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OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
GROUP OF MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES  
ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE  
Second meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 17 July 2001

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT GROUP ON ITS SECOND MEETING  
Geneva, 15 June 2001

A. Opening of the meeting

1. The second meeting of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) was held on 15 June 2001 at the International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland. The Chair of the Group, Mr Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.
2. In his opening statement, he referred to the decisions taken by EMG at its first meeting and developments since then - in particular, to the international environmental governance process initiated by UNEP. He expressed his hope for fruitful consideration of all items on the agenda.
3. The list of participants is contained in the annex to the present report.

B. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 2)

4. The meeting adopted the following agenda:
  1. Opening of the meeting.
  2. Adoption of the agenda.
  3. Implementation of UNEP Governing Council decision 21/21 entitled "International environmental governance".
  4. Selection criteria for priority Environmental Management Group themes.
  5. Report of the issue management groups on environmental education and harmonization of national reporting.

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6. Other business.
7. Date and venue of the next meeting.
8. Closure of the meeting.

C. Implementation of UNEP Governing Council 21/21 entitled “International environmental governance” (Agenda item 3)

5. The Chair introduced the agenda item, noting that by decision 21/21 the Governing Council had established an open-ended intergovernmental group of ministers or their representatives to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs and options for strengthened international environmental governance.
6. He noted further that the Council had decided that the process should incorporate the views and perspectives of other United Nations entities, international financial institutions, expert institutions, major groups, and individuals outside the United Nations system. Lastly, the Council had decided that its input on international environmental governance, in the broader context of multilateral efforts for sustainable development, should be provided to the Commission for Sustainable Development at its tenth session, as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
7. The Chair reported that, in accordance with the decision, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance had held its first meeting in New York on 18 April 2001.
8. He introduced the documentation that had been prepared for the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Group, which included his report on international environmental governance (UNEP/IGM/1/2), a synthesis document on multilateral environmental agreements prepared on the basis of responses to questionnaires (UNEP/IGM/2/INF/3) and a summary of selected papers on the state of international environmental governance (UNEP/IGM/2/INF/2).
9. The next meeting of the Intergovernmental Group would be held in Bonn, Germany in July 2001, on the margins of the high-level segment of the resumed sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. At that meeting, it was planned to arrange presentations by representatives of civil society and experts. A third meeting of the Intergovernmental Group was tentatively scheduled for September. A fourth meeting was planned back to back with the ministerial segment of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to be held in Montreal in November 2001. A final meeting was envisaged in New York on 27 January 2002, prior to the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for World Summit on Sustainable Development.
10. Following the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Group, two consultations had been held in May 2001 to receive inputs from expert institutions, major groups and individuals outside the United Nations system (Civil Society Consultations on International Environmental Governance, Nairobi, 22 and 23 May 2001, and Expert Consultations on International Environmental Governance, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 28 and 29 May 2001). Reports on the two consultations were before EMG (UNEP/IGM/2/2).
11. The Chair invited the participants to proceed to an initial exchange of views on the matter, in pursuance of the Governing Council’s wish that “the process should benefit from incorporating the views and perspectives of other United Nations entities”.
12. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) congratulated UNEP for having taken this important initiative. He said that it was UNDP’s view that greater clarity was required on the key functional elements of international environmental governance in making recommendations for

change. In particular, the analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of current arrangements needed to be clearer about which specific functional elements were being referred to, and recommendations for change needed to be more rigorously related to the analysis. UNDP generally supported an evolutionary approach, and was convinced that the early and full involvement of ministries other than environment ministries - especially those for trade, economics, planning, industry, transport, and agriculture and forestry - would be essential in the ongoing discussion. Noting that most analyses and recommendations to date had been prepared by developed countries, UNDP also supported greater active involvement by developing countries in the ongoing consultations. UNDP offered to work with UNEP to broaden consultation in both dimensions.

13. Representatives of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) outlined their environmental activities and expressed the opinion that they should be reflected in an amended version of the Executive Director's report on international environmental governance.

14. The representative of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) expressed support for the statement made by the representative of UNDP, as did the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), who also offered further in-depth involvement by FAO.

15. The representative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change expressed the view that clearer identification of the issues as well as multi-level arrangements were required in view of the fact that the Conferences of Parties to the various conventions were responsible for taking the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the conventions concerned. He was of the view that the implementation of Agenda 21 required the integration of environment and development into decision-making. He outlined three areas of importance to UNEP - namely, science, economic instruments and best practices - and highlighted the need for internalization of the environment in economic decision-making as well as synergy and cooperation between conventions.

16. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) expressed support for the initiative and emphasized that a stronger role for EMG was required.

17. The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) stressed the importance of intra-governmental coordination at the national level and referred to a forthcoming ILO conference in December that would, *inter alia*, address the Global Employment Framework and its links with the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg in 2002. He also highlighted the need for a link with national sustainable development strategies and other issues related to employment and the environment.

18. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) underscored the importance of coordination between government departments at the national level, and requested further clarification on the role of the Intergovernmental Group.

19. The representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs expressed the view that the issue of international environmental governance went beyond the environment and the mandate of EMG. He felt that consultation at the level of the Administrative Committee on Coordination would be required.

20. The representative of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) expressed the view that the international environmental governance process would have far-reaching implications, and expressed his appreciation for the consultations that had been held with convention secretariats so far. He said that the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session had been informed of those discussions and that the response had been generally supportive. He expressed the view that issues such as forests in the context of biodiversity and climate change could be addressed in the framework of the process pursued by the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representative on International Environmental Governance.

21. After this initial discussion on the agenda item, the Group agreed that a questionnaire on international environmental governance would be prepared by UNEP and circulated to members for comment. The questionnaire would serve as an additional mechanism for soliciting the views of members of EMG on international environmental governance. The possibility of an informal meeting of EMG on the margins of the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Group would also be considered.

22. Members of EMG were also invited to participate in the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Group and to submit their views on the issue of international environmental governance to ministers at that meeting. The Executive Director of UNEP would shortly send formal invitations to executive heads of member institutions in that regard.

D. Selection criteria for priority environmental management group themes  
(Agenda item 4)

23. The Group had before it a non-paper that had been prepared on the basis of discussion on this agenda item at its first meeting. After a discussion, the Group adopted the following conclusions.

To fully implement General Assembly resolution 53/242, which supported the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an EMG for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the field of the environment and human settlements, EMG should consider issues:

(a) Of common concern to members of the Group that identify, address and resolve collectively specific problems, issues and tasks on the environmental and human settlement agenda as stated in the objectives;

(b) Aimed at finding solutions to important, newly emerging and specific environmental and human settlements issues, which require the advice and substantive input of two or more United Nations and other relevant organizations;

(c) Focused on the environment and human settlements aspects of sustainable development and that complement and do not duplicate the work of other coordination mechanisms;

(d) High on the international agenda, the need for the urgent solution of which has been recognized by Governments and the general public;

(e) That are very specific and concrete and capable of being addressed in the short term (6-12 months) with deliverables clearly identified.

E. Report of the issue management groups on environmental education and harmonization of national reporting  
(Agenda item 5)

24. In considering this agenda item, the Group had before it draft terms of reference for the issue management group on environmental education, prepared by the secretariat of UNESCO, the lead agency for the group. It also had before it a progress report on the work of the issue management group on harmonization of national reporting, including 15 annexes, prepared by the secretariat of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which is taking the lead in the group.

25. A presentation was made by the representative of UNEP-WCMC, in which he provided a report on progress achieved to date. He informed the meeting that, at the first meeting of the group, held by teleconference on 7 May, the meeting had considered a draft version of a report entitled "Harmonization of information management and reporting for biodiversity-related conventions". Comments made at that meeting had been incorporated into a revised draft that was before EMG. The Group considered the draft

and agreed to provide further comments by 30 June 2001 at the latest, to allow UNEP-WCMC to finalize the report, which would include clear steps for implementing the recommendations.

26. The representative of UNESCO made a presentation in which he introduced the draft terms of reference for the issue management group on environmental education. It was suggested that discussion should concentrate on environmental issues. Some clarification was requested on the scope of the group's work. It was decided that UNESCO would elaborate on the draft terms of reference in the light of the comments made, in consultation with other interested organizations. A revised version would be prepared on the basis of written comments to be received by 30 June at the latest, and circulated for consultation.

27. EMG agreed to establish an issue management group to identify requirements for a clustering approach to the chemicals agenda, which would be led by the UNEP Chemicals Unit. Several members indicated their interest in joining the group, including representatives of the Basel Convention, FAO, ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO). Another issue management group was established under the leadership of UNIDO to address issues related to municipal waste management, and could include representatives of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat), UNEP, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP and WHO. Members of EMG wishing to participate in those issue management groups were requested to convey their interest to the lead agency in question and to the UNEP secretariat. In view of the support expressed during the discussion for carrying out work on those issues, it was decided, on an exceptional basis, to establish those groups without a prior scoping paper.

F. Other business  
(Agenda item 6)

28. A report was provided by a representative of UNEP's Balkans Unit on the work of UNEP on the environmental impacts of the use of depleted uranium in the Kosovo conflict. The report, entitled "Depleted uranium in Kosovo: Post-conflict environmental assessment", was made available to participants.

29. A report on progress in preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development was provided the representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including the recent convening of a regional round table for Europe and North America held in Vail, Colorado, United States of America, from 6 to 8 June 2001.

G. Date and venue of the next meeting  
(Agenda item 7)

30. Noting that a Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, organized jointly by UNEP's Regional Office for Europe and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, would be held on 24 and 25 September 2001 in Geneva, the Group agreed to hold its next meeting in Geneva in the week of 24 September 2001. A representative of the UNEP secretariat indicated that it would send out official invitations to the meeting at the earliest opportunity.

H. Closure of the meeting  
(Agenda item 8)

31. On behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr Adnan Amin of UNEP thanked all the participants and declared the meeting closed.

Annex

List of participants

Chair

Mr Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director, UNEP

Basel Convention

Ms Asa Granados (email: asa.granados@unep.ch)

Convention on Biological Diversity

Mr Hamdallah Zedan (email: hamdallah.zedan@biodiv.org)

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

Ms Marceil Yeater (email: marceil.yeater@unep.ch)

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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World Bank

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World Trade Organization

Mr Margers Krams (email: margers.krams@wto.org)

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