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Item 4 (k) of the provisional agenda*

**International environmental policy and governance
issues: relationship between the United Nations
Environment Programme and multilateral environmental
agreements**

**Relationship between the United Nations Environment
Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements**

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

The annexes to the present addendum contain information on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the multilateral environmental agreements, which supplements the information contained in the report of the Executive Director on the subject (UNEP/EA.2/11). They provide information on the multilateral environmental secretariats for which the Executive Director of UNEP provides the secretariat or secretariat functions (annex I), decisions of the governing body of UNEP on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements (annex II), and reference documents for the work of the task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and those multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP provides the secretariat or secretariat functions (annex III).

* UNEP/EA.2/1.

Annex I

Multilateral environmental agreements for which the Executive Director provides the secretariat or secretariat functions

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Paragraph 1 of article XII of the Convention states that, upon entry into force of the Convention, a secretariat shall be provided by the Executive Director of UNEP. The Governing Council, in section VIII of decision 1 (I) of 22 June 1973, authorized the Executive Director to provide secretariat services for the Convention in accordance with its article XII.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Paragraph 2 of article IX of the Convention states that, upon entry into force of the Convention, the secretariat shall be provided by the Executive Director of UNEP. In its decision 12/14 of 28 May 1984, the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to provide secretariat services for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with its article IX. This secretariat also serves as the secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats and, on an interim basis, for the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, and provides the interim secretariat for the Agreement of the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats.

Convention on Biological Diversity

In paragraph 1 of article 24, the secretariat was established and its functions were determined, including functions assigned to it by any protocol to the Convention. Accordingly, the secretariat performs functions also for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, in November–December 1994, decided to designate UNEP as the entity responsible for carrying out the functions of the secretariat, while ensuring its autonomy in that role. In its decision 18/36 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council welcomed the designation of UNEP as the entity responsible for carrying out the functions of the secretariat of the Convention and noted that it ensured the latter's autonomy in that role.

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Paragraph 1 of article 7 of the Convention sets out the functions of the secretariat of the Convention and its Protocol. In accordance with paragraph 2 of article 7, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its first meeting, held in April 1989, decided to designate UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention, which also performs functions for the Protocol. In paragraph 4 of its decision 15/35 of 25 May 1989, the Governing Council of UNEP welcomed with satisfaction the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention, including the designation of UNEP as the secretariat of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

Paragraph 1 of article 16 of the Convention sets out the functions of the secretariat, including to perform such other functions relevant to the purposes of the Convention as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties. The secretariat therefore also performs functions for the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. In accordance with paragraph 3 of article 16, the Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, held in December 1992, decided to request UNEP to carry out the functions of the Basel Convention secretariat, and further requested the Executive Director of UNEP to establish the secretariat in accordance with the structure contained in the budget.

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

By paragraph 1 of article 19 of the Convention, the secretariat was established. Paragraph 3 of the same article provides that the secretariat functions for the Convention shall be performed jointly by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization

of the United Nations (FAO), subject to such arrangements as shall be agreed between them and approved by the Conference of the Parties. By its decision SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, the Governing Council authorized the UNEP secretariat to participate in the secretariat of the Convention.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

By paragraph 1 of article 20 of the Convention, the secretariat was established. Paragraph 3 of the same article provides that the secretariat functions for the Convention shall be performed by the Executive Director of UNEP unless the Conference of the Parties decides, by a three-fourths majority of the parties present and voting, to entrust the secretariat functions to one or more other international organizations. By its decision 21/4 of 9 February 2001, the Governing Council authorized the participation of the UNEP secretariat in the secretariat to the Convention.

Minamata Convention on Mercury

By paragraph 1 of article 24 of the Convention, the secretariat was established. Paragraph 3 of the same article stipulates that the secretariat functions for the Convention shall be performed by the Executive Director of UNEP unless the Conference of the Parties decides, by a three-fourths majority of the parties present and voting, to entrust the secretariat functions to one or more other international organizations. The Governing Council, in paragraph 5 of decision 27/12 (III), authorized the Executive Director to provide secretariat support to the Minamata Convention and, if so decided by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to provide an interim secretariat to the instrument prior to its entry into force.

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)

In article 17 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties to the Convention designated UNEP as responsible for carrying out the secretariat functions, which are provided through the UNEP Coordination Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan in Athens.

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)

In article 15 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP to carry out the secretariat functions, which are provided through the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme in Kingston.

Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean

In article 17 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated the Executive Director of UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention. The secretariat functions are carried out through the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation serving as the Regional Coordination Unit in Nairobi, while the Regional Coordination Unit in Mahé, Seychelles, provides intergovernmental liaison functions.

Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern African Region (Abidjan Convention)

In article 16 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention. Its secretariat functions are carried out through the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) and Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention)

UNEP, through its Regional Office for Europe, in Geneva, serves on an interim basis as the secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) and, through its office in Vienna, provides the secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention), following formal requests by their respective conferences of the parties.

Annex II

Decisions of the governing body of UNEP on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements

The Governing Council, in paragraph 18 of decision 26/9 of 24 February 2011, took note of the information document on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements that it administers (UNEP/GC.26/INF/21) and requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Office of Legal Affairs and all relevant bodies, to address in a progress report, which includes input and commentary from the multilateral environmental agreements, the issues of accountability and the financial and administrative arrangements, including their legal bases, between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements that it administers, to be presented to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session.

At its twelfth special session, the Governing Council adopted two decisions relevant to the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements:

(a) In decision SS.XII/1 of 22 February 2012, the Governing Council noted the progress made and action taken by UNEP on the implementation of the paragraph 18 of decision 26/9, and requested the Executive Director to provide, at its twenty-seventh session, a report on the full implementation of that decision with a view to examining how to strengthen further the cooperation and coordination between UNEP and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements. In the same decision, it emphasized the need to consult further with the relevant multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Office of Legal Affairs and all relevant bodies and to include their input and comments, including information on the legal bases of accountability issues and the financial and administrative arrangements, in that report.

(b) In decision SS.XII/3 of 22 February 2012, the Governing Council invited the Executive Director to undertake, as appropriate, further activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties, and requested the Executive Director to explore the opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the multilateral environmental agreements secretariats administered by UNEP and to provide advice on such opportunities to the governing bodies of those multilateral environmental agreements.

The Governing Council, in paragraph 29 of decision 27/13 of 22 February 2013, took note of the undertaking to provide a full report by 30 June 2013 on the relationship between UNEP and those multilateral environmental agreements for which it provided the secretariat, and requested 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 Programme at its next session and to the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements. The Executive Director subsequently submitted his report on the subject to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session (UNEP/EA.1/INF/8).

The Environment Assembly, in resolution 1/12 of 27 June 2014, took note of the said report and welcomed the step taken by the Executive Director to establish a task team, which had commenced consultations on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and a number of multilateral environmental agreements. The Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to ensure that a final report was submitted to the next session of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, with a view to putting the issue before the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Annex III

Reference documents for the work of the task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and those multilateral environmental agreements for which the Programme provides the secretariat or secretariat functions

Report of the Executive Director on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements (UNEP/EA.1/INF/8)

Report of the Executive Director on enhancing the coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations system on environmental matters: process to prepare a United Nations system-wide strategy on the environment (UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.3)

United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/12 on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

Joint Inspection Unit, “Post-Rio+20 review of environmental governance within the United Nations system” (JIU/REP/2014/4)

UNEP, 2014, “Outcomes of the first multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements”

UNEP, “Draft sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels”

Various resources and guidance material on Umoja and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)

Relevant decisions by the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental agreements
