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Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme

**Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 18–22 February 2013
Item 5

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council

Resolutions of the General Assembly and decisions of the Governing Council concerning institutional arrangements and governance of the United Nations Environment Programme

Note by the Executive Director[1]

The following General Assembly resolutions and Governing Council decisions are reproduced in the annex to the present note:

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General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII): Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation, 15 December 1972	*2*
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General Assembly resolution 67/213: Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV.C, entitled “Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development”, of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 21 December 2012	*31*

[1] Issued without formal editing.

Annex

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on 15 December 1972

2997 (XXVII) INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION

The General Assembly,

Convinced of the need for prompt and effective implementation by Governments and the International community of measures designed to safeguard and enhance the environment for the benefit of present and future generations of man,

Recognizing that responsibility for action to protect and enhance the environment rests primarily with Governments and, in the first instance, can be exercised more effectively at the national and regional levels,

Recognizing further that environmental problems of broad international significance fall within the competence of the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind that international co-operative programmes in the field of the environment must be undertaken with due respect for the sovereign rights of States and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law,

Mindful of the sectoral responsibilities of the organizations in the United Nations system, Conscious of the significance of regional and sub-regional co-operation in the field of the environment and of the important role of the regional economic commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations,

Emphasizing that problems of the environment constitute a new and important area for international co-operation and that the complexity and interdependence of such problems require new approaches,

Recognizing that the relevant international scientific and other professional communities can make an important contribution to international co-operation in the field of the environment,

Conscious of the need for processes within the United Nations system which would effectively assist developing countries to implement environmental policies and programmes that are compatible with their development plans and to participate meaningfully in international environmental programmes,

Convinced that, in order to be effective international co-operation in the field of the environment requires additional financial and technical resources,

Aware of the urgent need for a permanent institutional arrangement within the United Nations system for the protection and improvement of the environment,

Taking note of the report of the secretary-general on the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

I

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

1. *Decides* to establish a Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, composed of fifty-eight members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms on the following basis:

(a) Sixteen seats for African States;

(b) Thirteen seats for Asian States;

(c) Six seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Ten seats for Latin American States;

(e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States.

2. *Decides* that the Governing Council shall have the following main functions and responsibilities:

(a) To promote international co-operation in the field of the environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;

(b) To provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(c) To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, referred to in section II, paragraph 2, below, on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(d) To keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;

(e) To promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(f) To maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, and to ensure that such programmes and projects shall be compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries;

(g) To review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund referred to in section III below;

3. *Decides* that the Governing Council shall report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which will transmit to the Assembly such comments on the reports as it may deem necessary, particularly with regard to questions of co-ordination and to the relationship of environmental policies and programmes within the United Nations system to overall economic and social policies and priorities;

II

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARIAT

1. *Decides* that a small secretariat shall be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and co- ordination within the United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management;

2. *Decides* that the environment secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, who shall be elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the secretary-general for a term of four years and who shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the following responsibilities:

(a) To provide substantive support to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) To co-ordinate, under the guidance of the Governing Council, environment programmes within the United Nations system, to keep their implementation under review and to assess their effectiveness;

(c) To advice, as appropriate and under the guidance of the Governing Council, intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system on the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes;

(d) To secure the effective co-operation of, and contribution from, the relevant scientific and other professional communities in all parts of the world;

(e) To provide, at the request of all parties concerned, advisory services for the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the environment;

(f) To submit to the Governing Council, on his own initiative or upon request, proposals embodying medium-range and long-range planning for United Nations programmes in the field of the environment;

(g) To bring to the attention of the Governing Council any matter which he deems to require consideration by it;

(h) To administer, under the authority and policy guidance of the Governing Council, the Environment Fund referred to in section III below;

(i) To report on environmental matters to the Governing Council;

(j) To perform such other functions as may be entrusted to him by the Governing Council;

3. *Decides* that the costs of servicing the Governing Council and providing the small secretariat referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations and that operational Programme costs, Programme support and administrative costs of the Environment Fund established under section III below shall be borne by the Fund;

III

ENVIRONMENT FUND

1. *Decides* that, in order to provide for additional financing for environmental programmes, a voluntary fund shall be established, with effect from 1 January 1973, in accordance with existing United Nations financial procedures;

2. *Decides* that, in order to enable the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfill its policy-guidance role for the direction and co-ordination of environmental activities, the Environment Fund shall finance wholly or partly the costs of the new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system – which will include the initiatives envisaged in the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, with particular attention to integrated projects, and such other environmental activities as may be decided upon by the Governing Council – and that the Governing Council shall review these initiatives with a view to taking appropriate decisions as to their continued financing;

3. *Decides* that the Environment Fund shall be used for financing such programmes of general interest as regional and global monitoring, assessment and data-collecting systems, including, as appropriate, costs for national counterparts; the improvement of environmental quality management; environmental research; information exchange and dissemination; public education and training; assistance for national, regional and global environmental institutions; the promotion of environmental research and studies for the development of industrial and other technologies best suited to a policy of economic growth compatible with adequate environmental safeguards; and such other programmes as the Governing Council may decide upon, and that in the implementation of such programmes due account should be taken of the special needs of the developing countries;

4. *Decides* that, in order to ensure that the development priorities of developing countries shall not be adversely affected, adequate measures shall be taken to provide additional financial resources on terms compatible with the economic situation of the recipient developing country, and that, to this end, the Executive Director, in co-operation with competent organizations, shall keep this problem under continuing review;

5. *Decides* that the Environment Fund, in pursuance of the objectives stated in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, shall be directed to the need for effective co-ordination in the implementation of international environmental programmes of the organizations in the United Nations system and other international organizations;

6. *Decides* that, in the implementation of programmes to be financed by the Environment Fund, organizations outside the United Nations system, particularly those in the countries and regions concerned, shall also be utilized as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures established by the Governing Council, and that such organizations are invited to support the United Nations environmental programmes by complementary initiatives and contributions;

7. *Decides* that the Governing Council shall formulate such general procedures as are necessary to govern the operations of the Environment Fund;

IV

ENVIRONMENT CO-ORDINATION BOARD

1. *Decides* that, in order to provide for the most efficient co-ordination of United Nations environmental programmes, and Environment Co-ordination Board, under the chairmanship of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, shall be established under the auspices and within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

2. *Further* decides that the Environment Co-ordination Board shall meet periodically for the purpose of ensuring co-operation and co-ordination among all bodies concerned in the implementation of environmental programmes and that it shall report annually to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system to adopt the measures that may be required to undertake concerted and co-ordinated programmes with regard to international environmental problems, taking into account existing procedures for prior consultation, particularly on programme and budgetary matters;

4. *Invites* the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, in co-operation where necessary with other appropriate regional bodies, to intensify further their efforts directed towards contributing to the implementation of environmental programmes in view of the particular need for the rapid development of regional co-operation in this field;

5. *Also invites* other intergovernmental and those non-governmental organizations that have an interest in the field of the environment to lend their full support and collaboration to the United Nations with a view to achieving the largest possible degree of co-operation and co-ordination;

6. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure that appropriate national institutions shall be entrusted with the task of the co-ordination of environmental action, both national and international;

7. *Decides* to review as appropriate, at its thirty-first session, the above institutional arrangements, bearing in mind, inter alia, the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council under the Charter of the United Nations.

Decision of the Governing Council adopted at its nineteenth session on 7 February 1997

19/1. Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council

1. *Adopts* the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, as annexed to the present decision;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to transmit this Declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be considered in the ongoing reform process of the United Nations system;

3. *Also requests* the President of the Governing Council to present this Declaration to the high-level segment of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the General Assembly at its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the reform process as it relates to the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as on the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, to the next session of the Governing Council.

7th meeting

7 February 1997

NAIROBI DECLARATION ON THE ROLE AND MANDATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

We, the ministers and heads of delegation attending the nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 27 January to 7 February 1997,

Recalling the goal of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which is to establish a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key sectors of society and people,

Reiterating our commitment to the implementation of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as other environmental conventions agreed upon in the Rio process,

Recognizing the progress made in the implementation of the Rio agreements,

Deeply concerned, nevertheless, at the continuing deterioration of the global environment, including the worsening trends in environmental pollution and the degradation of natural resources, as reflected in the Global Environment Outlook report of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Aware of the rapid changes currently taking place in the world and the increasing complexity and fragmentation of the institutional responses to them, as well as the far-reaching significance of the concept of sustainable development which encompasses economic, social and environmental dimensions, supported by capacity-building, transfer of technology and financial resources to developing countries, in particular least developed countries,

Convinced that a strong, effective and revitalized United Nations Environment Programme is essential to assist the international community in its efforts to reverse environmentally unsustainable trends,

Aware that the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 offers a unique opportunity to review and appraise

the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to confirm the revitalized role of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Determined to assist the General Assembly in this important task, and guided by the principles agreed in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Declare:

1. That the United Nations Environment Programme has been and should continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment and that we, the ministers of the environment and heads of delegation attending the nineteenth session of the Governing Council, are determined to play a stronger role in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. That the role of the United Nations Environment Programme is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

3. That to this end, we reaffirm the continuing relevance of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme deriving from General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and further elaborated by Agenda 21. The core elements of the focused mandate of the revitalized United Nations Environment Programme should be the following:

(a) To analyse the state of the global environment and assess global and regional environmental trends, provide policy advice, early warning information on environmental threats, and to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action, based on the best scientific and technical capabilities available;

(b) To further the development of its international environmental law aiming at sustainable development, including the development of coherent interlinkages among existing international environmental conventions;

(c) To advance the implementation of agreed international norms and policies, to monitor and foster compliance with environmental principles and international agreements and stimulate cooperative action to respond to emerging environmental challenges;

(d) To strengthen its role in the coordination of environmental activities in the United Nations system in the field of the environment, as well as its role as an Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility, based on its comparative advantage and scientific and technical expertise;

(e) To promote greater awareness and facilitate effective cooperation among all sectors of society and actors involved in the implementation of the international environmental agenda, and to serve as an effective link between the scientific community and policy makers at the national and international levels;

(f) To provide policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building to Governments and other relevant institutions;

4. That, for the effective discharge of its focused mandate and to ensure the implementation of the global environmental agenda, we have decided to improve the governance structure of United Nations Environment Programme. In doing so, we have been guided by the following considerations:

(a) The United Nations Environment Programme should serve as the world forum for the ministers and the highest-level government officials in charge of environmental matters in the policy and decision-making processes of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) Regionalization and decentralization should be strengthened through the increased involvement and participation of regional ministerial and other relevant forums in the United Nations Environment Programme process, complementary to the central coordinating role of the Programme's headquarters in Nairobi;

(c) The participation of major groups should be increased;

(d) A cost-effective and politically influential inter-sessional mechanism should be designed;

5. That, in order to operationalize its mandate, the revitalized United Nations Environment Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources and, in this regard,

we recognize the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the competitive ability of the Programme to attract funding;

6. That ways must be sought to assure financial stability for the implementation of the global environmental agenda. In this regard, the predictability and early notification of expected contributions to the Environment Fund would facilitate an effective planning and programming process;

7. That we reaffirm the central importance of the Environment Fund as the principal source of financing for the implementation of the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

8. That we are convinced that the expeditious implementation of our decisions and the principles contained in this Declaration, adopted in the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Environment Programme, will revitalize and strengthen the organization and place it at the forefront of international efforts to protect the global environment for present and future generations and in the pursuit of sustainable development;

9. That we request the President of the Governing Council to present this Declaration to the high-level segment of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

Decision adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on 4 April 1997

19/32. Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 on institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation, including the mandate of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also its decision 18/2 of 26 May 1995 on the review of the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Reaffirming the importance for the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, and to promote the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system,

Conscious of the need to improve the governance of the United Nations Environment Programme to enable it to fulfil its mandate as strengthened by chapter 38 of Agenda 21, 1/and further enhanced by the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme adopted by the Governing Council in its decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997,

Emphasizing the importance of democratic, efficient, transparent and representative governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme, with a complementary, specific and distinct role and mandate for each of their components,

Recognizing the need for properly mandated subsidiary bodies that can act during the inter-sessional period for and on behalf of the Governing Council within their respective mandates and the framework of the decisions adopted by the Council,

Recognizing also the need to ensure adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme,

Decides

1. To establish a High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, with the following mandate:

(a) To consider the international environmental agenda and to make reform and policy recommendations to the Governing Council;

(b) To provide guidance and advice to the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues between sessions of the Governing Council to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to make a timely response;

(c) To enhance the collaboration and cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme with other relevant multilateral bodies as well as with the environmental conventions and their secretariats;

(d) To support the Executive Director in mobilizing adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme for the implementation of the global environmental agenda approved by the Governing Council;

2. That the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials shall consist of 36 members, elected by the Governing Council from among Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, for a period of two years, taking into account the principle of equitable regional representation as reflected in the composition of the Governing Council. The President of the Governing Council and the Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall be invited to attend the meetings. No member State shall serve on the Committee for more than two consecutive terms;

3. That the European Community and other regional intergovernmental economic organizations may attend the meetings of the Committee;

4. That the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials shall elect from amongst its members a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur;

5. That the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials shall meet at least once a year in Nairobi. Meetings of the Committee may be convened elsewhere by its Chairperson, in consultation with its Bureau, in connection with major international environmental meetings;

6. That the report of the meetings of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials shall be made immediately available to all members of the United Nations Environment Programme;

7. That, with a view to strengthening the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, it shall have henceforth the following mandate:

(a) Within the policy and budgetary framework provided by the Governing Council, to review, monitor and assess the implementation of decisions of the Council on administrative, budgetary and programme matters;

(b) To review the draft programme of work and budget during their preparation by the secretariat;

(c) To review reports requested of the secretariat by the Governing Council on the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the functions and work of the secretariat and to make recommendations thereon to the Governing Council;

(d) To prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Governing Council based on inputs from the secretariat and on the results of the functions specified above;

8. That the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall consist of the representatives of all States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, and the European Community, accredited to the United Nations Environment Programme, whether based in Nairobi or outside;

9. That the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall elect a Bureau composed of a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, for a period of two years, taking into account the principles of rotation and equitable geographical representation;

10. That the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall hold four regular meetings a year. Extraordinary meetings may be also convened by its Chairperson, after consultation with the other members of the Bureau or at the request of at least five members of the Committee. The Committee of Permanent Representatives may establish subcommittees, working groups and task forces as deemed appropriate to carry out its mandate;

11. That the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials and the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall be accountable to the Governing Council and will submit reports on their work at each session of the Governing Council;

12. That, save as otherwise provided in this decision, the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, including rule 63, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials until it adopts its own rules of procedure. The proceedings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be conducted in English;

13. That the secretariat shall provide documentation and information related to the meetings of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, four weeks in advance of the meeting in question;

14. That an appropriate budget shall be allocated by the Governing Council for these two subsidiary organs. The financial implications of the present decision shall not be borne by the Environment Fund and should be within the financial provisions currently available for meetings of the Governing Council;

15. To invite Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies to consider providing financial assistance to facilitate the participation of developing countries and in particular the least developed among them, as well as countries with economies in transition, and to establish a trust fund to this end;

16. That this governance structure shall be reviewed by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, with a view to assessing its effectiveness taking into account any relevant results of the reform process of the United Nations system.

10th meeting

4 April 1997

Resolution of the General Assembly adopted at its fifty-third session on 28 July 1999

53/242. Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 A of 12 November 1997, entitled “Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform”,

Reaffirming its determination to strengthen the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations, including in the field of environment and human settlements, and thus improve its performance in order to realize the full potential of the Organization,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements and there port of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements annexed thereto, which contain recommendations on reforming and strengthening the activities of the United Nations in the field of environment and human settlements,

Expressing its appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Task Force for their commendable work,

Conscious of the continued deterioration of the global environment and the state of human settlements, despite some positive achievements, as well as of the need to strengthen the institutions of the United Nations charged with responsibility for environment and human settlements, to improve their performance and to promote coordination in the implementation of the environmental and human settlements dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in their Nairobi location and of ensuring the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources necessary to both organizations for the fulfilment of their mandates, as contained in General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 32/162 of 19 December 1977, as well as in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in its decision 19/1 of7 February 1997, and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on 14 June 1996, including by seeking additional financial resources through broadening the range of sources of funding for both organizations, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,

Taking into account the views of Member States on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

Taking into account also the views contained in decision 20/17, adopted on 5 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and Commission on Human Settlements resolution 17/6 of 14 May 1999,5 concerning the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to strengthen the United Nations in the field of environment and human settlements, and in that context takes note of the general thrust of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements, proposing actions to be taken by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and takes note also of the recommendations outlined in section IV of the report;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in its capacity as the only United Nations headquarters located in a developing country, through the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources, including by proposing additional regular budget resources, as envisaged by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997,for the consideration of the Assembly, with due regard for proper United Nations budgetary procedures;

3. Encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to take steps to increase the level of utilization of the Office, and in this regard encourages other agencies, funds and programmes to consider increasing their utilization of its facilities for their activities;

4. *Calls* upon the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to increase cooperation in and strengthen coordination of their activities, within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities, as well as their separate Executive Directors;

5. *Supports* the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements, and requests the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with the Member States and members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the mandate, terms of reference, appropriate criteria for membership and flexible, cost-effective working methods of the proposed environmental management group and to submit them to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Welcomes* the proposal to institute an annual, ministerial-level, global environmental forum, with the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme constituting the forum in the years that it meets in regular session and, in alternate years, with the forum taking the form of a special session of the Governing Council, in which participants can gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment, with due consideration for the need to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the governance mechanisms of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as possible financial implications, and the need to maintain the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the main forum for high-level policy debate on sustainable development;

7. *Supports* the proposals for the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and emphasizes in this regard the need to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with adequate resources to perform this task;

8. *Welcomes* the proposals for the involvement, participation and constructive engagement of major groups active in the field of environment and human settlements, with due consideration for the relevant rules, regulations and procedures of the United Nations;

9. *Reiterates* the importance of strengthening the capacity and capability of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), within the frame work of their existing mandates, in the areas of information, the monitoring and assessment of global and regional environmental and human settlements trends and early warning information on environmental threats, so as to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action, and in this context emphasizes the importance of strengthening the system-wide Earth watch as an effective, accessible and strictly non-political science-based system;

10. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with its mandate, the United Nations Environment Programme should not become involved in conflict identification, prevention or resolution;

11. Stresses the need to ensure that capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, as well as research and scientific studies in the field of environment and human settlements, must remain important components of the work programmes of both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), within their existing mandates, and also stresses, in this regard, the need for adequate financial resources as well as the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

12. *Also stresses* the need to enhance further the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, consistent with its role as defined in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;

13. *Reaffirms* the role of the Commission on Human Settlements in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, emphasizes the need for it to take steps to prepare for the review of its implementation in 2001, and welcomes the proposals that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)should strengthen its core activities and develop into a centre for excellence with regard to human settlements;

14. *Welcomes* the proposal to continue ongoing work in the development of indicators in the field of environment and human settlements, and in this regard stresses the importance of the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

105th plenary meeting

28 July 1999

Decision adopted by the Governing Council at its sixth special session on 31 May 2000

Malmö Ministerial Declaration

We, Ministers of Environment and heads of delegation meeting in Malmö, Sweden from 29 to 31 May 2000, on the occasion of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in pursuance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 to enable the world's environment ministers to gather to review important and emerging environmental issues and to chart the course for the future:

Recalling the Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the Rio Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Declaration of Barbados on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States as well as the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Deeply concerned that, despite the many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the Stockholm Conference, and some progress having been achieved, the environment and the natural resource base that supports life on Earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate,

Reaffirming the importance of the speedy implementation of the political and legal commitments entered into by the international community, in particular at the Rio Conference,

Convinced that urgent and renewed efforts are required to be undertaken by all countries in a spirit of international solidarity, and recognizing, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility as contained in the Rio Principles to manage the environment so as to promote sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations,

Conscious that the root causes of global environmental degradation are embedded in social and economic problems such as pervasive poverty, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, inequity in distribution of wealth, and the debt burden,

Also conscious that success in combating environmental degradation is dependent on the full participation of all actors in society, an aware and educated population, respect for ethical and spiritual values and cultural diversity, and protection of indigenous knowledge,

Aware that the 10-year review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be conducted in 2002 will provide a further opportunity for the international community to take action to implement its commitments and to strengthen international cooperation urgently required to address the challenges of sustainable development in the twenty-first century,

Convinced that the Millennium Summit of the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly provides a unique opportunity to address at the highest level the role of the United Nations in the field of sustainable development, and noting in this regard the proposals of the Secretary-General of the United Nations as contained in his report "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century", which will serve as the basis of discussion at the Summit,

Determined to contribute to this historic endeavour from an environmental perspective, and having requested the President of the Governing Council to bring the following matters to the attention of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Millennium Assembly,

Declare that:

Major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century

1. The year 2000 marks a defining moment in the efforts of the international community to ensure that the growing trends of environmental degradation that threaten the sustainability of the planet are arrested and reversed. Hence there is an urgent need for reinvigorated international cooperation based on common concerns and a spirit of international partnership and solidarity.

2. There is an alarming discrepancy between commitments and action. Goals and targets agreed by the international community in relation to sustainable development, such as the adoption of national sustainable development strategies and increased support to developing countries, must be implemented in a timely fashion. The mobilization of domestic and international resources, including development assistance, far beyond current levels is vital to the success of this endeavour.

3. The evolving framework of international environmental law and the development of national law provide a sound basis for addressing the major environmental threats of the day. It must be underpinned by a more coherent and coordinated approach among international environmental instruments. We must also recognize the central importance of environmental compliance, enforcement and liability, and promote the observation of the precautionary approach as contained in the Rio Principles, 2/ and other important policy tools, as well as capacity-building.

4. The Global Environment Outlook 2000 of the United Nations Environment Programme provides a compelling assessment of the serious nature of the environmental threats faced by the international community. Special attention should be paid to unsustainable consumption patterns among the richer segments in all countries, particularly developed countries. Environmental stewardship is lagging behind economic and social development, and a rapidly growing population is placing increased pressures on the environment.

5. Environmental threats resulting from the accelerating trends of urbanization and the development of megacities, the tremendous risk of climate change, the freshwater crisis and its consequences for food security and the environment, the unsustainable exploitation and depletion of biological resources, drought and desertification, and uncontrolled deforestation, increasing environmental emergencies, the risk to human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals, and land-based sources of pollution, are all issues that need to be addressed.

6. Opportunities however exist that can redress this situation. Technological innovation and the emergence of new resource-efficient technologies, in which the private sector plays a major role, provide a source of great hope and increased opportunities to avoid the environmentally destructive practices of the past, including through clean technologies.

7. To confront the underlying causes of environmental degradation and poverty, we must integrate environmental considerations in the mainstream of decision-making. We must also intensify our efforts in developing preventive action and a concerted response, including national environmental governance and the international rule of law, awareness-raising and education, and harness the power of information technology to this end. All actors involved must work together in the interest of a sustainable future.

8. It is necessary that the environmental perspective is taken into account in both the design and the assessment of macro-economic policy-making, as well as practices of government and multilateral lending and credit institutions such as export credit agencies.

9. The trends of globalization in the world economy, with the attendant environmental risks and opportunities, require international institutions to adopt new approaches and to engage the major actors involved in globalization in new ways. We should encourage a balanced and integrated approach to trade and environment policies in pursuit of sustainable development, in accordance with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session.

10. The role and responsibility of nations based on the Rio Principles, as well as the role and responsibility of the main actors including Governments, the private sector and civil society, must be emphasized in addressing the environmental challenges of the twenty-first century. Governments are the primary agents in this process, whose actions are vital in implementing United Nations environment-related instruments since Stockholm, institutional capacity-building and strengthened international cooperation.

The private sector and the environment

11. The private sector has emerged as a global actor that has a significant impact on environmental trends through its investment and technology decisions. In this regard, Governments have a crucial role in creating an enabling environment. The institutional and regulatory capacities of Governments to interact with the private sector should be enhanced. A greater commitment by the private sector should be pursued to engender a new culture of environmental accountability through the application of the polluter-pays principle, environmental performance indicators and reporting, and the establishment of a precautionary approach in investment and technology decisions. This approach must be linked to the development of cleaner and more resource-efficient technologies for a life cycle economy and efforts to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

12. The potential of the new economy to contribute to sustainable development should be further pursued, particularly in the areas of information technology, biology and biotechnology. The ethical and social implications must be carefully considered. There must be recognition of the public interest in knowledge related to biodiversity, including the interest of indigenous and local communities. A corporate ethic guided by public interest should be promoted.

13. The Global Compact established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the private sector provides an excellent vehicle for the development of a constructive engagement with the private sector. UNEP should continue to enhance its engagement and collaboration with the private sector and consider the relation between foreign direct investment and the environment, with a view to minimizing negative environmental implications.

Civil society and the environment

14. Civil society plays a critically important role in addressing environmental issues. The role, capabilities and involvement of civil society organizations has seen a substantial increase over recent years, which highlights the need for national Governments and for UNEP and international organizations to enhance the engagement of these organizations in their work on environmental matters.

15. Civil society has found new and effective modes of expression of popular sentiments and concerns. It provides a powerful agent for promoting shared environmental purpose and values. Civil society plays an important role in bringing emerging environmental issues to the attention of policy makers, raising public awareness, promoting innovative ideas and approaches, and promoting transparency as well as non-corrupt activities in environmental decision-making.

16. The role of civil society at all levels should be strengthened through freedom of access to environmental information to all, broad participation in environmental decision-making, as well as access to justice on environmental issues. Governments should promote conditions to facilitate the ability of all parts of society to have a voice and to play an active role in creating a sustainable future.

17. Science provides the basis for environmental decision-making. There is a need for intensified research, fuller engagement of the scientific community and increased scientific cooperation on emerging environmental issues, as well as improved avenues for communication between the scientific community, decision makers and other stakeholders.

18. We must pay special attention to threats to cultural diversity and traditional knowledge, in particular of indigenous and local communities, which may be posed by globalization. In this context we welcome the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of the year 2001 as the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations.

19. Greater emphasis must be given to the gender perspective in decision-making concerning the management of the environment and natural resources.

20. There is a need for independent and objective media at all levels in enhancing awareness and developing shared environmental values in global society. The media can serve the cause of sustainable development by identifying emerging issues, awareness-raising and promoting appropriate action.

The 2002 review of UNCED

21. The 2002 review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) should be undertaken by an international conference at the summit level. The objective should not be to renegotiate Agenda 21, which remains valid, but to inject a new spirit of cooperation and urgency based on agreed actions in the common quest for sustainable development. In this regard, the ratification of all environmental conventions and protocols, in

particular those related to climate, desertification, biosafety and chemicals, should be urgently pursued by Governments.

22. Governments and UNEP have to play a major role in the preparation for the 2002 review of UNCED at the regional and global levels and ensure that the environmental dimension of sustainable development is fully considered on the basis of a broad assessment of the state of the global environment. The preparations for the conference should be accelerated.

23. The 2002 conference should aim at addressing the major challenges to sustainable development, and in particular the pervasive effects of the burden of poverty on a large proportion of the Earth's inhabitants, counterposed against excessive and wasteful consumption and inefficient resource use that perpetuate the vicious circle of environmental degradation and increasing poverty.

24. The 2002 conference should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world. UNEP's role in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable.

Conclusion

25. At the dawn of this new century, we have at our disposal the human and material resources to achieve sustainable development, not as an abstract concept but as a concrete reality. The unprecedented developments in production and information technologies, the emergence of a younger generation with a clear sense of optimism, solidarity and values, women increasingly aware and with an enhanced and active role in society - all point to the emergence of a new consciousness. We can decrease poverty by half by 2015 without degrading the environment, we can ensure environmental security through early warning, we can better integrate environmental considerations in economic policy, we can better coordinate legal instruments and we can realize a vision of a world without slums. We commit ourselves to realizing this common vision.

Decision of the Governing Council adopted at its seventh special session on 15 February 2002

SS.VII/1. International environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000, in which it was stated that the 2002 conference should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance, based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world and that in this regard, the role of the United Nations Environment Programme should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements in which the General Assembly established the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and supported proposals, inter alia, for the establishment for an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination, and for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment related conventions,

Further *recalling* its decision 21/21 of 9 February 2001 on international environmental governance in which it established an open-ended intergovernmental group of ministers or their representatives, with the Executive Director as an ex-officio member, to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs for strengthened international environmental governance, including the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to presenting a report containing analysis and options to the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and to undertake an in depth discussion of the report with a view to providing its input on future requirement of international environmental governance,

Expressing its appreciation to the Executive Director for the excellent support provided to the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers in its deliberation of international environmental governance, which enabled it to conduct its work in an open, transparent and inclusive manner,

1. *Adopts* the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance in the appendix to the present decision;

2. *Invites* the President of the Governing Council to transmit the present decision and the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance to the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its third session;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to present this decision and the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance to the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its third session;

4. *Decides* to review the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance at its twenty-second session, subject to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

5. *Also decides* to consider further measures for the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme in light of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its twenty-second session.

6th meeting
15 February 2002

Appendix

REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

I. BACKGROUND

1. The current debate on the requirements for a more coherent and more effective international environmental governance regime is a continuation of international efforts over the past decade to develop institutional responses to underpin international action to confront the increase of environmental threats faced by all countries. The growing body of scientific evidence as to the seriousness of environmental degradation has led to a proliferation of legal and institutional arrangements for international cooperation aimed at addressing specific environmental problems. As a result, the international community has become increasingly concerned with not only establishing a strengthened framework for coordinated international action but also ensuring that the limited resources available are deployed in the best possible manner for optimal effect.

2. The context within which international environmental policy formulation takes place has also evolved. Increasingly, environmental objectives are being pursued in the broader context of sustainable development as is evident in the work programmes of the recent mechanisms that have been established. Agenda 21 reaffirmed the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of the environment but also added that it should take into account the development aspects of environmental questions.

3. A further step in the evolution of the current system was the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements as part of the overall reform of the United Nations. In establishing the Task Force, the Secretary-General noted the formidable challenge facing the international community in attaining "a sustainable equilibrium between economic growth, poverty reduction, social equity and the protection of the Earth's resources, common and life support systems", thus reaffirming the sustainable development context. The Secretary-General also concluded that experience had demonstrated the need for a more systemic approach to policies and programmes through mainstreaming the United Nations commitment to sustainable development.

4. The General Assembly adopted resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 on the Secretary-General's Task Force recommendations and took action on a number of important institutional measures including the creation of the Environmental Management Group, the creation of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and on support for and enhancing linkages among environmental and environment-related conventions.

5. At its first meeting in Malmö in May 2000, the Global Ministerial Environment Forum adopted the Malmö Declaration, which stated that the "2002 conference should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world. The role of the United Nations Environment Programme in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable".

II. THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

6. Against the backdrop of the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-first session adopted decision 21/21 on international environmental governance, which established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs and options for strengthened international environmental governance, including the financing of UNEP, with a view to presenting a report containing analysis and options to the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which is being held in February 2002. In that same decision, the Council also decided that the next Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should undertake an in-depth discussion of that report with a view to providing input on future requirements of international environmental governance in the broader context of multilateral efforts for sustainable development to the preparatory body for the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a contribution to the Summit.

7. The work of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers is intended to build on recent advances, including the report of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements and General Assembly resolution 53/242 which supported the establishment of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the Environmental Management Group and made other important recommendations on strengthening the current environmental governance regime.

8. Six meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers have taken place: in New York, on 18 April 2001, in Bonn, on 17 July 2001, in Algiers, on 9 and 10 September 2001, in Montreal, on 30 November to 1 December 2001, in New York, on 25 January 2002 and in Cartagena, on 12 February 2002. All meetings were well attended and witnessed a rich and extensive exchange of views between delegations. The second meeting benefited from having at its disposal the outcome of intersessional consultations between non-governmental and civil society organizations, agencies and experts. The third meeting was presented with suggestions of the President of the Governing Council in the form of "building blocks", which were discussed in two working groups. Working Group I addressed the role and the structure of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and strengthening the role, authority and financial situation of UNEP. Working Group II addressed improved coordination and coherence among multilateral environmental agreements and enhanced coordination across the United Nations system – the role of the Environment Management Group. The meetings also benefited from the valuable inputs of the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives and generated a number of ideas that provide a sense of what the expectations are in this process. These ideas were summarized by the chair as follows:

(a) The international environmental governance process encompasses all international environmental efforts and arrangements within the United Nations system, including at the regional level, and is not restricted to UNEP;

(b) The process of strengthening international environmental governance should be evolutionary in nature and be based on implementing General Assembly resolution 53/242. A prudent approach to institutional change is required, with preference given to making better use of existing structures;

(c) The meetings on international environmental governance should lead to comprehensive inputs into the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which should be presented for consideration by it. Decision 10/1 of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which invited the Governing Council to submit its progress report and results to the Preparatory Committee at its second session and the final results to the third session so that they can be fully considered in the preparatory process, clearly establishes this link;

(d) Some issues being considered go beyond the mandate of environment ministries alone, and other branches of Government should be involved in order to enhance national level coordination and to bring environmental considerations into the mainstream of economic and social decision-making at all levels. In this regard, international environmental governance should be viewed within the broader context of sustainable development;

(e) The increasing complexity and impact of trends in environmental degradation require an enhanced capacity for scientific assessment and monitoring and for provision of early warnings to Governments;

(f) The design and implementation of environmental policy at all levels requires a clear link to the sustainable development context as well as greater involvement and engagement of non-governmental organizations, and civil society and the private sector, allowing them a meaningful role in intergovernmental policy-making, and also requires strengthened national frameworks of governance;

(g) The international environmental governance process should take into account the needs and constraints of developing countries on the basis of common but differentiated responsibility;

(h) An essential complement to international cooperative arrangements is the requirement to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to participate actively in policy formulation and implementation. In this regard there is a need to emphasize and support capacity-building and technology transfer, and the role of UNEP in this regard was emphasized;

(i) As the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, UNEP should be strengthened. This requires a clear solution to the issue of adequate, stable and predictable financing;

(j) A variety of proposals were considered, including the proposal to establish UNEP as a United Nations specialized agency, which met with differing views;

(k) The Global Ministerial Environment Forum should be placed as the cornerstone of the international institutional structure of international environmental governance;

(l) In addition, UNEP headquarters in Nairobi must be maintained and strengthened as a centre for international meetings on the environment;

(m) The proliferation of institutional arrangements, meetings and agendas, while having the benefit of specialization, may weaken policy coherence and synergy and put further strain on limited resources;

(n) The clustering approach to multilateral environmental agreements holds some promise, and issues relating to the location of secretariats, meeting agendas and also programmatic cooperation between such bodies and with UNEP should be addressed.

9. The conclusions and recommendations emanating from the international environmental governance process and agreed by consensus are contained in the following chapter.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF MINISTERS TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

A. Improved coherence in international environmental policy-making – the role and structure of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

10. The Global Ministerial Environment Forum is constituted by the UNEP Governing Council as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 53/242, which states, in paragraph 6, that the Governing Council would constitute “the forum in the years that it meets in regular session and, in alternate years, with the forum taking the form of a special session of the Governing Council”.

11. The international environmental governance process has highlighted the need for a high-level environment policy forum as one of the cornerstones of an effective system of international environmental governance. To this end, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should be utilized more effectively both in promoting international cooperation in the field of the environment, in providing broad policy advice and guidance, identifying global environmental priorities, and making recommendations, in accordance with paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b) of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972. Such an approach should be pursued with full respect for the independent legal status and governance structures of other entities, and would be consistent with the mandate provided to the UNEP Governing Council in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), which states, in paragraphs 2 (b) and 2 (c), that it should provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system, keep their implementation under review and assess their effectiveness. This approach could be achieved through a series of measures such as those proposed below:

(a) Universal participation of Members States of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies in the work of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should be ensured. The question of establishing universal membership for Governing Council/Global

Ministerial Environment Forum is an important but complex issue that should be considered in the broader context of the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and be reviewed at the twenty second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum based on the outcome of the Summit;

(b) The Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the mandate of UNEP deriving from General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) and as further elaborated by Agenda 21. The core elements of the focused mandate of UNEP contained in the Nairobi Declaration highlighted, inter alia, the role of UNEP in the analysis of the state of the global environment, provision of policy advice and catalysing and promoting international cooperation; in further developing its international environmental law aimed at sustainable development, including the development of coherent interlinkages among existing international environmental conventions; in advancing the implementation of agreed international norms and policies and strengthening its role in the coordination of environmental activities in the United Nations system in the field of the environment;

(c) To play its role as the high-level environmental policy forum in the United Nations system, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will:

(i) Keep under review the world environment situation and develop policy responses in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration based on sound science;

(ii) Provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes and make cross-cutting recommendations, in accordance with paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), to other bodies while respecting the independent legal status and autonomous governance structures of such entities;

(iii) Promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;

(iv) Strengthen further the coordination and institutional requirements for international environmental policy in view of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in light of the Malmö Declaration;

(d) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should identify ways and means of improving and strengthening its interrelationship with autonomous decision-making bodies, such as conferences of the parties to multilateral environmental agreements;

(e) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should promote the meaningful participation of representatives of major groups and non-governmental organizations including the private sector, giving them clear channels for providing Governments with their views, to inform intergovernmental decision-making bodies, within the established rules and modalities of the United Nations system. A particular effort to enable civil society organizations from developing countries to participate should be a priority. In line with Governing Council decision 21/19 of 9 February 2001, the relationship between UNEP and its governance structures, as well as among civil society, the private sector and other major groups, should be developed;

(f) Consideration should be given to having the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum meet every other year at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi with meetings in alternate years, if possible, at another United Nations region. This would enhance its interaction with other policy forums in the economic and social fields and assist in the objectives of sustainable development mainstreaming. In addition, the possibility of having back-to-back meetings between the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and multilateral environmental agreements could be explored, with due regard to their legal status and governance structures;

(g) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should institute a regular dialogue, to address the apparent disparity between policy and funding, with multilateral financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In this regard the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should play a stronger environmental policy advisory role and strengthen UNEP's efforts to enhance its relationship with GEF through the Action Plan on Complementarity between GEF activities and its programme of work, in line with Governing Council decisions 20/7 of 5 February 1999 and 21/25 of 9 February 2001. Better coordination of decision-

making on international environmental policy with decision-making on financing should benefit the funding of environmental aspects of sustainable development;

(h) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should enable ministers to concentrate on policy issues and have the opportunity to promote international cooperation, including making cross-cutting recommendations in the field of the environment, in accordance with paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), take policy decisions, identify priorities on matters within its area of competence, and provide broad direction and advice, as well as oversight of the programme of work and budget of UNEP. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should also regularly review reports on the follow-up of its previous decisions. The agenda could be grouped in segments as follows:

(i) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should take into account emerging environmental trends and should consider issues related to environmental assessment and monitoring, monitoring of its previous decisions, early warning and emerging issues, based on a strengthened scientific capacity of UNEP. Further consideration should be given to strengthening UNEP's scientific base by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change including, inter alia, through the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change. The effective participation of developing countries in the work of the panel should be ensured, and the mandate, modalities and composition of any mechanism are to be decided by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(ii) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum could address environmental aspects of one or two selected sectoral issues on an annual basis (such as chemicals, water, oceans), as well as the environmental contribution to major development challenges. In this context relevant sectoral national ministries could be invited to interact with environment ministers to assist in a decision-making process that would aim at bringing environmental considerations into the mainstream of policy discussions and promote sustainable development. Progress in the follow-up of such work should be monitored and reported to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(iii) Taking advantage of its high-level and cross-cutting environmental perspective and its coordination role on environmental matters in the United Nations system, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum could engage in periodic stocktaking and, inter alia, review synergies and linkages undertaken between multilateral environmental agreements, as well as review reports of the Environment Management Group and progress in inter-agency collaboration. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum would give policy guidance and advice in the field of the environment by making recommendations, in accordance with paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII). In this context, UNEP should carry out further scientific analysis in cooperation with secretariats of conventions and their subsidiary bodies and other relevant international scientific bodies, in order to identify possible activities with potential multiple benefits and to bring them to the attention of conferences of the parties, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 54/217 of 22 December 1999. Officials of United Nations agencies and heads of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats should be invited to participate and interact with ministers at meetings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(iv) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum agenda would also include a separate segment providing for the negotiation and adoption of the biennial programme of work and budget of UNEP and review of its implementation. The UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives, as a subsidiary body, would continue to play its mandated role in monitoring the implementation of Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum decisions as well as preparation of its sessions, which would take place in an open and transparent manner, so as to facilitate the participation in substantive preparations of Governments not represented in Nairobi.

B. Strengthening the role and financial situation of UNEP

12. The Nairobi Declaration of 1997, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, established UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. While UNEP is the centrepiece of the international community's efforts to safeguard the environment, its role continues to fall short of the expectations expressed in the Nairobi Declaration primarily because UNEP remains hampered by insufficient and unpredictable resources.

13. Given the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century, one way to address discrepancies between commitments and action is to improve the financial situation of UNEP.

14. While commendable efforts have been made by the United Nations to fund some of the administrative costs of UNEP through its regular budget, this funding has been declining in terms of percentage of the total UNEP resources over the past years. Hence it is recommended that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), consideration be given by the United Nations General Assembly to making available from its regular budget the amount which is necessary to cover all administrative and management costs of UNEP. There is also an urgent need to improve the financial situation of UNEP's Environment Fund.

15. Several steps should be taken to address the overall financial situation of UNEP. These include:

(a) More predictable funding from all Member States of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies;

(b) More efficient and effective use of available resources, including the possibility of utilizing external management review mechanisms, taking into account the recommendations of prior management reviews of UNEP;

(c) Strong focus on agreed priorities of UNEP and ongoing review of previous priorities;

(d) Greater mobilization of resources from the private sector and other major groups in accordance with applicable United Nations rules and procedures.

16. All Member States of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, taking into account their economic and social circumstances should contribute financially to UNEP. The financial contributions should be made to the Environment Fund to finance the activities of UNEP to enable it, inter alia, to implement the provisions and achieve the objectives of the Fund set forth in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII). Resources mobilized from major groups should also finance activities for the implementation of the programme of work of the Environment Fund.

17. To broaden the base of contributions to, and to enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of the Environment Fund, there should be a voluntary indicative scale of contributions, to be developed specifically for UNEP´s Environment Fund, taking into account, inter alia, the United Nations scale of assessment as well as the following:

(a) A minimum indicative rate of 0.001 per cent;

(b) A maximum indicative rate of 22 per cent;

(c) A maximum indicative rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

(d) Economic and social circumstances of the Member States, in particular those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(e) Provisions to allow for any Member State, in a position to do so, to increase its level of contributions over and above its current level.

18. All contributions to the Fund remain voluntary and each State reserves the right to determine whether or not it wishes to contribute voluntarily to the Fund. However, all Member States, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, will be encouraged to contribute to the Environment Fund either on the basis of the indicative scale of contributions, or on the basis of any of the following:

(a) Biennial pledges;

(b) United Nations scale of assessment;

(c) Historical level of contributions;

(d) Any other basis identified by a Member State.

19. The Executive Director of UNEP will notify all Member States, in a timely manner, of the indicative scale of contributions he intends to propose for the biennial budget. All Member States are urged to inform the Executive Director, in a timely manner, whether or not they will use the proposed indicative scale of contributions. The biennial budget will be submitted for consideration of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, prior to the commencement of the financial period that it covers. It will also be circulated to all Member States at least six weeks before the meeting of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at which it will be considered.

20. The Executive Director will notify all Member States that choose the indicative scale of contributions by 15 October of the preceding calendar year, of the amount, in United States currency, of its indicative scale of contributions based on contributions for each year of the biennium. Any Member State which decides not to use the indicative scale of contributions will notify the Executive Director by this date of the basis it intends to use for its contributions, taking into account paragraph 18 above. In either case, each Member State will, prior to 1 January of each year, inform the Executive Director of UNEP of the contribution it intends to make that year and of the projected timing of that contribution. Contributions should be made by 1 January of each calendar year, or as soon as possible thereafter, recognizing that there are differences in the budget cycles of Member States. All contributions should be paid in convertible currencies into a bank account identified in the notification of the Executive Director.

21. In addition to the contributions identified in paragraph 20 above, the resources available to UNEP for implementation of its programme of work will also consist of additional voluntary contributions which may be made by Member States or by major groups; other voluntary contributions, including contributions to support the participation of the representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, as well as representatives from countries with economies in transition, in the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum; the uncommitted balance of appropriations from previous financial periods; and miscellaneous income.

22. All Member States are encouraged to make prompt payment of their contributions to the Environment Fund, and a balance should be sought between earmarked and non-earmarked contributions.

23. The Executive Director of UNEP will submit to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its special session in the year 2004, a report on the implementation of paragraphs 15 to 22 above. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will review the effectiveness of the system and take a decision, as appropriate.

24. Progress in implementing the international environmental agenda and creating a stronger link between environmental trends and policy dialogue at the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be increasingly dependent on the availability of information required for decision-making, and in particular on providing developing countries with the means of implementation. In this regard, higher priority should be given to developing independent and authoritative scientific assessment and monitoring capacity for emerging issues. UNEP is well situated to build on its current strengths in these areas, and could also build a greater capacity to assist developing countries with their needs and requirements in such areas. An enhanced capacity would also require an enhanced financial base. UNEP should continue efforts to attract additional resources and support from partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

25. The UNEP/GEF Action Plan on Complementarity adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its twentieth session and the GEF Council at its thirteenth meeting identified the establishment of a UNEP/GEF strategic partnership as an important modality for achieving complementarity. Recently, an initial phase of the UNEP/GEF strategic partnership, in the areas of environmental assessment, global environmental knowledge management and global environmental outreach including the mobilization of the scientific community, has been successfully completed. Strategic partnerships with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are also being undertaken. GEF could fund mutually agreed activities of UNEP which are of relevance to the global environment and the GEF. The existing partnership could focus on the following areas: assessment; scientific information, best practice, and policy analysis; capacity-building and training for the environment; and, country-level coordination for sustainable development. The partnership between UNEP and GEF could be further pursued and should also facilitate the mobilization of additional multilateral and bilateral financial resources for targeted activities consistent with the GEF mandate and global environmental priorities identified by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

C. Improved coordination among and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements

26. The negative impact of the increasing burdens on Governments' ability to participate meaningfully in the proliferating meetings and agendas of multilateral environmental agreements has been underscored as a major constraint to effective international policy-making. While the benefits of being able to concentrate on issue-specific areas are recognized, the perception of a growing potential for overlap in the international environmental agenda makes it difficult to benefit from potential synergies and linkages between the various agreements. In this regard the authority and the autonomy of the governing bodies of the conference of the parties and the accountability of their secretariat to their respective governing bodies should be respected.

27. One approach that has emerged from the debate is that of enhancing the synergies and linkages between multilateral environmental agreements with comparable areas of focus or of a regional character with due regard to their respective mandates. In particular, there is support for enhancing collaboration among multilateral environmental agreement secretariats in specific areas where common issues arise, such as current work among the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and including the interim secretariats, as well as biological diversity-related conventions, where efforts are underway to improve national reporting mechanisms of and among these conventions. The initiation of pilot projects should be further pursued. In this regard the study on chemicals- and wastes-related conventions, as well as the joint liaison group that has been convened by the secretariats of the Rio conventions, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa as approved by their governing bodies, are steps in the right direction. More consideration should be given to the proposed measures suggested by the study. Such synergies and linkages must be promoted in close consultation and with the full agreement of the Conference of the Parties. UNEP should continue, in close cooperation with the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, to enhance such synergies and linkages including on issues related to scientific assessments on matters of common concern.

28. A periodic review of the effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements is critical to their success. As an important factor in their effectiveness compliance factors and mechanisms should be supported in conformity with the different regime under each multilateral environmental agreement and including designing multilateral environmental agreements with realistic and achievable goals which could be implemented. States should have regard for the advisory and non-binding UNEP guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, once approved by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Capacity-building and, for some multilateral environmental agreements, technology transfer and the provision of financial resources to developing countries to facilitate compliance, are of great importance for supporting the effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements.

29. While taking fully into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conference of the parties, considerable benefits could accrue from a more coordinated approach to areas such as scheduling and periodicity of meetings of the conferences of the parties; reporting; scientific assessment on matters of common concern, capacity-building, transfer of technology; and enhancing the capacities of developing countries before and after the entry into force of legal agreements to implement and review progress on a regular basis by all parties concerned. Biennial meetings as well as shorter duration of conference of the parties should be promoted as well as the need to consider, as far as possible and practical, back-to-back or parallel conference of the parties meetings. The merit of convening meetings at the United Nations headquarters or in other locations will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the conference of the parties involved. In the future, careful consideration should be given to the effectiveness and resource efficiency of establishing additional subsidiary institutions of the conference of the parties, and the co-location of future multilateral environmental agreement secretariats should be encouraged, and where possible in developing countries, with a view of enhancing collaboration and effectiveness. Enhanced coordination at the convention level will also require improved coordination of positions at the national level concerning multilateral environmental agreements. Priority should be given to synergies at the country level, including the provision of means of implementation.

30. Coordination could be fostered by having the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum review the progress made by the conference of the parties of multilateral environmental agreements, with due regard to their respective mandates, in developing synergies in areas where common issues arise.

D. Capacity-building, technology transfer and country-level coordination for the environment pillar of sustainable development

31. Environmental governance should be considered from a multi-level approach – international, regional, subregional and national. The ability of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to participate fully in the development of international environmental policy and to support those countries in their efforts towards achieving the environmental objectives of sustainable development, and to undertake the requisite implementation of international agreements at the national level, must be strengthened. The need to strengthen the capacity and capability of developing countries, as well as those with economies in transition, remains a major requirement for sustainable development and in particular on issues related to poverty eradication. Such efforts must include all relevant partners and emphasize in particular capacity building and training, as well as national-level coordination, under leadership of national governments and according to national priorities, of the environmental component of sustainable development. To this end, effective and time-bound measures will be required at international, regional and national levels. In this regard the strengthening of national institutions, including the ministries of environment, in developing countries is an important aspect. Arrangements for the access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies to developing countries should be established and facilitated as they are very important for achieving sustainable development. For progress in this field, steps should be taken expeditiously for the transfer of publicly owned technology.

32. International environmental governance should also cover and support regional and subregional efforts. UNEP, in cooperation with relevant regional and subregional organizations could provide support to the strengthening of regional environmental governance to improve coordination, implementation, capacity building and technology transfer in support of regional initiatives. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative should be supported as the framework for sustainable development in Africa.

33. In its resolution 53/242, the General Assembly stressed the need to ensure that capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, remained an important component of the work of UNEP. This should build on the ongoing capacity building needs assessment being carried out by GEF through its implementing agencies, including UNEP. A strengthened programme of capacity-building should be clearly defined in the work of UNEP, building on its demonstrated comparative advantage and in the context of pursuing the ongoing strategic partnership with GEF, respecting its governance structure and in close cooperation with the United Nations organizations and other international organizations active in the area of the environment.

34. In this regard, an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building to developing countries should be developed to improve the effectiveness of capacity-building, and to address the gaps identified by assessments of existing activities and needs, including the ongoing GEF inventory, subject to the availability of funds other than the Environment Fund, taking into account that additional resources need to be made available for this purpose. Such a strategic plan could be implemented through enhanced coordination between UNEP and other relevant bodies, including GEF and UNDP. It could include an increased role for UNEP in country-level capacity delivery in particular through greater collaboration with UNDP. This could be built on the following two components:

(a) Capacity-building and training: The strengthening of the national institutions responsible for environment and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements which will promote the achievement of the objectives of the environmental component of sustainable development. Efforts by UNEP, in response to requests by Governments, to develop local and national capacity in environmental issues and for dissemination of best practices and experiences will build on its role as one of the three implementing agencies of GEF as well as on the expected benefits from the multi-year UNEP/GEF strategic partnership as envisaged in the UNEP/GEF Action Plan on Complementarity;

(b) National-level coordination of the environmental component of sustainable development: In addition to the mobilization of domestic resources, developing countries require access to financial, technological and technical resources from the international community, as well as better internal coordination to implement sustainable development strategies. Efforts for environmental improvement at all levels and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements must converge for countries to achieve their national priorities and objectives. Countries are encouraged to promote the coordination of the multiple national frameworks that currently exist in the field of environment at the ministerial level.

35. The strategic partnership between UNEP and GEF should be based on the decisions of their respective governing bodies and involve strengthening the capacity of UNEP to fulfil its role as provided for in the UNEP/GEF Action Plan on Complementarity. UNEP's strength as one of the three GEF implementing agencies should be fostered. It should also take into account the special relationship with UNDP, building on its unique national field capacity, which can contribute to these efforts and also facilitate the mobilization of additional resources with positive results for the environment at both national and global levels.

E. Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system - the role of the Environmental Management Group

36. Considerable emphasis has been placed on enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and the role of the Environmental Management Group in this regard. The Environmental Management Group was established following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 53/242, and includes amongst its members the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements. It follows an issue-management approach whereby issue-management groups are established within the organizations concerned in order to address specific issues identified by the Environmental Management Group within an established time frame. Issue management groups may include institutions from outside the United Nations in their work. Issues selected so far have included the harmonization of biodiversity-related reporting, the development of a system-wide approach to environmental education and training, waste management and chemicals. The Environmental Management Group has only met a few times and it is therefore too early to make an assessment of its functioning. It is clear, however, that there is a need to ensure that the functionality of the Environmental Management Group as envisaged by resolution 53/242 should be realized as soon as possible. It is also clear that:

(a) For the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to effectively play its policy role, it requires an instrument at the inter-agency level to enhance policy coordination across the environmental activities of the United Nations system. The Environmental Management Group is such an instrument and should be charged with reporting annually to the Forum, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/217, as well as on specific issues arising from the work of the United Nations system in the environmental area on which the Forum could make recommendations on the work of the Environment Management Group;

(b) The Environmental Management Group also provides potential for bringing the environment into the mainstream of relevant activities of the United Nations system. UNEP should join the United Nations Development Group, which brings together the operational agencies of the United Nations in the economic and social fields;

(c) The technical capacities of the specialized agencies and organizations participating in the Environmental Management Group could also be used to support the implementation of a strategic partnership between UNEP and other relevant bodies, including UNDP and GEF, inter alia, for capacity building.

37. The efficient functioning of the Environmental Management Group requires a clear relation with intergovernmental processes which includes a clearly defined reporting relationship with the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other forums in the United Nations system. It will also require senior-level participation by member institutions, transparency in operations, adequate resources to support its functioning and the possibility of financial support for specific activities, including a coordinated approach to capacity-building.

F. Future perspective

38. The present report takes as its foundation the debate within the international environmental governance process and the recommendations deal with specific weaknesses and opportunities within the current system. Some of the proposals and recommendations in the report could help build incrementally not only towards meeting the needs identified, but also towards the renewed efforts required to be undertaken by all countries pursuant to the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. Our efforts are not only underpinned by a sense of protection of the global environment, but by the clear framework set in Malmö in May 2000. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration states that the World Summit on Sustainable Development "should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environment governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world".

39. We must therefore not only ensure a solid foundation on which to build, but also begin to shape a vision for the future of a robust, versatile regime that will allow us to respond quickly and effectively to emerging environmental challenges. In this context it has been recognized that the implementation of Agenda 21, requires improved international governance in all dimensions of sustainable development as a prerequisite for achieving successful protection of the environment, economic growth and social equity. The 2002 Johannesburg Summit will have to address this crucial issue, and our input will be of significant value in the forthcoming debate. The mandate of UNEP, re-enforced at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, has placed it in a unique position to provide not only policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, but also to promote international cooperation in this field, while taking into account development perspectives. By improving and strengthening international environmental governance the decisions taken at the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on 15 February 2002 should be considered as the commencement of a longer-term enterprise to develop international understanding, commitment and resolve towards ensuring the sustainability of the global environment in accordance with the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities

Resolution 66/288: The future we want, adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012

Annex: The future we want

[…]

C. Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development

87. We reaffirm the need to strengthen international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as coordination within the United Nations system.

88. We are committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. We reaffirm General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 establishing the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997 and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000. In this regard, we invite the Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme in the following manner:

(a) Establish universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance as well as its responsiveness and accountability to Member States;

(b) Have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate;

(c) Enhance the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment;

(d) Promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook, as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making;

(e) Disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information, and raise public awareness on critical, as well as emerging, environmental issues;

(f) Provide capacity-building to countries, as well as support, and facilitate access to technology;

(g) Progressively consolidate headquarters functions in Nairobi, as well as strengthen its regional presence, in order to assist countries, upon request, in the implementation of their national environmental policies, collaborating closely with other relevant entities of the United Nations system;

(h) Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society.

89. We recognize the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements. We acknowledge the work already undertaken to enhance synergies among the three conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants).We encourage parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in these and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field.

90. We stress the need for the continuation of a regular review of the state of the Earth's changing environment and its impact on human well-being, and in this regard we welcome such initiatives as the Global Environment Outlook process aimed at bringing together environmental information and assessments and building national and regional capacity to support informed decision-making.

Resolution 67/213 of the General Assembly adopted on 21 December 2012

(as contained in A/67/437/Add.7)

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the mandate contained in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of15 December 1972, which established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997 and the 2000 Malmö Ministerial Declaration of31 May 2000,

Recalling its resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000,57/251 of 20 December 2002, 64/204 of 21 December 2009, 65/162 of 20 December2010, 66/203 of 22 December 2011 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Taking into account Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and its principles,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,

Committed to strengthening international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Recalling the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which invited the General Assembly to adopt, at its sixty-seventh session, a resolution strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme, in the manner outlined in paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a)to (h) of the outcome document,

Recalling also paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, encouraging parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in the chemicals and waste cluster and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field,

Reiterating the need for secure, stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with its resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlining the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget,

Reiterating also that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and the decisions contained therein;

2. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and in this regard takes note of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and it s related summary for policymakers, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed;

3. *Also reiterate*s the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organizations and entities in Nairobi;

4. *Decides* to:

(a) Strengthen and upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme in the manner set out in subparagraphs (a) to (h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution66/288 of 27 July 2012;

(b) Establish universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and mandates it, as from its first universal session to be held in Nairobi in February 2013, using its applicable rules of procedure and applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly, pending the adoption of its new rules of procedure, to expeditiously initiate the implementation of the provisions contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document in its entirety; make a recommendation on its designation to reflect its universal character; and decide on future arrangements for the Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(c) Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to provide support for the full and effective participation of representatives of developing countries in the Governing Council meeting and invite the Governing Council to consider further arrangements in this regard;

5. *Recalls* the decision to have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General, in line with paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to reflect in the 2014-2015 biennium budget proposal resources that take into account the proposed revised programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the implementation of paragraph 88, subparagraphs(a) to (h), of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as opportunities for increasing the efficient use of resources;

(b) Urges donors to increase voluntary funding to the United Nations Environment Programme, including to the Environment Fund;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General to maintain the resource needs from the regular budget of the United Nations for the United Nations Environment Programme under review, in the light of the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document, in accordance with United Nations budgetary practices;

(d) Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session”.