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**SEVENTH SESSION OF UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL/ GLOBAL MINISTERIAL  
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**Decision SS.V11/1, Appendix**

Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system - the role of the  
Environmental Management Group

36. Considerable emphasis has been placed on enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and the role of the Environmental Management Group in this regard. The Environmental Management Group was established following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 53/242, and includes amongst its members the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements. It follows an issue-management approach whereby issue-management groups are established within the organizations concerned in order to address specific issues identified by the Environmental Management Group within an established time frame. Issue-management groups may include institutions from outside the United Nations in their work. Issues selected so far have included the harmonization of biodiversity-related reporting, the development of a system-wide approach to environmental education and training, waste management and chemicals. The Environmental Management Group has only met a few times and it is therefore too early to make an assessment of its functioning. It is clear, however, that there is a need to ensure that the functionality of the Environmental Management Group as envisaged by resolution 53/242 should be realized as soon as possible. It is also clear that:

(a) For the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to effectively play its policy role, it requires an instrument at the inter-agency level to enhance policy coordination across the environmental activities of the United Nations system. The Environmental Management Group is such an instrument and should be charged with reporting annually to the Forum, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly

resolution 54/217, as well as on specific issues arising from the work of the United Nations system in the environmental area on which the Forum could make recommendations on the work of the Environment Management Group;

(b) The Environmental Management Group also provides potential for bringing the environment into the mainstream of relevant activities of the United Nations system. UNEP should join the United Nations Development Group, which brings together the operational agencies of the United Nations in the economic and social fields;

(c) The technical capacities of the specialized agencies and organizations participating in the Environmental Management Group could also be used to support the implementation of a strategic partnership between UNEP and other relevant bodies, including UNDP and GEF, inter alia, for capacity-building.

37. The efficient functioning of the Environmental Management Group requires a clear relation with intergovernmental processes which includes a clearly defined reporting relationship with the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other forums in the United Nations system. It will also require senior-level participation by member institutions, transparency in operations, adequate resources to support its functioning and the possibility of financial support for specific activities, including a coordinated approach to capacity-building.