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**Framework for an intergovernmental strategic plan on
technology support and capacity-building: proposal by the Chair**

Note by the Executive Director

The Executive Director has the honour to circulate in the annex to the present note a text proposed by the Chair of the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building proposing a draft framework for an intergovernmental strategic plan on technology support and capacity-building, or “building blocks”, as agreed at the first session of the Working Group, held in New York on 25 June 2004.

The draft framework has been based on the report of the Executive Director on “elements” (UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.1) and takes into account the discussions at the first session of the Working Group and inputs from related processes, including contributions from the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme and expert and civil society consultations held in Geneva and Nairobi, respectively, in June 2004.

In response to the request of the Chair for submission of comments, a number of Governments submitted their views during July 2004. In addition, regional views were formulated by African countries at the meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 29 and 30 June 2004 and by Latin American and Caribbean countries during a regional consultation on the subject convened in Mexico on 29 July 2004. Those views have been fully taken into account in the draft framework. Furthermore, the needs, gaps and priorities of countries and regions identified at recent major intergovernmental conferences have been taken into account in preparation of the draft framework.

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Annex

Framework for an intergovernmental strategic plan on technology support and capacity-building:

Text proposed by the Chair

I. Introduction

General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII)

1. Since its inception, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has had an important mandate to assist the international community to develop institutions and capacity to meet internationally agreed objectives. The founding resolution of the General Assembly, 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, provides the broad outline for the Programme's involvement in building the capacity of developing countries, where it states in its preamble: "*Conscious* of the need for processes within the United Nations system which would effectively assist developing countries to implement environmental policies and programmes that are compatible with their development plans and to participate meaningfully in international environmental programmes" and "*Convinced that*, in order to be effective, international cooperation in the field of the environment requires additional financial and technical resources". In paragraph 1 (f) of that resolution, the Assembly accords the Governing Council the function and responsibility "to maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, and to ensure that such programmes and projects shall be compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries".

General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX)

2. Furthermore, the General Assembly, in its resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, requested the Executive Director of UNEP to take such measures as might be necessary for the realization of the objectives and the implementation of the strategies relating to the programme of UNEP in the field of national and international environmental law and, in particular, to take measures designed to provide technical assistance to developing countries, at their request, for the development of their national environmental legislation, and to assist States, upon request, in preparing proposals for legislative or other measures necessary for their adherence to conventions in the field of environmental management.

Agenda 21

3. Chapter 38 of Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992, states that priority areas on which UNEP should concentrate include "Facilitation of information exchange on environmentally sound technologies, including legal aspects, and provision of training" (paragraph 38.22 J); "Provision of technical, legal and institutional advice to governments, upon request, in establishing and enhancing their national legal and institutional frameworks, in particular, in cooperation with UNDP capacity-building efforts" (paragraph 38.22 I); and "Support to Governments, upon request, and development agencies and organs in the integration of environmental aspects into their development policies and programmes, in particular through provision of environmental, technical and policy advice during programme formulation and implementation" (paragraph 38.22 m).

4. In paragraph 38.23, Agenda 21 states that, "in order to perform all these functions, while retaining its role as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of the environment and taking into account the development aspects of environmental questions, UNEP would require access to greater expertise and provision of adequate financial resources and it would require closer cooperation and collaboration with development organs and other relevant organs of the United Nations

system. Furthermore, the regional offices of UNEP should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters in Nairobi, and UNEP should take steps to reinforce and intensify its liaison and interaction with UNDP and the World Bank.”

Nairobi Declaration

5. The Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its nineteenth session, on 7 February 1997, identified that the core elements of the focused mandate of the revitalized UNEP should be the following:

(a) To analyse the state of the global environment and assess global and regional environmental trends, provide policy advice, early warning information on environmental threats, and to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action, based on the best scientific and technical capabilities available;

(b) To further the development of its international environmental law aiming at sustainable development, including the development of coherent inter-linkages among existing international environmental conventions;

(c) To advance the implementation of agreed international norms and policies, to monitor and foster compliance with environmental principles and international agreements and stimulate cooperative action to respond to emerging environmental challenges; and

(d) To strengthen its role in the coordination of environmental activities in the United Nations system in the field of the environment, as well as its role as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), based on its comparative advantage and scientific and technical expertise.

Five-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21

6. In 1997, the General Assembly, at its nineteenth special session, endorsed the Nairobi Declaration during its five year review of the implementation of Agenda 21, and subsequently, in paragraph 5 of resolution 53/187 of 15 December 1998 emphasized “that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment”.

General Assembly resolution 53/242

7. Moreover, by paragraph 7 of its resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, the General Assembly supported “the proposals for the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and emphasizes in this regard the need to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with adequate resources to perform this task”, while, in paragraph 11, it stressed “the need to ensure that capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, as well as research and scientific studies in the field of environment and human settlements, must remain important components of the work programmes of both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), within their existing mandates, and also stresses, in this regard, the need for adequate financial resources as well as the need to avoid duplication of efforts”.

General Assembly resolution 54/216

8. In paragraph 6 of resolution 54/216, adopted on 22 December 1999, the General Assembly encouraged “the supporting role of the United Nations Environment Programme for developing countries, particularly in Africa, through the development of policy support and capacity-building for international environmental negotiation, inter alia, through the revitalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment”.

Malmö Ministerial Declaration

9. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration¹ was adopted by the Governing Council at its sixth special session, which constituted the inaugural session of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Malmö, Sweden in May 2000. The declaration addressed the key environmental challenges of the twenty-first century, set the stage for substantive debate in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, laid the foundation for further strengthening of the institutional architecture for the environment and identified major constraints and discrepancies between commitment and action in implementation. The declaration pointed out existing gaps between commitments and implementation and stressed that goals and targets agreed by the international community had to be implemented in a timely fashion. The declaration reiterated that the mobilization of domestic and international resources, including development systems, would need to be realized far beyond current levels to ensure the success of the endeavour.

International environmental governance review

10. A process to review and consider various aspects of international environmental governance took place in 2001–2002 in accordance with Governing Council decision 21/21 of 9 February 2001. The work of United Nations bodies and agencies, including UNEP, was reviewed to assess the need for capacity-building and technology support in the field of the environment. It was found that such activities had often been undertaken on a project-by-project approach, or on an ad hoc or sectoral basis, and that a strategic approach to capacity development has been lacking since the 1992 Earth Summit. The international environmental governance review also highlighted a lack of coherence and integrated approaches, particularly regarding capacity-building efforts undertaken by a wide variety of multilateral environmental agreements, especially at the regional and subregional levels.

11. A more coherent, internationally coordinated approach, whether at the regional or subregional level, needs to be formulated in order to transform the demand existing in developing countries for enhanced capacity into a set of strategic priorities and approaches that focus on required financial and technical linkages and assistance in a more strategic manner. One of the key outcomes of the international environmental governance review was the clear identification of the need to develop an intergovernmental strategic plan on technology support and capacity-building, as called for in decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, adopted at its seventh special session in Cartagena, Colombia.

12. In paragraph 34, the appendix to decision SS.VII/1 states:

“[A]n intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building to developing countries should be developed to improve the effectiveness of capacity-building, and to address the gaps identified by assessments of existing activities and needs, including the ongoing GEF inventory, subject to the availability of funds other than the Environment Fund, taking into account that additional resources need to be made available for this purpose. Such a strategic plan could be implemented through enhanced coordination between UNEP and other relevant bodies, including GEF and UNDP. It could include an increased role for UNEP in country-level capacity delivery in particular through greater collaboration with UNDP. This could be built on the following two components:

“(a) Capacity-building and training: The strengthening of the national institutions responsible for environment and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements which will promote the achievement of the objectives of the environmental component of sustainable development. Efforts by UNEP, in response to requests by Governments, to develop local and national capacity in environmental issues and for dissemination of best practices and experiences will build on its role as one of the three implementing agencies of GEF as well as on the expected benefits from the multi-year UNEP/GEF strategic partnership as envisaged in the UNEP/GEF Action Plan on Complementarity;

“(b) National-level coordination of environmental component of sustainable development: In addition to the mobilization of domestic resources, developing countries require access to financial, technological and technical resources from the international community, as well as better internal coordination to implement sustainable development strategies. Efforts for

¹ Governing Council decision SS.VI/1, annex.

environmental improvement at all levels and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements must converge for countries to achieve their national priorities and objectives. Countries are encouraged to promote the coordination of the multiple national frameworks that currently exist in the field of environment at the ministerial level”.

World Summit on Sustainable Development

13. Heads of State attending the World Summit on Sustainable Development emphasized that the trends in environmental degradation, of global proportions, should be halted and reversed. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development² included a series of goals and targets aimed at achieving those objectives, with specific focus on regional implementation, and provided a benchmark for further efforts to build the capacity levels of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enable them to meet the commitments made at the World Summit. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit places a strong focus on targeted goals relating to implementation and poverty eradication. The plan envisages that the United Nations system, through a coordinated approach, will build capacities in developing countries in order to meet sustainable development goals.

14. It is evident that the capacity of countries to implement goals and commitments agreed upon by the international community remains unequal and inadequate. That limitation, which was recognized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 (the Earth Summit) and was embodied in the Rio Principles,³ was reconfirmed in the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴, which states that:

“... we will work together to help one another gain access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, ensure capacity-building, use modern technology to bring about development and make sure that there is technology transfer, human resource development, education and training to banish underdevelopment forever.”

15. While political will is an essential prerequisite for action to close the gap between commitment and implementation, further efforts are required to meet the capacity-building and technology needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Such measures are essential to allow those countries to deal with complex environmental challenges, take part meaningfully in negotiations for international agreements, meet their commitments under such agreements and undertake practical implementation measures.

Follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

16. In resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, in which it welcomes the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the General Assembly reaffirms that “poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development” and, in paragraph 4, “[u]rges Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council, United Nations funds, programmes and regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely actions to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”.

² *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum) chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

³ See Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution I, annex I.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

General Assembly resolutions 57/251 and 58/209

17. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/251 of 20 December 2002, as well in resolution 58/209 of 23 December 2003, reaffirmed the role of UNEP as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition. In these resolutions, the Assembly emphasized the need for UNEP, within its mandate, to further contribute to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at all levels, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The General Assembly, in the latter resolution, “[r]eiterates the need to ensure that capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries remain important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard emphasizes the need for full and effective implementation of relevant decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.”

Development of an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building

18. With a view to full implementation of the recommendations on international environmental governance as contained in Governing Council decision SS.VII/1, and in light of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and related General Assembly resolutions, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty second session, in decision 22/17 I of 7 February 2003, requested the Executive Director to develop an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building under the auspices of UNEP on the basis of inputs from States and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GEF and other relevant organizations.

19. At its eighth special session, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in its decision SS.VIII/1, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum underscored “the need to provide developing countries and countries with economies in transition with assistance for implementing their environmental goals, targets and objectives, in particular those set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the urgent need, for that purpose, to develop an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building as called for in decision SS.VII/1”. In this context, a high-level open-ended intergovernmental working group of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was established by the same decision, with the mandate to prepare an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building. The present document has been prepared through the work of the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, supported by contributions from relevant processes, including the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, regional ministerial environmental forums and civil society and experts.

II. Framework of the strategic plan

A. Needs and gaps

20. Since 1972, considerable progress has been made in developing countries, often with the support of UNEP, to establish national institutions and to enhance legal frameworks and technical capacity to address environmental issues.

21. It is increasingly evident, however, that capacity-building and technology support for environment and sustainable development require a far more strategic approach that is supported by financial mechanisms and well-coordinated among intergovernmental organizations, given the developments in the scientific understanding of complex environmental phenomena, the increased scale and severity of global environmental challenges and the integral relationship between environment and development.

22. The current system for implementation support is rather scattered, consisting of provisions in different multilateral environmental agreements on capacity-building, technology transfer, financing and clearing-house mechanisms. The system is also composed of a variety of activities undertaken by international, bilateral and non-governmental organizations. There is a compelling need to use available resources in a more efficient manner through improved coordination, collaboration and synergies

among activities that are closely interlinked. Increased multilateral coordination is needed. A long-term, strategic approach will enable a well-coordinated and coherent work programme, not reliant on ad hoc approaches to requests. In this regard, in order to ensure a strategic approach by UNEP, an inventory of UNEP capacity-building and technology support activities should be maintained to track the development of UNEP's role.

23. While the international community has moved forward in this regard, reaching agreement on commitments and targets at major conferences or within the context of international conventions, to reverse the degradation of the environment at all levels, developing countries and countries with economies in transition need further support and assistance for developing adequate capacities and technological support to enable them to achieve such commitments and targets, consistent with relevant principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Without such assistance, individual countries will not be able to meet the targeted actions and specific time-frames collectively decided upon by the international community and the existing gap between commitment and implementation will be perpetuated.

24. Noting the crucial importance of good governance and public participation in achieving progress, the following are considered to be among the prominent obstacles hampering progress in the implementation of sustainable development:

- (a) Inadequate institutional capacity, regulatory and enforcement regimes, giving rise to ineffective implementation of international agreements;
- (b) Lack of transparency and accountability;
- (c) Weak management of competing sectoral needs and inadequate transboundary arrangements, resulting in poor decisions and management;
- (d) Lack of meaningful data and monitoring and reporting systems, impairing informed decision-making;
- (e) Lack of a clear strategic framework to guide, prioritize, and coordinate capacity-building activities.

25. A series of processes related to capacity-building and technology support, as referred to in the report of the Executive Director concerning perspectives on needs and gaps (UNEP/IEG/IGSP/1/3/Rev.1), identified a set of needs that must be addressed in the development and implementation of the strategic plan as follows:

- (a) Need to develop a coherent, systematic and shared process of needs assessment that has national ownership;
- (b) Need to internalize environmental and sustainable development objectives and capacity-building needs in national policy frameworks, in particular poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks;
- (c) Need to enhance the flow of relevant and targeted information and exchange of best practices, in particular by utilizing the growing information and communication technology capacities in developing countries;
- (d) Need to develop a coherent approach to enhancing the capacity of existing centres of excellence and to establish new centres of excellence on an assessment of needs and gaps;
- (e) Need for developing countries to establish an enabling environment for capacity-building and technological adaptation and innovation;
- (f) Need for donor countries to enhance targeted support to the efforts and identified priorities of developing countries;
- (g) Need to ensure enhanced education and training to support the sustainability of these efforts.

B. Objectives and functions

26. The strategic plan will establish systematic, targeted, long-term efforts, based on international agreements and national or regional priorities and needs, to undertake the following:

- (a) To provide for an agreed plan of effective and time-bound measures at the international, regional and national levels designed to strengthen the ability and capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition:
- (i) To participate fully in the development of coherent international environmental policy;
 - (ii) To implement international agreements and comply with their obligations at the national level;
 - (iii) To achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives, in particular those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other intergovernmentally agreed development goals and targets, thus enhancing the environmental sustainability of their development;
- (b) To facilitate capacity-building and training activities, as well as national-level coordination, under the leadership of national Governments and according to national priorities, with respect to the environmental component of sustainable development;
- (c) To strengthen the capacity of Governments to implement programmatic goals mandated by the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
- (d) To regularly carry out assessments of weaknesses and gaps in current capacity-building and technology support activities for review by the Governing Council of UNEP;
- (e) To promote international cooperation on the coordinated and efficient provision of technology support and capacity building, in particular South-South cooperation;
- (f) To provide support for promoting the coordination of multiple national frameworks that currently exist in the field of the environment at the ministerial level and strengthening national institutions, including ministries of environment, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (g) To help ensure access by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to scientific and technological information, including information on state-of-the-art technologies;
- (h) To promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (i) To enhance UNEP's delivery of capacity-building and technological assistance, within its mandate, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition based on "best practices" from within and outside of UNEP;
- (j) To facilitate a more comprehensive inclusion of environmental capacity-building in national poverty reduction strategies, integrating environmental considerations into relevant strategic documents with national ownership, such as United Nations development assistance frameworks and common country assessments;
- (k) To facilitate enhanced synergies and coordination among various actors in their respective capacity-building and technology support activities in the field of the environment;
- (l) To strengthen cooperation between UNEP and other agencies engaged in environmental capacity-building, including, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and also bilateral donors, other United Nations bodies and agencies, other regional or international organizations, international financial institutions and civil society;
- (m) To undertake a continuous review of intergovernmental policy at the global and regional levels to ensure that the plan remains relevant and responds to emerging needs.

C. Guiding principles and strategic considerations

27. The strategic plan is principally intended as an intergovernmentally agreed approach to enable the UNEP Governing Council to strengthen UNEP technology support and capacity-building activities

of UNEP based on transparent and clear information and reporting consistent with the established framework.

28. The strategic plan will provide a coherent platform for internal coordination and exchange of information within UNEP as well as concrete coordination with external partners based on the mandate and comparative advantage of UNEP within the United Nations system.

29. The strategic plan should provide a coherent approach to strengthening national institutions responsible for environmental management activities and should also facilitate actions on the environmental action plans and initiatives of relevant regional intergovernmental bodies.

30. The strategic plan should contribute to national priorities, such as those developed in national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies, and United Nations development assistance frameworks and common country assessments.

31. The strategic plan should provide the basis for UNEP to play a more concrete role in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) framework to support country-level delivery of capacity-building and technology support and mainstreaming of environmental considerations in United Nations development assistance frameworks and common country assessments.

32. The strategic plan should provide a framework for capacity-building to ensure the effective participation of developing countries in negotiations concerning multilateral environmental agreements.

33. The strategic plan should ensure that principles of transparency and accountability built on a participatory approach and with full national ownership are integrated in all activities.

34. It is crucial to integrate concrete gender-mainstreaming strategies, as well as education and training for women, in formulating relevant policies.

35. The strategic plan should enable collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and provide a basis for a comprehensive approach to developing partnerships, including fostering public-private partnerships.

36. The strategic plan should provide an effective strategy for strengthening technology support and cooperation by supporting the creation of an enabling environment for innovation and transfer and dissemination involving all relevant partners, including the private sector. Emphasis should be given to identifying and disseminating best practices and fostering entrepreneurship and partnerships.

37. A significant role should be given to institutional arrangements at the regional level and regional institutions in implementing and reviewing the strategic plan.

38. The strategic plan should include clear entry points within UNEP, with a tracking system for specific requests from Governments as well as a transparent reporting structure for Governments to UNEP and UNEP to the Governing Council.

39. The strategic plan should contribute to ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in using the limited available financial and human resources through better coordination and more coherent implementation at all levels. The complexity of environmental challenges, closely linked with economic and social components of sustainable development, involve a variety of actors and activities, which are sometimes uncoordinated and duplicative. Efforts therefore need to be made to promote an integrated approach, so that the optimum use of available resources may be ensured.

40. Furthermore, the basic approach of the strategic plan should include the following:

- (a) Efforts should be built on existing capacities;
- (b) There is a need for countries to prioritize their actions in implementing global conventions to which they are parties, consistent with their national development plans and priorities;
- (c) Activities under the strategic plan must have national ownership, to ensure that built capacities are sustained;
- (d) Capacity-building programmes must be tailored to individual countries based on a bottom-up needs assessment process;
- (e) Work must be coordinated and linked with efforts already in progress and integrated with other sustainable development initiatives using existing coordinating mechanisms such as the Environmental Management Group, UNDG and the resident coordinator system.

D. Contents of the plan

41. The strategic plan should build upon the objectives identified in paragraph 26, above.
42. Specific objectives, strategies and activities should be identified through a bottom-up approach in order to reflect the actual needs of countries and regions. The relevant elements should be identified on the basis of inputs from Governments, as well as a review of priorities emerging from regional ministerial forums. The views of relevant organizations and stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, should be considered.

1. Global level

43. A review of existing agreements approved at the intergovernmental level should underpin the development of a clear and prioritized global framework for the implementation of the strategic plan, which is consistent with the specific mandate of UNEP and includes provision for a coordinated approach taking into account complementarities with other relevant intergovernmental organizations.
44. Activities to enhance technology support and capacity-building (for example, assessment and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook process; supporting and promoting legal instruments; enhancing the coherence of environmental governance; promoting synergies among environmental conventions) should be more effectively coordinated.
45. Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international national environmental governance, in particular section D entitled "Capacity-building, technology transfer and coordination for the environmental pillar of sustainable development" (paragraphs 31-35), provides important guidance for identifying elements of the strategic plan.
46. The international environmental governance mandate conferred by the Governing Council at its seventh special session in Cartagena refers to the need to implement the strategic plan through enhanced coordination with other United Nations bodies, in particular UNDP. It refers to an increased role for UNEP in country-level capacity delivery, particularly through greater collaboration with UNDP, and notes that there is a special relationship with UNDP, building on its unique national field capacity, and that it can contribute to those efforts and facilitate the mobilization of additional resources. In pursuance of this mandate, UNEP should finalize a new framework memorandum of understanding with UNDP to enhance joint capacity-building activities for the development of a strategic plan, taking into account the need to develop clear operational modalities that avoid duplication and take account of the respective competencies of the two organizations.
47. The strategic plan should be complementary to and coordinated with activities and programmes being undertaken across the United Nations system as a whole, in particular through United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks and in close cooperation with UNDP, through United Nations resident coordinators at the country level. The framework for the strategic plan should be based on existing intergovernmental decisions and further elaborated in line with national or regional needs and priorities, including those identified at various intergovernmental forums already held at the regional and global levels.
48. UNEP should build upon GEF-financed activities aimed at achieving global environmental benefits in its six focal areas: biological diversity; climate change; international waters; ozone; land degradation; and persistent organic pollutants. This should be carried out in accordance with the UNEP/GEF action plan on complementarity, as endorsed by the UNEP Governing Council and the GEF Council.

2. Regional level

49. The strategic plan should be consistent with regional and sub-regional strategies defined by regional bodies such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (ILAC) and support the implementation of those priority activities identified at the regional level.
50. The strategic plan should respond to the regional dimensions emphasized in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It could thus take into account the experience gained in assisting Governments to prepare and finalize the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD,⁵ ILAC and the Programme of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the

⁵ The action plan was developed with GEF co-financing with UNEP serving as the implementing agency.

Environment (CAMRE) and support their implementation through capacity-building. This approach should be based on the following modalities:

- (a) Support for the implementation of global and regional environmental conventions and other legal instruments;
- (b) Training and enhancement of existing centres of excellence;
- (c) Promotion of South-South cooperation;
- (d) Exchanges of best practices and lessons learned;
- (e) Development of partnerships;
- (f) Information for decision-making.

51. Special attention needs to be given to strengthening the support given to regional environmental ministers' forums, to enable them to play a role in the implementation and review of the strategic plan and identification of emerging needs. The inputs submitted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as well as the regional consultation on the subject in Latin America and the Caribbean will be found in appendix 1 and appendix 2, respectively, to the present document.

52. Consideration should be given to the need for developing regional annexes to the strategic plan in order to address regional needs and priorities.

3. National level

53. Given the specific circumstances of the different countries concerned, each country must be allowed to identify its own needs in capacity-building and technology support in order to meet its environmental priorities. As identified in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, entitled "Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building", environmentally sound technologies and corresponding capacity-building needs encompass a broad range of issues, from which each country might identify elements suitable to its needs in achieving environmental objectives of sustainable development. The multilateral system should ensure the existence of practical arrangements geared towards transforming the needs of each country into a set of strategic priorities and the requisite assistance that would respond to it. Closer cooperation between UNEP, UNDP, GEF and, in particular, the multilateral environmental agreements, would be essential in effectively meeting this challenge.

54. The strategic plan should assist in developing the UNEP response to national-level needs for capacity-building on issues of relevance to its mandate. UNEP activities should complement measures implemented by GEF and be coordinated with UNDP capacity-building activities, as outlined in Capacity 2015, the new capacity development initiative launched by UNDP. Collaboration with relevant specialized agencies in the United Nations system on sectoral issues should also be enhanced.

4. Priority areas

55. A number of priority areas have been identified by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and related processes which should be considered for action under the strategic plan, including the following:

- (a) Strengthening of national environmental or environment-related institutions (Government institutions, judiciary, enforcement);
- (b) Development of national environmental law;
- (c) Strengthening of cooperation with civil society and the private sector;
- (d) Assistance for facilitating compliance with obligations under multilateral environmental agreements;
- (e) Preparation, integration and implementation of environmental aspects of national sustainable development plans;

- (f) Poverty and environment, including the implementation of poverty reduction strategy programmes;
- (g) Development of national research, monitoring and assessment capacity, including training in assessment and early warning;
- (h) Support to national institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends;
- (i) Access to scientific and technological information, including information on state-of-the-art technologies;
- (j) Facilitating access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how;
- (k) Education and awareness raising, including networking among universities with programmes of excellence in the field of the environment;
- (l) Biodiversity, including biosafety and the issue of invasive species;
- (m) Climate change;
- (n) Desertification, drought and land degradation;
- (o) Freshwater resources;
- (p) Conservation of wetlands;
- (q) Oceans and seas and coastal areas, including regional seas and the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities;
- (r) Chemicals;
- (s) Waste management;
- (t) Pollution;
- (u) Health and environment;
- (v) Trade and environment;
- (w) Renewable energy;
- (x) Transboundary conservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
- (y) Environmental emergency preparedness and response;
- (z) Taxonomy.

5. Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: means of implementation

56. The strategic plan should be a means to give effect to chapter 34 of Agenda 21 as well as chapter X of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development concerning "means of implementation". The latter sets out guidance for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as well as in the Plan of Implementation itself. Environmental aspects of actions identified in that chapter should be duly taken into account in identifying elements of the strategic plan. Regarding technology support issues, that chapter, particularly in paragraphs 105 and 106, stresses the need to undertake the following:

“Promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, as set out in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

- (a) Provide information more effectively;
- (b) Enhance existing national institutional capacity in developing countries to improve access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how;
- (c) Facilitate country-driven technology needs assessments;
- (d) Establish legal and regulatory frameworks in both supplier and recipient countries that expedite the transfer of environmentally sound technologies in a cost-effective manner by both public and private sectors and support their implementation;
- (e) Promote the access and transfer of technology related to early warning systems and to mitigation programmes to developing countries affected by natural disasters.”

“Improve the transfer of technologies to developing countries, in particular at the bilateral and regional levels, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

- (a) Improve interaction and collaboration, stakeholder relationships and networks between and among universities, research institutions, government agencies and the private sector;
- (b) Develop and strengthen networking of related institutional support structures, such as technology and productivity centres, research, training and development institutions, and national and regional cleaner production centres;
- (c) Create partnerships conducive to investment and technology transfer, development and diffusion, to assist developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in sharing best practices and promoting programmes of assistance, and encourage collaboration between corporations and research institutes to enhance industrial efficiency, agricultural productivity, environmental management and competitiveness;
- (d) Provide assistance to developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in accessing environmentally sound technologies that are publicly owned or in the public domain, as well as available knowledge in the public domain on science and technology, and in accessing the know-how and expertise required in order for them to make independent use of this knowledge in pursuing their development goals;
- (e) Support existing mechanisms and, where appropriate, establish new mechanisms for the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and economies in transition.”

57. In the same chapter, the Plan of Implementation also lists important points that need to be taken into account in considering elements of the strategic plan, including the following:

- (a) Significant increases in the flow of financial resources;
- (b) Enhancement of the mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and development with a view to achieving sustainable development through actions at all levels;
- (c) Voluntary use of environmental impact assessments as an important national-level tool to better identify trade, environment and development interlinkages;
- (d) Promotion of mutual supportiveness between the multilateral trading system and multilateral environmental agreements, consistent with sustainable development goals;

- (e) Building of greater capacity in science and technology for sustainable development;
- (f) improvement of policy and decision-making at all levels through, inter alia, improved collaboration between natural and social scientists, and between scientists and policy makers;
- (g) Assistance for formulation and implementation of policies for environmental management and protection;
- (h) Establishment of regular channels between policy makers and the scientific community to promote the delivery of science and technology advice for the implementation of Agenda 21 and to create and strengthen networks for science and education for sustainable development;
- (i) Use of information and communication technologies, where appropriate, as tools to increase the frequency of communication and the sharing of experience and knowledge and to improve the quality of and access to information and communications technology;
- (j) Support for the engagement of publicly funded research and development entities in strategic alliances for the purpose of enhancing research and development to achieve cleaner production and product technologies and encouragement of the transfer and diffusion of those technologies;
- (k) Support for the use of education to promote sustainable development;
- (l) Support for local, national, subregional and regional initiatives to develop, use and adapt knowledge and techniques and to enhance local, national, subregional and regional centres of excellence for education, research and training;
- (m) Ensured access, at the national level, to environmental information and judicial and administrative proceedings in environmental matters, as well as public participation in decision-making, so as to further principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;
- (n) Support for countries, particularly developing countries, in their efforts to collect accurate, long-term, consistent and reliable data;
- (o) Support for efforts to prevent and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters;
- (p) Promotion of the wider application of environmental impact assessments.

58. Generic examples of relevant UNEP activity areas are outlined in appendix 3 to the present document.

6. South-South cooperation

59. The Havana Programme of Action, adopted at the South Summit of the Group of 77, held in Havana in April 2000, should be also taken into account in elaborating the strategic plan. It underscored the importance of South-South cooperation, and stressed the need for intensifying efforts at institutional capacity-building, including through the exchange of expertise, experiences, information and documentation between the institutions of the South, in order to develop human resources and strengthen the institutions of the South.⁶ An important role for economic and social development played by scientific knowledge and technology, which have a major influence on the way in which the earth's resources are used and shared among its inhabitants, was underscored.

⁶ Chapter II, para. 12 (4).

7. **Information for decision-making: the role of science, monitoring and assessment**

60. In addition, at the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of UNEP, held in Nairobi on 14 and 15 January 2004, a number of important capacity-building needs were identified, such as the need to strengthen national capacities for data collection, research, analysis, monitoring and integrated environmental assessment; developing institutional capacities, staff training, the transfer of appropriate and adaptable technologies and methodologies; support for assessments of environmental issues of regional and subregional importance, as well as for the assessment and early warning of emerging environmental issues, and support in scientific exchanges and establishing environmental and inter-disciplinary information networks; and promotion of coherent partnership approaches. For the full text of the conclusions and recommendations, see document UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.4.

8. **Reporting**

61. The strategic plan should provide for reporting on its implementation, which should include the following:

- (a) Reporting by recipient Governments on the results of assistance or training received;
- (b) Reporting by the UNEP secretariat concerning the number of requests, monitoring of the outcomes and measurable and qualitative results.

E. **Institutional mechanism**

62. The strategic plan should be based on a coordinated approach within all United Nations organizations and international financial institutions active in relevant priority areas using existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms such as the Environmental Management Group, UNDG and the resident coordinator system.

63. Since, under UNEP's current functional and organizational set-up, its capacity-building activities take place within the work programmes of separate UNEP divisions, there is a need to put in place a comprehensive database of capacity-building and technology support activities which should reflect and be further developed in line with the strategic approach. This may require further organizational measures by the Executive Director in order to define a clear focal point for reporting and coordination within the organization.

64. Implementation of the framework should be guided by regional capacity-building action plans and could require support from regional mechanisms, building on existing institutions, both at the intergovernmental level and secretariat levels, such as AMCEN, CAMRE and others. The institutional focal point within UNEP would ensure a coordinated approach to the development of programme activities and collaborative initiatives at the global, regional and national levels.

65. Improved coordination with and among multilateral environmental agreements, particularly in terms of enhancing synergies in issue-specific areas and national reporting mechanisms, as well as programmatic clustering for capacity-building initiatives, would facilitate UNEP capacity development activities and ensure the more effective use of financial resources. Similarly, enhanced communication would assist in leveraging limited human resources on matters of common interest, strengthen regional and country level activities and provide a platform for multilateral approaches and consistency in technology transfer.

1. **Intergovernmental level**

66. The existing regional ministerial environmental bodies will regularly review the strategic plan, provide policy guidelines and identify priorities. They will also recommend strategic approaches to the implementation of the respective components of the strategic plan in their region. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will regularly review and provide policy guidance for the implementation plan, acting pursuant to its mandate to review the global environment and to promote international cooperation. The plan would become the implementation arm of the Council/Forum by connecting its global decision-making process to national decision-making processes and by enhancing implementation.

67. Flexible procedures should enable the UNEP secretariat to learn from Governments their national or regional priorities and to determine modalities of assistance for implementation and the review of such implementation, taking into account changing priorities. Such adjustments would be brought to the attention of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
68. In order to ensure intergovernmental participation in the implementation of the strategic plan, an intersessional standing arrangement for consultation purposes could be established, such as a standing committee under the auspices of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
69. As another option, joint meetings of the bureaus of the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives could serve in a guiding capacity for the implementation of the framework and the preparation and implementation of regional action plans. Such joint meetings of the bureaus on technology support and capacity-building would take place at least once a year, and as often as required, preferably in the margins of major intergovernmental meetings organized by UNEP. Alternatively, consideration might be given to appointing a few Governments from each region to form a standing committee, although the selection of members to such a committee might entail further intergovernmental consultations.
70. Yet another option might be to use existing regional ministerial forums, rather than to set up a formal committee. For broader inclusiveness, such forums could include the regional representatives on the bureaus of the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives and representatives of the relevant regional organizations.
71. At the regional level, regional forums will play an important role. For example, the steering committee of NEPAD will continue, though AMCEN, to guide the implementation of the capacity-building project for the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD.

2. Secretariat level

72. UNEP will provide secretariat services to manage the operation of the plan. The capacity of the UNEP regional offices will need to be focused and enhanced for the preparation and implementation of regional action plans and every effort will be made to promote inter-agency collaboration with the relevant regional organizations and UNDP. To this end coordinating arrangements need to be enhanced, building on existing in-house capacity.
73. UNEP capacity at headquarters will need to be enhanced to ensure in-house coordination among the functional divisions, as well as to ensure further support for the programme's role in undg in providing environmental inputs to country-level activities, promoting the exchange of experiences between and among the regions and enhancing South-South cooperation;
74. An internal arrangement to clearly identify responsibility in the decentralized framework and procedures for implementation and reporting will be established by the Executive Director following the adoption of the strategic plan.

F. Financial mechanism

75. As envisaged in decision GCSS.VII/1 on international environmental governance, additional extrabudgetary financial resources to implement the plan should be secured, in addition to the augmentation of the Environment Fund for this purpose. Consideration should be given to options for the modalities of managing such funds, through which contributions from countries would be received, managed efficiently and used on a prioritized basis. Based on the NEPAD experience, regional capacity-building action plans could identify their own sources of financing, on a project-by-project basis. Alternatively, member States may wish to consider increasing their Environment Fund contributions and ensuring that activities to be implemented as part of the strategic plan are given the necessary visibility in the biennial UNEP programme of work. This should be without prejudice to the Environment Fund allocation for other functions of UNEP.
76. As called for by decision GCSS.VII/1, a strategic partnership between UNEP and GEF will be prepared and submitted upon its finalization for adoption by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the GEF Council.
77. The UNEP work programme will include specific financial provisions on capacity-building to be agreed by the Governing Council in adopting the UNEP biennium budget. Regional annexes will clearly identify capacity-building and technology support components. These may be augmented through additional resources raised during each budget cycle.

III. Conclusion

78. The strategic framework and background information contained in this report are intended to provide a basis for a substantive debate by member States at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the basic principles in the development of an intergovernmental strategic plan for capacity-building and technology support. Following the finalization and adoption of this framework, the Executive Director may be requested to develop a prioritised implementation plan in accordance with decisions of the Governing Council for its subsequent session.

Appendix 1

Africa

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), in its decision 8 adopted at its tenth session held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 29–30 June 2004, decided to submit the capacity development component of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development⁷ as Africa's input to the work of the High Level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group and requested that this component be used as the basis of support in capacity-building in Africa.

In this decision, the Ministers of AMCEN stated that the guiding framework for the strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building should be based on the following principles:

- (a) The objective of the strategic plan should be to enhance the capacity of African developing countries to implement their environmental programmes and to support the transfer, application, use and development of environmentally sound technology;
- (b) The strategic plan should be demand driven and based on the needs of African countries;
- (c) The strategic plan should complement and not duplicate existing activities and in this regard, UNEP should collaborate with other agencies and programmes such as the UNDP and GEF as well as multilateral environmental agreements in the development and implementation of the strategic plan;
- (d) The strategic plan should contain targets and time frames for its implementation;
- (e) The strategic plan should be based on the mandate of UNEP;
- (f) The strategic plan should also be based on a continuous review of capacity-building and the technology needs of African countries;
- (g) The strategic plan should be a long-term strategic vision for capacity building.

The Ministers of AMCEN, in the same decision, stated that possible elements for the strategic plan should include the following:

- (a) Enhancement of capacity at the national and local levels to undertake capacity needs assessment for training and technology support and technology development;
- (b) Integration of the NEPAD capacity-building initiative into national strategic plans for environmental capacity building;
- (c) Enhancement of national capacity to mobilize resources for capacity-building programmes;
- (d) Strengthening of national institutions responsible for the implementation of environmental programmes, including through training opportunities and research;
- (e) Support for development of policy frameworks for the effective implementation of global and regional environment-related conventions;
- (f) Support for national institutions in the collection of data, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends;
- (g) Establishment, as appropriate, of thematic centres of excellence using the existing structure and framework of the Africa Environment Information Network, to support African countries in their environmental capacity-building;

⁷

The action plan was developed with GEF co-financing with UNEP serving as the implementing agency.

- (h) Facilitation of the flow of relevant and targeted information and exchange of best practices, involving African civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;
- (i) Technical assistance for the development, enforcement and monitoring of and compliance with national environmental legislation, including empowering the judiciary;
- (j) Assistance for compliance with and enforcement of global and regional environmental agreements;
- (k) Capacity-building for effective participation by African countries in international environmental negotiations (e.g. UNEP/United Nations Conference on Trade and Development/UNDP programme on trade and environment);
- (l) Support for the increased involvement of African scientists and research institutions in international environmental assessments such as the African Environment Outlook;
- (m) Strengthening of environmental research and scientific institutions in African countries;
- (n) Capacity-building for integration of environmental considerations into national development strategies;
- (o) Provision of support to regional institutions and processes;
- (p) Enhancement of capacity for the application and development of new technologies and identification and dissemination of best practices;
- (q) Facilitation of access to appropriate technology through institutional arrangements.

The Ministers of AMCEN also identified in the same decision the following as priority areas for the strategic plan:

- (a) Combating land degradation, drought and desertification;
- (b) Poverty and environment;
- (c) Health and environment;
- (d) Conserving wetlands;
- (e) Prevention, control and management of invasive species;
- (f) Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources;
- (g) Combating climate change;
- (h) Biodiversity;
- (i) Transboundary conservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
- (j) Chemical and waste management;
- (k) Pollution;
- (l) Renewable energy;
- (m) Taxonomy.

Appendix 2

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin America and the Caribbean regional consultation on the strategic plan was held in Mexico City on 29 July 2004, and was chaired by the President of the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean. It was attended by representatives of Governments and relevant United Nations and other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations in the region. The representatives at this consultation expressed their views on the subject, which may be highlighted as follows. While certain views were expressed by many or most of the representatives, a number of points were raised by a smaller number of representatives. The highlights below represent a compilation of those various views and do not necessarily represent consensus views:

(a) The strategic plan should recognize the importance of regional focus and perspectives as well as existing initiatives in the region, especially the 2003 Panama Declaration of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean (ILAC). The strategic plan should clearly define the relationship between the future plan and other existing international or regional initiatives;

(b) The strategic plan should be based on actual needs and priorities identified through national and/or regional self-assessment, thereby ensuring ownership. A bottom-up approach should be followed in identifying national and regional needs. The plan should focus on delivery of results and implementation;

(c) In addition to a global framework of the strategic plan, there should be region-specific annexes containing specific regional priorities as identified by each region, such as ILAC for Latin America and the Caribbean. Such a regional annex should take into consideration different and specific characteristics and concerns of each country or a group of countries;

(d) South-South cooperation is a critically important element in developing and implementing the strategic plan. Exchange of experiences and learning from each other to replicate good practices would help address the limitations or weaknesses of each individual country;

(e) Unique features of each country, especially specific needs of small island developing States, should be duly noted in the strategic plan. Since Latin America and the Caribbean is a diverse region, with different types of natural environment and environmental problems, such differences within the region should be taken into account in the strategic plan;

(f) The strategic plan should be a tool to enhance cooperation among countries within sub-regions and regions, providing coherence to international cooperation assistance;

(g) While the strategic plan should be addressed to Governments, it should benefit all stakeholders and strengthen institutional capacities of national environmental institutions. The strategic plan should ultimately be beneficial to the planet that sustains life;

(h) The strategic plan should promote the integration of the environmental dimension into all relevant policy-making processes at various levels;

(i) Ultimately, the strategic plan should help countries to fulfil their commitments to achieving sustainable development. It should be action oriented with a view to assisting countries in fully implementing relevant intergovernmental agreements, in particular the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(j) Special attention should be given to the roles of non-governmental organizations, local communities and the private sector;

(k) The strategic plan should be comprehensive and at the same time flexible and practical so that it can accommodate national and regional needs and priorities. The plan should indicate clearly the concrete results to be achieved;

(l) The strategic plan should have a long-term vision, for example, perspectives for 15 years, pursuing a sustainable approach. On the other hand, a few main targets for a short term should be also identified with a view to starting to build concrete results;

(m) The strategic plan should contribute to enhancing solidarity among countries, in particular vulnerable or less developed countries, in order for them to address their common needs;

(n) The strategic plan should help improve inter-agency cooperation within Governments to allow them to address cross-cutting issues and integrate environmental perspectives into policies in other sectoral areas;

(o) In order to make impact on policies, it will be necessary to raise awareness of high-level officials and leaders through training. An important role of media is to raise public awareness in environmental matters. Information technology should be fully utilized in support of harmonizing management tools and disseminating knowledge on diffuse technologies;

(p) The strategic plan should have a means to continuously review intergovernmental policy at the regional level. Indicators should be developed to assess progress, or lack thereof, in the implementation and management of activities under the plan;

(q) The strategic plan should assist Governments to strengthen institutional mechanisms. The strategic plan should address the lack of capacity, in particular at the local government level, given the fact that local action is a key to addressing environmental quality;

(r) Adequate financial resources should be secured to take actions and deliver results under the strategic plan;

(s) The strategic plan should help resolve the problem of inadequate allocation of resources for environmental protection;

(t) Existing institutional structures should be strengthened and fully utilized for the implementation of the strategic plan. A new international institutional structure should not be created for this purpose;

(u) There is a strong need to strengthen coordination amongst existing international agencies in the field of technology support and capacity-building. The strategic plan should also be noted by other relevant organizations, including international financial institutions. Duplication of work should be avoided;

(v) The strategic plan should be reflected in the programme of work of UNEP and its budget;

(w) There is a need to strengthen implementation delivery under the strategic plan at the regional level. For this purpose, UNEP regional offices should be further strengthened;

(x) There is a need to follow up implementation of the strategic plan at the regional level through regional ministerial forums and UNEP regional offices, with decentralized implementation modalities;

(y) The strategic plan should address specific thematic issues such as poverty, trade and environment, particularly in the context of developing free trade agreements in the region, early warning of pollution, and coordination of similar requirements under different multilateral environmental agreements. It was noted that ILAC already has an agreed set of thematic issues;

(z) Participatory and transparent processes should be ensured during the development and implementation of the strategic plan. In addition to Governments, the participation of civil society is necessary.

Appendix 3

Examples of relevant UNEP activities

Activities of UNEP in the field of technology support and capacity-building have been identified and carried out in response to intergovernmental mandates as well as specific requests from Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Those activities may be taken into account in identifying elements for the strategic plan. Examples of such activities of UNEP include the following:

- (a) Providing data on assessment and early warning and other information and knowledge as a basis for decision-making or awareness-raising;
- (b) Enhancing the environmentally sound management of natural resources and capacity-building in the field of chemicals;
- (c) Harnessing the emerging experience of UNEP in capacity development for regional health and environment initiatives;
- (d) Providing technical assistance and expert advisory services for developing and strengthening institutions and law;
- (e) Assisting Governments in implementing global and regional environmental conventions and other agreements, for example with respect to ozone layer protection and hazardous chemicals;
- (f) Coordinating capacity development activities through United Nations system-wide mechanisms, including UNDG, for example with regard to capacity-building in the field of environmental law and institutions;
- (g) Establishing regional and subregional forums, such as ministerial environmental conferences in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (h) Providing regional implementation support, such as that provided under NEPAD for the African region;
- (i) Assisting Governments in integrating environmental considerations into development plans and the economic sector, including trade-environment and poverty-environment linkages;
- (j) Assisting Governments in collaboration with other organizations in the event of environmental emergencies by conducting environmental assessments or post-conflict assessments;
- (k) Increasing the involvement and commitment of civil society organizations, the private sector and the scientific community;
- (l) Running training programmes for Government officials in the implementation of sustainable consumption policies;
- (m) Enhancing the experience gained by UNEP in capacity-building activities in selected global environmental issues as an implementing agency of GEF;
- (n) Increasing cooperation with UNDP, in particular at the national level, for example in the compilation of common country assessments and in project delivery and implementation.

Existing and forthcoming strategic frameworks of UNEP programme activities in certain areas should also be taken into account. Examples of such frameworks include: the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III); the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; the UNEP Strategic Framework on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Assessment, Mitigation and Response; and the strategic approach to international chemicals management.

Regarding technology and technology-related support, relevant UNEP activities include the following:

- (a) Promoting the experience gained by UNEP in facilitating the transfer of technology based on the Sustainable Alternatives Network (SANET) concerning cleaner technology alternatives, with co-financing from GEF;
 - (b) Establishment by the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) of an environmentally sustainable technologies initiative that addresses the current widespread lack of comprehensive and credible information on the performance of technologies;
 - (c) Promoting the Rural Energy Enterprise Development (REED) programme;
 - (d) Promoting Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment (SWERA) projects with co-financing from GEF;
 - (e) Developing a joint geophysical imaging methodology for geothermal reservoir assessment in East Africa with co-financing from GEF;
 - (f) Conducting capacity-building for national cleaner production centres; promoting cleaner production investment in developing countries; and building capacity for the integration of cleaner production and energy efficiency technologies with co-financing from GEF;
 - (g) Implementing sustainable construction projects designed to move the building and construction sector towards sustainable development;
 - (h) Conducting phytotechnological projects designed to promote a better understanding of hydrological and biogeochemical processes within water basins;
 - (i) Carrying out storm-water, wastewater and water demand management projects, focusing on urban water resources, with a view to developing a concerted strategy for the management of water resources in urban areas;
 - (j) Implementing regional integrated waste management strategies as a framework for technology cooperation among countries in Asia and the Pacific, to raise awareness among Governments of the need for sustainable and integrated waste management policies;
 - (k) Developing an environmentally sound technologies information system and innovative information and knowledge management system based on e-learning that improves the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.
-