



14th Senior officials meeting of the Environment Management Group
10 December 2008
Poznań, Poland, International Fair Centre of Poznan

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Distribution: EMG members

Report of the meeting

I. Introduction

1. The Senior Officials meeting of the Environment Management Group (EMG) was held in the margins of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on 10 December 2008 (the agenda is contained in Annex I). The meeting was chaired by Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Chair of the EMG. It was attended by thirty member agencies (the list of participants is contained in Annex II).
2. The meeting discussed progress and challenges on the implementation of the commitment by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) on moving towards a climate-neutral UN and next steps towards presenting a report to CEB at its fall session in 2009. Its considerations were based on oral progress reports by members and a presentation by the EMG secretariat on the outcome of the meeting of the Issue Management Group on a Climate-Neutral UN convened in New York, 24 November 2008.
3. The engagement by EMG in support of the process preparing for the international year of biodiversity and the UN General Assembly Special Session in 2010 and the formulation of the post 2010 biodiversity strategy and targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity were also considered. The considerations were based on a presentation by the German Presidency of the COP Bureau and documentation provided by the secretariat of the CBD.
4. An EMG contribution to the implementation and mid term review in 2014 of the ten year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD was discussed. The discussion was based on a presentation and documentation of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Several members reiterated the relevance of sustainable land use to the current cycle of the CSD, its relevance to climate change and the mandate of the EMG on environment and human settlements.

II. Conclusions

The EMG, gathered in the margins of the 14th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, Poznan Poland,

A. Commitment by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination on moving towards a climate-neutral UN

- i. *Conscious*, at this time when the international community is intensifying its response to climate change and its impact on human health, well-being and development, of the need for the United Nations to act as one and lead by example by moving towards climate-neutrality;

a) Review of progress and guidance on implementation support

- ii. *Welcomes* the work of the Issue Management Group on a Climate-Neutral UN and the climate-neutral focal points in the UN agencies, funds and programmes, the growing momentum of actions undertaken so far to move towards climate-neutrality, the sharing of knowledge and expertise and the

pooling of resources, especially a common UN greenhouse gas calculator, the climate-neutral knowledge sharing website and the other tools;

iii. *Welcomes* with appreciation the contribution by the ICAO of the ICAO Carbon Emissions Calculator for air travel, and efforts to prepare an interface with this Calculator for use by the UN agencies, funds and programmes, and *invites* the ICAO secretariat to further develop this interface;

iv. *Stresses* that, in order to develop, implement and monitor a coherent strategy for moving their organizations towards climate-neutrality, all EMG members should intensify their efforts, and if they have not already done so, put into place a task force, chaired by a senior-level champion with overall accountability, and with representation from facilities management, travel, ICT, procurement, conference services, HR, and which undertakes consultation with staff representatives with the support of a dedicated person to act as climate-neutral focal point;

b) Greenhouse gas inventories

v. *Notes* that uncertainty exists on the climate change effects of emissions other than CO₂ from aviation and that the IPCC has indicated in its Fourth Assessment Report that the Radiative Forcing Index should not be used as an emission metric since it does not account for the different residence times of different forcing agents, *invites* ICAO and UNEP to convene a meeting of experts who will be identified based on, *inter alia*, recommendations of the IPCC. The meeting will aim to provide further guidance as a priority on the question of an appropriate metric to account for all greenhouse gas effects from aviation;

vi. While *noting* that there are significant effects on climate from gases other than CO₂ from air travel that need to be taken into account, given the related uncertainties, the EMG *decides* on a provisional basis and until further guidance is provided by the IPCC, in keeping with the WRI/WBCSD methodology, to take into account only the effects of CO₂ from air travel for now, and *encourages* the distinction between cabin class factors “economy” and “premium”, and to weight these with a ratio of 1:2, provided data on class are available;

vii. *Requests* the EMG members to submit if possible by end April 2009 to the EMG secretariat a preliminary greenhouse gas inventory data for 2009, which will be based on 2008 activities and a final externally-verified inventory together with a progress report on the implementation on all aspects of the CEB decision by end July 2009;

viii. *Notes* the importance of providing full information and transparency in the setting of boundaries for the inventory, and *recalls* paragraph 26 of the UN Climate-Neutral Strategy which states that in setting the boundary, key considerations will be data availability and what is practical and manageable and should aim to cover large emissions sources first, and to refine and improve the inventory and boundary over time;

c) Emissions reductions and cost implications and budgetary modalities of purchasing carbon offsets

ix. *Requests* the EMG Chair to develop in consultation with the Issue Management Group on a Climate-Neutral UN, a proposal by July 2009 on common approaches to emissions reduction targets, indicators, best practice and the purchase of offsets for the UN system, including recommendations on carbon management and changes to common policies and administrative rules, and proposals for the financing of these measures, including a collaborative approach;

x. *Welcomes* the support from the United Nations Office in Geneva in preparing model templates for a request for quotation and invitation to bid, with regard to the provision of offsets by external vendors;

xi. *Requests* the EMG Chair to prepare a schedule of work for 2009 to further accelerate and synchronize the implementation of the CEB commitment, and furthermore to prepare a report in the form of a draft EMG submission on the implementation of the CEB statement to the HLCM and HLCP, with a recommendation for action by the CEB at its fall 2009 session;

B. Guidance on future work of the EMG, including a possible strategic process and new proposals by members (e.g. the strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD and the 2010 biodiversity targets)

a) 2010 Biodiversity target and beyond

xii. *Welcomes* the contribution by the German Presidency of the COP Bureau and the secretariat of the CBD on a possible UN system-wide contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity and the UN General Assembly Special Session in 2010 and the formulation of the post-2010 biodiversity strategy and targets under the CBD;

xiii. *Requests* the secretariat of the EMG to solicit the views of its members on the scope, modalities and deliverables of an EMG process on the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond for consideration of a technical meeting of the EMG tentatively scheduled for 14 – 15 February 2009 in the margins of the 24th session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

b) Sustainable land use

xiv. *Welcomes* the contribution and inputs provided by the secretariat of the UNCCD on the need for a UN system-wide contribution to the implementation and mid-term review in 2014 of the ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD;

xv. *Recognises* its relevance to the current cycle of the CSD, its relevance to climate change and the mandate of the EMG on environment and human settlements; and

xvi. *Requests* the EMG secretariat to solicit the views of the members on the scope, modalities and deliverables of a UN system-wide network and process on sustainable land-use for consideration of a technical meeting of the EMG tentatively scheduled for 14 – 15 February 2009 at the margins of the 24th session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

Annex I

Agenda

1. Opening remarks by the Chair, Mr. Achim Steiner
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Statement by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination on moving towards a climate-neutral UN:
 - Review of progress and guidance on implementation support
 - Policy guidance on greenhouse gas inventories, emission reductions, and analyses of cost implications and budgetary modalities - including consultations with governing bodies - of purchasing carbon offsets
4. Future EMG work, including a possible strategic process and new proposals by members (e.g. the strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD and the 2010 biodiversity targets)
5. Any other business

Annex II

List of participants

1. **UN-HABITAT** **Ms Anna Tibaijuka**, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, **Mr. Rafael Tuts**, Chief, Urban Environmental Planning Branch, **Mr. Sharif Ahmed**, Climate Expert
2. **UNFCCC** **Mr. Yvo de Boer** (will attend part of the meeting due to other commitments), **Mr. Henning Wuester**, Special Adviser, Office of the Executive Secretary and **Mr. Florin Vladu**, Manager, Analysis and Methods subprogramme
3. **FAO** **Mr. Alexander Muller**, Assistant Director-General
4. **UNDP** **Mr. Marcel Alers**, Principal Technical Advisor Climate Change Mitigation
5. **UNWTO** **Mr. Geoffrey Lipman**, UNWTO Assistant Secretary-General
6. **WTO** **Ms Vesile Kulaçoglu**, Director, Trade and Environment Division
7. **UNCCD** **Mr. Grégoire de Kalbermatten**, Deputy Executive Secretary and **Mr. Sergio Zelaya**
8. **UNCTAD** **Mr. Lucas Assuncao**, Programme Coordinator
9. **ICAO** **Ms Jane Hupe**, Chief, Environmental Unit
10. **IAEA** **Mr. Hans-Holger Rogner**, Head, Planning and Economic Studies Section
11. **CBD** **Ms Jaime Alexandra Webbe**, Programme Officer for Dry and Subhumid Lands and Biodiversity and Climate Change
12. **UNU** **Mr. Janos J. Bogardi**, Vice-Rector in Europe, a.i. and Director of the UNU, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), UN Campus,
13. **UN SG Office** **Mr. Janos Pasztor**, Director, Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team
14. **CMS Secretariat** **Mr. Moulay Lahcen El Kabiri**, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat
15. **ILO** **Mr. Peter Poschen-Eiche**, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development, Policy Integration and Statistics Department
16. **World bank** **Mr. Jarl Krausing**, Sr. Environmental Specialist, WB Climate change team
17. **UNESCO** **Mr. Salvatore Arico**, Programme Specialist, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences

18. **UNDESA** **Mr. Tariq Banuri**, Director, Division for Sustainable Development and **Ms Kathleen Abdalla**, Chief, Energy and Transport Branch, Division for Sustainable Development
19. **UNECE** **Mr. Gianluca Sambucini**, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Energy Division
20. **IMO** **Mr. Eivind Vågslid**, Head, Chemical and Air Pollution Prevention Section, Marine Environment Division
21. **WHO** **Ms Maria Neira**, Director, Public Health and Environment and **Mr. Roberto Bertollini** MD MPH, Senior Adviser and Coordinator, Public Health and Environment Department and **Ms Fiona Gore**
22. **UNIDO** **Mr. Ned Clarence-Smith**, GEF Coordinator, Office of the Managing Director, Programme Development and Technical Cooperation Division
23. **UNESCAP** **Mr. Sangmin Nam**, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division
24. **IFAD** **Mr. Atiqur Rahman**, Lead Strategist and. Policy Coordinator, and **Ms Silvia Donato**, Climate Change Programme Officer
25. **IPCC** **Mr. Taka Hiraishi**, TFB Co-chair and **Ms Renate Christ**, Secretary of the IPCC
26. **UNEP** **Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller**, Director of the GEF Division
27. **WMO** **Mr. Avimash Tyagi**, Director for Hydrology and Water Resources Department
28. **OCHA** **Ms. Jenty Kirsch-Wood**, Policy Development and Studies Branch
29. **ITU** **M.H.Zhao**, Deputy Secretary General
30. **GEF** **Mr. William Ehlers**, Team Leader, External Relations
31. **UNITAR** **Mr. Achim Halpaap**, Associate Director
32. **EMG Chair** **Mr. Achim Steiner**, Executive Director of UNEP
33. **EMG Secretariat** **Mr. Ivar Baste**, Director
Mr. Aniket Ghai, Coordinator, Climate Neutral UN
Mr. Hossein Fadaei , Program Officer