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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

**Proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial
Environment Forum at its first universal session**

Introduction

1. The twenty-seventh and first universal session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 18 to 22 February 2013.

I. Opening of the first session

2. The session was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 18 February 2013, by Mr. D. Federico Ramos de Armas, President of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

3. The President informed the representatives that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012 the Governing Council at its first universal session would use its applicable rules of procedure and applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly pending the adoption of new rules of procedure consistent with its newly established universal membership.

4. In line with the practice of the General Assembly, he invited the Council to observe one minute of silence for reflection.

5. In his opening remarks, he expressed appreciation as the outgoing President to all members of the Governing Council, the secretariat and UNEP staff for their support for his work. He paid tribute to the late Ms. Angela Cropper, former Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, and the late Mr. John Michuki, former Minister of Environment of Kenya, for their contributions to the work of the Programme. He emphasized the great responsibility of the current generation of members to bring about the urgent change needed to preserve natural resources and halt the degradation of the environment, and he stressed the need to join forces to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. Historically, conditions had never been better for tackling those issues and the strengthening of UNEP should promote effective global environmental governance. The path of development based on the rational use of natural resources and the greening of economic models set out at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) provided the objectives that UNEP would follow, and the Governments of Spain and the Member States of the European Union were firmly committed to them. Indices of wealth had to be found that took account of the environment and it was no longer realistic to view gross domestic product alone as a measure of prosperity. In closing, he urged the representatives not to allow parochial political, cultural, geographical or other considerations to prevail and to commit to the sustainable development of the planet for the sake of future generations.

6. Opening statements were then delivered by Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, on behalf of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; and Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of Kenya.

7. In his statement, the Secretary-General hailed the historic occasion of the first UNEP Governing Council session in which all United Nations Member States were taking part. Universal membership of the UNEP Governing Council was an outcome of Rio+20, endorsed by the General Assembly, that reflected the key role of the Council as a policy-making forum on the environmental dimension of sustainable development. He urged all representatives to engage with their Governments in crafting policies and programmes for the post-2015 development agenda that would ensure investment in the environment and a green economy as a sound insurance policy for the future. UNEP had the mandate and solid record of achievement to assist in that goal. Discussions were taking place in the General Assembly on providing additional resources to UNEP to strengthen its ability to carry forward the key outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development in the coming months. The full text of the Secretary-General's statement may be found in annex II to the present proceedings.

8. In his statement, the Executive Director said that the current session constituted an exceptional opportunity for the members of the Governing Council to be the architects of an agenda for international cooperation on the environment and sustainable development. The General Assembly had mandated the Governing Council to proceed with the implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20 only months after that event, making the task facing the Council at the current session a remarkable one. Ministers of the environment had been given a clear mandate to strengthen and upgrade UNEP so that countries would be better equipped to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of a sustainable century. In doing so, it was essential to enhance the engagement of the major groups and stakeholders and to harness the creativity and vision of many sectors of society, including civil society, scientists and businesses.

9. He drew attention to other significant meetings that had taken place in connection with the current session. In addition to the fourteenth Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, there had been a meeting of the network of women ministers and leaders responsible for the environment; a high-level meeting on the rule of law and the environment, bringing together chief justices and auditors-general; and a meeting of the Tunza International Youth Conference on the environment. The energy, determination and clarity of the youth meeting should serve as inspiration for the work of the Governing Council. There was also a briefing by Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning. In concluding, he thanked the President of Kenya personally for his unwavering support for UNEP and the United Nations in Kenya as well as for his steadfast commitment to the environment.

10. Mr. Kibaki, declaring the session officially open, described it as a historic occasion following the important outcomes achieved at Rio+20 and their endorsement by the General Assembly. The new universal character of the Governing Council and strengthening of UNEP would provide the organization the legitimacy and authority that had been wanting in the previously limited membership of the Governing Council. The Rio+20 outcomes were a major achievement in addressing the institutional gap that existed in dealing with evolving environmental challenges and he particularly welcomed the decisions on increased financial resources for UNEP, the consolidation of UNEP headquarters and strengthened engagement with key United Nations coordination bodies. As the host country for UNEP, Kenya welcomed the developments that would contribute to the enlargement of the organization's coordination mandate and status within the United Nations system. Global environmental challenges continued to grow and the need for solutions was increasingly urgent, and Governments were looking to UNEP to set the global environmental agenda required to deal effectively with them. He urged the members of the Governing Council to use the opportunity to develop innovative and practical solutions to environmental challenges and to continue the cooperative efforts that had been the hallmark of the Council over the years.

II. Organization of work

A. Election of officers

11. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, on 18 February, the Governing Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. Hassan Abdelgadir Hilal (Sudan)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Ryutaro Yatsu (Japan) Mr. Antonio Otávio Ricarte (Brazil) Ms. Idunn Eidheim (Norway)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Beata Jaczewska (Poland)

In this regard, at the last plenary meeting on 22 February 2013, upon request by the group of Latin American and the Caribbean States, election was undertaken to elect Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal (Peru) succeeding Mr. Ricarte as a Vice-President. Mr Pulgar will hold the office of the Vice-President until a subsequent election.

12. In his acceptance speech, the President said that he was honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of presiding over a historic meeting of the Governing Council, the first since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, at which the global community had reiterated its commitment to sustainable development and to UNEP as the world's key environment forum. The Conference, and subsequently the General Assembly, had cleared the way for the creation of a more effective governance structure for UNEP, which through universal membership would be in a position to advocate for the environment more effectively than ever and strengthen the role of environment ministers. The current session would be very important, as the Council would need to agree on institutional arrangements consistent with universal membership and address the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the programme of work for the next two years. While Rio+20 had not met all expectations, it had given hope that environmental sustainability could be achieved, and he noted promising ways of doing so such as the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, the green economy and environmentally sound management of chemicals, including mercury. Such ways required sufficient means, however, in particular for developing countries, and financial and technical assistance were critical. Noting that the Council faced a heavy agenda at the current session, he called for self-sacrifice and joint action in seeking to meet the hopes of the international community in strengthening UNEP.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

1. Adoption of the agenda

13. At the 1st plenary meeting, the council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
 - (a) State of the environment;
 - (b) Emerging policy issues;
 - (c) International environmental governance;
 - (d) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters;
 - (e) Coordination and cooperation with major groups;
 - (f) Environment and development.
5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.

6. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters.
7. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
 - (a) Thirteenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
 - (b) Twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the session.

14. In introducing the provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.27/1) the President noted that, in the light of its mandate at the current session to make recommendations on its future designation and arrangements consistent with its new universal membership, when taking up agenda item 7 the Council would not be limited to discussing arrangements for its thirteenth special session and twenty-eighth ordinary session.

2. Organization of work

15. At its 1st plenary meeting the Governing Council agreed that it would use its applicable rules of procedure and applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly pending the adoption of new rules of procedure consistent with its newly established universal membership. It also agreed that, in accordance with rule 67 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the presence of at least one third of the members of the Council would be required to permit the President to declare a meeting open and to permit debate to proceed. The presence of a majority of the members would be required for any decision to be taken. Pursuant to rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the committees of the General Assembly, the presence of at least one fourth of the members of any sessional bodies established at the current session would be required for the chair of any such body to declare a meeting open and to permit debate to proceed. A majority of the members of any such body would be required for the taking of any decision.

16. At the same plenary meeting, the Council considered and approved the organization of work of the session in the light of the recommendations of the Executive Director contained in document UNEP/GC.27/1/Add.1 as agreed by the Bureau.

17. Pursuant to one of those recommendations, as agreed by the Bureau, it was decided that beginning on the afternoon of Monday 18 February, through the afternoon of Wednesday 20 February, the plenary meetings would take the form of ministerial consultations on agenda item 4 (b) (Policy issues: emerging policy issues, namely, the theme “Rio+20: from outcome to implementation”). It was further agreed that the ministerial consultations would comprise a mix of plenary meetings and roundtable discussions.

18. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Council decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a Committee of the Whole and a working group on institutional arrangements and rules of procedure. The two sessional committees would begin their work as soon as possible after the Committee of the Whole had completed its general discussion of relevant subjects. The Committee of the Whole would consider agenda items 4 (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f) and 5-8. The remaining items on the agenda would be considered by the Council in plenary meeting on the final day of the session. It was further decided that an informal friends of the President group would be formed to assist the President in preparing a summary of the ministerial consultations. The Committee of the Whole and the friends of the President group would be open-ended, but each of the regional groups and the Group of 77 and China would nominate two core members for each group.

19. In addition it was decided at the 1st plenary meeting that the Council, under Rule 37 of its rules of procedure, would limit statements by delegations to five minutes in length and those of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to three minutes in order to maximize the number of those who could speak.

20. It was also decided, in the interests of time and to maximize the number of speakers on the theme of the ministerial consultations, that all delegation wishing to deliver statements should provide them in writing to the secretariat for distribution to all delegations through the session’s dedicated website.

C. Attendance

21. The following Member States were represented at the session: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

22. The Holy See and the State of Palestine were represented as observers.

23. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ozone Secretariat, Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, secretariat of 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, secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service, United Nations Office for Project Services, UN Women, World Food Programme, World Meteorological Organization.

24. The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Labour Organization, World Bank.

25. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Development Bank, African Union Commission, Caribbean Community Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Union, Global Environment Facility, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Interpol, League of Arab States, Organization of American States, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme.

26. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented by observers. A full list of participants is set out in document UNEP/GC.27/INF/22.

D. Policy statement by the Executive Director

27. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Executive Director delivered a policy statement, which he began by reflecting on what he said were indissoluble links between the future of national environment ministries and the future of UNEP. The first universal session of the Governing Council was taking place at a historic time, he said, when the notion that economic progress was of supreme importance had been discarded and global understanding had grown that social, economic and environmental progress were prerequisites for sustainable development.

28. World leaders at Rio+20 had unequivocally articulated the need for the environmental agenda to provide solutions that would not only protect the environment but also contribute to resolving social and economic challenges such as the need for employment and access to water, energy and sanitation. The Rio+20 outcome document, “The future we want”, called clearly for a strengthened environmental dimension of sustainable development and a greater role for UNEP in international environmental governance. Rarely had the outcome of an international conference been translated so quickly into the adoption of a decision by the General Assembly, which had endorsed that outcome and called for the expeditious implementation of paragraph 88 of “The future we want”, calling for the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP.

29. Turning to UNEP achievements and events in 2012, he drew attention to the annual UNEP programme performance report for 2012, which was available on the UNEP website. The implementation of the medium-term strategy 2010–2013 had required a substantial and constant effort to move UNEP to a focus on the results it delivered in addressing key environmental challenges. While those results were not as advanced as might have been hoped, the Programme had nevertheless delivered substantial outcomes in 2012, including the very significant evolution of discussions on international environmental governance in the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development and the discourse on the green economy, both of which had been important topics of discussion at Rio+20.

30. Over a decade earlier, UNEP had begun to work on the atmospheric brown cloud and had continued to provide support to a group of leading scientists to consolidate their findings on black carbon, methane, hydrofluorocarbons and other short-lived climate pollutants. Rapid action to reduce such pollutants initiated by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition had the potential to reduce global warming by up to 0.5 degrees Celsius by 2050 and help maintain the global temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius. Such action would complement work under way in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

31. The fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series (GEO-5), broadly described as the best ever GEO report, had had a significant impact on Rio+20 and its outcome. UNEP had been chosen to host the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and was leading a programme to undertake major related activities in the Arctic region of the Russian Federation. A UNEP-led consortium was to host the Climate Technology Centre Network and the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and steps were being taken in Nigeria to implement the recommendations set out in the UNEP Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland and a programme to address remediation.

32. In 2009 the Governing Council had mandated UNEP to facilitate the negotiation of a global legally binding instrument on mercury. That instrument had been finalized in January 2013 and its ratification would begin at a diplomatic conference to be held in Minamata, Japan, in October 2013. Through the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law, UNEP had endeavoured to focus on the critical role of the judiciary in achieving sustainable development. He drew attention also to continuing efforts to intensify linkages with and between the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy that aimed to provide practical, focused and client-oriented advice to Member States. UNEP had clearly demonstrated that it was capable of delivering state-of-the-art scientific, economic, technical and policy advisory services, he said.

33. The Governing Council at the current session would be asked to consider and approve the medium-term strategy for 2014–2019 and the programme of work and budget for 2014–2015. The latter represented the culmination of significant efforts by the secretariat, partners, stakeholders and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to construct a programme that took cognizance of the realities of countries, addressing both legacy and emerging issues at both the normative and operational levels. While the budget for the forthcoming biennium did not represent a large increase in the financing of UNEP, it did seek to secure more funding from the United Nations regular budget so that the Programme could rely on a more robust, stable and sustainable financial base. In closing, he stressed the need to adopt a systemic approach to the broad range of environmental challenges rather than tackling one species, one ecosystem, one policy or one law at a time. UNEP was striving to respond to the requests made by the Secretary-General and Member States for increased efficiency, effectiveness and value for money while working to secure environmental protection that would contribute to providing food, energy and a sustainable future for the growing billions of humankind.

E. Introduction of the draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

34. Mr. Geert Aagaard Andersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to UNEP and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, presented the draft decisions prepared by the Committee (UNEP/GC.27/L.1) for the consideration of the Council. Highlighting the collaborative process by which the draft decisions had been prepared and the challenges that it had entailed, he said that while there were differences among Member States, as reflected in square brackets around certain provisions of the draft decisions, there was general agreement on the need to maintain the momentum of Rio+20 and a strong shared desire to strengthen UNEP.

35. Following the presentation of the draft decisions, the representative of the United States of America expressed pleasure at being at the current historic session of the Council and at the long-advocated reforms addressed in paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document. Further structural reforms were needed, however, to ensure a robust, responsive Member-State-driven UNEP, including the review and approval by the Governing Council of the strategic framework before its transmittal to United Nations Headquarters; the establishment of a regionally representative subsidiary body to undertake performance and financial reviews; and a clearer and better defined role for the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with the power to take intersessional decisions at the request of the Governing Council and to develop the strategic framework, programme of work and budget. Changes were also needed in the frequency of ministerial sessions and steps were needed to enhance the participation of all stakeholders. She also voiced concern at the election of the President of the Governing Council, as his country was the subject of United Nations sanctions and had a history of human rights violations and obstructing United Nations interventions in response thereto.

36. The representative of Canada said that the results of the Rio+20 Conference had moved matters forward on international environmental governance and that UNEP could benefit from governance structures that were fully open, transparent and participatory. He looked forward to an-depth discussion related to a number of elements identified in “The future we want” on improving the governance of UNEP so that it could provide the necessary leadership on international environmental issues in every part of the world. He expressed concern with the election of Sudan to chair the current session, noting that countries occupying positions of leadership in the United Nations system should uphold its values, which Sudan, which was under Security Council sanction and was restricting United Nations operations within its territory, did not do.

37. The representative of Malaysia, noting that his countryman Mr. Zakri Abdul Hamid was the first Chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, said that his country would submit a draft decision relating to the secretariat of the Platform.

E. Ministerial consultations

38. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on the morning of 18 February, the Governing Council began its consideration of agenda item 4 (b), emerging policy issues, in the form of ministerial consultations, focusing on the strengthening of UNEP as called for in paragraph 88 of the “The future we want” and in General Assembly resolution 67/213. The ministerial consultations began at the 2d plenary meeting with a keynote address by Princess Lalla Hasna of Morocco, followed by a panel discussion.

39. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on the morning of 19 February, the Governing Council continued its consideration of item 4 (b) with discussions on institutional and substantive matters, including on the nature of the green economy. The ministerial consultations then broke into three round-table discussions, which continued during the 4th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 19 February, on responsiveness to country needs; the science-policy interface; secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources for meeting the mandate of UNEP; stakeholder participation; ministerial participation; environmental challenges in the context of sustainable development; the contribution of UNEP to meeting sustainable development goals; and promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. Between the 3rd and 4th plenary meetings a lunchtime dialogue was held on the subject of the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

40. At the 5th plenary meeting, on the morning of 20 February, ministers and other heads of delegation held a consultation with the Executive Director on key issues pertaining to the enhanced status of UNEP and universal membership of the Governing Council. Prior to the 5th plenary meeting regional ministerial consultations were held on the subject of regional environmental challenges and the presence of UNEP in the regions and its responsiveness to country needs.

41. At the 6th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 20 February, the chairs and co-chairs of the roundtable discussions presented summaries of those discussions. The President then presented a comprehensive summary of the ministerial consultations, noting that it was intended to reflect the variety of views expressed and did not constitute a negotiated or consensus statement. One representative noted with regret that the summary had been developed by a closed group that had not been open to all Member States interested in contributing to it and said that the summary did not fully reflect the range of opinions expressed on some issues.

42. While welcoming the President's summary, several representatives expressed the hope that in the future the increased participation of ministers would give them a key decision-making role that would obviate the need for a non-negotiated summary.

43. The Governing Council took note of the President's summary, which is set out in annex III to the present proceedings.

F. Work of the Committee of the Whole

44. The Committee of the Whole held 11 meetings, from 18 to 22 February 2013, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At the 7th plenary meeting of the Governing Council, on 22 February, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the Committee's work. The report on the proceedings of the Committee is set out in annex IV to the present proceedings.

III. Adoption of decisions

45. At its 7th plenary meeting the Governing Council adopted the following decisions:

Decision No.	Title
27/1	New rules of procedure of the Governing Council
27/2	Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
27/3	International water quality guidelines for ecosystems
27/4	Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
27/5	Coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group
27/6	Oceans
27/7	Work by the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable consumption and production
27/8	Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
27/9	Advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability
27/10	Climate technology centre and network
27/11	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to meeting substantive environmental challenges
27/12	Chemicals and waste management
27/13	Proposed medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015
27/14	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
27/15	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme

IV. Credentials of representatives

46. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the session. Representatives of 147 of the 193 United Nations Member States and two observers – the Holy See and the State of Palestine – attended the session and their credentials were found to be in order. The Bureau so reported to the Governing Council, which approved the report at its 7th plenary meeting, on 22 February 2013.

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- V. Policy issues (agenda item 4)**
- A. State of the environment**
 - B. Emerging policy issues**
 - C. International environmental governance**
 - D. Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters**
 - E. Coordination and cooperation with major groups**
 - F. Environment and development**
- VI. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council (agenda item 5)**
- VII. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters (agenda item 6)**
- VIII. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 7)**
- A. Thirteenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
 - B. Twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
- IX. Other matters (agenda item 8)**
47. Agenda items 4–8 (save for sub-item 4 (b), which was the subject of the ministerial consultations referred to above in section E of chapter II) were considered by the Committee of the Whole. The report on the deliberations of the Committee is set out in annex IV to the present proceedings. The decisions adopted by the Governing Council on the items are set out in annex I to the present proceedings and are listed in chapter III above.
- X. Adoption of the report**
48. At its 7th plenary meeting, on the evening of Friday, 22 February 2013, the Governing Council adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in documents UNEP/GC.27/L.3 and Add. 1, 2 and 3, on the understanding that it would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.
- XI. Closure of the session**
49. The twenty-seventh and first universal session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was declared closed at 9.25 p.m. on Friday, 22 February 2013.

Annex I**Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh and first universal session**

Decision No.	Title
27/1	New rules of procedure of the Governing Council
27/2	Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
27/3	International water quality guidelines for ecosystems
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27/5	Coordination across the United Nations system including the Environment Management Group
27/6	Oceans
27/7	Work by the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable consumption and production
27/8	Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
27/9	Advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability
27/10	Climate technology centre and network
27/11	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to meeting substantive environmental challenges
27/12	Chemicals and waste management
27/13	Proposed medium-term strategy for 2014-2017 biennial programme of work and budget for 2014-2015
27/14	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
27/15	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme

Decision 27/1: New rules of procedure of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Adopts its rules of procedure set out below.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

I. SESSIONS

Regular sessions

Rule 1

The Governing Council shall normally hold one regular session every two years.

Date of opening of regular sessions

Rule 2

Each regular session of the Governing Council shall be held, subject to the provisions of rule 3, at a date fixed by the Governing Council at its previous session in such a way as to enable the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to consider the report of the Governing Council in the same year.

Rule 3

Five members of the Governing Council or the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme may request an alteration of the date of a regular session. In either case, the Executive Director shall forthwith communicate the request to the other members of the Governing Council, together with appropriate observations, including financial implications, if any. If within twenty-one days of the inquiry a majority of the members of the Governing Council explicitly concurs in the request, the Executive Director shall convene the Governing Council accordingly.

Place of regular sessions

Rule 4

Regular sessions shall be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council at a previous session.

Special sessions

Rule 5

1. Special sessions shall be held pursuant to a decision taken by the Governing Council at a regular session, or at the request of:

- (a) A majority of the members of the Governing Council;
- (b) The General Assembly;
- (c) The Economic and Social Council.

2. Special sessions may also be requested by:
 - (a) Five States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, whether or not they are members of the Governing Council;
 - (b) The President of the Governing Council with the concurrence of the other members of the Bureau of the Governing Council and in consultation with the Executive Director.
3. In such cases, the Executive Director shall immediately inform all members of the Governing Council of the request, as well as of the approximate costs and relevant administrative considerations, and shall inquire whether they concur in it. If within twenty-one days of the inquiry a majority of the members of the Governing Council explicitly concurs in the request, the Executive Director shall convene a special session of the Governing Council.

Date of opening of special sessions

Rule 6

Special sessions of the Governing Council shall normally be convened within forty-two days of the receipt by the Executive Director of a request for such a session, at a date and place fixed by the President of the Governing Council in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, taking into account such observations as may have been made in the request for a special session.

Notification of date of opening

Rule 7

The Executive Director shall communicate the date of the first meeting of each session to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Chairpersons of subsidiary organs of the Governing Council, as appropriate, the President of the General Assembly when the Assembly is in session, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the appropriate United Nations bodies, the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 68 below and the international non-governmental organizations referred to in rule 69 below. Such notification shall be sent:

- (a) In the case of a regular session, at least forty-two days in advance;
- (b) In the case of a special session, at least fourteen days in advance of the date fixed in accordance with rule 6 above.

Adjournment of session

Rule 8

The Governing Council may decide at any session to adjourn temporarily and resume its meetings at a later date.

II. AGENDA

Drawing up of the provisional agenda for a regular session

Rule 9

1. The Executive Director shall submit to the Governing Council at each regular session the provisional agenda for the following regular session. The provisional agenda shall include all items proposed by:
 - (a) The Governing Council;
 - (b) A State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency;
 - (c) The General Assembly;

(d) The Economic and Social Council;

(e) The Executive Director.

2. Items proposed under (b) above shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents which shall be submitted to the Executive Director at least forty-nine days prior to the opening of the session.

3. In drawing up the provisional agenda, the Executive Director shall take account of suggestions made by the Environment coordination Board, a specialized agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, an appropriate United Nations body, or an intergovernmental organization referred to in rule 68 below. The Executive Director shall also consider suggestions from the international non-governmental organizations referred to in rule 69 below.

Communication of the provisional agenda

Rule 10

After the Governing Council has considered the provisional agenda for the following session, the provisional agenda, incorporating any amendments made by the Governing Council, shall be communicated by the Executive Director to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Chairpersons of subsidiary organs of the Governing Council as appropriate, the President of the General Assembly when the Assembly is in session, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the appropriate United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 68 below and the international non-governmental organizations referred to in rule 69 below.

Supplementary items

Rule 11

The inclusion of supplementary items in the provisional agenda considered by the Governing Council may be proposed by any authority entitled to propose items under paragraph 1 of rule 9. The request for inclusion of a supplementary item shall be supported by a statement from the authority proposing it, except in the case of the General Assembly, regarding the urgency of the consideration of the item. The Executive Director shall communicate to the Governing Council any requests for the inclusion of supplementary items received before the commencement of the regular session, together with such observations as the Executive Director may wish to make.

Adoption of the agenda

Rule 12

1. At the beginning of each regular session, subject to the provisions of rule 15 and after the election of officers when required under rule 18, the Governing Council shall adopt its agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda and any supplementary items proposed in accordance with rule 11.

2. A State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or the International Atomic Energy Agency which has requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda under rule 9 or 11 above shall be entitled to be heard by the Governing Council on the inclusion of the item in the agenda for the session.

3. The Governing Council shall normally include in its agenda for the session only items for which adequate documentation has been circulated to members at least forty-two days before the beginning of the regular session of the Governing Council.

Allocation of items

Rule 13

The Governing Council may allocate items among the plenary meetings of the Governing Council and sessional committees and working parties, if any, set up in accordance with rule 60, and may refer items without preliminary debate in the Governing Council to:

- (a) One or more of its subsidiary organs, if any, set up in accordance with rule 62, for examination and report at a subsequent session of the Governing Council;
- (b) The Executive Director, for study and report at a subsequent session of the Governing Council; or
- (c) The proposer of the item, for further information or documentation.

Provisional agenda for a special session

Rule 14

The provisional agenda for a special session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the session. It shall be transmitted to the authorities mentioned in rule 10 at the same time as the notice convening the Governing Council.

Revision of the agenda

Rule 15

During a regular session, the Governing Council may revise the agenda for the session by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only items which the Governing Council considers to be urgent and important shall be added to its agenda during the session.

III. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 16

Each member of the Governing Council shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 17

1. The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting which the representatives are to attend.
2. The Bureau of the Governing Council shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Governing Council. This rule shall not, however, prevent a member from changing its representative, alternate representatives, or advisers subsequently, subject to proper submission and examination of credentials, where needed.

IV. OFFICERSElections

Rule 18

1. At the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Governing Council shall elect a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Governing Council. The Bureau shall assist the President in the general conduct of business of the Governing Council. The Chairpersons of such sessional committees or working parties as may be established under rule 60 below shall be invited to participate in meetings of the Bureau.

2 In electing its officers, the Governing Council shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation.

3. The Offices of President and Rapporteur of the Governing Council shall normally be subject to rotation among the five groups of States referred to in section 1, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII).

Terms of office

Rule 19

The President, the Vice Presidents and the Rapporteur shall hold office until their successors are elected. Subject to the provisions of rule 18, they shall be eligible for re-election. None of them may hold office after the expiration of the term of office of the member of which the officer concerned is a representative.

Acting President

Rule 20

If the President cannot preside at a meeting or any part thereof, the President shall appoint a Vice-President to take his place.

Replacement of the President

Rule 21

If the President ceases to be a representative of a member of the Governing Council or is unable to perform President's functions, or if the State of which the President is a representative ceases to be a member of the Governing Council, the Bureau shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents as Acting President.

Powers of the Acting President

Rule 22

A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Voting rights of the President

Rule 23

In the case of a member of the Governing Council, which is for the time being represented by the President, an alternate representative shall, at the discretion of the President, be permitted to participate in the proceedings and to vote in the Governing Council. In such a case the President shall not exercise the right to vote.

V. SECRETARIAT

Duties of the Executive Director

Rule 24

The Executive Director shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Governing Council and of its subsidiary organs, if any. The Executive Director may designate any officer of the secretariat to act as the representative of the Executive Director.

Rule 25

The Executive Director shall direct the staff required by the Governing Council and any subsidiary organs which may be established by it.

Rule 26

The Executive Director shall be responsible for performing those functions in relation to the Governing Council which the Executive Director is required to undertake by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII).

Rule 27

The Executive Director, or the Executive Director's representative, may, subject to rule 32, make oral as well as written statements to the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any, concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 28

The Executive Director shall be responsible for all the necessary arrangements for meetings of the Governing Council and of its subsidiary organs, including the preparation and distribution of documents at least forty-two days in advance of the sessions of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any.

Duties of the Secretariat

Rule 29

The secretariat shall interpret speeches made at meetings; shall receive, translate and circulate the documents of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs; shall publish and circulate the resolutions, reports and relevant documentation of the Governing Council. It shall have the custody of the documents in the archives of the Governing Council and generally perform all other work which the Governing Council may require.

Estimates of expenditures

Rule 30

1. Before any proposal which involves expenditure from United Nations funds, including the resources of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme established by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), is approved by the Governing Council or by any of its subsidiary organs, the Executive Director shall circulate to all members of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned, as early as possible, a report from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in terms of Financial Regulations 2.10 and 2.11, on the estimated costs involved as well as on administrative and budgetary implications with reference to existing authorizations and appropriations in accordance with the provisions of section II, paragraph 3, and section III of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII).
2. The Governing Council shall take into account the estimates referred to in paragraph 1 before adopting any proposal involving expenditure from United Nations funds including the resources of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme. If the proposal is adopted, the Governing Council shall indicate, whenever appropriate, the priority or degree of urgency which it attaches to the projects and, as the case may be, which current projects may be deferred, modified, or eliminated to ensure that the work of the United Nations Environment Programme will be carried on most effectively.

3. The Executive Director shall submit to the Governing Council in each odd-numbered year, for the following biennium, the estimates of expenditure of the United Nations Environment Programme borne by the regular budget of the United Nations. The Executive Director shall also submit to the Governing Council estimates of expenditures borne by the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with the General Procedures formulated by the Governing Council under section III, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), and the Financial Rules of the said Fund.

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 31

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the members of the Governing Council are present. The presence of a majority of the members of the Governing Council shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Powers of the President

Rule 32

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Governing Council, shall direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have control of the proceedings of the Governing Council and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. The President may propose to the Governing Council the limitation of time to be allowed to speakers, the limitation of the number of times each representative may speak on any question, the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. The President may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or of the debate on the question under discussion.

Rule 33

The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Governing Council.

Speeches

Rule 34

No person may address the Governing Council without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 35 and 36, the president shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if remarks of the speaker are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Precedence

Rule 35

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or Rapporteur of a sessional committee or working party, or a designated representative of any subsidiary organ, may be accorded precedence in speaking for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by the sessional committee, working party or subsidiary organ concerned and for the purpose of replying to questions.

Points of order

Rule 36

1. During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority vote of the members present and voting.
2. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Time limit on speeches

Rule 37

The Governing Council may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each person may speak on any question, except on procedural questions, when the President shall limit each intervention to a maximum of five minutes. When debate is limited and a speaker has spoken his allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

Closing of list of speakers

Rule 38

During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Governing Council, declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if, in the opinion of the President, a speech delivered after the President has declared the list closed renders this justified. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the President, with the consent of the Governing Council, shall declare the debate closed.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 39

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative may speak in favour of and one against the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 40

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified wish to speak of that representative. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Governing Council is in favour of the closure, the President shall declare the closure of the debate.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 41

During the discussion of any matter a representative may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. Such motion shall not be debated, but shall be immediately put to the vote.

Order of procedural motion

Rule 42

Subject to rule 36, and regardless of the order in which they are submitted, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

- (a) To suspend the meeting;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting;
- (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
- (d) For the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.

Proposals and amendments

Rule 43

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and submitted to the Executive Director, who shall circulate copies to the members. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Governing Council unless copies of it have been circulated to all members not later than the day preceding the meeting. Subject to the consent of the Governing Council, the President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals or amendments even though these proposals or amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Decisions on competence

Rule 44

Subject to rule 42, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Governing Council to adopt any proposal or any amendment submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Withdrawal of motions

Rule 45

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by another member.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 46

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session of the Governing Council unless the Governing Council, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall immediately be put to the vote.

VII. VOTING

Voting rights

Rule 47

Each member of the Governing Council shall have one vote.

Majority required and meaning of the expression "Members present and voting"

Rule 48

1. Except where the present rules of procedure expressly provide otherwise, decisions of the Governing Council shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 49

Subject to rule 55 the Governing Council shall normally vote by show of hands, but any representative may request a roll call, which shall then be taken in the alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the President.

Recording of roll call

Rule 50

The vote of each member participating in a roll call shall be recorded in the relevant documents of the Governing Council.

Conduct during voting

Rule 51

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit members to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, except when the vote is taken by secret ballot. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to explain the proposer's vote on the proposer's own proposal or amendment.

Division of proposals or amendments

Rule 52

A representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment shall be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favour and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Voting on amendments

Rule 53

1. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Governing Council shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. If no amendments are adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.
2. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Voting on proposals

Rule 54

1. If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Governing Council shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Governing Council may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.
2. Any motions requiring that no decision be taken on the substance of such proposals shall, however, be considered as previous questions and shall be put to the vote before them.

Elections

Rule 55

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council.

Rule 56

1. If, when one person or member only is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

Rule 57

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining the required majority on the first ballot shall be elected.
2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is more than the number of places to be filled, those candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be elected.
3. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, there shall be held additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, who shall number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled. However, in the case of a tie between a greater number of unsuccessful candidates, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to the required number.

4. If three restricted ballots are inconclusive, unrestricted ballots shall follow in which votes may be cast for any eligible person or member. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots (subject to exception in the case similar to that of the tie mentioned at the end of the previous paragraph of this rule) shall be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots. The number of such candidates shall not be more than twice the places remaining to be filled.
5. The following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted and so on, until the places are filled.

Equally divided votes

Rule 58

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

**VIII. SESSIONAL COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND SUBSIDIARY
ORGANS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Rule 59

The Governing Council may establish such sessional committees, working parties and subsidiary organs as may be necessary for the effective discharge of its functions.

Sessional committees and working parties

Rule 60

1. At each session, the Governing Council may set up sessional committees and working parties, from among its members, and refer to them any questions on the agenda for study and report.
2. The sessional committees and working parties may set up subcommittees and subgroups of working parties. The member of such subcommittees and subgroups of working parties shall be nominated by the committee or working party concerned.
3. The Chairperson of sessional committee or working groups may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one quarter of the members of the committee or working group are present. The presence of a majority of the members shall be required for any decision to be taken.
4. Subject to paragraph 3 above, the provisions of rules 32 to 58 of these rules of procedure shall be applied as appropriate in the proceedings of the sessional committees, working parties and any subcommittees or subgroups set up by them.

Rule 61

Each sessional committee or working party shall elect its own officers, unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council. In electing its officer each sessional committee or working party shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation.

Subsidiary organs of the Governing Council and expert groups

Rule 62

1. The Governing Council may establish such subsidiary organs on a permanent or ad hoc basis as may be necessary for the effective discharge of its functions and, as required, expert groups to consider specific problems and make recommendations.
2. Any State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or the International Atomic Energy Agency, whether or not that State is a member of the Governing Council, may become a member of any subsidiary organ of the Governing Council. In determining the size of the subsidiary organs and electing their members, the Governing Council shall take fully into account the desirability

of including in the membership of these bodies States with a special interest in the subject matter to be dealt with by them, as well as the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution.

3. The rules of procedure of subsidiary organs shall be those of the Governing Council, as appropriate, subject to such modifications as the Governing Council may decide upon in the light of proposals by the subsidiary organs concerned. Each subsidiary organ shall elect its own officers.
4. Each subsidiary organ, taking into consideration the date of the regular session of the Governing Council and bearing in mind the items referred to it by the Governing Council, may adopt its own priorities within the framework of the work programme established by the Governing Council and, in consultation with the Executive Director, meet as may be necessary.

IX. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Rule 63

Languages and Interpretation

1. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official and working languages of the Governing Council. Speeches made in any of these languages shall be interpreted into the other languages of the Governing Council.
2. Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the languages of the Governing Council. In this case the representative shall provide for interpretation into one of the languages of the Governing Council. Interpretation into the other languages of the Governing Council by an interpreter of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first language of the Governing Council.

Languages and distribution of resolutions, other formal decisions and documents

Rule 64

1. All resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions of the Governing Council, as well as its reports to the General Assembly and other documents, shall be made available in the languages of the Governing Council.
2. The text of the resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions adopted by the Governing Council, its sessional committees and other subsidiary organs, if any, shall be distributed by the secretariat to all members of the Governing Council and any others participating in the session. The printed text of such resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions, as well as the reports of the Governing Council to the General Assembly, shall be distributed after the close of the session to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to the intergovernmental organizations referred to in rule 68 below.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 65

Sound recordings of the meetings of the Governing Council and of its sessional committees shall be kept by the secretariat in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Such recordings shall also be made of the proceedings of any subsidiary organs when they so decide.

X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

Rule 66

The meetings of the Governing Council, its sessional committees and working parties and subsidiary organs, if any, shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.

XI. PARTICIPATION OF STATES NOT MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Rule 67

Any State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency which is not a member of the Governing Council may participate in the deliberations of the Governing Council. Any State thus participating shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote by request of any member of the Governing Council. The provisions of this rule shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to participation in a subsidiary organ by States not members thereof.

XII. PARTICIPATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 68

1. Representatives of specialized agencies, of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and of appropriate United Nations bodies, as well as of the intergovernmental organizations referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) which are designated for this purpose by the Governing Council, may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any, upon the invitation of the President or Chairperson, as the case may be, on questions within the scope of their activities.
2. Written statements of specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations bodies, as well as of other intergovernmental organizations referred to in paragraph 1 above, related to items on the agenda of the Governing Council or its subsidiary organs, if any, shall be circulated by the secretariat to members of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

XIII. OBSERVERS OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 69

1. International non-governmental organizations having an interest in the field of the environment, referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any. The Governing Council shall from time to time adopt and revise when necessary a list of such organizations. Upon the invitation of the President or Chairperson, as the case may be, and subject to the approval of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned, international non-governmental organizations may make oral statements on matters within the scope of their activities.
2. Written statements provided by international non-governmental organizations referred to in paragraph 1 above, related to items on the agenda of the Governing Council or of its subsidiary organs, shall be circulated by the secretariat to members of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements were made available to the secretariat for distribution.

XIV. AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 70

Any of these rules may be amended or suspended by the Governing Council subject to rules 71 and 72 below.

Rule 71

These rules may not be amended until the Governing Council has received a report on the proposed amendment from a committee or working party of the Governing Council established for that purpose.

Rule 72

A rule of procedure may be suspended by the Governing Council provided that twenty-four hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. The notice may be waived if no member objects.

Decision 27/2: Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the outcome document, "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held from 20 to 22 June 2012 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, as outlined in paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a)–(h), of the outcome document, and recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

Reaffirming 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,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012 on, *inter alia*, 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 and under which the first universal session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme is held,

1. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, an intergovernmental body established pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Charter, be renamed as the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;
2. *Reaffirms* the commitment to strengthen 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;
3. *Decides* that the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme¹ will convene its sessions in Nairobi on a biennial basis, starting in 2014, and will carry out its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and all 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, the 2000 Malmö Ministerial Declaration, the 2010 Nusa Dua Declaration and paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288;
4. *Decides* to discontinue the Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
5. *Decides* that each session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme will conclude with a two-day high level segment as an integral part of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, which will take strategic decisions and provide political guidance and will perform *inter alia* the following functions:

¹ The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, whose designation is subject to change pursuant to paragraph 1 of the present decision and a resolution of the General Assembly to that effect.

- (a) Setting the global environmental agenda;
- (b) Providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges;
- (c) Undertaking policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences;
- (d) Setting the strategic guidance on the future direction of the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (e) Organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue;
- (f) Fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization;

6. *Decides* that the Bureau of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme shall be composed of 10 members to reflect the universality of the governing body, in accordance with equitable geographical distribution, and will assist the governing body and perform the functions as set out in the rules of procedure of the governing body;

7. *Decides* that the governing body will ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and will explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, inter alia by:

- (a) Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;
- (b) Establishing by 2014 mechanisms and rules for stakeholders' expert input and advice;
- (c) Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision-making process;

8. *Decides* that the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme will promote a strong science-policy interface by reviewing the state of the environment, by building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including through an enhanced summary for policy makers of the Global Environment Outlook and, in this regard, requests the Executive Director to identify critical gaps and present a report, with recommendations, to the governing body;

9. *Decides* that an open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will be the intersessional subsidiary body of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme and, in addition to its mandate² and in open and transparent manner, will perform the following functions:

- (a) Contributing to the preparation of the agenda of its governing body;
- (b) Providing advice to its governing body on policy matters;
- (c) Preparing decisions for adoption by its governing body and overseeing their implementation;
- (d) Convening thematic and/or programmatic debates
- (e) Promoting effective ways and means to facilitate participation of the non-resident members of the Committee, particularly from developing countries
- (f) Performing any other functions delegated to it by its governing body;

10. *Decides* to convene an open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, while ensuring support to developing country representatives, to enable the participation of capital-based representatives as well as stakeholders for a period of five days in an even year to contribute to preparation of the agenda of its governing body, and to provide advice to its governing body on policy matters;

11. *Decides* to establish a subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives that will meet annually for a period of five days to review, with the support of the secretariat, the medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget, in a manner coherent with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations, to be endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and for the governing body's approval, and to oversee their implementation and accountability by the Secretariat;

² Governing Council decision 19/32, paragraph 7.

12. *Decides* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives will consider the frequency, schedule and programmatic focus of its meetings to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness and will improve upon its working methods;
13. *Commits* to progressively consolidate headquarters functions of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi and in this context requests the Executive Director to present a report to the governing body at its next session and to include recommendations in the programme of work for the period 2016–2017 to be acted upon and implemented in a timely manner;
14. *Decides* to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme’s regional presence in order to assist countries in the implementation of their national environmental programmes, policies and plans and in this regard requests the Executive Director to increase the Programme’s participation in United Nations country teams;
15. *Stresses* the importance of the regional ministerial environment forums for which the United Nations Environment Programme serves as secretariat, and invites these forums to contribute, as appropriate, to the work of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme;
16. *Decides* to consider additional measures to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme’s voice and ability to fulfil its coordination mandate on environmental matters and, in this regard, invites the Secretary-General to take necessary steps to enhance the United Nations Environment Programme’s role in key United Nations coordination bodies;
17. *Decides* to enhance transparency and openness in its work and in this regard requests the Executive Director to establish a written access-to-information policy;
18. *Invites* the Executive Director to continue improving the timeliness and responsiveness to the needs and requests by Member States and recalls the relevant provisions of paragraph 13 of its decision 19/32;
19. *Stresses* the need by no later than 2016 to implement the provisions of paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and requests the Executive Director to report thereon;
20. *Decides* to implement paragraph 88 (f) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and, in this context, requests the Executive Director to enhance the operationalization of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
21. *Invites* the General Assembly to adopt a resolution to change the designation of the Governing Council along the lines of the text contained in the annex to the present decision.

Annex to decision 27/2: Draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly

Change of the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, concerning institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation, by which the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme was established,

Also recalling its resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012, on the report on the Governing Council of United Nations Environmental Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV C, “Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development”, of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of Governing Council decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013, by which the Governing Council recommends to the General Assembly to change its designation to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, it being understood that this change of designation in no way changes, nor will change, the present mandate, aims and purposes of the United Nations Environment Programme or the role and functions of its governing body;

2. *Decides* to change the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Decision 27/3: International water quality guidelines for ecosystems

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS/XII/6 of 22 February 2012, on the world environmental situation, where it is recognized that there are gaps in our knowledge of the state of the environment resulting from a lack of data and regular monitoring, particularly in areas such as freshwater quality and quantity, estuarine and ocean water quality, groundwater depletion, ecosystem services, loss of natural habitat, land degradation and chemicals and wastes,

Recalling its decision 26/14 of 24 February 2011, on revitalizing the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water),

Recalling also the Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and the Manila Declaration of the Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which identifies nutrients, litter and waste water management as priority areas of the Global Programme of Action,

Recalling that 2005–2015 is the United Nations International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, and that 2013 is the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority and principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, including global water quality monitoring and assessment,

Recalling further paragraphs 122 and 124 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The future we want”, which stresses the need to adopt measures to significantly reduce water pollution and increase water quality and recognizes the key role that ecosystems play in maintaining water quantity and quality,

Recognizing the availability of international guidelines for drinking water quality, for agriculture and drainage, for waste water reuse and for other similar matters and the absence of international water quality guidelines for ecosystems,

Noting that water is essential for human life, the environment and the economy and thus action to protect water resources and promote its sustainable use is essential to the achievement of sustainable development,

Recognizing that water is at the core of sustainable development and is closely linked to a number of key global challenges and reiterating therefore the importance of integrating water into sustainable development and underlining the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development as referred to in paragraph 119 of “The future we want”,

Noting the alarming trends in water quality degradation and its negative impact on ecosystem functioning and human well-being and development,

Noting also targets 8, 11 and 14 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding water pollution control for ecosystem conservation,

Recognizing that there is a need for international water quality guidelines, which may be voluntarily used by Governments to maintain and improve the status of ecosystems to sustain the services they provide, as a possible basis for managing water pollution and water quality, as they affect ecosystems, and to support decision-making,

Recognizing also that water quality guidelines for ecosystems should be coherent and integrated, as appropriate, into existing guidelines related to water to promote its sustainable management,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, to develop international water quality guidelines for ecosystems that may be voluntarily used to support the development of national standards, policies and frameworks, taking into

account existing information while integrating, as appropriate, all relevant aspects of water management;

2. *Encourages* Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies and other relevant organizations, including in the private sector, to participate actively in developing the water quality guidelines consistent with the preceding paragraph;
3. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so, including the private sector, to technically and financially support the process for the development of international water quality guidelines consistent with paragraph 1 of the present decision;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session on the implementation of the present decision.

Decision 27/4: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010,

Also recalling its decision 26/4 of 24 February 2011, by which it requested the Executive Director, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme to convene a plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and to continue to facilitate any ensuing process to implement the platform until its secretariat was established,

Further recalling that in decision 26/4 it invited the Executive Director to submit an offer of interest, to be considered along with other offers, subject to the procedures agreed during the above-mentioned plenary meeting, signifying the interest of the United Nations Environment Programme in hosting or otherwise supporting the secretariat of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

Noting that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/212 of 21 December 2012, welcomed the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its potential benefit to Governments, invited the early commencement of its work, in order to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers, and encouraged Member States that had not yet done so to become members of the Platform,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director,³

1. *Welcomes* the establishment, in April 2012, of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
2. *Welcomes also* the outcome of the first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, held in Bonn from 21 to 26 January 2013, and takes note of the request of the Plenary of the Platform to the United Nations Environment Programme, in its decision IPBES/1/4, on administrative and institutional arrangements for the Platform, that the United Nations Environment Programme provide the Platform's secretariat, which will be solely accountable to the Platform Plenary on policy and programmatic matters and administrative arrangements in accordance with the rules of the United Nations Environment Programme;
3. *Welcomes* the significant progress on modalities of the Platform, including efforts to achieve the early commencement of the work of the Platform made at the first session of the Platform Plenary;
4. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, within available resources, to provide the secretariat and administrative arrangements in responding to decision IPBES/1/4, including the secondment of a professional officer to the Platform secretariat;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director, in accordance with decision I/4, to enter into a collaborative partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development

³ UNEP/GC.27/3.

Programme, for consideration by the Platform plenary, in order to enter into an institutional link with the Platform and its secretariat.

6. *Authorizes* the Executive Director:

(a) To finalize a host country agreement with the Government of Germany for the presence of the Platform secretariat in Bonn;

(b) To make those arrangements necessary for the secretariat of the Platform to operate, with a view to having a functioning secretariat, at the latest, by the end of the second session of the Plenary;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to receive financial contributions that are provided for the Platform, until the Platform's trust fund is established;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit input and suggestions, following the procedures and guidance agreed by the Platform Plenary, and based on the findings of the fifth Global Environment Outlook report, to inform the development of the initial work programme of the Platform,

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session.

Decision 27/5: Coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in enhancing coordination and collaboration across the United Nations system to achieve greater coherence in environmental activities,

Recalling its decision XII/2, on enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group,

Welcoming the efforts of the Executive Director, including in his capacity as Chair of the Environment Management Group, and those of the Group's members, in promoting cooperation and joint approaches across the United Nations system on environmental activities,

Expressing appreciation for the progress report prepared under the guidance of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group at their eighteenth meeting and as presented by the Executive Director,⁴ including the strategic considerations of the Group in supporting the implementation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", as well as its contribution to the post-2015 development agenda,

Commending the Group on its progress, and encouraging further work, in facilitating cooperation across the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including follow-up to the "The future we want", and in enhancing United Nations system-wide interagency coordination related to specific issues in the field of environment,

Welcoming in particular the Group's contribution to the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its decision to provide United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011–2020),

Welcoming also the Group's focus and approach in ensuring that its future work supports the implementation of "The future we want",

1. *Supports* the Group's continued efforts to mainstream environmental considerations into activities at the policy, programme, management and operational levels in close cooperation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies;

2. *Urges* the Group to identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration at the country level between resident coordinators and non-resident agencies in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in line with "Delivering as One" and in the case of the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to an effective and efficient mainstreaming of environmental considerations at the country level;

⁴ UNEP/GC.27/12.

3. *Requests* the Executive Director in his capacity as Chair of the Group, mainly through the Group and in line with Paragraph 88 of the “The future we want”, to develop system-wide strategies on the environment and to invite the engagement of the United Nations Secretary-General and Chief Executives Board to facilitate broad ownership in the United Nations at all levels;
4. *Encourages* the Group to continue its support for the drylands agenda and preparation of a United Nations system-wide action plan on drylands for the period 2012–2018 in follow-up to its report on drylands⁵ and pursuant to the request of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, for consideration of the action plan at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification;⁶
5. *Invites* the Group to continue facilitating cooperation among its members in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011–2020 and to provide a progress report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its twelfth meeting;
6. *Encourages* the Group to continue its contribution to advancing sustainability in the work of the United Nations system, including on environmental sustainability management and peer reviews, and welcomes the decision to recommend to the Chief Executives Board a transfer of the Framework for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System to the Chief Executives Board to ensure follow-up on all its dimensions;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director in his capacity as Chair of the Group to provide a progress report on the Group’s work to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session;
8. *Invites* the Executive Director in his capacity as the Chair of the Group to transmit a progress report on the Group’s work to the governing bodies of the Group’s members.

Decision 27/6: Oceans

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 22/2 of 7 February 2003, on the regional seas strategies for sustainable development, decision 21/28 of 9 February 2001, regarding the need for the development and strengthening of regional seas conventions and action plans in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements, and paragraph 74 (b) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,⁷ adopted in Washington, D.C., on 3 November 1995, including requests to the United Nations Environment Programme that it support the Regional Seas Programme and promote and facilitate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional level,

Welcoming the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), expressed in the Conference’s outcome document, “The future we want”, paragraphs 158-177, on oceans and seas,

1. *Urges* countries to take the necessary steps to implement relevant and existing commitments, as well as commitments made at Rio+20, to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment in order to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development;
2. *Invites* member States of existing regional seas conventions and action plans:
 - (a) To take a more proactive role in all stages of the implementation of the programmes of work of their respective regional seas conventions and action plans and to develop “ownership” of those conventions and action plans;
 - (b) To utilize the regional seas conventions and action plans as platforms for the regional implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and global programmes and initiatives;

⁵ “Global Drylands: A UN system-wide response”.

⁶ ICCD/COP(10)/31/Add.1, decision 9/COP.10.

⁷ UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

(c) To strengthen the capacity necessary for the effective implementation of the existing regional seas conventions and action plans;

(d) To foster cross-sectoral governmental participation through the involvement of all relevant national ministries;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to further encourage and promote the United Nations Environment Programme's work on oceans and to incorporate the work of the existing regional seas conventions and action plans into the wider framework of the medium-term strategy 2014–2017 and its work programme;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, as appropriate and within available resources and within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and with due respect for the autonomy of the decision-making bodies of the existing regional seas conventions and action plans to coordinate their work, as contained in the regional seas strategic directions 2013–2016, and to bring them to the attention of member States through relevant forums and areas of work.

Decision 27/7: Work by the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable consumption and production

The Governing Council,

Noting that resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production together constitute one of the six cross-cutting priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013,

Recalling its decision 22/6 of 7 February 2003, on the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns, decision 26/5 of 24 February 2011, on a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, and decision SS.XII/7 of 22 February 2012, on sustainable consumption and production,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and, through its paragraph 226, adopted the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns as contained in document A/CONF.216/5, which provides the guidance for the vision, objectives, goals, common values, functions, organizational structure, means of implementation and possible areas of sustainable consumption and production programmes,

Noting that in accordance with paragraphs 4 (a) and 6 (b) of the 10-year framework of programmes the United Nations Environment Programme is to serve, within its current mandate, as the secretariat of the framework and was invited to establish a trust fund consisting of voluntary contributions for the implementation of the framework, in particular its programmes and initiatives,

Recalling that the framework includes an indicative, initial and non-exhaustive list of possible areas of programme development that builds on previous experience, including, inter alia, consumer information, sustainable lifestyles and education, sustainable public procurement, sustainable buildings and construction and sustainable tourism, including ecotourism,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012, by which the Assembly decided on the composition and nomination process of the small board called for in paragraph 4 (b) of the 10-year framework of programmes document and identified the Economic and Social Council as the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from that board and from the secretariat of the framework,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to take the necessary action to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to serve as the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes and to carry out its functions pursuant to paragraphs 4 (a) and 6 (b) of the framework;

2. *Recognizes* the functions of the small board established in accordance with paragraph 4 (b) and its nomination process in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/203 and authorizes the Executive Director, in his capacity as the executive head of the organization serving as the secretariat of the framework, to take the necessary action that may be requested by the board in carrying out its functions as specified in the above-mentioned paragraph of the framework;

3. *Recognizes* the function of the Economic and Social Council to act as the ad interim body to which the secretariat of the framework and the small board will report on a biennial and annual basis, respectively, in accordance with paragraphs 4 (a) (viii) and 4 (b) (vi) of the framework document

and authorizes the Executive Director, in his capacity as the executive head of the organization serving as the secretariat of the framework, to report on progress to the Economic and Social Council in its capacity as the ad interim reporting body;

4. *Encourages* the national focal points and other stakeholder focal points to participate in and contribute actively to the development and implementation of the framework, ensuring coordination and cooperation with the board and the secretariat in accordance with paragraph 4 (d) of the framework document;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to further enhance cooperation with Member States in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) (i) of the framework document, with all relevant United Nations bodies in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) (ii) of that document, including through the establishment of an inter-agency coordinating group of relevant United Nations bodies, and with relevant international organizations and key stakeholders in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) (iii) of the document;

6. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the framework, enhancing efforts and building cooperation around the programmes of the Framework and technical assistance and capacity-building activities at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns;

7. *Invites* Governments, development agencies and the private sector to provide voluntary contributions for the implementation and operationalization of the framework and to its trust fund, established by the United Nations Environment Programme to mobilize voluntary contributions from multiple sources, in accordance with paragraph 6 (b) of the framework document;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director, in his capacity as the executive head of the organization serving as the secretariat of the framework, to elaborate a proposal on the duration of the subsequent terms of the board of the framework after it has served its initial two-year term for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Decision 27/8: Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the outcome document, “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), particularly Section III dealing with the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Acknowledging paragraph 62 of “The future we want”, which encourages countries to consider the implementation of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and noting that, as stated in paragraph 56 of the “The future we want”, there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development,

Welcoming the publication of the report released by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2011 on the green economy entitled “Towards a Green Economy – Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication”,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of those countries that have endeavoured to promote the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication based on their countries’ own circumstances and priorities, such as the idea of ecological civilization, natural capital accounting, payment for ecosystem services, low-carbon economy and resource efficiency;

2. *Acknowledges* that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools developed by Member States of the United Nations in order to achieve sustainable development, and in this regard takes note of the approach of Living-Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth as a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development that can guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystems;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, within the Programme’s existing mandate and available resources, to collect such initiatives, endeavours, practices and experiences on different approaches, visions, models and tools, including green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to disseminate them, and facilitate information sharing among countries, so as to support them to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication;

4. *Invites* countries to implement green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication taking into account section 3 of “The future we want”.

Decision 27/9: Advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 25/11 (I) concerning the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law,

Recalling the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and acknowledging the importance given to broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings in the outcome document, “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and in regional and national regimes and processes,

Recalling the guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, as well as the guidelines for the development of domestic legislation on liability, response action and compensation for damage caused by activities dangerous to the environment, both adopted by the Governing Council in its decisions SS.XI/5 A and B,

Welcoming the important contributions made to sustainable development by environmental law and constitutional provisions and rights of some countries related to nature,

Noting that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger,

Noting also that offenses against the environment, in particular trafficking in hazardous waste, wildlife and illegal timber, is increasingly committed by organized criminal groups and recalling that international cooperation at all levels in accordance with international law while respecting national jurisdictions contributes to combating those offenses more effectively,

Recognizing the important contribution made by the legal and auditing community worldwide to the enforcement of standards and safeguards for environmental sustainability,

Noting General Assembly resolutions 67/1 of 24 September 2012 and 67/97 of 14 January 2013 on the rule of law at the national and international levels and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/19 on strengthening international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, which urges Member States to consider addressing transnational organized crimes that have a significant impact on the environment, including trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora,

Noting also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

Noting the report of the Executive Director⁸ and the information contained therein on the outcome of the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability,

Mindful of the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, adopted by the Governing Council in 2009, which sets the strategy and a non-exhaustive list for United Nations Environment Programme activities to be taken in coordination with States and others in the development and implementation of environmental law for the decade beginning in 2010,

1. *Acknowledges* the work of chief justices, heads of jurisdiction, attorneys general, auditors general, chief prosecutors and other high-ranking representatives of the judicial, legal and auditing professions at the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability, 17–20 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

⁸ UNEP/GC.27/13.

2. *Notes* that an independent judiciary and judicial process are vital for the implementation, development and enforcement of environmental law;
3. *Emphasizes* that environmental and sustainability auditing are important in ensuring transparency, access to information, accountability and the efficient use of public finances while protecting the environment for future generations;
4. *Emphasizes also* that justice, including participatory decision-making, access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings as well as the protection of vulnerable groups from disproportionate adverse environmental impacts, should be seen as an intrinsic element of environmental sustainability;
5. *Recognizes* that the violation of environmental law has the potential to undermine sustainable development and the implementation of agreed environmental goals and objectives at all levels and that the rule of law and effective governance play an essential role in reducing such violations and invites Governments and relevant organizations to further strengthen mechanisms and explore initiatives for exchanging information and sharing experiences in order to reinforce international, regional and subregional cooperation to combat noncompliance with environmental laws, including, *inter alia*, measures to increase the effectiveness of administrative, civil and criminal enforcement mechanisms, institutions and laws in the field of environment as well as applicable education and training;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director:
 - (a) To lead the United Nations system and support national Governments upon their request in the development and implementation of environmental rule of law with attention at all levels to mutually supporting governance features, including information disclosure, public participation, implementable and enforceable laws, and implementation and accountability mechanisms including coordination of roles as well as environmental auditing and criminal, civil and administrative enforcement with timely, impartial and independent dispute resolution;
 - (b) To improve coherence and coordination, seek opportunities to collaborate and promote partnership with, and avoid duplication among, United Nations entities and other relevant entities working to promote improved environmental governance at the national level and to provide support for existing efforts and initiatives in coordination with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group;
 - (c) To promote quality information and data exchange among the legal and auditing communities and improve education, capacity-building and technical assistance, including with the aim of strengthening effective national environmental governance systems and improving the effectiveness of rule of law systems;
 - (d) To encourage the further expansion of information sharing about environmental jurisprudence and the development of specialized expertise in environmental law among judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials;
 - (e) To promote the continued engagement in the work referred to above of judges, prosecutors, auditors and other related authorities such as inspectors, investigators, police, regulatory enforcement officials and other components of the environmental, legal and enforcement community and the institutions they represent, including associated networks, and exploring the possible establishment of an international institutional network;
7. *Invites* Governments to cooperate to build and support the capacity of courts and tribunals as well as prosecutors, auditors and other related authorities such as inspectors, investigators, police and regulatory enforcement officials at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement environmental law so as to promote effective domestic judiciary and enforcement institutions in environmental matters and to facilitate exchanges of best practices in order to achieve environmental sustainability, including through networks at the international and regional levels;
8. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the significant work and initiatives already undertaken by individual countries, international organizations and other entities to promote improved environmental governance at the national level;
9. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision, as part of a report on the mid-term review of the Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law envisaged in decision 25/11 I, to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session.

Decision 27/10: Climate Technology Centre and Network

The Governing Council,

Recalling its mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, under which the Governing Council is, inter alia, 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 formation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

Recalling the Bali *Strategic Plan* for Technology Support and Capacity-building as adopted in its decision 23/1,

Recalling also decision 1/CP.16 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, establishing a Technology Mechanism consisting of a Technology Executive Committee and a Climate Technology Centre and Network,

Recalling further decision 2/CP.17 of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, detailing the mission of the Climate Technology Centre and Network as to stimulate technology cooperation and to enhance the development and transfer of technologies, to assist developing country Parties at their request, consistent with their respective capabilities and national circumstances and priorities, to build or strengthen their capacity to identify technology needs, and to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies taking into account gender considerations to support action on mitigation and adaptation and enhance low emissions and climate-resilient development,

Recalling paragraphs 139–141 of decision 2/CP.17, on the provision of financial and other resources to the Climate Technology Centre and Network,

Recalling also annex VII to decision 2/CP.17, detailing the terms of reference of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, including its governance structure, and stating that the Climate Technology Centre and Network shall operate within its terms of reference and be accountable to, and under the guidance of, the Conference of the Parties, through an advisory board,

Recalling further decision 14/CP.18 of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, selecting the United Nations Environment Programme as the host of the Climate Technology Centre and Network for an initial term of five years, with possible renewal if so decided by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-third session,

Noting that by the same decision the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Framework Convention and authorized the Executive Secretary of the Framework Convention secretariat to sign it,

Noting also that by the same decision the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change established the advisory board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and requested the United Nations Environment Programme, as the host of the Centre and Network, to convene the first meeting of the advisory board as soon as possible in 2013, preferably prior to the thirty-eighth session of the Framework Convention subsidiary bodies,

Recalling annex I to decision 14/CP.18, which states that the United Nations Environment Programme has the mandate, among other things, to strengthen the ability of countries, in particular developing countries, to integrate climate change responses into their national development processes and specifically to reduce their vulnerability and build up their resilience to the impacts of climate change, to facilitate the transition to low-carbon societies, to facilitate access to climate-change financing for clean technologies, to support both public and private financing mechanisms, to support national processes for implementing sustainable forest management plans, to improve the understanding of climate-change science and its use in sound policy-making, and to improve the general understanding of climate change

Having considered the report by the Executive Director,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to select the United Nations Environment Programme, as the leader of the consortium of partner institutions, as the host of the Climate Technology Centre and Network for an initial term of five years, and authorizes the Executive Director to provide the necessary arrangements for the operation of the Centre subject to the availability of financial resources and in accordance with decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to sign the memorandum of understanding with the Executive Secretary of the Framework Convention secretariat referred to above and invites him to do so as a matter of urgency;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements for the first meeting of the advisory board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

Decision 27/11: State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to meeting substantive environmental challenges

The Governing Council,

Mindful of its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, including to keep under review the world environmental situation, and recalling its decisions 22/1 on early warning, assessment and monitoring, 23/6 and 24/2 on the world environmental situation and 25/2 on a policy relevant, integrated and scientifically credible global environmental assessment,

Recognizing the potential benefits of a scientifically sound and evidence-based detailed assessment of the state of the environment for awareness raising, informed policy formulation and decision-making for sustainable development,

Recognizing that there are gaps in our knowledge of the state of the environment resulting from a lack of current data and information generation and dissemination and that there is an urgent need for Governments to take actions to bridge those gaps through the building of capacities, the strengthening of existing mechanisms for environmental assessments and monitoring and the use of established comparable methods for data collection and analysis, paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including capacity-building and technology support,

Acknowledging the important role that the UNEP Year Book has played over the past 10 years in bringing emerging issues and challenges to the attention of policymakers,

Welcoming the publication of the fifth Global Environment Outlook assessment report, *GEO-5: Global Environment Outlook: Environment for the future we want*, on 6 June 2012 by the Executive Director, including its summary for policy makers, negotiated and endorsed at the Intergovernmental Meeting on 31 January 2012 in Gwangju, Republic of Korea,

Acknowledging that the findings in *GEO-5* and its summary for policy makers based on scientific evidence are a valuable contribution to facilitating informed policy decision-making on sustainable development issues and to strengthening the science-policy interface,

Appreciating the guidance and high-level input of the High-Level Intergovernmental Advisory Panel as well as the Science and Policy Advisory Board, the coordinating lead authors, lead authors, contributing authors and reviewers who provided support for the preparation of *GEO-5* and its summary for policy makers,

Taking note of the publication *Measuring Progress: Environmental Goals and Gaps*, which is based on *GEO-5* and shows the progress made towards selected internationally agreed environmental goals, and its potentially useful contribution to the elaboration of sustainable development goals by Governments and the post-2015 development agenda, as foreseen in the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want",

Acknowledging the Rio+20 outcome document, in particular its paragraph 88, calling for a strengthened and upgraded United Nations Environment Programme, and its paragraph 90, calling for strengthened assessment activities and improved access to data and information, and noting the need to integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development and to disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information on critical and emerging economic, environmental and social issues,

Welcoming the progress made during the first phase of the design and development of the prototype proof-of-concept for UNEP-Live as an initiative to significantly enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the future approach to keeping the world environment situation under review, including capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve their data collection and assessment efforts and ensure that data collected and information generated are made available to policy makers and the public,

Also welcoming the proposal in the programme of work for 2014–2015 for a gender and environment outlook that would use social science information and gender-sensitive indicators to review gender-environment links and guide policy actions towards gender equality,

Further welcoming the continued development of the Eye on Earth network and the implementation of the Eye on Earth special initiatives, in particular the partnerships developing through the Eye on Global Network of Networks Special Initiative as a major contribution to UNEP-Live,

Noting the progress made on the design and development of the Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) as an initiative to identify research gaps and meet policy needs in respect of climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation,

Also noting the progress made in the implementation of decision 26/14 on the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the decision,

Further noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and specifically the release in 2011 of two special reports, entitled “Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation” (SRREN) and “Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation” (SREX), as well as the progress made in the preparation of the Panel’s fifth assessment report, due for release in 2013–2014,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, through a number of recent decisions, has reiterated the relevance and role of the Panel’s assessments for its current and future work,

Appreciating the work of the International Resource Panel, which contributes to a strengthened science-policy interface and knowledge base in key areas of resource use and management,

Acknowledging that the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is an important global policy framework for reversing the ongoing decline in biodiversity and ecosystem services identified in *GEO-5*,

Welcoming the Global Chemicals Outlook and its Synthesis Report for Decision Makers, as well as related activities on the cost of inaction,

I

Assessments

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to review best practices and develop a set of transparent procedures, particularly with regard to administrative processes, the selection of participants the inclusion of diverging view points, as well as government and peer reviews to support a wide range of environmental assessments that the United Nations Environment Programme conducts in order to ensure that they are of the highest quality and have maximum impact. These procedures should be based on the knowledge and experience of nationally recognized experts and current best assessment practices should be provided to member states for comments. Those procedures relevant to the sixth Global Environment Outlook assessment should be prioritized to feed into its preparation and should be provided to Member States for review and comment in time for the preparation of the sixth Global Environment Outlook assessment;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme continues to build on the capacities developed during the *GEO-5* process and other thematic and integrated assessments at the national, regional and global levels. This should be done by compiling and making available the key best practice assessment procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph, with their different purposes, strengths and weaknesses, to all stakeholders;

II

Global Environment Outlook

1. *Welcomes* the enhanced policy relevance of the Global Environment Outlook as a result of its identifying policy options, taking into account different approaches and visions to achieve sustainable development, and making every effort to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed goals, including through informing relevant global and regional processes;

2. *Invites* Governments to use the findings of *GEO-5 (Environment for the Future We Want)* and its summary for policy makers to facilitate informed policy decision-making at all levels in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the policy relevance of Global Environment Outlook reports by measuring the progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and targets and to inform relevant global processes and meetings where progress towards these agreed goals and targets will be discussed;
4. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the private sector and civil society, to convene an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation as soon as practicable and before mid-2014 to determine the objectives, scope and process for the next Global Environment Outlook assessment, taking into account progress made with UNEP-Live and acknowledging the potential to contribute to the process for developing the global sustainable development report by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development called for in paragraph 85 of “The future we want”;

III

Strengthening sustainable development

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, building on the Global Environment Outlook, to continue work at the national, regional and global levels to promote the science-policy interface through inclusive, scientifically sound, evidence-based and transparent thematic and integrated assessments, taking into consideration diverse knowledge systems, as well as access to reliable, relevant and timely data and information, and making such data and information available to UNEP-Live for access by policy makers and the public;
2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue promoting access to reliable, relevant and timely data in areas related to the United Nations Environment Programme’s mandate aiming at reinforcing the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook;
3. *Welcomes* the ongoing contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the elaboration of the sustainable development goals in accordance with the outcome document of Rio+20 and invites it to provide technical input in relation to global environmental goals;
4. *Looks forward* to the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme on the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross-domestic product;

IV

UNEP-Live

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to implement the next phase of UNEP-Live during the 2014–2015 biennium as an open platform in continued alignment with relevant environmental information systems designed for global, regional and national environmental assessment and data sharing;
2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake and encourage capacity-building activities to ensure that developing countries and countries with economies in transition are able to work with UNEP-Live and contribute to scientifically sound evidence-based environmental assessment processes;
3. *Invites* Member States, major groups and stakeholders and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to engage in the development of UNEP-Live and in particular the implementation of the online state-of-environment reporting capabilities by increasingly sharing relevant data, information and indicators through open platforms;
4. *Invites* the donor community, other sources and Governments in a position to do so to provide funding to support the full and effective implementation of technology support and capacity-building programmes to support environmental monitoring and data and information management needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide a progress report on UNEP-Live to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session;

V

Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA)

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, working in close collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to further develop the Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) and to provide a status report at the thirteenth special session of the Governing Council⁹ in 2014;
2. *Invites* Member States, the international scientific community and centres of excellence to participate in PROVIA to mobilize and communicate the growing knowledge base on climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation;
3. *Invites* the donor community, other sources and Governments in a position to do so to provide funding and other means of support, as appropriate, for PROVIA so that the initiative can move from the design and development phase to an operational phase and enhance its effectiveness and its work from the global to the national levels;

VI

Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water)

1. *Expresses* gratitude to the Government of Canada for its support for the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water) over the years and requests the Executive Director working in close collaboration with Member States to identify a new host country for GEMS/Water;
2. *Invites* Member States, the international scientific community and centres of excellence to participate in GEMS/Water to improve the global coverage and consistency of water quality data, expand the GEMS/Water network of national and collaborating focal points, and improve data submission to the GEMStat global database and access of users to water quality data,
3. *Invites* the donor community, other sources and Governments in a position to do so to provide sustainable financial and in-kind support to GEMS/Water for its global coordination/management unit and global network, GEMStat and the implementation of technology support and capacity development activities for water quality monitoring in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

VII

Climate change

1. *Welcomes* the completion of the process of consideration and implementation of the recommendations issued in August 2010 by the InterAcademy Council as part of its review of the processes and procedures of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including a number of important decisions related to the Panel's governance and management, procedures, conflict of interest policy and development of a communication-strategy;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue providing support for the work of the Panel and to explore ways to further strengthen the cooperation with it in line with the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in assessing the world environment situation, as reiterated in the Rio+20 outcome document;

⁹ Hereinafter, any reference to the Governing Council shall be understood to refer to the name of the main governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme.

VIII

Biodiversity and ecosystem services

1. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as highlighted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eleventh meeting, held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, to review and, as appropriate, update and revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 towards attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the national level, as highlighted by Parties to the Convention at the eleventh meeting;
2. *Takes note* of the outcome of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in particular decisions XI/3 and XI/4 on review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the strategy for resource mobilization;
3. *Welcomes* progress made at the first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and requests the Executive Director to continue to provide support for the work of the Platform in accordance with its decisions adopted at the current session.

Decision 27/12: Chemicals and waste management

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the goal that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment,

Welcoming the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”,

Recalling its decisions 26/3 and 26/12 and other relevant decisions on chemicals and wastes, and having considered the reports by the Executive Director on the implementation of Governing Council decisions 26/12 and SS.XII/5 and on chemicals and waste management,¹⁰

Recalling also its decision 16/34 calling for the establishment of the International Environmental Technology Centre, based on the agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Government of Japan, and welcoming the enhanced role of the Centre as a focus for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on waste management,

Recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment and reaffirming the commitment of Governments to an approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges and encouraging further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in the implementation of commitments,

Welcoming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as a participating organization in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and underlining the value of the continuing cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations and observers of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,

Recognizing the growing significance of hazardous waste management for sustainable development due to rapid industrialization and urbanization and the technical and other challenges faced by developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Recognizing also that the actions called for in the present decision are supportive of and consistent with commitments of countries to the sound management of chemicals and wastes,

¹⁰ UNEP/GC.27/8 and UNEP/GC.27/4.

I

1. *Welcomes* paragraphs 213 to 223 of the “The future we want”, relating to the sound management of chemicals and waste and the reaffirmation of the aim to achieve by 2020 the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste;
2. *Invites* all stakeholders to support the sound management of chemicals and waste as an important contribution to building a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
3. *Recognizes* the significance of the findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook, which highlighted the significant increase in the manufacture and use of chemicals globally, their importance to national and global economies and the costs and negative effects on human health and the environment of unsound chemicals management and made recommendations for future action;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue work on the Global Chemicals Outlook, particularly in areas where data were found to be lacking or inadequate, and to enhance transparency through regionally balanced stakeholder involvement, inter alia, with a view to developing in the future a tool for assessing progress towards the achievement of the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, including the existing 2020 goal, taking into account and building upon other existing sources of information;
5. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders to promote safer, effective alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives, and to adopt measures to prevent industrial chemical accidents and unintended releases and emissions in order to prevent rather than remediate risks;
6. *Invites* Governments that have not already done so to ratify the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements and urges those countries that have ratified them to implement their obligations fully;

II

Lead and cadmium

1. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by Governments and others to address the risks posed by lead and cadmium, in particular to phase out lead from gasoline and paint through the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles and the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, respectively, and urges Governments to continue participating in and contributing to those initiatives and to consider initiatives to encourage the development of more affordable and safer alternatives;
2. *Emphasizes* that further actions are needed to address the challenges posed by lead and cadmium and encourages Governments and others to continue efforts to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from lead and cadmium throughout the life cycles of those substances, taking into consideration the specific environmental, economic and social conditions and challenges of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in coordination with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue activities on lead and cadmium and to enhance them within the existing mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;
4. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders to make available information on techniques for emissions abatement and on the possibility of replacing lead and cadmium with less hazardous substances or techniques and requests the Executive Director to compile such information and make it available on the United Nations Environment Programme website for the use of all stakeholders, noting that, where appropriate, use should be made of existing mechanisms like the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management clearing-house mechanism when making information available;

III

Mercury

1. *Welcomes* the completion of the negotiation of a global legally binding instrument on mercury, which was accomplished prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum as requested in paragraph 26 of decision 25/5;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries for the purpose of adopting and opening for signature the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in Kumamoto and Minamata, Japan, from 9 to 11 October 2013, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and welcomes the offer by the Government of Japan to host the conference of plenipotentiaries;
3. *Calls on* Governments and regional economic integration organizations to adopt and thereafter sign the Minamata Convention on Mercury at the conference of plenipotentiaries;
4. *Encourages* States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the necessary domestic measures to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification, and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, once adopted, with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;
5. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to provide secretariat support to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and, if so decided by the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to provide an interim secretariat to the instrument prior to its entry into force;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to inform the diplomatic conference of the Minamata Convention on Mercury about possible options available for the interim secretariat;
7. *Recognizes* that the decision on interim secretariat arrangements will be taken by the conference of plenipotentiaries and that it is for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury to decide on secretariat arrangements;
8. *Urges* the Executive Director through an interim secretariat of the instrument to assist in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries with a view to facilitating capacity-building, early entry into force and financing regarding the instrument;
9. *Requests* the Executive Director to take actions to facilitate voluntary implementation of the instrument prior to its entry into force and to provide interim support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, if so decided by the conference of plenipotentiaries;
10. *Appeals to* Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support early action designed to facilitate ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention and further to provide financial resources for the implementation of interim arrangements for the Minamata Convention, in conformity with relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries, for the period until the end of the financial period in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention takes place, and welcomes with appreciation the contributions already made, including from China, Denmark, Japan, Norway and Switzerland, for those purposes;
11. *Welcomes* the efforts by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and its partners to take immediate action on mercury through the Global Mercury Partnership, urges all partners to continue their efforts and urges Governments and other stakeholders to continue to support, participate in, and contribute to the Global Mercury Partnership;
12. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to provide the necessary support to the Global Mercury Partnership;
13. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take into account any relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries and consider ways of supporting their implementation;
14. *Invites* Parties to 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 to use the opportunity of their extraordinary meetings from 28 April to 10 May 2013 to consider steps that would facilitate possible future cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury and to forward any outcome of that consideration to the conference of plenipotentiaries;
15. *Acknowledges* the 2013 update of the 2008 report from the Executive Director, "Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport",¹¹ and requests the Executive Director to provide a further update within six years;

¹¹ UNEP/GC.27/INF/14.

IV

Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

1. *Welcomes* the decision adopted at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to extend the term for the receipt of contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund until the fourth session of the Conference and to allow the distribution of funding until all approved projects are completed and requests the Executive Director to extend the operations of the Trust Fund accordingly;
2. *Welcomes also* the adoption, at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, of the strategy for the engagement of the health-care sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to give full support to the Strategic Approach secretariat and to give it the necessary support to develop orientation and guidance to implement the 2020 goal on sound chemicals management;
4. *Notes with concern* the withdrawal of staffing support to the Strategic Approach secretariat by the World Health Organization due to financial constraints and invites the World Health Assembly to consider reinstating the support of the World Health Organization, at the earliest date possible, to continue to provide health expertise within the Strategic Approach secretariat;
5. *Welcomes* the adoption of resolutions at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on international cooperative actions on emerging policy issues and requests the Executive Director to provide leadership, in partnership with others, on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, chemicals in products and perfluorinated chemicals and in this regard also acknowledges the 2012 joint United Nations Environment Programme and World Health Organization report on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and requests the Executive Director to submit to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its regular session following the next session a report on progress and implementation;
6. *Urges* all relevant stakeholders to engage in effective implementation of the Strategic Approach throughout the materials life cycle and encourages enhanced engagement, particularly of intermediate and end users, in the Strategic Approach;
7. *Underlines* the importance of mainstreaming activities for sound chemicals management at the national level and the assessment of the economic and social costs of unsound chemicals management, as reflected in the Global Chemicals Outlook report, and requests the Executive Director to continue and expand work to facilitate country implementation of mainstreaming activities;
8. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry and others in a position to do so to make financial and in-kind contributions to the Strategic Approach, its Quick Start Programme, its secretariat and its implementation, including through the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

V

Waste management

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to review existing efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme on waste, to develop a Programme-wide waste strategy to prioritize its work and to make recommendations on existing and future areas of United Nations Environment Programme work on wastes, taking care to not duplicate efforts under way in other forums;
2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop a global outlook of challenges, trends and policies in relation to waste prevention, minimization and management, taking into account the materials life cycle, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and in consultation with Governments and stakeholders, building on available data, best practices and success stories, taking into account the Global Chemicals Outlook and any other relevant initiatives and taking care not to duplicate existing information, to provide guidance for national policy planning;
3. *Welcomes* the progress in establishing the Global Partnership on Waste Management hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme International Environmental Technology

Centre and requests the Executive Director to continue to facilitate, including through this Partnership, cooperation and coordination across international efforts focusing on waste prevention, minimization, and management, taking into account the materials life-cycle and planning and implementing environmentally sound and integrated waste management strategies and activities;

4. *Encourages* the Executive Director to collaborate closely with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in pursuit of mutual objectives with regard to the sound management of waste, including support for capacity-building in relation to priority waste streams;

VI

Persistent organic pollutants

1. *Welcomes* the work undertaken to date and requests the Executive Director to continue to provide coordination of the PCB Elimination Network and the Global Alliance for the Development of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control in accordance with the invitation received from the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

2. *Urges* the World Health Organization to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the workplan of the Global Alliance for the Development of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control;

3. *Invites* the Executive Director to inform the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the progress made in the work of the PCB Elimination Network and the Global Alliance for the Development of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control;

VII

Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster

1. *Notes* the progress made and the activities carried out to date by the Executive Director in the implementation of decisions 26/12 and SS.XII/5;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to facilitate and support an inclusive, country-driven consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term and to present a report on the outcome of that consultative process to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session and encourages Governments to enhance efforts in this area;

VIII

Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes

1. *Welcomes* an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes and underscores that the three components of an integrated approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of sound management of chemicals and wastes;

2. *Takes note of* the proposal by the Executive Director on his vision for making operational an integrated approach on financing sound management of chemicals and wastes;¹²

3. *Invites* Governments, relevant organizations and entities and other stakeholders to apply an integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and wastes in their efforts to mobilize and manage financial resources for the sound management of chemicals and wastes at all levels;

4. *Also invites* Governments to implement actions to further mainstream the sound management of chemicals and wastes in national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies;

¹² UNEP/GC.27/7.

5. *Further invites* Governments to implement actions to further encourage industry involvement in the integrated approach, including the development of legislation on the responsibilities of industry and national administration, the provision of incentives for sound chemicals and wastes management, and the promotion of measures by industry to internalize costs as per the polluter pays principle;
6. *Invites* all countries, within their capabilities, to further strengthen the element of dedicated external financing through the provision of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources so as to support developing countries in their efforts to implement sound management of chemicals and wastes;
7. *Invites* all Governments to involve relevant ministries, departments and agencies in the implementation of an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the necessary support, upon request, to Governments, especially those from developing countries, and collaborate with relevant organizations and entities and other stakeholders, as appropriate, towards the implementation of an integrated approach;
9. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to take steps to implement, and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention to consider, an integrated approach for the purposes of the respective conventions, as appropriate;
10. *Invites* the International Conference on Chemicals Management to take steps to implement an integrated approach;
11. *Invites* the governing bodies of international development agencies, international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to take steps to implement, within their mandates, an integrated approach;
12. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility in the context of its sixth replenishment process to revise its focal area structure and strategy in order to address the chemicals and wastes agenda and to consider ways of further strengthening its relations with the conventions it serves as a financial mechanism;
13. *Invites* Governments to consider establishing, through an existing institution, a special programme, funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the future Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, noting that each respective governing body would have to determine the participation of its entity in the special programme;
14. *Emphasizes* that the special programme referred to in the preceding paragraph should avoid duplication and proliferation of funding mechanisms and associated administration and should fund activities that fall outside the mandate of the Global Environment Facility;
15. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate and support a country-led meeting of governments and regional economic integration organizations, open to interested stakeholders, including potential donors, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility, other relevant intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions and the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Strategic Approach, to further develop terms of reference for such a special programme, including:
 - (a) A definition of institutional strengthening;
 - (b) The duration of the special programme;
 - (c) Clear parameters and eligibility criteria;
 - (d) Practical arrangements necessary to make the special programme operational;
16. *Decides* that the outcomes of the meeting should be submitted to the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session;
17. *Notes* that present decision does not pre-empt the decision of the future Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the specific international programme referred to in the text of that Convention;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate an evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach, which should be done in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, and to submit the evaluation, including recommendations, within six years for consideration by the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, the relevant conferences of the parties and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme within three years a report on the implementation of the integrated approach;

IX

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session;

2. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the present decision.

Decision 27/13: Proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 and biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015¹³

*The Governing Council,*⁹

Having *considered* the proposed medium-term strategy for 2014–2017¹⁴ and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015¹⁵ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,¹⁶

Noting General Assembly resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012 and 67/213 of 21 December 2012, by which the General Assembly strengthened the United Nations Environment Programme,

Taking *note* of the United Nations Board of Auditors report for the period 2010–2011,

Affirming that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development;

1. *Approves* the medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 and the programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;

2. *Also approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 245 million United States dollars, of which 110 million dollars is allocated to 2014 and a maximum of 122 million dollars is allocated to defraying post costs for the biennium for the purposes indicated in the following table:

¹³ The present decision does not take into consideration possible budgetary implications of the forthcoming decisions by the Governing Council on institutional arrangements and rules of procedure.

¹⁴ UNEP/GC.27/9.

¹⁵ UNEP/GC.27/10.

¹⁶ UNEP/GC.27/10/Add.1.

Environment Fund programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015 (thousands of United States dollars)

A. Executive direction and management	7 794
B. Programme of work	209 394
1. Climate change	39 510
2. Disasters and conflicts	17 886
3. Ecosystem management	36 831
4. Environmental governance	21,895
5. Chemicals and waste	31 175
6. Resource efficiency	45 329
7. Environment under review	16 768
C. Fund programme reserve	12 500
D. Programme support	15 312
Total	245 000

3. *Welcomes* the extensive consultations that have taken place between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives¹⁷ on the preparation of the draft medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 and the draft programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015;
4. *Emphasizes* the need for comprehensive information regarding proposed expenditures and contributions from all sources of funding, including staffing information, to be provided to the Committee of Permanent Representatives¹⁷ well in advance of consideration of the programme of work and budget, and requests the Executive Director to hold timely consultations on the preparation of all future programmes of work and budgets prior to transmittal to other appropriate bodies;
5. *Acknowledges* the progress on the implementation of the medium-term strategy 2010-2013, as described in the programme performance report;¹⁸
6. *Also acknowledges* the progress made in increasing allocations from the Environment Fund to activities and operations in the 2014–2015 programme;
7. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between subprogramme budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of those mentioned in paragraph 2 above and to consult the subsidiary body¹⁷ regarding any allocation above that contained in the programme of work and budget approved by the Governing Council;⁹
8. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director, if necessary, to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of the budget lines mentioned in paragraph 2 above in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;¹⁷
9. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives,¹⁷ the level of Environment Fund allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them in line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;
10. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities for the biennium 2016–2017;
11. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to apply a prudent approach to the management of the resources from all sources, including the Environment Fund, including through the careful management of contractual arrangements;
12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the current emphasis on the achievement of results for the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;
13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue efforts to increase effectiveness and efficiency through the implementation of best practices;

¹⁷ Hereinafter, any reference to the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall be understood to refer to the appropriate intersessional body of the Governing Council.

¹⁸ UNEP/GC.27/INF/6/Add.1.

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives,¹⁷ on a yearly basis, and to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme¹¹ at its regular and special sessions, on the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its relevant expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations;
15. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to continue to report to Governments, through the Committee of the Permanent Representatives,¹⁷ in a streamlined manner through the merging of progress reporting on administrative and budgetary matters with its programme performance reporting;
16. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to organize regular briefings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives¹⁷ on the programme and budget performance of each subprogramme to enable the Committee¹⁷ to perform its monitoring task adequately;
17. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work, apart from those funds which are governed by other intergovernmental bodies and for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat functions;
18. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on proposed revisions to the financial rules and general procedures of the Environment Fund¹⁹ and acknowledges the need for a timely and efficient transition to International Public Sector Accounting Standards and other revisions to the financial rules that may be required to improve the United Nations Environment Programme's efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and responsiveness and requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant United Nations bodies and the Committee of Permanent Representatives,¹⁷ to take action and submit a report to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme⁹ at its next session;
19. *Notes* that the work programme and budget for the biennium 2014–2015 is part of a continuing process and that the allocation of the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme will be approved by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;
20. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme⁹ at its next session on the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2014–2015, taking into account the latest information on funding and projected expenditures;
21. *Recalls* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, stating that the United Nations Environment Programme should have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate, and calls for an allocation from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme that takes into account the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the implementation of paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a)–(h) of the “The future we want”,²⁰ as well as opportunities for increasing the efficient use of resources;
22. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the delivery of the programme of work supports and brings together regional and national programmes and activities in the medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 and the biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015 and takes into account regional priorities and regional frameworks, where they exist, and also requests the Executive Director to include information on regional programmes and activities by region in the progress report on the implementation of the work programme;
23. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, requests the Secretary-General in the preparation of his 2014–2015 budget submission to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme under review, as well as those of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in order to permit the effective delivery of necessary services;
24. *Urges* donors to increase voluntary funding to the United Nations Environment Programme, including to the Environment Fund;

¹⁹ UNEP/GC.27/14/Rev.1.

²⁰ A/Res/66/288, annex.

25. *Requests* the Executive Director in his efforts to mobilize resources for the United Nations Environment Programme to take actions so as to better reflect Governments' capacity to contribute to the Environment Fund;

26. *Notes* the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions to, and to enhance predictability in, the voluntary financing of the Environment Fund and requests the Executive Director to adapt the voluntary indicative scale of contributions in the light of the universal membership of the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with decisions SS.VII/1 and any subsequent decisions;

27. *Requests* the Executive Director in his efforts to mobilize resources for the United Nations Environment Programme to take action to strengthen and broaden the donor base of the Environment Fund;

28. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit for consideration and approval by the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives,¹⁷ a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 that continues to monitor and manage the share of the Environment Fund devoted respectively to post costs and non-post costs while clearly prioritizing the application of the resources of the Environment Fund to programme activities;

29. *Takes note* of the note by the Executive Director on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and those multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides the secretariat²¹ and the undertaking to provide a full report on this issue by 30 June 2013, and requests the Executive Director, in so doing, to deepen consultations with those multilateral environmental agreements, the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Board of Auditors and other appropriate bodies and to submit the final report to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session and to the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements;

30. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of its decision 19/32 and requests the Executive Director to ensure that the secretariat provides documentation and information related to the programme of work, budget and medium-term strategy to the Committee of Permanent Representatives¹⁷ at least four weeks in advance of the meeting at which it is to be considered.

Decision 27/14: Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions²²

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds,²³

I

Trust Funds in Support of the United Nations Environment Programme programme of work

1. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council:

A. General trust funds

SLP – Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants, which was established in 2012 with an expiry date of 31 December 2017.

²¹ UNEP/GC.27/INF/20.

²² CFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework agreement on Strategic Cooperation between the Ministry of Environment Protection of China and UNEP and PGL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) have been inserted under section 1 operative paragraph 1 (b) by the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat in the finalization of the present document.

²³ UNEP/GC.27/11/Rev.1.

B. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) AFB – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for United Nations Environment Programme Activities as Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), which was established in 2011 with an expiry date of 31 December 2014;

(b) CFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and the United Nations Environment Programme, which was established in 2012 with an expiry date of 31 December 2017;

(c) ECL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Achievement of Contribution Agreement N° 21.0401/2011/608174/SUB/E2 – Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission – Directorate General of the Environment and – and the United Nations Environment Programme (covering ENRTP Priority 3.1 – Strengthening Environment Governance), which was established in 2011 with an expiry date of 31 December 2018;

(d) EAP – Multi-Donor Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan, which was established in 2011 with no expiry date;

(e) EUL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Achievement of Contribution Agreement N° DCI-ENV/2010/258-800 – Strategic Cooperation Agreement between European Commission – Directorate General for Development and Cooperation and the United Nations Environment Programme (covering ENRTP Priorities 1, 2 and 3.3. – Support for Mainstreaming), which was established in 2011 with an expiry date of 5 December 2020;

(f) NPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Management of the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund, which was established in 2011 with no expiry date;

(g) PGL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), which was established in January 2013 with no expiry date;

(h) SCP – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was established in 2012 with an expiry date of 23 January 2023;

2. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or donors:

C. General trust funds

(a) AML – General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(b) CWL – General Trust Fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(c) MCL – General Trust Fund in support of Activities on Mercury and its Compounds, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(d) SML – General Trust Fund for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(e) WPL – General Trust Fund to Provide Support to the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to Promote its Activities, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

D. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) AFB – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for United Nations Environment Programme Activities as Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(b) BPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (financed by the Government of Belgium), which is extended through 31 December 2015;

(c) ESS - Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA), which is extended through 31 December 2018;

- (d) CIL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Remediation Activities Following the Toxic Waste incident in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (e) GNL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (f) IAL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Ireland Aid Multilateral Environment Fund for Africa (financed by the Government of Ireland), which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (g) IEL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Priority Projects to Improve the Environment in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (financed by the Republic of Korea), which is extended through 31 December 2017;
- (h) MDL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, which is extended through 31 December 2015
- (i) REL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region (Financed by the Government of Italy), which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (j) SEL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Sweden, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (k) SFL - Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement between Spain and the United Nations Environment Programme, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

II

Trust funds in support of regional seas programmes, conventions, protocols and special funds

3. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust fund since the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council:

CAP – Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the Carpathian Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and Related Protocols, which was established in 2012 with an expiry date of December 2014;

4. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

A. General trust funds

- (a) AVL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, which is extended through 31 December 2017;
- (b) AWL – General Trust Fund for the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, which is extended through 31 December 2017;
- (c) BAL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltics, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, which is extended through 31 December 2017;
- (d) BCL – Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is extended through 31 December 2017;
- (e) BDL – Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is extended through 31 December 2017;
- (f) BEL – General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (g) BGL – General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

- (h) BHL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities of the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (i) BYL – General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (j) BZL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (k) CAP – Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the Carpathian Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related Protocols, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (l) CRL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (m) CTL - Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is extended through 31 December 2017;
- (n) EAL – Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (o) ESL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (p) MEL – Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (q) MSL – Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (r) MVL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (s) PNL – General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (t) ROL – General Trust Fund for the Operational Budget of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended through 31 December 2015.
- (u) WAL – Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, which is extended through 31 December 2015.

B. Technical cooperation trust funds

- (a) BIL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties, in particular the Least Developed and the Small Island Developing States among them and Parties with Economies in Transition (Biosafety Protocol), which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (b) RVL – Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended through 31 December 2015;
- (c) VBL – Voluntary Trust Fund to facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended through 31 December 2015;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report highlighting the challenges of managing multiple trust funds and to propose steps which could be taken to reduce the administrative burden of maintaining these trust funds.

Decision 27/15: Provisional agenda, date and venue of the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 66/288 of July 2012 and 67/213 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 57/283 B (paragraphs 9–11 of section II) of 15 April 2003, 61/236 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2006, 62/225 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2007, 63/248 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 24 December 2008, 64/230 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2009 and 65/245 (paragraph 10 of section II A) of 24 December 2010,

Taking into account its own decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013,

1. *Decides* to hold the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme²⁴ at its headquarters in Nairobi;²⁵

2. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to contribute to the preparation of the draft provisional agenda for the next session of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme.

²⁴ Designation is to be determined subject to adoption of resolution by the General Assembly on this matter. Dates to be decided in consultation with the Bureau of the governing body and Member States.

²⁵ Designation is to be determined subject to adoption of resolution by the General Assembly on this matter.

Annex II

Message of the Secretary-General to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-seventh session

I am pleased to send greetings to this historic gathering. For the first time, all United Nations Member States are participants in the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Universal membership – an outcome of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and endorsed by the General Assembly – reflects your key role as a policy-making forum on the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

I urge you to make the most of this opportunity. You understand how the environment underpins all social and economic development – past, present and future. It is a recurrent motif throughout the Millennium Development Goals and will be an indispensable component of the post-2015 development agenda. When the environment is neglected, poverty and instability follow. When it is nurtured, well-being and prosperity flourish.

You have a responsibility to articulate these truths and to help craft the policies and programmes that will benefit all people – and especially those most at risk from environmental degradation and climate change. To do so, you will need to engage closely with your counterparts in government to enable them to see that investing in the environment and a green economy is not a cost but a sound insurance policy for the future we want.

UNEP has the mandate to help you make the case. Its work over the years has already had a profound influence – from helping alert the world to the growing threat of climate change to building partnerships to phase out harmful lead in petrol. It is now time to build on this solid record of achievement.

In the General Assembly, discussions are taking place to provide additional resources for UNEP from the regular budget. Universal membership and predictable funding will greatly empower UNEP to provide the science and analysis we need to sustainably manage the developmental demands of a growing population while protecting and restoring essential ecosystems and tackling the root causes of climate change.

In the coming months I will count on UNEP to help carry forward some of the key Rio+20 outcomes, including the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and the formulation of sustainable development goals – which must have a strong environmental dimension. I will also continue to rely on UNEP support for important initiatives such as Sustainable Energy For All and the Zero Hunger Challenge.

We live in a time of profound transformation. The challenges are great, but so are the opportunities. We can afford no wrong turns. Under your wise stewardship, UNEP can be the guiding light we need to navigate to a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable world.

Annex III

First universal session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

President's summary of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. The first universal session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 18 to 22 February 2013, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/213, represents an historic milestone, furthering the implementation of provisions contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want", which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288.
2. The Global Ministerial Environment Forum consultations that took place during the first universal session, from 18 to 20 February 2013, focused on emerging policy issues under the overall theme "Rio +20: from outcomes to implementation" and their indissoluble link to the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP as a central piece of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
3. The ministerial consultations included the following activities:
 - (a) Ministerial plenary session entitled "Rio +20: from outcomes to implementation";
 - (b) Parallel ministerial roundtable discussions on responsiveness to country needs; the science-policy interface; secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to fulfil the mandate of UNEP; stakeholder participation; future ministerial engagement and institutional arrangements;
 - (c) Parallel ministerial roundtable discussions on environmental challenges within sustainable development and the UNEP contribution to sustainable development goals; and promoting sustainable consumption and production;
 - (d) Executive Director's dialogue on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
 - (e) Ministerial consultations with the Executive Director on key issues;
 - (f) Closing ministerial plenary session;
4. Many background documents were available to inform the dialogue, including the Rio +20 outcome document, "The future we want" (resolution 66/288); resolution 67/203, which provides for follow-up on Rio +20 processes and the implementation of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns; and resolution 67/213, which provides for strengthening and upgrading UNEP pursuant to the Rio +20 outcomes.
5. This President's summary of the ministerial consultations highlights the issues that ministers discussed with regard to strengthening and upgrading UNEP in the context of Rio +20.
6. The summary is a reflection of the interactive dialogue that occurred between the ministers and other heads of delegation. It reflects the ideas presented and discussed rather than a consensus view of participants. Hence, it is not a negotiated document.

I. Rio +20 from outcome to implementation

7. Participants in the first ministerial plenary session focused on the overall theme "Rio +20: from outcome to implementation" and made a series of considerations related to the implementation of paragraph 88 of the "The future we want" and General Assembly resolutions 66/288, 67/203 and 67/213.
8. Particular attention was given to the institutional arrangements required to follow up on those decisions taken at Rio +20 and corresponding General Assembly resolutions in order to strengthen and upgrade UNEP. The historic responsibility of the Governing Council at its first universal session was highlighted in this context.
9. The ministerial dialogue stressed the risks that overburdening institutional arrangements could present to the expeditious and effective implementation of paragraph 88 of The future we want and highlighted the opportunities arising from universal membership in the UNEP Governing Council, particularly for advancing towards a more participatory and effective UNEP, focused on implementation.

10. The need to ensure secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources for the implementation of paragraph 88 of the Rio +20 outcomes, General Assembly resolutions 66/288, 67/203 and 67/213 and the UNEP programme of work was also recognized during the consultations. In that context, it was also said that financial constraints imposed a need to prioritize and posed difficulties for the fulfilment of the UNEP mandate and substantive programme of work.

11. The need to strengthen the science-policy interface, the related UNEP role and capacity-building was another recurring issue in the dialogue among ministers. Fragmentation and limitations in monitoring and data collection were mentioned as some of the hindering factors for the consolidation of an effective science policy-interface that supported policy-making. Furthermore, it was noted that UNEP could have a significant role to play with respect to the coordination of existing scientific institutional arrangements and dissemination of information, as well as in enhancing cooperation with other bodies and multilateral environmental agreements.

12. There was a wide call for the strengthening of the UNEP regional, subregional and national presence in order to enhance its responsiveness to country needs and demands.

13. The effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development was central to the consultations. Imbalances and insufficiencies were identified in this context. Particular priority was given to the need to further integrate the environmental dimension into the wider perspective of sustainable development and to avoid working in silos.

14. The sustainable development goals and the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and framework were also mentioned during the ministerial discussions. The unique and historic opportunity to better integrate the environmental dimension of sustainable development as well as to enhance the contribution of UNEP to the United Nations development agenda were highlighted.

15. Likewise, it was recalled that UNEP had a leading role in environmental matters within the United Nations institutional framework and that its contribution to the United Nations system and its relation to other bodies such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the proposed high-level political forum described in paragraphs 84–86 of the “The future we want” should be recognized in that light.

16. The dialogue also reaffirmed that poverty eradication and related challenges remained a priority within the sustainable development agenda. While it was said that the potential of the green economy could be further realized in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication in accordance with the Rio +20 outcomes, the discussion highlighted the importance of observing national circumstances and priorities.

17. Engagement with stakeholders in the decision-making process on environmental matters and sustainable development was also addressed by the ministers. The dialogue stressed that greater engagement of all stakeholders and civil society, including the private sector, could contribute to the relevance of the work of the UNEP Governing Council.

18. Various matters related to clean technologies, as well as sustainable consumption and production, were repeatedly cited as important components of the environmental and sustainable development agenda. Ministers also raised diverse and more specific thematic issues during the dialogue. These included, among others, means of implementation, cooperation with developing countries, coherence among multilateral environmental agreements, climate change, chemicals, biodiversity and water.

II. Implementation of paragraph 88 of “The future we want”

A. Responsiveness to country needs

19. Many delegates called for strengthening the regional and subregional presence of UNEP and placing greater importance on the needs of regions and countries. Support was voiced for better coordination through the United Nations Delivering as One approach, South-South cooperation and taking into consideration priority actions of Governments in the UNEP programme of work.

20. Ministers voiced support for more emphasis on capacity-building and technology transfer to fully respect the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Transfer and Capacity-building and in support of multilateral environmental agreements and internationally agreed goals.

B. Science policy-interface

21. Many ministers highlighted important steps needed to strengthen the environmental dimension of sustainable development and reinforce the role of UNEP in science and policy linkages. Strengthening of the science-policy interface was viewed as a prerequisite to strengthening UNEP.

22. Some delegates suggested establishing a permanent scientific body as a means of strengthening the science-policy interface. Such a body should be independent and promote cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements and should not duplicate the work of other bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

23. Strong support was expressed for the science-policy role played by the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) and greater access to science-based information through an approach like UNEP-Live, especially for Member States asking for support for their efforts to strengthen their scientific institutions.

24. Finally, it was suggested by some that linking the ministerial segments of Governing Council sessions to the Global Environment Outlook (e.g., a “global conference on the state of the environment”) could increase visibility and further strengthen the science-policy interface.

C. Secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to fulfil the mandate of UNEP

25. Ministers stressed the clear intention of strengthening UNEP, as called for in “The future we want” and confirmed by the General Assembly. In that regard, they highlighted the need for secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources for UNEP, including from the United Nations regular budget and voluntary contributions, to enable the effective implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes. Some delegates observed that international environmental governance funding was fragmented and stressed the importance of creating greater financial efficiencies.

D. Stakeholder participation

26. Enhanced civil society, major group and other stakeholder engagement was seen as an important political commitment from Rio+20 and should be translated into concrete action during the current session of the Governing Council and beyond. There was strong support for the establishment of a formal mechanism or mechanisms, including through the rules of procedure, to strengthen stakeholder engagement, which should be based on best practices and lessons implemented in other United Nations organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the World Bank.

E. Future ministerial engagements and institutional arrangements

27. The discussion emphasized that a strengthened and upgraded UNEP would have significant implications for future ministerial engagement and institutional arrangements. A strengthened and upgraded UNEP should provide for a stronger voice and participation of ministers of environment at the international level.

28. There were several suggestions for new names for the Governing Council to reflect its upgraded status and universal character, including “Environment Assembly”, “Global Environment Assembly” and “United Nations Environment Assembly”.

29. Some suggested the introduction of a high-level segment of the sessions of the governing body, which could be convened, for example, during the last days of the sessions, to serve as a forum for the adoption of decisions and the making of political commitments.

30. Several delegates emphasized the need for improved planning and preparation of sessions of the governing body, including ministerial segments, to enable ministers to engage substantively and take the necessary decisions on matters of critical importance. Ministerial engagement was viewed as part of increasing the role of UNEP in coordinating work on environmental issues in the United Nations system.

31. Some Member States stressed that strengthening UNEP did not automatically imply a bigger UNEP. The focus should be on deepening impact, ensuring better processes and systems and avoiding overlap and the duplication of ongoing work.

III. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

32. Ministers focused on the new opportunities and challenges that have emerged since the historic agreements at Rio+20, in particular the need to move from dialogue and discussion to concrete and tangible actions to accelerate the transition to more sustainable, inclusive and enduring economies.

33. Participants stressed that there was a need to overcome the mentality that economic growth could only come at the expense of the environment and vice-versa. Many voiced the idea that the environment ministers of today were the ones who could overcome this win-lose mentality.

34. It was noted that there would be many challenges in securing a transition to a green economy. Ministers signalled that, in the midst of an economic recession in which high unemployment continued all over the world, a central feature of a green economy should be its ability to deliver jobs.

35. Additionally, ministers noted several barriers to achieving a transition to a green economy, including skills gaps, a lack of knowledge about possible policy instruments, technological barriers, perceptions of higher costs of clean technology and inadequate financing.

36. They observed that, despite increasing awareness, the prevalence of perverse subsidies continued to distort price signals and efficient resource allocation, and their reform was both a priority and major challenge.

37. Some underlined that a key element of success for global transformation of the economy was the adoption of cleaner technologies in developed countries and the transfer of those cleaner technologies to developing countries, which remained a challenge. For example, there was still widespread use of fuel wood in some developing countries, and there was a perception that cleaner technologies were more expensive and out of reach. In that regard, there was a request for help for countries facing a similar situation with regard to access to inexpensive and cost-effective technology to meet their energy needs.

38. Some delegates voiced concern about whether the green economy was affordable for the poor or for low-income countries.

39. Despite the clear challenges, ministers also expressed optimism and noted emerging opportunities to accelerate a shift towards lower carbon and socially inclusive economies. They noted that while transforming to a green economy was difficult even in developed countries, with smart policies it could open new investment and business opportunities.

40. Many identified a key role for ministers of environment in driving forward a green economy transformation, underlining the need to involve all government ministries to produce lasting change. It was suggested that partnerships of different organizations should be seen as an opportunity to respond creatively to country requests and that the new Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) was well suited to this, as it had flexibility built into it.

41. Ministers noted that some countries had accomplished a good deal in transforming their economies already, outlining their achievements in renewable energy, forestry and water management, among other sectors, and underlined that good lessons could be taken from them and shared. For some, the green economy was a matter of survival: the nexus between forests, water and agriculture was linked to life, growth and well-being and underpinned the economy of many small agricultural economies.

42. It was suggested that countries should consider a focus on transforming those areas of the economy that were easier first: energy, water and agriculture, depending on the endowments of a country. Ministers observed that close partnership with the business community was important and could open new pathways to growth and prosperity.

43. Opportunities and challenges in the transition to a green economy faced both developing and developed countries; the emphasis on sectors might change, but the necessary shift in investment, policies and skills profiles applied across income and development levels. Ministers pointed out that every country needed growth, but a different kind of growth, and said that creating new jobs was critical, particularly for youth.

44. Ministers signalled that Rio+20 called for action and response from United Nations agencies to support capacity-building and knowledge sharing in and across countries. They noted that PAGE was a concrete and tangible response to that call, bringing together several United Nations agencies to better serve countries and to deliver on skills building, capacity development and support for enhanced policy frameworks that would catalyse private engagement and trigger the financing necessary to produce a

new kind of economic model and growth – one that delivered jobs and incomes and alleviated poverty while enhancing environmental sustainability.

IV. Environmental challenges within sustainable development and the UNEP contribution to sustainable development goals and promoting sustainable consumption and production

45. The participants in the ministerial roundtables discussed the issues related to the Rio+20 outcomes on sustainable development goals and the implementation of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

46. Ministers expressed the need to integrate the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals agenda, saying that they were two sides of the same coin. They highlighted that achieving sustainable patterns of consumption and production could be an important part of the post-2015 development agenda and should be one of the sustainable development goals.

47. Many representatives observed that UNEP should play an important role in promoting environmental sustainability in sustainable development goals and in the post-2015 development agenda because of its unique mandate and its role in fostering the science-policy interface.

48. It was said that sustainable development goals should take into account all Rio principles, focus primarily on the eradication of poverty and truly incorporate the three dimensions of sustainable development.

49. It was said that sustainable development goals could help to promote economic transformation in developed and emerging economies and that they should encourage innovative approaches to enable people to get out of poverty and encourage universal aspirations for prosperity and well-being.

50. Ministers observed that the sustainable development goals should be complemented with high, medium and low time-bound goals and targets at the regional and national levels. Increased international awareness of the green economy could provide a substantive contribution to the development of the post-2015 development agenda.

51. It was said that sustainable development goals should promote poverty eradication, equity, justice, democratic governance and human rights. Peace and security should also be part of the post-2015 framework. Sustainable development goals should aim beyond increasing GDP, taking into consideration the social and environmental dimensions.

52. It was highlighted that sustainable development goals and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns should build on existing work and international agreements, should take into consideration the special needs of small island developing States, least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and countries in Africa and should involve local authorities in implementation and take into account the special role of women.

53. Ministers noted that the 10-year framework of programmes provided a platform for supporting a shift to sustainable consumption and production, including through capacity-building, mobilization of resources, sharing best practices and encouraging long-term thinking in policy-making.

54. It was said that the 10-year framework of programmes sought to promote sustainability in key economic sectors, with particular emphasis on maximizing impacts in relation to food security, water and energy. The framework provided the opportunity to address the potential of public and private consumption, particularly through the mainstreaming and up-scaling of sustainable public procurement, and improved consumer information.

55. Ministers noted that sustainable consumption and production was important for future sustainable development. Sustainable development goals and the framework of programmes offered opportunities to mainstream sustainability, eradicate poverty and advance gender equity in global goals and in different economic sectors. Job creation was also cited as a priority.

56. It was argued by some that since UNEP had been given the mandate at Rio+20 to implement the 10-year framework of programmes it should be provided with resources to enable it to deliver better services and knowledge to countries.

V. Ministerial consultation with the Executive Director on key issues

57. Ministers and other delegates spoke clearly and unequivocally regarding the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP. UNEP is regarded as the authoritative voice of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. In accordance with the Rio + 20 outcome document, “The future we want”, and General Assembly resolution 67/213, a clear mandate exists for UNEP to have a high-level forum for ministers of the environment to provide guidance, influence the global debate and take decisions on priority environmental issues. Member states supported the UNEP role in the science-policy interface. The need for active engagement of major groups and civil society was reinforced throughout the ministerial consultations and discussions with the Executive director.

Annex IV

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Ms. Nthabiseng Malefane (South Africa)

Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its twenty-seventh session, on 18 February 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum established a Committee of the Whole to consider agenda items 4 (a), 4 (c)–4 (f) and 5–8. The Committee was also to consider draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP and proposed for adoption by the Governing Council, which were contained in document UNEP/GC.27/L.1, a draft decision submitted by a Government, which was contained in document UNEP/GC.26/L.2, and other draft decisions proposed during the session.

2. In accordance with the decision of the Governing Council, the Committee of the Whole held 11 meetings from 18 to 22 February 2013. As decided by the Bureau, the Committee was chaired by Ms. Idunn Eidheim (Norway). The Committee elected Ms. Nthabiseng Malefane (South Africa) to serve as its Rapporteur.

I. Opening of the meeting

3. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the meeting at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 18 February 2013. Ms. Amina Mohamed, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP, made an introductory statement.

4. The Deputy Executive Director, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director, welcomed participants to the Committee of the Whole of the first universal session of the Governing Council. Among the areas covered by the 13 draft decisions currently before the Governing Council, she drew particular attention to the institutional arrangements related to the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP; sustainable consumption and production; the proposed medium-term strategy for 2014–2017; and the proposed budget and programme of work for 2014–2015.

5. With regard to the institutional arrangements, the Council would have to consider a new name for the governing body of UNEP, new rules of procedure and the future of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum. It would also have to discuss the frequency and structure of its own sessions, the possibility of high-level segments, intersessional arrangements, the reconfiguration of the Bureau and the engagement of civil society. The informal discussions that had taken place in the Committee of Permanent Representatives in recent weeks would provide a useful starting point for the deliberations.

6. Regarding sustainable consumption and production, she recalled that world leaders at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) adopted the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and that UNEP had been requested to serve as its secretariat and to establish and administer a trust fund to support implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The draft decision on the subject would authorize the Executive Director, as head of the secretariat, to respond to that request by working with the framework's board as well as with relevant United Nations bodies and other partners. It also invited contributions to the trust fund.

7. As for the proposed medium-term strategy for 2014–2015, which called for secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions, the core objective was to catalyse a transition towards low-carbon, low-emission, resource-efficient and equitable development based on the protection and sustainable use of ecosystem services, coherent and improved environmental governance, and the reduction of environmental risks. To that end, it had been proposed that UNEP focus on seven priority areas – climate change; disasters and conflicts; ecosystem management; environmental governance; chemicals and waste; resource efficiency; and keeping the environment under review – and that in so doing it should assume full leadership on environmental matters in the United Nations system. The proposed medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 included specific expected outcomes and indicators for each subprogramme, as well as for executive direction and management. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategy and the proposed programme of work, and to fulfil the mandate given to UNEP by world leaders at Rio+20, the budget should be balanced, focused, predictable and sustainable while taking into account the current financial challenges and climate of fiscal austerity.

8. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, speaking on behalf of African States, stressed that in order to realize the full benefits of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, especially with respect to the environment pillar, the Governing Council at its first universal session should consider the issues of job creation, food security and poverty eradication. Many African countries had already initiated action plans or strategies to achieve these ends, and their efforts needed to be acknowledged and supported at the regional and global levels in order to address Africa's limited financial, technological and other resources. He therefore called for the adoption of a decision on the matter.

9. UNEP, he said, had a key role to play in assisting Africa in meeting its environmental obligations, with a particular focus on the need, among others, to conserve scarce resources by strengthening its governing and subsidiary bodies, as opposed to creating new ones; to ensure that participation and voting patterns in those bodies were based on the principle of universality and equality, taking into account geographical representation and distribution; to prioritize the development of a clear roadmap for consolidating or moving UNEP headquarters functions and offices to Nairobi; and to give regional offices a clear mandate and authority for implementation and for developing regional programmes with adequately staffed subregional offices or focal points underpinned by access to UNEP technical assistance and funding. African States attached particular importance to the establishment of five subregional offices in Africa and to consolidating UNEP work at the country level through country programmes, which could serve as mechanisms for mobilizing political support and additional resources for the implementation of the various commitments to be made at the current session.

II. Organization of work

10. The Committee agreed to follow the programme of work circulated to Committee members at its 1st meeting in a conference room paper. Delegations were requested to submit any draft decisions to the secretary of the Governing Council by the end of the afternoon meeting on Monday, 18 February. Draft decisions would be discussed under the relevant agenda items.

11. The Committee agreed to establish a working group on the budget and programme of work, chaired by Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile). The Chair of the Committee of the Whole also noted that at its 1st plenary meeting the Governing Council had established a working group on institutional arrangements and rules of procedure, which would be co-chaired by Mr. Luis Javier Campuzano (Mexico) and Mr. Farrukh Iqbal Khan (Pakistan).

12. In considering the items under its remit, the Committee had before it the documentation outlined for each item in the annotated agenda for the current session (UNEP/GC.27/1/Add.1).

13. The representative of Colombia drew attention to a conference room paper it circulated containing a draft decision on oceans, which aimed to highlight the increasing need for holistic, integrated management of ocean resources. In view of the various United Nations initiatives currently under way in that field, such as the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, it was the right time to tackle the issue at the highest international level. The Colombian delegation was ready and willing to provide any further information required.

III. Policy issues (agenda item 4)

A. State of the environment (agenda item 4 (a))

1. Sustainable consumption and production

14. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/GC.27/5, providing information on the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.XII/7, as requested in paragraph 7 of that decision. She recalled the adoption of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns in paragraph 226 of "The future we want" and highlighted other aspects of progress in activities relevant to sustainable consumption and production in which UNEP was involved.

15. In the ensuing discussion a number of representatives called for the Committee to base its work at the current session on the versions of the draft decisions prepared by the Committee set out in a compilation dated 28 January 2013, rather than the edited versions of those draft decisions set out in document UNEP/GC.27/L.1, noting that the latter document had only been circulated the previous day and that Member States had since 28 January continued to revise and discuss the draft decisions in the

document of that date. The Committee accordingly agreed to base its work on the draft decisions in the document circulated to Member States on 28 January 2013.

16. Many representatives welcomed the long-awaited adoption of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and said that they looked forward to engaging with other stakeholders in its implementation. One representative said that the adoption of the ten-year framework represented a specific outcome of Rio+20, which could be implemented immediately and should become one of the flagship programmes of UNEP. There was broad recognition of the major role that UNEP had played and could continue to play on sustainable consumption and production. A number of representatives stressed the importance attached to the matter in their own countries and described related initiatives.

17. Several representatives said that countries should develop policies and national targets related to sustainable consumption and production based on their own national priorities, circumstances and institutional arrangements.

18. One representative, recalling the provisions set out in General Assembly resolution 67/203, emphasized the importance of building on lessons learned from the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production. A number of representatives cautioned against reopening discussions on the carefully negotiated outcomes of the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and Rio+20. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that existing expertise, knowledge, resources and initiatives could be used in continuing work on sustainable consumption and production and that United Nations entities had a great deal to contribute to such work through their regular programmes.

19. Several representatives called for financial and in-kind support for the ten-year framework. One representative said that contributions should be forthcoming from all countries, led initially by developed countries. Another representative underscored the need for countries to contribute new and additional resources to the trust fund to be established in support of the ten-year framework of programmes, especially for implementation in developing countries.

20. One representative drew attention to the important contribution that the ten-year framework of programmes could make to the work of the High-level Panel on Sustainable Development and said that the latter should serve as a permanent subsidiary body to the board of the ten-year framework.

21. One representative expressed support for the ten-year framework as a systemic and coordinated effort in advancing sustainable consumption and production and said that it was necessary to embed sustainable consumption and production in the post-2015 development agenda. He recommended the development of tangible, manageable and achievable measures to facilitate the implementation of sustainable consumption and production at the national level and to address relevant aspects of the post-2015 development agenda.

22. A number of representatives said that the ten-year framework should focus on capacity-building, sharing of best practices and technology transfer. One called for environmentally sound technology transfer to developing countries on concessional terms, together with financial and technical support for capacity-building. Another emphasized the importance of attainable indicators at the national level. One representative said that the ten-year framework should accommodate the needs of developing countries, in particular, and that sustainable consumption and production patterns should be promoted in all countries on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

23. One representative said that the ten-year framework should adopt a bottom-up approach while another said that the implementation of the ten-year framework should be practical, identifying good practices and barriers to sustainable consumption and production patterns, facilitating mutual learning, fully engaging civil society and incorporating the special role of local and regional authorities.

24. One representative said that the ten-year framework should extend to mobility, agriculture and food. Strong horizontal leadership was necessary to effect change, he said, and it was important to systematically integrate the cost of environmental impacts into the price of goods and services through a mix of policy instruments. Another highlighted the importance of clear norms and standards that were accessible to small and medium-sized enterprises.

25. One representative said that UNEP should not hesitate to draw attention to areas in which international agreements were needed. The absence of such agreements should not be used as an excuse for inaction at the national and local levels, where innovative environmental and social action could set important trends.

26. Another representative called for environmental awareness-raising for all stakeholders, including consumers, and the establishment of institutional frameworks to facilitate the procurement of environmentally friendly products through proactive leadership. Saying that the “three Rs” (reduce, reuse, recycle) approach should be promoted widely, he expressed appreciation for UNEP leadership of the Global Partnership on Waste Management in that regard. Another said that initiatives to reduce waste and promote education on sustainable practices were integral to sustainable consumption and production. Many industries were implementing practical programmes in that regard, including intra-industry initiatives promoting sustainability objectives that represented a significant contribution to advancing sustainable consumption and production patterns. Such programmes should be acknowledged and integrated into the thinking of Governments as a resource to build on.

27. A representative of the farmers’ major group called on the Governing Council to include sustainable food and agricultural systems in the ten-year framework of programmes. Sustainable foods were critical given global reliance on biodiversity, natural resources and eco-processes in food and agriculture. Agriculture was the mainstay of economies in many developing countries and many of the poorest and most vulnerable populations should be engaged in agriculture-based sustainable development as a means of poverty eradication. Combining food and agriculture enabled a life cycle approach to addressing important challenges, and governments at all levels should engage with farmers at the local and regional levels to develop sustainable public procurement policies and initiatives to establish sustainable food and agriculture systems.

28. He also called on the Governing Council to increase linkages and synergies at the policy and programmatic levels between UNEP work on sustainable consumption and production, the green economy and chemicals and waste; to develop specific interfaces and platforms through which major groups and stakeholders could provide expert and policy advice; to substantially increase means for implementation of major groups’ and stakeholders’ participation by introducing a budget line for that purpose; and to pay particular attention to facilitating the participation of stakeholders with the least opportunities for so doing, especially those from developing countries and vulnerable communities.

29. A representative of the business and industry major group said that Governments had a critical role to play in developing policies to advance sustainable consumption and production, including through fostering innovation. Sustainable consumption and production involved many aspects of business management, including corporate reporting, which many industries were already engaged in. He urged avoidance of “one-size-fits-all” reporting programmes that would divert attention and resources at the enterprise or Government levels.

30. Following a line-by-line consideration of the draft decision on sustainable consumption and production, the Committee agreed that an informal group of interested representatives would discuss the remaining bracketed sections with a view to presenting a revised version for consideration by the Committee.

31. At its 9th meeting the Committee approved the draft decision on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

2. World environment situation

32. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat provided an update on the publications and other means by which UNEP worked to keep the environment under review. The value of the flagship Global Environment Outlook assessment series in bridging the science-policy gap had been recognized in paragraph 90 of “The future we want”, but although the fifth edition identified over 100 ways of speeding up implementation it also showed that little or no progress had been achieved on most of the internationally agreed environmental goals adopted since 1972. UNEP was currently preparing a new related product for the business community that took the unprecedented step of looking at the impact of the environment on business. The 2013 UNEP Yearbook, which provided a summary of environmental trends and tracked progress towards sustainable development, highlighted two major emerging issues: first, the rapid changes in the Arctic were opening up new development opportunities, such as oil exploration and new shipping lanes, but those activities posed new threats to ecosystems, suggesting a need for a coordinated government response; second, the chemicals industry was not assessing the environmental impacts of the vast majority of chemicals currently on the market. Furthermore, as highlighted in the Global Chemicals Outlook synthesis report for decision-makers, the production and use of chemicals continued to shift from developed to developing countries, causing a growing economic and health burden. The synthesis for decision makers offered a range of policy recommendations, and its key message was that while the use of chemicals provided opportunities to enhance economic growth, relatively little was known of their impact on the three pillars of sustainable development. The International Resource Panel, whose key message focused on the need to shift to less

resource-intensive means of improving human well-being through economic activities, had produced reports on topics such as the decoupling of natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic growth; recycling rates of metals; responsible resource management for a sustainable world; and measuring water use in a green economy.

33. Turning to other initiatives, he said that the web-based UNEP-Live project was entering a new phase that emphasized building partnerships with national and regional environment programmes and agencies; that initial funding had been granted to the special initiatives of the Eye on Earth Network; and that the relatively new Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) was currently preparing a report on global research priorities and an assessment manual. Meanwhile, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its first meeting in Bonn in January 2013, had confirmed 106 members, elected a Bureau and a 25-member multidisciplinary expert panel and developed an ambitious intersessional process. He concluded his presentation by drawing attention to the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the new implementing arm of the technology mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Funded from a variety of extrabudgetary resources, its mission included efforts to stimulate cooperation and assist developing countries in acquiring climate-friendly mitigation and adaptation technologies. The relevant draft decision authorized the Executive Director to sign a memorandum of understanding with the head of the Framework Convention secretariat.

34. Ms. Renate Christ, Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, presented an update on developments since the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council, which included the release of two special reports. The first, on renewable energy sources and mitigation, indicated that the technical potential of renewables exceeded current energy demand and that prices were already competitive in various settings, concluding that they had great potential for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. The second special report, on managing risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation, found that some extremes had changed owing to anthropogenic activities but that the severity of climate change impacts also depended on the level of exposure and vulnerability; it examined the range of economic, social, cultural, geographic, governmental and other factors that were crucial to preparedness and adaptation. Another key development had been the provision of recommendations by the InterAcademy Council, based on a review of the Panel's processes and procedures, which included changes to governance and management structures, the approval of a conflict of interest policy and a new communication strategy. The Panel's fifth assessment report was currently being finalized for publication later in the year and work had begun on drafting the Pacific Southwest region synthesis reports.

35. Current activities included the work of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories in preparing supplementary guidelines for wetlands to address gaps in the Panel's 2006 greenhouse-gas inventory guidelines and on revised supplementary methods and good practice guidance arising from the Kyoto Protocol for land use change and forestry; both reports would be released at the thirty-seventh session of the Panel. Meanwhile, 219 applications had been received for the second round of the Panel's scholarship programme, which centred on topics such as climate change-related economic modelling, the underlying science of climate change and climate change and water. Lastly, as the Panel approached the end of its current assessment cycle it was preparing to initiate consultations about its future, which would give Governments an opportunity to discuss matters such as the mandate and structure of the Panel's working groups, the frequency and timing of assessments and possible cooperation with other processes and relevant partners.

36. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed for the role of UNEP in global environmental assessment and in organizing the wealth of available environmental data and information, as well as for the recognition of that role in the "The future we want". Several representatives encouraged UNEP to continue to develop partnerships with Governments, stakeholders and other partners, including with the scientific community, in order to strengthen its various assessments and to enhance the availability of scientifically credible, evidence-based information and best practices. One representative requested that the Executive Director encourage broader stakeholder participation. A number of representatives highlighted the importance of UNEP reports and other initiatives in bridging the science-policy gap and supporting decision-making at every level. One representative suggested that the relevant draft decisions should request UNEP to conduct a review of assessment practices in order to promote best practices and to develop a set of overarching assessment procedures, together with standards aimed at ensuring that they remained balanced and free from outside influences. Another representative said that there was a need to take into account the findings of other official sources in order to increase the ability of countries to secure the evidence needed for policy-related assessments, saying that the establishment and implementation of UNEP-Live would be a significant step in that respect. One representative expressed appreciation for the proposal to prepare a report on gender and the environment.

37. Many representatives expressed appreciation for the Global Environment Outlook, with one saying that lessons should be drawn from *GEO-5* in preparing the sixth Global Environment Outlook report and another that the proposed intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultations should be convened as soon as possible to ensure a sustained pool of expertise for that work. Several representatives supported the further development of UNEP-Live, which would provide an opportunity for UNEP to strengthen its assessment and information-related work in an effective and resource-efficient way. Sharing data, information and assessments was key to good environmental governance, helping citizens and Governments alike in their decision-making processes.

38. One representative of a non-governmental organization welcomed the focus in the 2013 UNEP Yearbook on emerging environmental issues related to the Arctic, saying that time was running out to tackle the significant threats caused by the melting icecaps, which would have consequences for the entire planet. Among other things, projects to exploit the new opportunities in the Arctic should not be approved before their potential impacts had been assessed and adequate management frameworks put in place; a global sanctuary should also be created in the international waters around the North Pole; and a moratorium should be imposed on industrial fishing in the previously inaccessible areas of the Arctic region. The enhancement of UNEP work in the region in recent years was welcome, and Governments should act on its recommendations.

39. The Committee agreed to establish a contact group, chaired by Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile), to consider the related draft decisions.

40. At its 10th plenary meeting the Committee approved a draft omnibus decision on the state of the environment and the UNEP contribution to meeting substantive environmental challenges for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

3. Chemicals and waste management

41. The Committee took up the item at its 3rd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday 19 February 2013. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat presented document UNEP/GC.27/4, which provided information on the implementation of decision 25/5, on chemicals management, and decision 26/3, on chemicals and waste management. The document, he said, dealt with four main areas of UNEP activity, relating to lead and cadmium, mercury, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and waste management.

42. Mr. Bakary Kante, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP, introduced document UNEP/GC.27/8, on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster and implementation of Governing Council decision 26/12. He said that the decision, as recalled in decision SS.XII/5, had requested the Executive Director to facilitate and support an inclusive, country-driven consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and waste cluster in the long term. Owing to the busy international agenda, however, it had not been possible to identify suitable dates on which to convene the first meeting of the process, and the Executive Director had recommended that the mandate for the process be extended for two years until the next ordinary session of the Governing Council.

43. The Chair added that five related draft decisions were before the Committee: three from the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, on chemicals and waste management, and on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster; an omnibus draft decision on chemicals and waste management, submitted by the United States of America in a conference room paper; and a draft decision on the integration of the Minamata convention on mercury into the chemicals and waste cluster, submitted by Switzerland in a conference room paper.

44. Introducing the draft decision on the Minamata convention, the representative of Switzerland said that the intention of the draft decision was to suggest a mechanism by which secretariat and financial support could be made available for those countries that wanted to implement mercury management activities in the interim period prior to entry into force of the convention and to ensure that the convention would fully benefit from the cooperation and expertise of the chemicals and waste cluster. An appropriate arrangement for achieving those aims would be for the joint secretariat of 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 to provide the services and support needed during the interim period. The proposal was not intended to pre-empt any decisions that might be taken at the diplomatic conference in Japan in October 2013, when the mercury instrument would be signed.

45. Introducing the omnibus draft decision on chemicals and waste management, the representative of the United States of America said that the Governing Council had a number of issues to resolve in the chemicals and wastes sphere, and the intention of the draft decision was to simplify the decision-making process by consolidating a number of other interrelated draft decisions into one omnibus decision.

46. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives said that they attached importance to chemicals and waste management and drew attention to the harmful effects of the improper use and disposal of hazardous chemicals and wastes on human health, the environment and economic activities.

47. Regarding the draft decisions before the Committee, several representatives saw merit in the preparation of an omnibus decision as proposed by the United States of America, although several expressed concern that significant content might be lost in the process of consolidation.

48. On the issue of mercury, there was broad recognition of the considerable achievement represented by the development of the proposed Minamata Convention by the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury. Several representatives said that while the concept behind the Swiss proposal was praiseworthy, and efforts to enhance synergies were to be welcomed, it was necessary to respect the decision-making responsibilities of other bodies and to stay within the mandate of the Governing Council. One representative, supporting the Swiss proposal, said that the Governing Council should give a strong signal regarding the need for extensive cooperation between any interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the existing secretariats of the chemicals and waste conventions. Several representatives said that it was necessary to continue to support existing initiatives on mercury, including the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

49. On the subject of the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and the Executive Director's report on its outcomes, there was general recognition of the importance of the process given the need for coordinated action on chemicals and wastes to protect human health and the environment and the need to mobilize sufficient resources to achieve that aim. Several representatives welcomed the integrated approach involving three main elements – mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and wastes into development, industry involvement and dedicated external financing. Several representatives noted that the report was not a negotiated, agreed text, saying that it was open to further discussion. One representative said that the way forward should be based on the extensive work already undertaken and that the focus should be on identification and operationalization of key elements.

50. There was consensus that there was a need to make further progress on the issue and to resolve the reservations and concerns of a number of countries. Several representatives said that there was a lack of balance in the proposal, as the first two elements placed considerable responsibility on national entities for implementation, while the third element provided inadequate resources to achieve the desired aims, and that there was a need for further elaboration on how dedicated external financing was to be mobilized and how the first two elements would be strengthened. Several representatives said that a new dedicated trust fund was required, modelled on the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. Several representatives welcomed the proposal to use the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a major source of financing for chemicals and wastes, saying that the Facility's existing replenishment system would provide assurance of more sustainable financing. Others, however, expressed doubt that GEF could generate sufficient and predictable funding.

51. On the issue of enhancing cooperation in the chemicals and wastes cluster, several representatives said that the importance of the matter was evident from recent developments in the international development agenda, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the negotiations to complete the Minamata convention and the increasing recognition by Governments and others of the need for a holistic approach to the sound management of chemicals for the protection of human health and the environment. The representative of a group of countries, while welcoming the progress made in enhancing coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, said that further efforts should be made to exploit synergies in the wider chemicals and wastes cluster. A number of representatives expressed the desire to make progress on the matter as soon as possible but said that the first meeting of the consultative process should be postponed.

52. With regard to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, one representative noted the progress made in its implementation, including in the areas of emerging policy issues, mainstreaming the social costs of unsound chemicals management and enhanced engagement of the health sector, and urged countries to make efficient use of the extended life of the Quick Start Programme. Another representative welcomed the decision at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to extend the Quick Start Programme, which had helped many

countries, particularly developing countries, develop tools for sound chemicals management, but said that a lack of financial support hindered implementation of the programme and urged donors to rectify the situation. Another representative expressed disappointment, saying that progress on the development of a workplan on endocrine-disrupting chemicals under the Strategic Approach was slow.

53. A number of representatives said that there was a need to strengthen the regime for the environmentally sound management of wastes. Several stressed the role of global partnerships in promoting activities related to sound waste management, and one highlighted the importance of a life-cycle approach and engagement of the entire value chain in waste management. Some underscored the importance of the issue for developing countries, particularly with regard to electronic waste, and one called for increased funding for programmes and activities on sound chemicals management.

54. Several representatives urged that momentum be maintained in the global efforts to manage lead and cadmium. By way of comparison, some representatives drew attention to the success of their countries in phasing out the use of lead in petrol with the assistance of UNEP, thereby contributing to the global phase-out of lead in petrol by 2015. One representative highlighted the role of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints in further reducing the harmful effects of lead in the environment. Regarding cadmium, one representative stressed the need to address the risks it posed through strengthening implementation of the applicable areas within the legal and institutional framework for chemicals management.

55. Following the discussion, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group, chaired by Mr. Alfred Wills (South Africa), to further consider the issues.

56. At its 11th meeting the Committee approved a draft omnibus decision on chemicals and waste management for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

4. Draft decisions introduced by the Plurinational State of Bolivia

57. At the 4th meeting of the Committee the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia introduced a conference room paper setting out a draft decision on climate change and the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as a conference room paper setting out a draft decision on different approaches, visions, models and tools to achieve sustainable development.

58. One representative said that the two draft decisions dealt with extremely complex issues that were the subject of continuing negotiations in various forums. The subject of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, in particular, was being discussed in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He suggested that, notwithstanding the importance of their subject matter, the submission of draft decisions on contentious issues at a late hour was extremely problematic and did not allow for their adequate consideration.

59. Another representative welcomed the call in the draft decision on different approaches, visions, models and tools to achieve sustainable development and for a broader approach to forests and deforestation issues and stressed the need to continue to use terminology, such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, that was agreed upon in relevant forums.

60. The Chair indicated that the draft decisions would not be discussed in the Committee of the Whole and urged interested representatives to discuss them informally.

5. Draft decision on international water quality guidelines

61. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, the Committee of the Whole considered a draft decision on international water quality guidelines for ecosystems (draft decision 10 in the 28 January compilation of decisions). Following discussion of the draft decision, it was agreed that a group of interested parties would discuss informally the remaining bracketed sections of the text with a view to presenting a revised version to the Committee.

62. At its 9th meeting the Committee approved the draft decision on international water quality guidelines, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

6. Draft decision on the Climate Technology Centre and Network

63. At its 4th meeting, the Committee of the Whole considered a draft decision on the Climate Technology Centre and Network (draft decision 11 in the 28 January compilation of decisions). Following discussion of the draft decision, it was agreed that a group of interested representatives would discuss informally the remaining bracketed sections of the text with a view to presenting a revised version to the Committee.

64. At its 11th meeting the Committee approved a revised version of the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Council.

7. Justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability

65. The Committee took up the matter at its 4th meeting. Introducing it, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability (UNEP/GC.27/13) and a related information document (UNEP/GC.27/INF/8). He emphasized that promoting the rule of law was a primary objective of the United Nations and noted the central role of environmental law in the work of UNEP. He stressed the importance of bringing the issues outlined in the report of the Executive Director to the attention of the Governing Council and gave an overview of the recommended actions set out in the draft decision on the subject.

66. In the ensuing discussion several representatives spoke in support of UNEP efforts to strengthen governance and environmental law and the importance of the key principles of justice, governance and the rule of law in advancing environmental issues. There was general support for the draft decision on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (draft decision 6 in the 28 January compilation).

67. One representative said that although many organizations were working in the area, there remained a considerable number of unaddressed issues, as had been evident at the high-level meeting on the rule of law and the environment held on 17 February 2013 in Nairobi. He said that it was important for the Governing Council to provide guidance to UNEP in its work on environmental law and for UNEP to build partnerships without duplicating the work of other organizations. With regard to the draft decision under discussion, he said that it mischaracterized the declaration of the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law, which was an experts' report and not a document negotiated by Governments. He urged caution in the reference thereto in the draft decision and proposed language that acknowledged the work of those experts and encouraged UNEP to continue working with them. Another representative cautioned that the declaration had been adopted by professionals, whose extensive work should be acknowledged, but that it was not an intergovernmental agreement, which should be made clear in the draft decision.

68. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the draft decision prepared by the Committee of the Permanent Representatives as part of overall efforts to strengthen coherence in support of the rule of law in the environmental arena and the acknowledgement in the draft decision of the important link between environmental sustainability and justice, governance and the rule of law. However, the link between weak governance and absence of the rule of law and an increase in environmental crime in the draft decision should be strengthened.

69. A number of representatives highlighted the importance of participatory decision-making and access to information and urged emphasis on the implementation of Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration. One representative called for exploring the potential of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to that end.

70. A number of representatives also stressed the importance of cooperation with stakeholders. One drew attention to international cooperation through networks at all levels and noted the call in the Rio+20 Declaration on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability for UNEP to promote the establishment of an international institutional network as well as the sharing of knowledge and best practices with judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials.

71. One representative drew attention to the commitment and efforts being made by countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region at the regional level in support of the implementation of Principle 10. A second representative called for assistance to Latin American and Caribbean countries in support of those efforts. Another representative said that the regional action illustrated the importance of an inclusive approach, taking into consideration the needs of all countries, and of the involvement of civil society and experts. She called on other countries to join the regional process, saying that implementation of Principle 10 would strengthen the confidence and trust of citizens.

72. One representative emphasized that the rule of law in environmental matters was essential for achieving internationally agreed environmental commitments and for ensuring effective implementation, compliance and enforcement of national environmental laws. He stressed the importance of access to information and environmental justice; public participation; support for the rule of law, scholars and civil society; ombudspersons for future generations; and respect for the principles of non-regression, and sought inclusion of those principles in the draft decision.

73. One representative cautioned that the principle of crimes against the environment was not found in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, nor in General Assembly resolution 67/1, and should not therefore be alluded to in the draft decision.

74. One representative drew attention to the situation in the Niger Delta as an example of the importance of the principle of non-regression, and said that the situation could have been avoided if stakeholders had been involved in the decision-making and environmental assessments had been carried out. It was therefore essential that the role of all stakeholders, including women, be reflected in the draft decision. Another said that the right to water and basic services should be given greater consideration in the context of advancing justice and environmental sustainability.

75. A majority of representatives supported the draft decision set out in the 28 January compilation prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as the basis for their work at the current session, in preference to a draft decision submitted in a conference room paper by the United States of America, and it was agreed that the Committee of the Whole would consider the former line by line. Following the line-by-line consideration, it was agreed that interested representatives would hold informal consultations on the remaining bracketed sections of the text with a view to presenting a revised version to the Committee of the Whole.

76. At its 10th meeting the Committee approved a revised version of the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

8. Progress reports by the Executive Director

77. The Committee took up the matter at its 5th meeting. Introducing it, the representative of the secretariat said that progress reports on various issues had been mandated by the Governing Council at previous sessions. Accordingly, progress reports by the Executive Director were before the Committee, in document UNEP/GC.27/15, on emergency response and preparedness; promoting South-South cooperation; the long-term strategy on the engagement and involvement of young people; the International Ecosystem Management Partnership; and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

(a) Emergency response and preparedness

78. The representative of the secretariat recalled that the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session had adopted decision 26/15, on strengthening international cooperation on the environmental aspects of emergency response and preparedness. To implement the decision, UNEP, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, had prepared a baseline document describing the roles and responsibilities of international organizations involved in responding to environmental emergencies and had facilitated the process, commenced in May 2012, to ensure that key organizations involved in responding to environmental emergencies had a clear and mutually agreed upon understanding of their roles and responsibilities in various scenarios. It was expected that UNEP would facilitate a second meeting of that group in 2013.

(b) Promoting South-South cooperation

79. Introducing the matter, the representative of the secretariat recalled that by its decision 26/16, on promoting South-South cooperation, the Governing Council, among other things, had requested the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at the current session on the contribution of UNEP in that regard. A list of UNEP regional and national activities in promoting South-South cooperation was before the Committee in an information document (UNEP/GC.27/INF/15).

(c) Long-term strategy on the engagement and involvement of young people

80. Introducing the matter, the representative of the secretariat said that the UNEP Tunza strategy continued to generate extensive interest among organizations representing children and youth. At its twenty-fifth session, the Governing Council had adopted decision 25/6, implementing the second long-term strategy on the engagement and involvement of youth in environmental issues, known as the Tunza Programme, for a period of six years, from 2009 to 2014. A wide range of activities had taken place under the programme, and a third strategy was scheduled to commence in 2015.

81. A representative of the children and youth major group gave a statement outlining the activities undertaken under the Tunza Programme, the outcomes of the UNEP Tunza International Youth Conference, which had taken place from 10 to 14 February 2013, and the Tunza vision for the engagement of young people in the future work of UNEP.

(d) International Ecosystem Management Partnership

82. Introducing the matter, the representative of the secretariat recalled that UNEP and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, with support from the Government of China, had established the International Ecosystem Management Partnership with the aim of mobilizing science to support policy setting for sustainable ecosystem management in developing countries (UNEP/GC.27/INF/17). It covered three priority areas of work: monitoring and capacity-building; integrated knowledge management; and

science for policy. Among other things, the partnership aimed to promote implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

(e) **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

83. Introducing the matter, the representative of the secretariat said that, pursuant to Governing Council decision 26/4, a meeting had been convened in Nairobi in October 2011 to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. At a second meeting, in Panama City in April 2012, the Platform had been established as an independent intergovernmental body, with its secretariat to be located in Bonn, Germany. UNEP had been requested to facilitate the Platform until the secretariat of the Platform was established. The first plenary meeting of the Platform had been held in Bonn from 21 to 26 January 2013.

84. The Committee then considered a draft decision submitted by Malaysia on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UNEP/GC.27/L.2). The Committee continued the consideration of the draft decision at its 6th meeting, at which time it was agreed that informal consultations should take place among interested representatives on the substance and wording of the paragraph on institutional links.

85. At its 8th meeting the Committee approved a revised version of the draft decision on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

9. Oceans

86. At its 8th meeting, the Committee took up the draft decision on oceans submitted by Colombia in a conference room paper earlier in the session, along with revisions thereto set out in a non-paper.

87. Several representatives welcomed the draft decision. One, however, expressed reservations, saying that it had been submitted late and that he might not be in a position to comment on or agree to the revisions as he would have to consult with oceans experts in capital prior to doing so.

88. A representative of the non-governmental organization major group said that the regional seas conventions could and should play an important role in the conservation of oceans and marine biodiversity. She suggested that the preamble of the draft decision should take into account General Assembly resolution 67/78 of 11 December 2012, on oceans and the law of the sea. Emphasizing the paramount importance of implementation, compliance and enforcement, he said that the draft decision on oceans should include a call to the governing bodies of the regional seas conventions to establish compliance committees following the model of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and to facilitate open stakeholder participation in those committees in order that stakeholders could submit communications on non-compliance to improve implementation.

89. The Committee agreed to resume its consideration of the draft decision once representatives of interested parties had completed their informal discussions thereon.

90. At its 8th meeting the Committee approved a revised version of the draft decision on oceans for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

10. Green economy

91. At its 7th meeting the Committee took up consideration of a draft decision on the green economy submitted by China. The draft decision had been submitted just prior to the current session and had been included in document UNEP/GC.27/L.1 but, as it had not been discussed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, was enclosed in its entirety in brackets.

92. In the ensuing discussion, one representative welcomed the draft decision and looked forward to further discussing it, at which time it would put forth proposed amendments, while another stressed the importance of broad consultation prior to agreement on any draft decision. One representative expressed concern that the draft decision did not fully reflect the Rio+20 outcomes on green economy and suggested that it should not refer only to green economy approaches from one country, that to date there had not been wide consultation on the draft decision, and that there might not be time at the current session for such consultations to take place. It was noted that the draft decision had been discussed by the representatives of China and another Member State at the current session, which would result in a number of revisions.

93. The Committee agreed to consider a revised version of the draft decision at a later meeting following informal consultations among interested representatives.

94. At its 10th meeting the Committee approved a revised version of the draft decision on the green economy for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

95. At the time of approval one representative, asking that his comments be reflected in the present report, requested the Executive Director to implement paragraph 6 of the decision in line with paragraph 66 of "The future we want", which invited the United Nations system, in cooperation with relevant donors and international organizations, to coordinate and provide information upon request on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Another representative, while agreeing to the approval of the draft decision, expressed reservations that it did not adequately take into account other approaches, visions and models suited to the national circumstances and priorities of individual countries.

11. Draft decision on climate change and reduction of emissions

96. At the Committee's 8th meeting the representative of Bolivia introduced a conference room paper setting out a draft decision on climate change and the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives objected to the provision of the draft decision that would change the designation of the UNEP programme on climate change and forests, currently labelled as "REDD+" as an acronym for reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, to the "United Nations Programme on Forests and Climate Change". In the light of this concern, as well as the late submission of the draft decision, it was agreed that interested representatives would undertake informal consultations. Following those consultations the representative of Bolivia, at the Committee's 10th meeting, withdrew the draft decision, noting its intention to submit it again at a subsequent session. It was noted by a representative of the secretariat that as an observer at meetings of the REDD+ Policy Board, Bolivia would also be able to raise the issues addressed by the draft decision in that forum.

B. International environmental governance (agenda item 4 (c))

97. The Committee took up the sub-item on international environmental governance at its 6th meeting.

1. Relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements

98. Introducing the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements that it administered, the representative of the secretariat recalled that in its decisions 26/9 and SS.XII/1 the Governing Council had requested the Executive Director to report on the issues of accountability and the financial and administrative arrangements between UNEP and those multilateral environmental agreements, as well as on how to strengthen cooperation and coordination between UNEP and those agreements. The report on the subject (UNEP/GC.27/6) offered preliminary information, and consultations between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements were continuing with a view to consolidating the findings in a final draft to be ready by 30 June 2013. Comments from the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements were presented in an information document (UNEP/GC.27/INF/20).

99. One representative said that the implementation of a system-wide strategy embracing the multilateral agreements presented difficulties and that it was preferable to solve administrative issues on a case-by-case basis. While the continuing dialogue on the matter was welcome, the report was currently lacking in both detail and analysis of how to resolve the administrative issues under discussion.

2. Coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group

100. Introducing the matter, the representative of the secretariat recalled decision SS.XII/2, on enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group, by which the Governing Council had, among other things, encouraged the Group to continue its efforts to mainstream environmental considerations and to promote coherence in environmental activities across the United Nations system and had invited the Executive Director to transmit a progress report on the Group's work to the governing bodies of the Group's member organizations. That report was presented in document UNEP/GC.27/15/Add.1.

101. One representative praised the work undertaken by the Environment Management Group, saying that the Group had greatly improved its performance in recent years by engaging in collaborative efforts with a range of organizations, including UNEP and its related agencies, multilateral banks and multilateral environmental agreements, to put in place environmental standards and to promote the environmental agenda across the United Nations system. Another representative said that closer examination of the mandate of the Group was important in the light of the outcomes of

the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the institutional changes involving UNEP and that more work needed to be done to follow up on decision SS.XII/2.

102. The representative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, said that the report of the Environment Management Group needed to be strengthened with regard to the importance of drylands, whose traditional role as a source of food for a large percentage of the world's population was increasingly threatened by degradation and desertification. He welcomed the inclusion in the draft decision on the activities of the Environment Management Group text encouraging the Group to continue its support for the drylands agenda, including through preparation of a United Nations system-wide action plan on drylands for the period 2012–2018.

103. At its 6th meeting, the Committee completed an initial review of a draft decision on coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group (draft decision 12 in the 28 January 2013 compilation).

104. At its 8th meeting, the Committee approved the draft decision on coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group, for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

C. Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters (agenda item 4 (d))

- 1. Corporate memorandums of understanding between UNEP and other bodies in the United Nations system**
- 2. Joint report with UN-Habitat**

105. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat said that, in accordance with Governing Council decision 17/8, the Executive Director had prepared a report (UNEP/GC.27/INF/9) on the memorandums of understanding between UNEP and the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Universal Postal Union, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency. He also drew attention to the joint progress report of the executive directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNEP/GC.27/INF/18).

D. Coordination and cooperation with major groups (agenda item 4 (e))

106. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat presented information on the regional consultations with major groups and stakeholders held in preparation for the fourteenth session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, as contained in an information note (UNEP/GC.27/INF/5). The information presented included an analysis, by region, of the major groups and stakeholders represented at the various meetings and statements made by major groups on key themes, including on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, and regional priorities.

E. Environment and development (agenda item 4 (f))

107. The Chair noted that the issues arising under the sub-item had already been discussed by the Committee under other items of the agenda. Accordingly there was no discussion under this sub-item.

IV. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council (agenda item 5)

108. The Committee took up the item at its 1st plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 18 February 2013. The item was introduced by the representative of the secretariat, who drew attention to the relevant documentation, including documents UNEP/GC.27/INF/3, UNEP/GC.27/INF/3/Add.1 and UNEP/GC.27/INF/4, which provided information on resolutions of relevance to UNEP adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. He highlighted in particular resolution 67/213, by which the General Assembly had resolved to expeditiously initiate implementation of the provisions contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+12), "The future we want".

109. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives saw great opportunity for UNEP in the recent decision-making processes that had resulted in the establishment of universal membership of the Governing Council and the strengthening of the role of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda. There was some discussion of the implications for the strategic direction of UNEP, including with regard to the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, the development of sustainable development goals and the promotion of sustainable consumption and production. Several representatives stressed the importance of ensuring that UNEP received secure, stable and adequate resources in line with its new stature.

110. Several representatives saw such developments as a chance to give fresh consideration to key aspects of UNEP performance, including those related to transparency and accountability, operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness. A number of representatives highlighted the need to use limited resources efficiently in all aspects of UNEP operations. Several representatives said that it was important to take cognizance of other processes arising out of Rio+20, including the high-level political forum established in paragraph 84 of “The future we want”, saying that care should be taken not to prejudice the outcomes of those processes.

111. Many representatives stressed the continuing need for strong science to form the basis for policy-making on environment-related issues and highlighted the importance of reinforcing the science-policy interface if UNEP were to fully implement its mandate. Several representatives said that it was necessary to strengthen and fully utilize existing initiatives and data sources, rather than duplicating efforts already in place, while ensuring that a full gap analysis was undertaken before implementing any new science-policy mechanisms.

112. A number of representatives said that it was necessary to strengthen the regional presence and engagement of UNEP. One representative said that responsiveness to country needs and national ownership were key principles of UNEP work and stressed the importance of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building as a vehicle for country support in those areas where it had demonstrated comparative advantage and expertise. Opportunities to promote responsiveness included strengthening partnerships with other organizations; scaling up existing programmes, for example the UNEP-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Poverty and Environment Initiative; strengthening the memorandum of understanding between UNEP and UNDP; and actively addressing national and regional priorities, particularly those expressed in regional strategic plans.

113. With regard to the new universal governing body of UNEP, several aspects of its structure and methods of operation were discussed by the Committee. Several representatives said that its name should reflect its universality and strengthened status. One representative said that the functions of UNEP entities should be determined before resolving the issue of what they should be called.

114. There was general consensus that the structural governance issues related to universal membership should be resolved as soon as possible. Some representatives said that few major changes were needed to the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, while one representative said that they needed a major overhaul and reconsideration, saying that they had first been developed over four decades earlier and in several instances did not reflect current practice in meetings.

115. Several representatives called for a more active role for ministers of the environment at future meetings of the universal body and in the decision-making processes of UNEP and said that they should provide stronger political guidance.

116. Many representatives said that there was a need for greater and more effective involvement of stakeholders in the work of UNEP, given its strengthened and more ambitious role. One urged the Executive Director to undertake a review of current models and practices for stakeholder engagement and to develop proposals for improving the existing UNEP practice.

117. Several representatives raised the issue of the governance structure and institutional arrangements that would best enable UNEP to carry out its mandate with the full engagement of all stakeholders, including the role to be played by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and other subsidiary bodies. Several said that it was important to build on existing structures rather than establish new bodies. One representative said that there was a need for a clearer, more defined role for the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which should be empowered to take intersessional decisions at the request of the universal body. Several representatives stressed the importance of intersessional work to the success of the universal body. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was important that intersessional work involve a broad range of stakeholders and be carried out in a cost-effective way that ensured transparency and accountability.

118. Several representatives spoke of the implications of the new universal body for the budget and work programme of UNEP. One representative said that the universal body should review and approve the strategic framework before it was submitted to New York for review, saying that there was a need for greater engagement of Governments in the preparation of that critical document. In addition, she continued, a regionally representative working body, subsidiary to the universal body, should be created to undertake performance and financial reviews and report to the universal body on its findings. That body would then provide final approval of the programme of work and budget before they were transmitted to United Nations Headquarters.

119. A representative of the major groups and stakeholders, noting the call in paragraph 88 (h) of "The future we want" for UNEP to ensure "active participation of all relevant stakeholders to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society", said that the representatives of major groups had developed 11 principles that built on the right to full and effective stakeholder participation in all activities and processes of UNEP. The major groups and stakeholders also called for strengthened participation at the regional level, including through the provision of resources to enable the participation of disadvantaged stakeholders, and for their full involvement in any decision-making relevant to the participation of stakeholders in UNEP processes.

120. Other representatives of major groups spoke of a need to link environmental governance with livelihoods, decent jobs, green employment opportunities and human rights and to ensure that gender equity was central to environmental policy-making and implementation.

121. The Committee decided to refer the item to the working group on institutional arrangements and rules of procedure for further discussion.

122. At its 11th meeting the Committee approved a draft decision, on the implementation of paragraph 88 of "The future we want", for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

V. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters (agenda item 6)

123. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the proposed medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 (UNEP/GC.27/9 and Add.1), which took into account the results of the recent mid-term evaluation of the current strategy for 2010–2013 in order to build on past achievements with a view to improving human well-being in a manner that was environmentally sustainable and that would contribute to poverty eradication. It aimed, among other things, to enable UNEP to meet the needs and priorities of Member States; to catalyse the transformative change advocated by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; to leverage measurable impact through partnership, while enhancing the science-policy interface; and to strengthen its leadership role in coordinating environmental issues within the United Nations system.

124. Regarding the proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015 (UNEP/GC.27/10 and Add.1 and 2), he said that it had been drawn up in light of the vision for UNEP set out in the outcome document of the Conference on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the anticipated shift in the regular budget and Environment Fund that had been requested by Member States. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had, in particular, requested the Executive Director to report on the division of roles among the various United Nations bodies working on environmental matters in order to provide an overview of all regular budget and extrabudgetary resources devoted to those matters across the United Nations system. Document UNEP/GC.27/10/Add.2 explained the amendments that would have to be made to the programme of work pursuant to the Secretary-General's planned reduction in the budget allocation to UNEP. The total budget for the next biennium, including for the Global Environment Facility, would amount to \$631 million, which represented an overall increase of just 2.7 per cent, and a greater emphasis had therefore been placed on stability and predictability than in previous bienniums. Accordingly, the amount of earmarked funding received through trust funds would fall by \$38 million, while non-earmarked funding received through the Environment Fund would rise by \$55 million; plans for the management of trust funds were outlined in document UNEP/GC.27/11/Rev.1. Proportionally more of the budget would be allocated to operations and activities while staffing would receive proportionally less; significant steps would be taken to reduce administrative programme support service costs; there would be a one-off provision to cover the transition to the new United Nations accounting system; and UNEP would pursue its policy of seeking to work through partnerships and joint management opportunities.

125. Regarding the proposed revisions to the financial rules and the general procedures governing UNEP operations, he said that document UNEP/GC.27/14/Rev.1 reflected the consultations that had taken place on the subject; provided information on the current status of rules and explained why they needed revising; and proposed that the secretariat take the steps necessary to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-eighth session a more modern and responsive set of rules that served to enhance transparency, accountability and effectiveness while ensuring consistency with international public-service accounting standards being adopted throughout the United Nations system.

126. In the ensuing discussion, one representative said that his delegation was concerned that while there was a wide range of views among Member States and relevant bodies, the programme of work appeared to be based exclusively on the green economy concept, which was inconsistent with the Rio+20 outcome document, paragraph 59 of which cited the green economy as just one of many different approaches to achieving sustainable development. He also questioned the prominence in the programme of work of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+), saying that it did not enjoy widespread support.

127. One representative, supported by another, endorsed the proposed budget for 2014–2015, saying that it set a clear direction for UNEP in moving from earmarked to core funding, underpinned by results-based management, and in increasing the share of resources from the Environment Fund allocated to operations and activities. In that respect, it was in line with the commitment made by Heads of State at Rio+20 to provide more stable, secure, adequate and increased financial resources from voluntary contributions to ensure more efficient use of those resources and enhanced accountability. Bearing in mind the difficulties faced by many traditional donors, the 2.7 per cent increase in the overall budget did not reflect the importance attached at the Conference to the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP, which should receive 1 per cent of the United Nations regular budget in order to meet the demands of Member States. Recent support from countries such as Brazil, China and the Russian Federation regarding the need to build a broad and stable donor base was encouraging.

128. One representative, speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization, expressed appreciation for the proposed budget and programme of work, saying that this would be crucial to the first stage of strengthening and upgrading UNEP in line with the Rio+20 outcome document. He called on the Executive Director to take measures to broaden the donor base and to encourage more balanced contributions from Member States to the Environment Fund. He welcomed the secretariat's constructive consultation process with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and called for similar consultations in the future. In the interest of increased accountability, he encouraged the Executive Director to continue to promote performance monitoring through results-based management; and in view of the importance of the financial rules, he acknowledged the need for a timely transition to International Public Sector Accounting Standards and requested the Executive Director to submit a report on the subject to the Governing Council at its twenty-eighth session. Given the importance of solid mutual relationships with the multilateral environmental agreements for stronger international environmental governance, he also said that there was a need for full consultation between those agreements, the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Board of Auditors and relevant bodies.

129. One representative expressed support for the emphasis placed on transparency, accountability and effectiveness throughout the budget preparation and implementation processes, saying that the approach should be extended to non-priority areas before any large budget increases were proposed and that the secretariat should refocus its current goals and programme of work in order to fund new priorities. Appropriate language should be included in the draft budget decision on that and on the need for greater transparency and accountability. She also said robust governance structures should be introduced to provide more opportunities for Member States to engage on the budget, programme of work and performance.

130. While agreeing that it was necessary to examine the resource base for UNEP, her Government considered the request from the regular budget to be excessive. A good case had been made for a reduction in earmarked funding but it did not obviate the need to seek internal efficiencies, and a specific share of the regular budget based on comparisons with past practices and the share received by other United Nations bodies was not appropriate. The secretariat's report on trust funds omitted information on the resources UNEP was managing, the impact on its activities and the status of individual funds, and should also include some of the information presented orally by the representative of the secretariat. She also noted that the concerns raised in the auditor's report regarding the challenges of managing a large number of funds should be addressed. Acknowledging the information provided on the proposed changes to the financial rules, she urged the secretariat to look

into updating the rules in close collaboration with other relevant entities, such as the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in order to take into account the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

131. Another representative expressed appreciation for the work done to prepare the programme of work for 2014–2015 in accordance with the medium-term strategy for 2014–2017, and stressed that the strengthening of UNEP should be carried out in a manner that made efficient use of available resources, focusing on the core mandate and avoiding any unnecessary burden on Member States and the secretariat. His delegation broadly supported the proposed programme of work but requested more information and time to consider the proposals regarding the allocation of resources from the regular budget and the trust funds. He also said that decisions adopted by the Governing Council should not pre-empt discussions on the regular budget in New York. Communication with focal points involved in these discussions would be crucial in promoting a common understanding on the steps to be taken to strengthen and upgrade UNEP.

132. The Committee agreed to refer further consideration of agenda item 6 to the working group on the budget and programme of work.

133. At its 11th meeting the Committee approved a draft decision on the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 and the biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015 and a draft decision on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, both as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

VI. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 7)

A. Thirteenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

B. Twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

134. At its 11th meeting the Committee, bearing in mind that a decision had yet to be taken on a new name for the Governing Council and institutional arrangements for UNEP, approved a draft decision on the provisional agenda, date and venue of the next session of the governing body for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

VII. Other matters (agenda item 8)

135. The Committee discussed no other matters.

VIII. Adoption of the report

136. At its 10th plenary meeting, on the morning of 22 February 2013, the Committee adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report set out in documents UNEP/GC.27/CW/L.1 and Add.1–3, on the understanding that the report would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur in conjunction with the secretariat. It was agreed that Member States would have a period of 14 days from the closure of the session to submit written suggestions for corrections to ensure the accuracy of the report, which would be considered by the Rapporteur supported by the secretariat.
