based on tourism, research, education, and preservation of biodiversity, are being established, while seven stations are already operating.

(b) **Engagement of the private sector:** A project entitled The Tourist Villages of Upper Galilee has aimed at improving the basic infrastructure of 5 "tourist villages" during the last five years. In addition, direct financial assistance is offered to local enterprises to promote the establishment of bed and breakfast accommodations.

Japan

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan highlights that it has adopted several related policies on sustainable tourism, mainly with regard to promotion and development of the ecotourism sector in Japan, as well as the establishment and management of national parks.

Kenya

Concerning best practices on sustainable tourism, Kenya highlighted the Porini Ecotourism Project, which provides an example of good partnership between the local community (Eselenkei, local Masaai) and a private investor that promotes community-based conservation projects.

In addition, a tented camp for middle to up-market tourists has been established, aiming to preserve the wildlife resources in the area.

This project has enabled the cohesiveness of various clans which were perpetually in conflict due to competition for resources.

Latvia

Two examples of sustainable tourism projects were submitted by Latvia:

(a) **Baltic Sea INTERREG III B Project AGORA**, concerning the development of sustainable tourism in the Baltic Sea area, with a focus on rural areas and dissemination of results to key stakeholders;

(b) **Development of the criteria for the "Green Certificate"**, implementation and control (2001–2004) concerning the promotion of balanced and sustainable rural tourism and preventing resulting damage.

Philippines

Through a partnership between the Department of Tourism and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines develops and promotes ecotourism in the context of sustainable use of natural and cultural resources while providing employment opportunities for local communities.

In this context, two main best practices have been developed:

- (a) The National Ecotourism Programme, which developed a sustainable tourism project on Pamilacan Island aiming at the engagement of the local community in ecotourism activities, mainly with regards to the activity of whale watching;
- (b) The business plan of the Pamilacan Island Dolphin and Whale Watching Organization includes environment contribution fees for every trip to dolphin and whale playgrounds as well as the integration of past hunters in the wildlife protection and environment conservation.

Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova is focusing its tourism activities on the conservation of biodiversity and natural features such as its “hydrographical potential” (i.e., its network of over 3000 rivers and brooks), its protected natural areas and its rural areas. Sustainable tourism regulations have been created to support conservation of the environment.

Russian Federation

Russia highlights ecotourism as a way to integrate tourism activities into the use of protected areas and natural parks. The document submitted discusses the need to integrate environmental education and carrying capacities studies to develop environmentally friendly tourism in natural areas.

Rwanda

The Rwandan Government, under the rubric of “Vision 2020”, aims to prop up sustainable development focusing on poverty reduction and development.

In order to prevent the loss of biodiversity, to ensure proper land-use planning and to increase the creation and implementation of a stakeholder network on sustainable tourism, Rwanda has focused on two projects:

- (a) Community sharing scheme: a system of sharing tourism revenues with populations surrounding national parks;
- (b) Gorilla tourism: a memorandum of understanding was signed by three ministers for tourism of three different countries together with the gorilla conservation programme, aiming at the preservation of endangered species.

Sweden

The Swedish Government highlights as a best practice the quality labelling system entitled “Nature’s Best”. The label is given to entrepreneurs who can meet high quality standards both from a sustainable perspective as well as from a commercial or experience perspective.

The Swedish Tourist Authority is supporting the development of the system. At present about 220 different activities and 60 entrepreneurs are carrying the Nature’s Best label.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom’s Sustainable Development Strategy, launched on 7 March 2005, highlights the potential that tourism has to support economic and social development. Some of the best practices mentioned were:

The Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) that is an environmental quality assurance scheme run by VisitScotland, Scotland’s national tourism agency, which is helping to ensure that growth in the tourism industry is sustainable. It incorporates elements of climate change, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and it engages with the private sector.

The creation of the Travel Foundation that has influenced the UK’s leading travel companies (tour operators) to prepare written policies on sustainable practice and the 5 largest companies – responsible for around 30% of all package travel from the UK.

United Republic of Tanzania

Tanzania's Government and tourism sector are promoting the following best practices:

(a) Diversification of tourism attractions;

(b) Various kinds of tourism attractions such as wildlife, mountains, historical sites, coastal areas, marine resources, islands, tradition and culture. Strategies have been developed to encourage growth of tourists in areas where there is low number of tourist visits so that the numbers are reduced in highly impacted protected areas;

Tourism development in protected areas;

General Management Plans, which set forth the management and development philosophy of the parks and strategies for achieving the management objectives;

Integrated coastal zone management programmes that aim to promote environmental conservation at various coastal tourism destinations;

Creation of marine parks;

Government guidelines on development and management of community-based tourism in areas surrounding protected areas.

United States of America

The United States actively provides capacity-building to other countries to help facilitate sustainable tourism and develop parks and protected areas. A few examples include:

(a) Hosting park officials and providing tours of California's desert park programmes. This assisted Jordan with developing eco-lodges and monitoring flora and fauna;

(b) United States Park Service and Forest Service technical specialists travelling to Gabon to help with park management;

(c) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) training several Caribbean countries in marine protected area management effectiveness guidelines;

(d) The United States agency for International Development partnering with Namibia and WWF to assist in the development of community-based conservancies, which helped lead to wildlife tourism becoming Namibia's third highest contributor to gross domestic product.

Appendix IV

Keynote statement by Deirdre P. Shurland, Director, Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism

Introduction

1. Thank you Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director, Madam President, honourable members of the Governing Council, distinguished UNEP delegates, representatives and other invited guests, ladies and gentlemen good afternoon!

2. I am honoured by the privilege of addressing you this afternoon on a topic of special importance to us in the business of tourism. But I am also tasked with conveying our deepest gratitude for this opportunity, for and on behalf of our own Governing Council of the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism – or CAST – as we are commonly known. I would also like to join other speakers in extending my deepest regrets to the people of Dubai and the Emirates on the passing of Sheikh Maktoum.

3. I think it is appropriate to tell you a bit about us. CAST is a subsidiary of the Caribbean Hotel Association and a non-profit, established in 1997 by hotel members of the association, who were concerned about the impact of their operations on the Caribbean environment. Our mission established back then is the same as it is today – we raise awareness, educate and promote workable strategies for responsible operations and sustainable tourism. Since our beginnings, our constituency has grown beyond hotels to include the wider Caribbean tourism private sector.

4. We are perhaps best known for our work in voluntary standards and certification with the private sector – having introduced with our partners, three (3) such programs, the *Green Globe 21* certification program; the *Blue flag* award for beaches and marinas; and the *Quality Tourism for the Caribbean* project – our own indigenous standards and quality management program.

5. My objective this afternoon, is to comment on approaches to sustainability using the tried-and-true strategies and tools that we have observed to be effective. I would hope that this provides clarity and purpose to your deliberations and serves to inform your decisions.

6. Honourable members, tourism is big business! The World Travel and Tourism Council (the WTTC) estimates the global travel and tourism economy at over \$6 trillion. This is expected to grow to a \$10 trillion industry at rates of 5.4% per annum by the year 2015. World tourism now accounts for 1-in-every-12 jobs worldwide, or a total of 222 million jobs, which is projected to increase by 9% to 270 million jobs, by the year 2015.

7. The two most tourism dependent regions in the world are the Caribbean and the Oceania regions, Ranked in that order by the WTTC. The Caribbean tourism industry is in the midst of a boom, with stop-over arrivals up from all our major source markets - the United States, Canada and Europe. The forecasts for 2006 are bright. The Caribbean tourism economy is comparatively small – contributing less than 1% to the world total – or \$45.5 billion in economic activity. It accounts for 1-in-6 jobs in the region or 15.5% of total direct employment. The top 3 most tourism-dependent countries in the Caribbean are, the British Virgin Islands with 95% contributions to GDP, Antigua and Barbuda at 86% and Aruba at 80%. With the continued decline of tradition productive sectors, and attractive growth prospects, the performance of Caribbean tourism has caught the attention of regional governments as a viable economic activity.

8. The Oceania region also has small island pacific states. Although dominated by Australia and New Zealand – travel and tourism generates \$130 billion of economic activity, which is 2.1% of the world total; it reportedly contributes 6.6% to total employment and 3.1% to this region's GDP. It is therefore three times the size of the Caribbean tourism economy. Tourism growth in this region is expected to grow at the healthy rate of 8% per year through to year 2015.

9. The Caribbean and Oceania regions (we'll exclude Australia and New Zealand from the latter group) comprise mainly small island developing states with limited natural resources other than their tourism assets which support the industry.

10. When forecasting the tourism business outlook, it is common to monitor the following key trends, which are also sources of this industry's vulnerabilities:

- The economic performances of major visitor markets;

- The airline business including the activities of low cost carriers;
- In-bound and out-bound tourism flows and cruise passenger arrivals;
- Fluctuations in energy prices;
- The financial markets and the relative movements of the dollar, the euro and other major currencies;
- And now, most importantly the aggressive use of web-based technologies and the internet by business and vacation travellers.

11. The impact of the internet on travel and tourism has been particularly profound. All tourism businesses now have to seek out competitive advantages by conveying more and dynamic information on their product offerings than ever before. With torrents of real time information available via the internet, it is also now commonplace to access information on the impacts of natural and man-made disasters almost as quickly as these unfold. These and other world events have also taught us that the business of tourism is highly vulnerable to unplanned world events, natural disasters and the propensity for bad news to travel at lightening speeds.

12. Absent from the trend indicators mentioned above, are those for environmental sustainability. I submit however, that this is likely to change in the near future with the publishing of the 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI) by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, and discussed at the World Economic Forum in January this year. associated with the *Millennium Development Goals* is the ESI is a composite index tracking a diverse set of socioeconomic, environmental, and institutional indicators that characterize and influence environmental sustainability at national scales. These and other studies have served to amplify discussions around the globe about the impact of global warming trends. The findings are particularly sobering about the potential correlation of these trends to increasing ocean temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes and changing weather patterns – all of which can impact the business of tourism. Particularly vulnerable are Small Island States.

13. Honourable members, I have had the privilege of reading your meeting documents whilst preparing for this moment. The evidence for declining environmental quality and impairment of critical ecosystems are very well documented in the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* and other reports contained in your folios. I am particularly concerned about the conclusions of this *report*, the most serious of which refer to:

- The weakening of ecosystem resilience and its ability to provide key services such as the “*purification of air and water, protection from disasters and the provision of medicines*” and
- A dire warning that the resultant harmful effects of this wide-scale degradation are “*being borne disproportionately by the poor*”.

14. Although the scale of degradation and human suffering may differ, there is an unremarkable similarity to the manifestation of these effects across regions. We are concerned that our tourism assets which nourish and sustain our industry could now be in a situation akin to the proverbial “sword of damocles” hanging above our collective heads – whilst in the midst of relative prosperity.

15. As your meeting papers indicate, however, there is clearly some optimism for a reversal of these environmental and social trends - and I will discuss a few of the key options.

16. At the policy level, Governments play a key role. The evidence shows that deep and abiding public-private sector partnerships have had enduring benefits for a healthy and vibrant tourism industry. The nature of the tourism industry is such that the process of policy-making needs to encompass a diversity of issues e.g.:

- Nurturing an attractive investment climate, a level playing field and equitable labour standards;
- Ensuring well designed and functional tourism infrastructure (air & seaports, roads, and services); and
- Diversity, vitality and competitiveness of tourism product offerings, to name a few.

17. We wholeheartedly support the view that governments need to lead this effort and to greater effect. Whilst also recognizing that some governments are indeed short on the technical and financial resources to accomplish these objectives, we suggest the participation of the private and community sectors in the development of creative solutions, wherever appropriate.

18. I must admit that the tourism private sector is opportunistic by nature and whilst this is generally good for the business of the industry, the public interest has often been side-stepped by the unscrupulous few. We therefore support the advocates for legislation that is enforceable and imposes severe fines and consequences.

19. I would also argue that a lack of effective development planning and control has contributed to environmental degradation, although not for a lack of capability, but more so for lack of authority. The practice of tourism development planning, with the involvement of the private sector, civil society and community groups – who can contribute so much expertise, should also be the preferred policy objective for minimizing environmental degradation, avoiding conflicts and arriving at a consensus for appropriate scales and zones of development. If accomplished, we feel quite certain that these strategies could significantly arrest the rate of degradation and ecosystem loss.

20. At the tactical or implementation level, our experience of standards and certification programs may prove instructive. The basis for certification programs is the environmental management system which is designed to control impacts by mainstreaming discipline into daily enterprise operations: e.g. through defined and documented procedures, focused capacity building, and by distributing authority and accountability to lower levels of the organizational hierarchy.

21. Over the years we have noticed a major attitude change in the way business is conducted at certified hotels. These enterprises now routinely make decisions supported by data and facts. They have also re-aligned their priorities for meeting and exceeding established performance goals. Much of this change is also a result of the refocused leadership of top management and new behaviours and attitudes demonstrated by line staff. We have also received reports of their greater appreciation for sensitive ecosystems and keenness to contribute to the vitality of adjacent communities.

22. Furthermore, certification programs have also resulted in the development of best practices. These focus on maximizing energy and water consumption efficiencies, limiting or eliminating the generation of solid and liquid wastes, including green house gas emissions (e.g. Green Globe 21). We have also noticed that for those properties that are well into their fourth and fifth years of re-certification, supplier management has now emerged as a best practice. Inherent in all of this is the upgrading of the knowledge and skills of staff at tourism enterprises. They now translate learning to desired behaviour.

23. Honourable members, I humbly suggest that these accounts resonate with the policy questions and recommendations before you. It is precisely these types of behaviours - and attitude-changes that are desirable. Our problem in the Caribbean and perhaps elsewhere, is that these attitude changes are not nearly as prevalent as they ought to be in order to accomplish the larger sustainability goals and within the time frames. As a result, the rate of degradation is clearly out-pacing the rates at which we can mitigate! Herein lies our dilemma.

24. I want it to be clearly understood that I am not advocating the use one sustainability tool over another. Rather, I am stressing the point already made by others and reflected in your meeting folios, that we need a majority of actors using any combination of the available and proven sustainability tools and remedies. What we also know, is that with the right mix of incentives and approach, the private sector can be persuaded to act responsibly and perform sustainably.

25. Honourable members, with your indulgence, I now wish to spend my remaining moments discussing the role and value of UNEP to organizations like CAST. With its impressive institutional resource network spread throughout the globe, UNEP is perhaps best positioned to coordinate the charge of reversing impacts through organized action. Our work has been well informed by the technical expertise and published reports over the years. In reviewing the meeting and information documents for this forum, I have also noticed with great enthusiasm, UNEP's work in emergency and disaster management around the world and at both the preparedness and response levels.
26. The Caribbean region was affected in various degrees by a total of 24 hurricanes between 2004 and 2005 – too many by any standard! CAST has been conducting 1- and 2-day hurricane preparedness workshops to the tourism industry since 1998. Recently there has been an up-tick in demand. We trained almost 300 industry persons in 2005 – not nearly enough for maximum effect. We therefore welcome any allocation of technical resources UNEP cares to make in this regard and especially the sharing of tools such as the *Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL)* diagnostic tool, which has reportedly been used successfully elsewhere.
27. In closing, may I say that although the predictions are dire and the urgency immediate, we are still optimistic that with the support and leadership of this esteemed forum and its members, a reversal of the trends is attainable. However, the time to act is now. I look forward therefore to learning of your decisions and to doing our part to support your prioritized actions.
28. I wish to sincerely thank you for your attention, and the Executive Director and staff of this auspicious body for inviting us at, the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism to share our opinions and experiences with you.

Thank you!

Appendix V

Ecotourism definition

The Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism was developed in the framework of the United Nations International Year of Ecotourism, 2002, under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Tourism Organization. Over one thousand participants from 132 countries and the public, private and non-governmental sectors met at the World Ecotourism Summit, hosted in Quebec City, Canada, by Tourisme Québec and the Canadian Tourism Commission, from 19 to 22 May 2002. The Quebec Summit represented the culmination of 18 preparatory meetings held in 2001 and 2002, involving over 3000 representatives from national and local Governments, including tourism, environment and other government branches, private ecotourism businesses and their trade associations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and consultants, intergovernmental organizations and indigenous and local communities.

The Declaration takes into account the preparatory process, as well as the discussions held during the Summit. It is the result of a multi-stakeholder dialogue, although it is not a negotiated document. Its main purpose is the setting of a preliminary agenda and a set of recommendations for the development of ecotourism activities in the context of sustainable development.

According to the Declaration, ecotourism "embraces the principles of sustainable tourism ... and the following specific principles which distinguish it from the wider concept of sustainable tourism:

- (a) Contributes actively to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage,
- (b) Includes local and indigenous communities in its planning, development and operation, contributing to their well-being,
- (c) Interprets the natural and cultural heritage of the destination to visitor,
- (d) Lends itself better to independent travellers, as well as to organized tours for small size groups."

Annex IV

President's summary of the discussions on international environmental governance by ministers and heads of delegation at the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. On 8 and 9 February 2006, ministers and heads of delegation attending the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum discussed the subject of international environmental governance, including the question of universal membership of the Governing Council, within the overall context of follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

A. Introductory statements

2. Mr. Adnan Amin, Executive Director, Secretary-General's Panel on United Nations system-wide coherence, referred to the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit and in particular the significance of those aspects related to the environment as well as United Nations system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. He reported on the current status of arrangements for the establishment of the Secretary-General's high-level panel and the high expectation among United Nations Member States concerning the panel's role in the United Nations reform process. He also announced that the ambassadors of Mexico and Switzerland to the United Nations had been named co-chairs of the informal working group of the General Assembly established by the President of the General Assembly to undertake the follow-up to the World Summit Outcome related to reform of the international environmental structure.

3. Ms. Nelly Olin, Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development of France, was the second keynote speaker. She explained that global environmental challenges had grown to such an extent that there was wide recognition of the interrelationship between environmental concerns and development policies. It was an anomaly, she said, that specialized organizations existed that dealt with trade, labour and health, while the environment was being overseen by an under-funded UN programme. She argued for the eventual creation of a specialized agency, built on existing institutions, with UNEP as the basis. The proposal, she said, would result in the formation of a United Nations environment organization, tasked with addressing the wide range of environmental problems facing the world. She said that the proposed organization would be located in Nairobi and could include in its mandate a more coherent coordination of multilateral environmental agreements, as well as environmental capacity-building. She stated that the proposal had the support of approximately 90 countries, including those of the European Union, the Francophonie and the Indian Ocean Commission. She also called for adequate funding for the organization, observing that while UNEP had over recent years been tasked with more responsibilities, it did not receive sufficient financing.

B. Reactions by ministers and heads of delegations

1. Follow up to the 2005 World Summit

4. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives who spoke addressed ways and means to strengthen UNEP and to increase coherence and efficiency in the United Nations system in addressing environmental issues, bearing in mind the 2005 World Summit Outcome and in the context of the ongoing reform of the United Nations.

5. Some representatives shared the view that, bearing in mind ongoing United Nations reform efforts, it was important to strengthen the role of the environment in the United Nations system, as well as international cooperation more broadly. The view was also expressed that it was urgent to reinforce the prominence of natural capital in poverty reduction strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Another representative stressed that enhanced environmental governance was essential for eradicating poverty, as well as for peace and security.

6. Some representatives were of the view that all the three components of sustainable development should be advanced and that measures for protecting the environment should not be undertaken at the expense of development. Another representative called for new and additional resources for achieving goals for sustainable development.

7. Many representatives stressed that the implementation of all the components of Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance – often referred to as the Cartagena package – remained a priority. They underscored, among other things, the need for immediate and full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, strengthening the scientific base of UNEP, the importance of enhancing coherence and coordination within the United Nations system, enhancing synergies among multilateral environmental agreements and improving the financial footing of UNEP.

8. Some representatives, emphasizing the need for strengthening the international institutional framework in the field of the environment, expressed their support for the transformation of UNEP into a Nairobi-based United Nations environment organization having the status of a specialized agency.

9. Some other representatives addressed the strengthening of specific elements of international environmental governance, such as consolidation of multilateral environmental agreements and strengthened capacity-building capabilities for UNEP, especially through the Bali Strategic Plan. Another representative emphasized that UNEP should fulfil its original mandate.

10. One representative, noting the increasing environmental challenges that UNEP faced, suggested that there should be a careful assessment, bearing in mind scrap and building within the United Nations system, of effectiveness and efficiency of the current institutional structure, including possible consolidation of existing multilateral environmental agreements, in the light of which the question of universal membership or the need for a United Nations environment organization should be examined.

11. Some representatives opposed the establishment of a United Nations environment organization, as they believed that utilization of the existing institutional arrangements would be adequate to address environmental issues and the establishment of a new organization was not necessary. Another representative, noting that UNEP had improved its governance, although further improvement of international environmental governance was needed, stressed that it was premature to establish a United Nations environment organization.

12. One representative pointed out that any discussions on a United Nations environment organization should wait for an analysis to be conducted by the Secretary-General's panel on United Nations system-wide coherence.

2. Universal membership

13. The question of universal membership of the Governing Council of UNEP was considered within the broad context described above. There continued to be different views among member States on the matter, and there was no consensus among them.

14. Some representatives supported the introduction of universal membership, as they believed that it would strengthen the decision-making functions of the Governing Council and UNEP as a whole.

15. Some representatives, without expressing their positions on the matter, indicated that it deserved further consideration and reflection. One expressed the view that it was necessary to identify additional value and benefits to be attained by introducing universal membership.

16. Some representatives, however, opposed the introduction of universal membership, stating that the existing structure was adequate.

17. One representative, not convinced of the need for universal membership, was concerned that it might involve higher administrative costs, and requested further analysis of the costs and benefits that could be expected.

18. The view was expressed that the question of universal membership should be addressed by the Secretary-General's panel on United Nations system-wide coherence as well as at the relevant consultations to be carried out by the General Assembly.

Annex V

Remarks of the Secretary-General on receiving the Global Leadership Award of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment

Dubai, 6 February 2006

Your highness, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashed Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai

Your Excellency Mr. Witoelar, Indonesian State Minister for the Environment and President, UNEP Governing Council

Excellencies,

Dr. Fahad, Chairman, Zayed Prize

Fellow prize-winners,

Klaus,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be in the United Arab Emirates to receive this prize, named after Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose commitment to the environment was well known here and around the world.

I would like to thank His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashed Al-Maktoum for his vision in creating this award, and his generosity in serving as its patron.

I must also offer my sincere condolences to His Highness and to the people of Dubai for the loss of the former Ruler, Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashed Al-Maktoum, whose death last month came as a shock to us all. During this period of grief, our condolences go especially to Sheikh Mohammed and the rest of the Maktoum family.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To stand here in the UAE, and especially in Dubai, is to stand on the soil of one of the world's great economic miracles.

It is a country whose leaders and people have learned the importance of using scarce resources efficiently.

It is a land that knows the importance of human and intellectual capital. Here in the heart of the world's oil region, Dubai itself derives less than 10% of its income from oil.

And it is a civilization grounded in strong cultural and spiritual values, which recognizes that sustainable development will not succeed without caring for and conserving the world's natural capital.

That understanding lies at the heart of the United Nations' global mission of peace and development.

Yet all too often, the environment has been viewed as a domain of limitless bounty -- a realm over which humans could exercise heedless dominion. And protecting the environment has been considered an afterthought, or even a luxury.

Again and again, from antiquity to the modern era, humankind has been shown the folly of such assumptions.

Today, we understand that respect for the environment is one of the main pillars of our fight against poverty, and essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

But still, despite real improvements in some parts of the world, our efforts to safeguard the global environment and make a transition to sustainable development lag behind what is truly needed.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that was completed last year under the auspices of the United Nations and others – and which is itself a winner of one of this year’s Zayed prizes – shows the terrible toll human activities are inflicting on the resources and networks that support life on earth. Prosperity built on destruction is not prosperity at all, but rather only a temporary reprieve from tragedy. There will be little peace, and much greater poverty, if this assault continues.

Action on climate change is particularly urgent. Scientists largely agree that without major policy changes in the next few years, we face a future filled with danger.

Now that the Kyoto Protocol has entered into force, the world has a dynamic tool for stabilizing and reducing emissions and supporting climate-friendly projects in developing countries.

Moreover, the world is about to embark on two parallel tracks aimed at intensifying global action. The first will involve discussions among the parties to the Protocol, and will look at binding targets for the industrialized countries beyond 2012. The second will be a dialogue involving all parties to the wider Climate Change Convention, and will look at a broader range of cooperative action, involving technology, adaptation and voluntary action by developing countries.

I urge all countries to take those discussions seriously. Regional and other initiatives are important, but the Framework Convention remains the multilateral framework for action.

And as these processes unfold, let us be clear what is at stake: the carbon-based economy is like an uncontrolled experiment with the global climate, with serious risks for ecosystems, business and human health. We must cut emissions. But we must also help the poorest of the poor and the vulnerable adapt to the climate change that is already under way.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A change in mindset is equally important.

The world remains locked in short-term thinking, from election cycles in politics to the profit-taking in the business world. Sustainable development cries out for a long-term perspective.

The world remains captive to the old idea that we face a choice between economic growth and conservation. In fact, growth cannot be sustained without conservation. One of two jobs worldwide – in agriculture, forestry and fisheries – depends on the sustainability of ecosystems. Health problems cannot be fixed by the health sector alone. Our fight against poverty, inequality and disease is directly linked to the health of the earth itself.

And the world remains perilously wedded to oil and other fossil fuels. The challenge here is twofold.

First: we must husband this resource, and use it efficiently, while limiting the impact on the environment by delivering cleaner coal and using cleaner ways to generate fossil fuels. All humankind must get the maximum benefit from every barrel, gallon or litre consumed – much as we try to do with water, where “more crop per drop” is our mantra. Price Zayed himself understood that the true value of oil is in what it can do to improve the lives of people. Two billion of our fellow human beings today lack affordable energy services.

Second, we must look ahead, beyond the finite life of fossil fuels, and promote clean, alternative, renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind and biofuel. The soaring demand for oil is concentrating the minds of the world as never before. Today’s high oil prices make the economic and environmental arguments even more mutually supportive.

This country and this region are well placed to spearhead the effort. Oil-rich countries can invest in new technologies and in the transfer of existing ones to poorer countries. Doing so would be prudent self interest as well as a mark of solidarity with those less well off. It would be a breath of fresh air for the planet. The Middle East was the main energy supplier of the last century. I hope that through your investments and leadership, you will become a primary source of alternative energy in this one.

Everyone has a role to play in changing the mindset.

Governments have immense capacity to set the rules and create the tax and other incentives that will promote sustainable development. Developed countries in particular – with their wealth and power -- need to take the lead.

Businesses have unparalleled ability to innovate and to steer behaviour – and capital flows -- in the right directions. They should do even more to support green technologies and make them one of tomorrow's growth industries. I urge institutional investors and pension fund managers to continue their efforts to reward companies that have a long-term vision to deal with environmental risk and opportunities. The UN Global Compact corporate citizenship initiative has been working very closely to embed environmental principles in corporate activities and global markets. I am glad that so many of them are showcasing their work at an exhibition elsewhere in this hall.

And let us not forget people power: consumers, voters determined to exercise their democratic rights; legions of citizens' groups and their skill at popular mobilization and carrying out small-scale projects at the local level. It is appropriate that one of this year's Zayed prizes is being awarded to the head of one such organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tomorrow, the representatives of nearly 160 countries – including some 125 environment ministers -- will gather for the UN Environment Programme's Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Both figures reflect unprecedented participation.

I can think of no better time or place than here and now for ministers to show they understand that the environment is fundamental for fighting poverty, and that ecosystem services underpin all our hopes for economic development and a more stable world.

And I can think of no better use of the funds bestowed by this generous prize than devoting them to the cause of sustainable development. Accordingly, I plan to use the award as seed money for a foundation I will establish to work in Africa for agriculture and girls' education. Agriculture, because Africa's people need a green revolution. And girls' education, because there is no more effective tool for development. Every step in these directions will bring us closer to a healthy, peaceful and equitable world, and I intend to make this foundation part of my life's work at the end of my tenure as Secretary-General.

Dear friends.

I believe that political energy is another of the world's renewable resources. Our challenge is to tap into it far more than we have. We need to stop being so economically defensive, and start being more politically courageous.

On behalf of the men and women of the United Nations, who are strongly dedicated to their mission of peace and human dignity and who work valiantly to improve both the natural and the human environments, I am proud to accept this prize. Thank you very much.
