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**Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and
multilateral environmental agreements, particularly those for which it
provides the secretariat or performs secretariat functions**

Advance copy
(subject to further revision)

30 June 2013

Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, particularly those for which it provides the secretariat or performs secretariat functions

Note by the Executive Director

1. The annex to this note contains a report presenting information on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and multilateral environmental agreements, particularly those agreements for which UNEP provides the secretariat or performs secretariat functions. It updates the information contained in the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.27/6) and the comments on that report from the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements submitted to the twenty-seventh and first universal session of the Governing Council of UNEP in February 2013. In particular, it is built upon the discussions on relevant issues between the representatives of the secretariats of UNEP and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements at their consultative meeting held in Geneva on 3 June 2013.
2. It is expected that there will be further consultations among the secretariats of UNEP and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements on this subject, and also consideration by Member States and Parties to the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, respectively, during the second half of 2013 and onwards. In this context, this report should be considered as a working document of evolving nature, which might be further updated to reflect such consultations in the future.
3. In accordance with UNEP Governing Council decision 27/13 of 22 February 2013, the Executive Director will submit a final report on the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements to the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP at its next session to be held in June 2014, which will be made available also to the governing bodies of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements. The final report will be prepared on the basis of further consultations mentioned above and an updated report reflecting those consultations.

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(subject to further revision)

Report on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, particularly those for which it provides the secretariat or performs secretariat functions

I. Overview of the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements

1. The institutional architecture for international environmental governance consists of a complex web of the structures of multilateral processes, multilateral agreements and consultative mechanisms that address environmental and environment-related matters. These structures should be observed against the backdrop of the institutional frameworks for sustainable development. Among such structures, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) serves 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, and its role is to be further strengthened.¹

2. At the same time, there is wide recognition of the significant contribution made by the multilateral environmental agreements to sustainable development and, in particular, to enhance coordination and cooperation among MEAs, as highlighted in paragraph 89 of the Rio+20 outcome document .² Multilateral environmental agreements are governed by their respective parties, including through their governing bodies, such as conferences of the parties, and operated in accordance with the provisions of those agreements and the decisions of those bodies. They are independent international legal entities, and are legally distinct from the organizations of the United Nations system. For instance, the decisions of governing bodies of those agreements guide their implementation and related programmes of work and direct the management of the secretariats on all substantive issues. The secretariats are required to ensure that decisions of the Parties are implemented effectively and Parties' requests are met. The governing bodies of a number of multilateral environmental agreements have also addressed the issue of cooperation and synergies with UNEP in their resolutions and decisions.

3. As highlighted in the fifth report of the Global Environment Outlook series (GEO-5) and also in the compilation of internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals submitted to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session, a large number of such objectives and goals have been identified by the multilateral processes within the United Nations system, including the main organs of the United Nations and United Nations summits and conferences, by multilateral environmental agreements and by other intergovernmental processes. Since those objectives and goals are

¹ The Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, "The future we want," endorsed by the General Assembly by its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012.

² "The future we want," para. 89: "We acknowledge the work already undertaken to enhance synergies among the three Conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions). We encourage parties to MEAs 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 MEAs, including the three Rio Conventions as well as with the UN system in the field".

closely interrelated, while recognizing the autonomy of multilateral environmental agreements, there is a growing need for improved policy coherence and enhanced cooperation and coordination among those agreements, and also between those agreements and the United Nations system, as underscored in the Rio+20 outcome document.

4. A strengthened UNEP, in implementing paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, should, among other things, enhance its voice and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies, empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment. In carrying out this coordination mandate, and also building upon its existing mandate, UNEP should further strengthen its actions to enhance cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and promote cooperation and coordination among those agreements.

5. Also in pursuance of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, UNEP is to promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks; to disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information, and raise public awareness on critical, as well as emerging, environmental issues; and to provide capacity-building and support to countries and facilitate access to technology. Strengthened actions by UNEP in those areas would provide a sound basis for it to enhance its cooperation with the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and also to enhance collaboration between the United Nations system and those agreements, and cooperation and coordination among those agreements.

6. With regard to capacity-building, it should be recalled that the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building sets out as its objectives, among others, to strengthen the capacity of the Governments of developing countries, and also of countries with economies in transition, at all levels to comply with international agreements and implement their obligations at the national level and to achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives, as well as environment-related internationally agreed development goals; to provide a framework for capacity-building to ensure the effective participation of developing countries, and also countries with economies in transition, in negotiations concerning multilateral environmental agreements; and to strengthen cooperation among UNEP, multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, taking into account their autonomous decision-making processes, and other bodies engaged in environmental capacity-building. As such, the further implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan will provide a platform for UNEP and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements to cooperate and coordinate activities related to capacity-building and technology support in the areas of common interest.

7. The United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP may wish to keep under review the relationships between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements, with a view to seeking coherence of policies and enhancing cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP and the governing bodies of the respective agreements, as appropriate, thereby supporting efforts by the Member States to implement the relevant internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals and strengthening further international environmental governance.

II. Institutional linkages between the United Nations Environment Programme and selected multilateral environmental agreements

8. A number of multilateral environmental agreements concluded since the 1970s have each established the institutional arrangements composed of the respective agreement's governing body (such as the conference of the parties and its subsidiary bodies) and its secretariat to carry out the functions for the operation of the agreement, as stipulated in its provisions. Against this backdrop, the Executive Director has been entrusted to provide the secretariat functions for the selected global multilateral environmental agreements, as specified in the provisions of those agreements or, pursuant to the relevant provisions of such agreements, as mandated by the decisions of the respective conferences of the parties. These arrangements are approved by UNEP through its Governing Council, which entrusts the Executive Director to carry out such functions.³ Multilateral environmental agreements enjoying such arrangements include the following:

(a) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Paragraph 1 of article XII of the Convention states that, upon entry into force of the Convention, a secretariat shall be provided by the Executive Director of UNEP. The Governing Council, in section VIII of decision 1(I) of 22 June 1973, authorized the Executive Director to provide secretariat services for the Convention in accordance with its article XII. The secretariat is located in Geneva;

(b) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Paragraph 2 of article IX of the Convention states that, upon entry into force of the Convention, the secretariat shall be provided by the Executive Director of UNEP. In its decision 12/14 of 28 May 1984, the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to provide secretariat services for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with its article IX. The CMS secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany. Regarding multilateral environmental agreements related to the CMS, UNEP also administers the secretariats for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats in accordance with resolutions 1.1 and 3.1, respectively, of their respective Meetings of the Parties. Through the CMS Secretariat, UNEP also serves as secretariat on an interim basis for the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, in accordance with Resolution II of the fifth Meeting of the Parties. A similar arrangement applies to the the Agreement of the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats, as agreed at the thirty-second Session of the CMS Standing Committee, and the First Meeting of the Parties of the Gorilla Agreement;

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity. In paragraph 1 of article 24, the Convention established its secretariat, which also performs functions for its protocols. Accordingly, the secretariat performs functions also for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting in November/December 1994, decided to designate UNEP to carry out the functions of the secretariat while ensuring its autonomy to discharge the secretariat functions. In its decision 18/36 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council welcomed the designation of UNEP to carry out the functions of the secretariat of this Convention and noted that UNEP ensured the latter's autonomy to discharge the secretariat functions. The secretariat is located in Montreal, Canada;

³ General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), part II, para. 2.

(d) Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. In paragraph 1 of article 7, the Convention set out the functions of the secretariat of the Convention and its protocol. In accordance with paragraph 2 of article 7, the Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, held in April 1989, decided to designate UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention, which also performs functions for the Protocol. In paragraph 4 of its decision 15/35 of 25 May 1989, the Governing Council welcomed with satisfaction, among other things, the designation of UNEP as the secretariat of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. The secretariat is located in Nairobi;⁴

(e) Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. In paragraph 1 of article 16, the Convention set out the functions of the secretariat. The secretariat is also to perform functions for the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. In accordance with paragraph 3 of article 16, the Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting in December 1992, decided to request UNEP to carry out the functions of the Basel Convention secretariat, and further requested the Executive Director of UNEP to establish the secretariat in accordance with the structure contained in the budget and to locate it in Geneva;

(f) Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. By paragraph 1 of its article 19, the Convention establishes its secretariat and, in paragraph 3 of article 19, provides that the secretariat functions for the Convention shall be performed jointly by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), subject to such arrangements as shall be agreed between them and approved by the Conference of the Parties. By its decision SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, the Governing Council authorized the UNEP secretariat to participate in the secretariat of the Convention. The FAO Conference, at its Thirtieth Session in 1999, supported the primary role of FAO and UNEP in the convention secretariat. The Conference of the Parties, in its decision 2/5 adopted at its second meeting, approved the arrangements for the provision of the secretariat functions by UNEP and FAO as agreed in the memorandum of understanding between them. The secretariat is co-located in Geneva and Rome;

(g) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. By paragraph 1 of its article 20, the Convention establishes its secretariat and, in paragraph 3 of article 20, provides that the secretariat functions for the Convention shall be performed by the Executive Director of UNEP. By its decision 21/4 of 9 February 2001, the Governing Council authorized the participation of the UNEP secretariat in the secretariat to the Convention. The secretariat is located in Geneva.

9. The secretariat established by each of those multilateral environmental agreements is an integral part of the institutional structure of the convention concerned, and its functions are defined by the relevant provisions of the convention and further determined by its parties through decisions of the conference of the parties or other governing bodies of the convention. Those multilateral environmental agreements are independent international legal entities, which are not subsidiary bodies of any organs of the United Nations, and each operates with its own autonomy and is governed pursuant to the provisions of the convention and its parties through the governing bodies concerned. In this context, the functions of those agreements' secretariats have to respond to the requirements of the agreements and their respective governing bodies. Within the institutional structure of each agreement, the convention secretariat, in carrying out its functions for the convention, is accountable to the

⁴ The Convention secretariat is also known as the Ozone Secretariat. UNEP also acts as the secretariat for the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, which is separate from the Ozone Secretariat and located in Montreal.

parties to the convention and its governing bodies. The structure of the convention secretariat is normally determined through the budget approved by its governing bodies. The funds for the operation of the convention, including financial resources for the functioning of the convention secretariat, are to be borne by the parties to the convention.

10. As indicated above, those agreements set out provisions to entrust the Executive Director to provide the convention secretariat or to perform secretariat functions, or their conferences of the parties, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the convention, decided to designate UNEP as the entity providing secretariat functions. In consenting to such requests from the multilateral environmental agreements and their conferences of the parties, the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to provide the secretariat functions in question. On the basis of such mutual consent between the multilateral environmental agreements and their respective conferences of the parties on one side and the Governing Council on the other, as shown in reciprocal decisions of those bodies, the Executive Director provides the secretariat or secretariat functions of the respective multilateral environmental agreements. Such institutional arrangements should be satisfactory to both parties.

11. While each agreement defines the functions of its secretariat, and its governing body (such as the conference of the parties) determines the structure of the convention secretariat through its budget, the Executive Director is responsible for the implementation of those definitions and determinations and making necessary arrangements for the provision of the convention secretariats or secretariat functions within the institutional structure of the UNEP secretariat. For that purpose, the Executive Director has established dedicated offices each of which enjoys functional autonomy with a work programme and budget approved by the governing bodies of the respective convention which is separate from the work programme and budget of the UNEP secretariat. While those institutional arrangements reflect the decisions of the governing bodies of the respective multilateral environmental agreements concerning the structure of the secretariat and budget, they still form an integral part of the institutional structure of the UNEP secretariat and are administered by the Executive Director.

12. Each of those offices is composed of UNEP staff members, and is headed by a senior official who is a UNEP staff member. As the executive head of the UNEP secretariat, the Executive Director has the responsibility to manage those UNEP staff members and those staff members are each accountable to the Executive Director in the performance of their duties as international civil servants of the United Nations appointed within the UNEP secretariat. The functions, grade and number of those staff are based on the structure of the convention secretariat determined by the respective governing bodies through the approved budget. The appointment of their staff is governed by the relevant regulations and rules of the United Nations as applicable to UNEP. Overall, since the UNEP secretariat is an integral part of the United Nations Secretariat,⁵ any institutional arrangements for the Executive Director to provide the secretariat or secretariat functions for the relevant multilateral environmental agreements have to be in line with the principles, rules and procedures of the United Nations, and in compliance with the administrative and financial regulations and rules of the United Nations as applied to UNEP.

13. As the convention secretariats are each required to carry out the functions expected by the provisions of the respective multilateral environmental agreements or by their governing bodies, those offices, functioning as the secretariat of the respective multilateral environmental agreements, need to operate autonomously, while remaining within the institutional structure of the UNEP secretariat. In view of the need to ensure this operational autonomy of the convention secretariat, the Executive Director has delegated authority to the

⁵ ST/SGB/1997/5, sect. 3.

head of each convention secretariat to manage certain matters within the convention secretariat.

14. As observed in decisions of the conferences of the parties and their subsidiary bodies to some of those multilateral environmental agreements, those governing bodies call directly on the head of the respective convention secretariats to take certain actions (instead of calling on the secretariat, as is the case with some other conventions and agreements), thereby holding those heads of convention secretariats directly accountable to the respective governing bodies for taking such actions. In general, bearing in mind the requirements set out in the multilateral environmental agreements or laid down by their governing bodies, the head of the convention secretariat is considered accountable to the respective governing body in carrying out the secretariat functions of the convention. At the same time, the Executive Director is ultimately accountable to the respective multilateral environmental agreements and their governing bodies for ensuring the effective functioning of the convention secretariats.

15. Within the United Nations, the relationship between the Executive Director and the heads of the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements is described in Secretary-General's Bulletin concerning the organization of the secretariat of UNEP, as follows:

"While the convention secretariats are accountable to their respective conference of the parties for programme delivery, the chief executive officers of those conventions administered by UNEP (variously denominated as Executive Secretary, Secretary-General, Chief Officer or Coordinator) are accountable to the Executive Director. They operate with sufficient autonomy to discharge the functions that the various independent intergovernmental conferences of parties to the conventions have reposed in the Executive Director."⁶

16. With regard to the role and responsibility of the Executive Director to provide a secretariat or perform secretariat functions for a multilateral environmental agreement, the relevant institutional arrangements concerning the convention secretariat are made individually and as defined through a mutual consent between the authorities of the multilateral environmental agreement (i.e. Parties and the governing bodies of the agreement) and UNEP (i.e. the Executive Director as authorized by the governing body of UNEP). Given the autonomy of each of those authorities, and as they are legally distinct and independent each other and there is no hierarchy between the two, the institutional arrangements concerning the provision of the secretariat or secretariat functions for the agreement are considered as a contractual arrangement between them. The respective roles and responsibilities of the Executive Director and the head of the convention secretariat in the provision of secretariat services and functions may be understood on that basis: while the Executive Director has the overall responsibility for the provision of the convention secretariat or secretariat functions, the role and responsibilities of the head of the convention secretariat may be defined through such contractual arrangement as agreed between the Parties and their governing bodies to the agreement and the Executive Director.

17. Due to the unique circumstances for the development of institutional arrangements of each agreement, there are certain differences between the agreements with respect to the role and responsibilities of the Executive Director and the head of the convention secretariat. For instance, with regard to the secretariat services for the governing bodies of the respective agreements (e.g. conferences of the parties) as set out in the rules of procedure of the respective bodies, while some refer to the secretariat or the head of the secretariat to

⁶ ST/SGB/2006/13, section 18.

perform such functions⁷, some others make the head of the international organization designated as the secretariat (i.e. Executive Director of UNEP) as the secretary-general of the conference who will appoint the executive secretary of the conference to carry out such secretariat services⁸.

18. It may be noted that the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in their concurrent decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among these conventions adopted at their simultaneous extraordinary meetings held in Bali, Indonesia, in February 2010,⁹ decided to establish joint managerial functions and joint services of the secretariats of those conventions. Consequently, the Executive Secretary of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the UNEP part of the Rotterdam Convention secretariat has been appointed to undertake such joint managerial functions, which is subject to the joint functioning of the Rotterdam Convention secretariat with FAO with the Executive Secretary of the FAO part of the Secretariat, while work continues on the arrangements for the provision of joint services. At their second simultaneous extraordinary meetings held in May 2013, the conferences of the parties to those conventions reviewed synergies arrangements and endorsed the matrix-based management approach and organization of the of the secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention and the UNEP part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, as approved by the Executive Director, and requested the Executive Director to continue to implement the endorsed matrix-based management approach and organization of the secretariats in a manner consistent with the budget and staffing decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties in 2013. The conferences of the parties invited the Executive Director, in consultation with the Director General of FAO and the Executive Secretary, to undertake a review of the matrix-based management approach and organization to ensure that the operation of the secretariats is efficient and effective, and advise the conferences of the parties of any follow-up action necessary at their meetings in 2017, and further invites the Executive Director to make any such changes as are deemed necessary in advance of the following meetings of the Conferences of the Parties.

19. With regard to the Rotterdam Convention, the FAO part of its secretariat is provided by the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO, and the Director of the Division is the Executive Secretary for the FAO part of the Secretariat. A memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO governs the arrangements to perform jointly the secretariat functions of the Rotterdam Convention. The Conference of the Parties, in the above decision on synergies arrangements adopted at its second simultaneous extraordinary meeting, noted that the FAO part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, which was not included in the matrix-based management approach and organization, contributes to all the operational areas set out in that approach and organization and requested that the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions review the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO¹⁰ to enhance synergies arrangements.

20. In addition to the above-mentioned global multilateral environmental agreements, the UNEP secretariat provides the secretariats or secretariat functions for the following regional seas conventions, through the UNEP regional coordination units for the action plans of the respective regional seas conventions and programmes:

⁷ In case of CITES, CMS, CBD, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

⁸ In case of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, and the Basel Convention

⁹ The omnibus decision adopted by, respectively, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (decision BC.Ex-1/1) the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (decision RC.Ex-1/1) and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (decision SC.Ex-1/1).

¹⁰ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/9.

(h) Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention). By article 17 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP as responsible for carrying out the secretariat functions, which are provided through the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan Coordination Unit in Athens;

(i) Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention). By article 15 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP as responsible for carrying out the secretariat functions, which are provided through the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme in Kingston;

(j) Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean. By article 17 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention;

(k) Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention). By article 16 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention, and its secretariat functions are carried out through the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit in Abidjan.

21. In general, the legal basis for the relationships between those regional seas conventions and UNEP is the same as that for the relationships between the global multilateral environmental agreements. However, given that those conventions have close institutional association with the UNEP regional seas programmes, the relevant units under the UNEP regional seas programme perform the secretariat functions within the structure of the UNEP secretariat.

22. Furthermore, UNEP, through its Regional Office for Europe in Geneva, serves on an interim basis as the secretariat of the following subregional conventions, following formal requests by their respective Conference of Parties:

(a) Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention);

(b) Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention).

III. Accountability and administrative and financial arrangements

Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements and the Executive Director

23. Following signature of the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director and the Standing Committee of CITES, a review was conducted by the internal auditors of the secretariat of the Basel Convention, who suggested that a memorandum of understanding should also be concluded with representatives of the parties to the Basel Convention. The bureau of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions also requested the initiation of steps to develop MOUs between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties. Similarly, the parties to the Barcelona Convention also requested that a comparable agreement should be signed with that Convention. A proposal for a similar arrangement was

put forward to the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species, on the occasion of its fortieth session on 7-8 November 2012.

24. Subsequently, the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions at their respective meetings held in May 2013, each noted the proposal for the development of memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director of UNEP concerning the provision of secretariat functions. The conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions each recognized that openness, transparency and the application of an equal and harmonized approach to the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats that it administers should apply to the development and implementation of institutional arrangements for the provision of the secretariat functions for the respective agreements, and requested the Executive Secretary (or Executive Secretaries in the case of the Rotterdam Convention) to submit a revised draft memorandum of understanding to the conferences of the parties at their next meetings in May 2015.

25. In its Decision IG.20/13 on Governance, The 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Paris in February 2012, requested UNEP to work during the next biennium with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties on finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Secretariat Services to and support of the Convention, including the policy on bad debts and to submit the Memorandum of Understanding to the 19th Meeting of Contracting Parties

Administrative arrangements between the CBD secretariat and the Executive Director

26. The UNEP secretariat has revised the administrative arrangements between the Executive Director and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which were signed during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in October 2010 and endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in its decision X/45, on administration of the Convention and budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2011–2012. The revised administrative arrangements agreed between UNEP and the CBD Secretariat clarify that the CBD Executive Secretary is accountable to the Conference of the Parties for programme delivery and that the CBD Executive Secretary is accountable to the UNEP Executive Director on administrative and financial matters as stipulated by United Nations and UNEP rules and regulations, as well as the financial rules for the administration of the CBD Trust Fund. During the sixth meeting of the Bureau to the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties, held in July 2012, the Bureau agreed that an interpretative statement between the UNEP secretariat and the Convention secretariat should be made in order to clarify the provisions of the revised administrative arrangements to confirm that the appointment of the Executive Secretary would be in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations, and the relevant provisions of that arrangements would apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the extension of the term of appointment of the Executive Secretary. A delegation of authority with respect to financial and administrative arrangements was signed between the UNEP Executive Director and the CBD Executive Secretary in September 2012. Like the revised administrative arrangements the delegation of authority recognizes the dual reporting and accountability lines, as well as the applicability of UN and UNEP rules and regulations with respect to the CBD Secretariat's operation.

Accountability framework between the Executive Director of UNEP and the head of the Convention Secretariat: delegation of authority

27. The "delegation of authority" serves as one of the administrative instruments governing accountability between the Executive Director and a senior official designated as the head of the Convention Secretariat. It is to ensure clarity regarding the overarching administrative authority of the Executive Director and the distribution of administrative roles

and responsibilities of the UNEP secretariat and the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and their staff and to ensure also enhanced accountability for the efficient and effective delivery of services.

28. The Executive Director delegated authority on administrative and financial matters to the Secretary-General of CITES, the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention and the co-Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention. In 2012, a similar delegation of authority was signed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

29. Normally, the Executive Director may delegate the necessary authority to the head of the Convention Secretariat on administrative and financial matters to enable him/her to manage and represent the Secretariat with the level of autonomy required for maintaining the efficient and most cost-effective operation of the Secretariat. Such a delegation may cover, *inter alia*: programme management; financial and physical resources management, human resources management and any other related matters, where decisions by the head of the Convention Secretariat may be the most effective for the operation of the Secretariat. The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring that the head of the Convention Secretariat exercises any such delegated authority in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations and UNEP.

30. At the United Nations, the delegation of authority is deemed personal between individual senior staff by which persons were held accountable. However, there was a view from the secretariat of a multilateral environmental agreement that in order to provide stable and predictable institutional arrangements, the delegation of authority might be institutionalized on the basis of the functions of the specific posts rather than between persons, as practiced by some Governments. The clarification should be sought from the relevant offices of the UN Secretariat whether it is possible to change the personal nature of the delegation of authority to the delegation of authority between the posts or functions.

Interface between the secretariats of UNEP and MEAs

31. Some secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements pointed out that there was the need for specific procedures and persons to ensure that necessary services were provided to those secretariats in an efficient manner. This could be achieved by having specific staff at the UNEP secretariat working as the “interface with ” multilateral environmental agreements, so that their secretariats could call that staff to help resolve any problems or issues. At the UNEP secretariat the need for a focal point to multilateral environmental agreements had been recognized, and the Executive Director was willing to have such arrangement within the UNEP secretariat. In this regard, consideration might be given to the need for a “MEAs hub” within the UNEP secretariat to address and help resolve issues with the multilateral environmental agreements. Such “MEAs hub” might have dual roles for MEAs and for UNEP to bring them closer. However, no decision has been reached yet as to the establishment or the physical location of such “MEAs hub”. In this connection, however one of the multilateral environmental agreements secretariats noted the need to guard against adding steps to an already cumbersome process. The secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements already interact with several different offices within the UNEP secretariat on administrative matters, and while having a single focal point may seem appealing, it should not create simply an extra step, and an extra cost, on an already too complex a process.

Coherence in administrative arrangements between global and regional multilateral environmental agreements

32. It was pointed out by some secretariats of regional seas conventions that institutional and administrative arrangements for global multilateral environmental agreements and regional multilateral environmental agreements were not necessarily coherent at the UNEP secretariat. It was suggested, as a matter of principle, that those arrangements should be made coherent for both global and regional multilateral environmental agreements.

Need for access to efficient administrative services

33. While noting that the relevant UN rules had to be complied with, it was necessary to clarify who provides the administrative services to the multilateral environmental agreements secretariat, noting that there were different service providers, including UNON and UNOG.

34. From the perspective of some multilateral environmental agreements secretariats, where feasible, it would be preferable to have direct access to service provider (e.g. UNOG for human resource management and UNON for financial management). For increasing efficiency, it was preferable to reduce people in the middle of the administrative process and gain direct access to the service providers. Currently, there was no great clarity regarding the process and procedures as to how to do business. Predictability of services should be improved with respect to administrative and financial services.

35. To this end, it was suggested that standing operating procedures for administrative and financial arrangements be developed. The introduction of standing operating procedures is expected to help clarify and establish the responsibility of UNEP vis-à-vis the responsibilities of UNON regarding the provision of administrative services to the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements.

36. It was pointed out by the secretariat a multilateral environmental agreement that it had to wait long period of time before receiving services from UNON, demonstrating inefficiency in the provision of services. The introduction of standing operating procedures would help address such a problem. In order to ensure that timely and predictable services are provided by UNON, it might worth hiring specific staff dedicated to liaise with UNON to secure necessary services for the MEAs secretariats.

37. There was a view that in order to evaluate the efficiency of the services, it would be helpful to keep performance indicators, for example the time needed to handle classification of staff posts. At the same time, it would be necessary to consider internal practices, for instance regarding staff selection process.

Human resources management

38. In general, while policies and budget regarding the structure of the secretariat of a multilateral environmental agreement is determined by the Parties to that agreement through its governing bodies, the UN staff rules and regulations as applied to UNEP govern the administration of human resource management of staff members of UNEP who service the secretariat of the multilateral environmental agreement.

39. Staff members of the secretariat of UNEP, which is part of the United Nations Secretariat, are each appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations under regulations established by the General Assembly, as stipulated in paragraph 1 of article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations. Within that context, the Secretary-General promulgates administrative instructions and directives concerning human resource management. The Executive Director, through the delegation of authority to him/her by the Secretary-General,

undertakes necessary actions regarding management of human resources of the UNEP secretariat, including those staff for the secretariat of the multilateral environmental agreement. Within the UNEP secretariat, the Executive Director may delegate certain level of authority in that respect to senior managers, including the heads of the secretariat of the multilateral environmental agreement.

40. With regard to human resource management, which was being carried out in particular through INSPIRA, the delegation of authority was to enable the relevant work to be done more efficiently. Among other things, it was noted that there was the need for certain level of harmonization of classification.

UMOJA - Enterprise Resource Planning system

41. Pursuant to resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006 by which the General Assembly decided “to replace the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) with a next-generation enterprise resource planning system or other comparable system”, the United Nations will introduce “UMOJA”. UMOJA will create leaner administrative processes and enable the organization to operate more efficiently; harmonize and standardize management of human, financial and material resources throughout the UN Secretariat; enhance efficiency, transparency and internal controls for all administrative transactions; and allow decision-makers (managers and Member States) to monitor and manage resources more effectively. While its pilot phase will start at a peace keeping mission from July 2013, its deployment at UN HQs and UNON is scheduled for July 2014. Under UMOJA, business will be conducted differently. Duty station-based service provider will cease to exist, and it will be replaced by “world hubs” of sectoral issues of services. For example, a global “IT hub” for UN will be located in Valencia, Spain.

Financial rules

42. In principle, the operation of the multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP provides the secretariat or secretariat functions are funded by their respective Parties through their financial contribution.

43. Financial management at the UNEP secretariat is governed by the financial regulations and rules of the UN, together with the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of UNEP and the financial rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme.

44. The governing bodies of CITES, CMS and the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, each adopted the terms of reference of the trust funds for the respected agreements, while the governing bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions each adopted the financial rules for the COP and its subsidiary bodies. Those terms of reference and financial rules each sets out provisions governing financial operations for the agreement and its governing body and spells out the responsibility for Parties, the Executive Director and the head of the Convention Secretariat.

Trust funds

45. The funds for the operation of the multilateral environmental agreements for which the Executive Director provides the secretariat or performs secretariat functions are held in trust funds. The establishment of such trust funds, in response to requests by the governing bodies of the relevant agreements, is subject to approval by the Governing Council of UNEP and all such trust funds are established in accordance with article V of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of UNEP, and are therefore governed by the financial rules of UNEP, last revised in 1997.

Programme support cost

46. Some multilateral environmental agreements secretariats were of the view that the use of programme support cost should be further clarified. In their views, it was important to have transparency in this respect, and regular reporting to the multilateral environmental agreements secretariat on financial matters should be made.

47. Normally, the Executive Director will allocate an appropriate share (typically 67%) of the annual Programme Support Costs (PSC) income attributable to all of the trust funds of the Convention to the Secretariat upon receipt of an annual cost plan that demonstrates that these funds will be used efficiently and effectively in support of Convention activities.

48. The Executive Director will allocate an appropriate share (typically 33%) of the PSC income attributable to all of the trust funds of the Convention to finance central administrative functions, including those performed by UNON on behalf of UNEP, the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the Board of Auditors. These central administrative functions may include the following:

- Staff recruitment, classification and selection process.
- Payroll and administration of staff entitlements including education grants, medical insurance, home leave and repatriation.
- The UN's financial disclosure programme (billed by UN Headquarters in New York).
- Accounting and finance functions, including statement preparation, the issuance of allotments and allocations, payables/receivables, cash-flow management, treasury and contributions receipt and recording.
- Administration of end-of-service and post-retirement benefits including the administration of pension fund deductions and ASHI.
- Non-expendable property asset management.
- Internal audit, investigation, inspection and external audit.
- Participation in the UN's administration of justice system.
- Shipping, pouch, visas and UN Laissez-Passers.
- Access to the corporate UN/UNEP intranet/internet and mail systems.

49. As a matter of principle, the Executive Director will provide full transparency in respect of the allocation of PSC between the Convention Secretariat and central administrative functions.¹¹

Implications of IPSAS on multilateral environmental agreements

50. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006, decided to approve the adoption by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. Accordingly, the United Nations will adopt the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) with effect from 1 January 2014. While UNON is the lead entity in Nairobi

¹¹ See the draft MOU with Basel COP and Stockholm COP submitted to the respective COP meetings

and is responsible for the preparation of UNEP's financial statements that are IPSAS compliant, UNEP retains the primary responsibility of timely and accurate collection of data that forms the basis of these financial statements. These include records of all transactions on revenue, expenditure, assets, financial commitments and reserves.

51. The main change introduced by IPSAS is the adoption of accrual accounting as the basis of recording transactions and preparation of financial statements, instead of the cash and modified cash regimes currently implemented under UNSAS. This will entail a new approach to recognition of revenue and expenses as well as the capitalization of property, plant and equipment. The treatment of inventory (referred to as expendable property under UNSAS) will also change.

52. All UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements already form part of the financial statements and are fully consolidated within the other elements of UNEP operations, and this will continue under IPSAS. It is therefore imperative that the multilateral environmental agreements fulfill the IPSAS requirements as any deviation would ultimately have an impact on the opinion issued by the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of UNEP as "a true and fair presentation of the financial affairs of UNEP". Should any multilateral environmental agreements be the subject of an adverse opinion, this will equally be applicable to the consolidated UNEP financial statements.

53. Under UNSAS, the financial statements for the Multilateral Trust Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol are included in the financial report but reported separately. Under IPSAS, they will be fully consolidated with other elements of UNEP operations, although an annex (or note) will still be included in the current format to reflect the financial performance and position of the Multilateral Fund. As in the case of other multilateral environmental agreements, it is imperative that the Multilateral Fund fulfills the IPSAS requirements as any deviation would ultimately have an impact on the opinion traditionally issued by the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of UNEP.

54. UNEP needs to revise the existing delegations of authority from the Executive Director to heads of UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements Secretariats, to accommodate for the new requirements under IPSAS. In particular, the requirements to report on legal instruments, including funding agreements, executed under delegated authority and asset inventories shall be increased.

55. Key areas which will affect multilateral environmental agreements secretariats are the following:

(a) Donor contributions agreements: This is by far the most relevant area for UNEP. Revenue will be recognized and must be recorded upon signature of the contribution agreement, provided it has been reviewed and established that there is no binding condition requiring UNEP to return the funds, hence classified as non-conditional. This is a significant departure from the current treatment where income is recorded upon confirmation of pledges or receipt of contributions. Any gaps in documenting agreements (including those for contributions-in-kind) and recognizing revenue contravenes the applicable IPSAS standard and would lead to adverse auditor's opinion. Therefore all contribution agreements signed by heads of multilateral environmental agreements secretariats under their delegated authority must be notified to Donor Contributions Unit in Office for Operations and recorded in the data base, with all the relevant details, including the amount, schedule of disbursements and effective date.

(b) Partnership agreements: Similarly, depending on the conditionality provisions in the agreement, expenses will be recognized upon signature with the partner entity. As stated above, it will be imperative to track and record all active partnership agreements. All

implementation agreements signed by heads of multilateral environmental agreements secretariats under their delegated authority must be shared with the Office for Operations for monitoring purposes. Proper mechanisms shall be established for monitoring on-going projects when disbursements are phased and to ensure that records reflect the status of each project, including closures.

(c) Leases and rental agreements: All lease agreements must be submitted to Office for Operations for review to determine whether they should be classified as finance or operating leases.

(d) Plant, Property and Equipment: The threshold for Plant, Property and Equipment applicable to UNEP is \$5,000. All Plant, Property and Equipment must be documented, including the date of acquisition, location, physical condition and value. Accurate and complete data on Plant, Property and Equipment must be submitted to Office for Operations. Physical verification to ascertain existence of items has will have to be done (if not yet completed). It is also planned that a validation exercises will take place in September/October 2013 to get more information on the condition of each item to determine whether its value should be impaired. Guidance on valuation methodology and other administrative procedures on Plant, Property and Equipment will be issued to UNEP staff, including multilateral environmental agreements secretariats, in due course, but not later than 31 October 2013.

(e) Inventory will be classified in two categories; (a) financial inventory and (b) operational inventory. The classification will determine the accounting treatment. Guidance will be issued on the criteria of classifying inventory. Heads of multilateral environmental agreements secretariats will be required to submit annual inventories in accordance with UN standard procedures.

(g) Staff training: Although a number of staff have undertaken general IPSAS training, more focused and targeted training tailored to address specific areas such as funding arrangements, PPE and leases shall continue throughout 2013, and participation should be monitored very closely to ensure that staff take the training seriously. Computer based training on IPSAS is available to all UN staff at <http://ipsastraining.un.org/>. It is highly recommended that all staff complete module 1: Orientation to IPSAS and module 2: Accrual Accounting Under IPSAS-Basic. For FPMOs and all Finance staff, it is mandatory to complete all seven modules.

56. The information flow between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements Secretariats on these and other items will also need to intensify considerably, as part of the requirements for the UN's transition to an Enterprise Resource Planning system (UMOJA) effective 1 July 2014.

Staff training

57. Some multilateral environmental agreements secretariats requested for training of the secretariat staff for handling of administrative matters, and requested also for advice on handling of such matters when needed. The UNEP secretariat has been responding to the current and future training requirements. For instance, it will organize training on IPSAS for administrative officers in September 2013. Also it will collaborate with UN Staff Colleague to undertake training on UMOJA and IPSAS for UNEP staff.

58. Some multilateral environmental agreements secretariats requested the Office for Operations to prepare and provide to them a short briefing note regarding the introduction of new administrative procedures and processes.

IV. Programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

59. The UNEP secretariat, through its programme of work, collaborates with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements in a broad range of issues, with a view to enhancing synergies in the respective areas of programme activities. The current UNEP medium-term strategy for 2010–2013 and the programmes of work for the bienniums 2010–2011 and 2012–2013 have included, under the environmental governance subprogramme, the promotion of policy coherence between the United Nations system and multilateral environmental agreements, and the provision of support for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, as main programme activity areas for UNEP. In addition, provision is made for programmatic collaboration with the selected multilateral environmental agreements in the specific thematic areas, such as climate change, biodiversity and chemicals and wastes, in the other subprogrammes as well. Such programmatic collaboration is expected to continue under the proposed UNEP medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 and through the proposed programme of work for 2014–2015.

60. Various offices within the UNEP secretariat work closely with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements in a broad range of issues. In general, it should be noted that programmatic cooperation and collaboration might be facilitated between UNEP and all relevant multilateral environmental agreements, between multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant organizations, and among multilateral environmental agreements. While noting that each multilateral environmental agreement has specific programme of work defined by that agreement and its governing body, it should be noted also that programmatic cooperation and coordination between the respective multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP are important. Where UNEP has been called by Parties to the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP, within its mandate and available resources, should respond to such a call by the Parties.

61. At the same time, it was noted also that programmatic cooperation between the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and the UNEP secretariat has not always been consistent, and it varied depending upon the approaches taken by specific offices of the UNEP secretariat towards multilateral environmental agreements in a given time. Also, it was noted that there was the need for improved coordination of programmatic activities. Given the importance of enhancing synergies between the relevant multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP, such programmatic collaboration should become stable and coherent.

62. The governing bodies of the respective multilateral environmental agreements and the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP could facilitate such programmatic cooperation and coordination by setting out modalities through their decisions. Further promotion of programmatic cooperation and coordination between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements and enhancing programmatic synergies should be recommended to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP at its next session as well as the governing bodies of the respective multilateral environmental agreements for consideration.

63. As part of institutional support by UNEP for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and for promoting programmatic cooperation and synergies among them and between UNEP and those agreements, UNEP programme officers, designated as regional focal points for multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and wastes cluster and the biodiversity cluster¹², have been posted in UNEP

¹² The Focal Points' role is to provide technical and advisory support directly to MEA secretariats, as well as to enhance countries' capacities to implement multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and wastes cluster

regional offices.¹³ Noting that those MEAs focal points had been funded by extra-budgetary resources under the Environmental Governance subprogramme to date, a proposal to finance the MEA focal points through UN regular budget, among other UNEP posts being proposed for funding by the UN regular budget, would be submitted by the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly. The Compliance Assistance Programme of the OzonAction Programme under UNEP/DTIE is a successful mechanism that networks the national ozone officers to achieve compliance with the Montreal Protocol through regional and international cooperation and exchange of experiences and information. UNEP has also been coordinating the development of a common Internet-based information portal for multilateral environmental agreements, entitled "InforMEA",¹⁴ in close collaboration with the secretariats of a number of multilateral environmental agreements. In addition, substantive legal services have been continuously provided for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Areas of cooperation with the chemicals conventions include the Persistent Organic Pollutants global monitoring programme, the Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Elimination Network and the DDT Global Alliance. The secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have also provided staffing support to UNEP Chemicals Branch to aid in the successful mercury treaty negotiations, and shared with the SAICM secretariat to identify clearinghouse synergies. These secretariats and UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) also have a long history of cooperation on waste-related matters.¹⁵

64. Recent highlights of such programmatic collaboration also include: facilitating consultative processes on financing chemicals; support to developing countries to develop national legislation designed to enhance synergetic national implementation of conventions in the field of chemicals; capacity-building activities to promote the entry into force of the ban amendment to the Basel Convention; capacity-building assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to promote compliance with and enforcement of the selected multilateral environmental agreements, including training workshops for prosecutors and customs officials; information exchange, at an international conference convened by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and UNEP, on experiences and initiatives to combat illegal traffic and environmental crime in contravention of the obligations under the relevant multilateral environmental agreements;¹⁶ regional training workshops to support negotiators from developing countries to prepare for meetings of the conferences of parties to the selected multilateral environmental agreements, such as

and the biodiversity cluster. They work at the regional and national level with countries by providing technical and advisory services, information exchange and capacity-building for synergistic implementation of MEAs.

¹³ Currently funded from extrabudgetary resources.

¹⁴ InforMEA is an interoperable information system for the benefit of MEA Parties and the environment community at large which harvests COP decisions and resolutions, news, events, MEA membership, national focal points, national reports and implementation plans from MEA secretariats. <http://www.informea.org>.

¹⁵ A number of these areas of programmatic cooperation are noted in document UNEP/GC.27/4. A recent report of the Executive Director also provides information on the progress in the implementation of Governing Council decisions 26/12 and SS.XII/5 on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster (UNEP/GC.27/8.)

¹⁶ The Green Customs Initiative is a partnership of international organizations cooperating to prevent the illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities and facilitation of the legal trade of these. Its objective is to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements. These include ozone depleting substances, toxic chemical products, hazardous wastes, endangered species and living-modified organisms. Partner organizations include: the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol, CITES, Interpol, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Customs Organization, and UNEP.

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; capacity-building workshops to promote the integration of the relevant elements of the programmes of work of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals into national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity for enhancing synergies in national implementation of those conventions and agreements.

65. The regional seas programmes and the respective regional seas conventions and protocols provide an example of cooperation between regional multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP. More than 143 countries participate in 13 Regional Seas programmes established under the auspices of UNEP: Black Sea, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa, South Asian Seas, ROPME Sea Area, Mediterranean, North-East Pacific, Northwest Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South-East Pacific, Pacific, and Western Africa. Six of these programmes, including four regional seas conventions, are directly administered by UNEP.