



Environment Management Group
Fifteenth meeting of senior officials
23 September 2009
New York

EMG/SOM.15/02
23 October 2009
Distribution: EMG members

Report of the meeting

I. Proceedings

1. The fifteenth meeting of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group was held on the margins of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly in New York on Wednesday, 23 September 2009. The meeting was hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2. The meeting comprised two segments: a technical segment, at which participants considered the proposed Group actions presented in the note by the Chair to the senior officials of the Group at their fifteenth meeting, setting out the provisional agenda, suggested actions and background information (EMG/SOM.15/01rev2), and a senior officials segment, at which participants considered broader policy issues and actions recommended during the technical segment. The meeting was attended by representatives of 27 member agencies (see annex II to the present report). Presentations made during the meeting are available on the Group website or can be obtained by visiting the meetings catalogue on the website www.unemg.org.

A. Technical segment

3. The technical segment was opened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 September 2009. It was co-chaired by Mr. Ivar Baste, Director of the Environment Management Group secretariat, and Ms. Veerle Vandeweerd, Director of Environment and Energy, UNDP, with Ms. Anne Marie Sloth Carlsen, Climate Change Advisor, UNDP, as alternate in her absence.

4. Participants heard opening remarks from the co-chairs and a briefing on the summit on climate change held in New York on 22 September 2009 from Mr. Henning Wuester, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. After the adoption of the agenda (see annex I to the present report), participants heard presentations on each agenda item relating to the suggested actions and background information set out in the note by the Chair. The conclusions and actions agreed upon by the senior officials at the technical segment of the meeting are presented in chapter II below.

5. Under agenda item 3, on recommendations to the senior officials at their fifteenth meeting on action related to the work of the Environment Management Group, participants considered three sub-items:

(a) Management issues: moving toward climate neutrality, sustainable procurement and a coherent approach to sustainable management in the United Nations system: Mr. Paul Buades and Ms. Jacqueline Schroeder, United Nations Procurement Division, gave an update on sustainable procurement in the Organization. Mr. Niclas Svenningsen, Sustainable United Nations facility of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Mr. Aniket Ghai, Environment Management Group secretariat, presented a report on sustainable management and climate neutrality in the United Nations (conclusions adopted by the senior officials at their fifteenth meeting are contained in paragraph 28, section B, of chapter II below);

(b) Programmatic issues: supporting post-2010 biodiversity target-setting and joint work on land: Ms. Nandhini Iyer Krishna, secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, gave a presentation on the expectations of the Group arising from the Convention's processes. Thereafter, Mr. Sergio Zelaya, secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, gave a presentation on the expectations of the Convention on joint work with the Group on land issues.

Mr. Hossein Fadaei, Environment Management Group, summed up the current status of inter-agency work on both biodiversity and land (conclusions adopted by the senior officials at their fifteenth meeting are contained in paragraph 31, section B, of chapter II below);

(c) Operational issues: consultations on environmental and social safeguards in the United Nations system: Ms. Afshan H. Khawaja, World Bank, gave a presentation on the Bank's approach to environmental and social safeguards (conclusions adopted by the senior officials at their fifteenth meeting are contained in paragraph 33, section B, of chapter II below);

6. Under agenda item 4, on the Environment Management Group workplan for October 2009–October 2010 and process for reporting to the UNEP Governing Council, the representative of the Group secretariat noted that the workplan was designed to reflect agreed actions (conclusions adopted by the senior officials at their fifteenth meeting are contained in paragraph 35, part B, of chapter II below).

7. During the technical segment, the senior officials undertook an in-depth review of agenda item 5, on consideration of possible actions by the Group to address unprecedented environmental change by moving to a “green economy” and the role of international environmental governance. The review followed a presentation of views received from members prior to the meeting by the Group secretariat (conclusions adopted by the senior officials are contained in section A, chapter II below). The senior officials also considered item 6, on the date and venue of their sixteenth meeting (conclusions adopted by the senior officials at their fifteenth meeting are contained in paragraph 36, section B, of chapter II below). The technical segment of the meeting was declared closed at 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 September 2009.

B. Senior officials segment

8. The senior officials segment was opened at 3.10 p.m. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Chair of the Environment Management Group, and Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of UNDP, with Mr. Olav Kjørven, Director of Bureau for Development Policy of UNDP, as alternate chair in her absence.

9. In her opening remarks, Ms. Clark stressed the indisputable case for bringing climate change and environmental considerations to the very centre of the development paradigm. She welcomed the pragmatic and practical approach taken by the Group in promoting cooperation on environmental activities in the United Nations system.

10. The Chair of the Group thanked Ms. Clark and UNDP for hosting the meeting and thereby furthering a practice that had become a tradition in the Group and underlined its system-wide nature. He welcomed the Group's spirit of cooperation and in particular the extraordinary United Nations system-wide response to honouring the climate neutral commitment by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

11. Following the adoption of the agenda (see annex I to the present report), the Chair summarized the outcome of the technical segment of the current meeting. The senior officials congratulated technical segment participants on their efficient work and concise recommendations and adopted their proposed actions. In adopting the actions, the senior officials gave further policy guidance and directions as to their implementation. The conclusions and corresponding actions are reflected below in chapter II of the present report.

12. The fifteenth meeting of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group was declared closed at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 September 2009.

II. Conclusions

A. Addressing unprecedented environmental change by moving to a “green economy” and the role of improved international governance

13. The senior officials acknowledged the concerns over unprecedented environmental changes and their potentially negative implications for economic and social development. They stressed that the United Nations system needed to be adaptive and coherent in its response to meeting member States' needs in that regard.

14. The concept of making a transition to the “green economy” was seen as a response to environmental change and a pathway towards economic recovery and sustainable development, which needed to be integrated into various sectors of society, beyond the financial and economic sectors.

15. The senior officials welcomed the work of the United Nations Development Group in preparing a guidance note for United Nations country teams and implementing partners on mainstreaming environmental sustainability in country analysis and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

16. They recalled the United Nations inter-agency statement of 25 June 2009 entitled “Green economy: a transformation to address multiple crises”, which stated that a shift towards a “green economy” could create dynamic new industries, quality jobs and income growth while mitigating and adapting to climate change and arresting biodiversity decline. They were conscious of the joint crisis initiatives of the High-level Committee on Programmes and, in particular, cluster 4 on the “green economy”, in addition to the UNEP-proposed global green new deal.

17. The senior officials stressed that efforts to make the transition to a “green economy” should be extended beyond crisis response and involve longer-term development considerations. There was a need for clarity in the manner in which the United Nations communicated its messages and advice to countries on the “green economy” and on the relationship between the “green economy” concept and other environment and development initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals.

18. There was also a need to substantiate and broaden the economic case for short-term and long-term investment in the environment. Responses needed to be attuned to varying social and ecological contexts at the regional and national levels.

19. Continuing efforts by UNEP to work with partners on preparing a report that would make the economic case for a “green economy” and underscore the important role of Governments in the march towards such an economy were welcomed, as were efforts to prepare a series of reports on the economics of biodiversity and ecosystems.

20. Given that the United Nations system represented so many sectors, including finance, health and agriculture, the senior officials said that the system was uniquely placed to work cohesively to substantiate and implement the concept of a “green economy”.

21. On the issue of international environmental governance, the initiative by the UNEP Governing Council to establish a consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives on international environmental governance and the progress made thus far was noted. The senior officials stressed that the Group should remain focused on practical and time-bound approaches to promoting adaptive and coherent environmental activities in the United Nations system.

22. On the basis of a proposal of the technical segment, the senior officials:

(a) Agreed, within the context of global environmental change, to assess how the United Nations system could more coherently support countries in making the transition to a “green economy”;

(b) Also agreed to work on joint and consistent messaging on measures needed to support the transition;

(c) Further agreed to develop terms of reference, a process, budget and time frame for an issue management group to tackle that issue;

(d) Requested the Group secretariat to engage electronically with Group members over the coming three months to agree on the terms of reference for the establishment of the issue management group.

B. Continuing work of the Environment Management Group

1. Management issues: moving toward climate neutrality, sustainable procurement and a coherent approach to sustainable management in the United Nations system

23. The senior officials stressed that efforts related to greening the United Nations, such as through sustainable procurement, must be anchored in intergovernmental processes and in the United Nations system’s internal management and operational structures.

24. The need for capacity-building for developing country providers on sustainable procurement was highlighted, given the implications for suppliers of the goods and services covered by the sustainable procurement guidelines. Related issues on efficiency and a low-carbon economy were also raised.

25. The senior officials were informed that a progress report had been prepared for the forthcoming High-level Committee on Management meeting which, among others issues, highlighted a

finding on the need for engagement by management contained in a report by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

26. The senior officials, recalling the statement endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination at its second regular session of 2007 on moving toward a climate-neutral United Nations and the United Nations climate-neutral strategy, welcomed the reports and progress made by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in implementing the commitments made in that statement.

27. The senior officials took note with appreciation of the evaluation report by the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled "Implementation by the Environmental Management Group (EMG) Secretariat of the Secretary-General's Commitment to Move the United Nations Towards Climate-Neutrality", and the recommendations contained therein¹.

28. On the basis of a proposal of the technical segment, the senior officials:

(a) Requested the Chair of the Group to report to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its relevant subsidiary bodies on progress by the United Nations system in moving toward climate neutrality;

(b) Requested the Chair of the Group, in consultation with Group members, to prepare and make available a final report on the activities of the United Nations system to move toward climate neutrality at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009;

(c) Decided to consolidate the work of the issue management groups on a climate neutral United Nations and on sustainable procurement under a single issue management group on sustainable management in the United Nations system for a period of two years;

(d) Requested the issue management group on sustainable management in the United Nations system to build on and enhance the cooperation under way with the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group and build on the work of the High-level Committee on Management on facility management, procurement, information and communications technology, travel, finance and budget by:

- (i) Facilitating continued cooperation between Environment Management Group members on implementing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination statement on moving toward a climate-neutral United Nations, in particular by:
 - a. Facilitating a common methodology for greenhouse gas inventories and tracking performance through an online reporting and monitoring system with appropriate linkages to enterprise-resource-based planning systems;
 - b. Facilitating the development of individual emissions reduction strategies for each organization by the end of 2010, including for travel, in addition to a common approach on emission reductions throughout the United Nations system;
 - c. Exploring modalities for the common purchase of offsets;
- (ii) Developing, in cooperation with the procurement network of the High-level Committee on Management, support services for integrating sustainable procurement practices in the United Nations system in line with a common definition and approach by the United Nations,² including by:
 - a. Promoting training for requisitioners and procurement practitioners and finalizing an online training module;
 - b. Documenting success stories and good practices related to sustainable procurement from within the United Nations system;
 - c. Continuing the development of sustainable procurement practical tools such as product guidelines;

¹ Dated 2 June 2009 (Assignment no IED-09-002)

² As outlined in the comprehensive report on United Nations procurement activities: report of the Secretary-General: addendum: sustainable procurement (A/64/284/Add.2).

- d. Updating the section of the United Nations procurement practitioner's handbook on sustainable procurement;
- e. Promoting awareness on sustainability for the business community through business seminars in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact;

- (iii) Exploring how sustainable management in the United Nations system can be developed, including by identifying options for developing sustainable management systems as an integral part of enterprise-resource-based planning systems;
- (iv) Reporting on progress and proposed further actions to the senior officials of the Environment Management Group at their sixteenth meeting;
- (v) Preparing a short practical overview guide to sustainable management practices in the United Nations system that includes references to relevant technical documents;

(e) Welcomed the support of the United Nations Environment Programme's Sustainable United Nations facility for the work of the issue management group on sustainable management in the United Nations.

2. Programmatic issues: supporting post-2010 biodiversity target setting and joint work on land

29. The senior officials welcomed the progress made by the time-bound issue management group on the post-2010 biodiversity targets and the contributions of Group members to the preparation of the report on the intergovernmental processes on the formulation of post-2010 biodiversity targets.

30. The results of the informal consultations on land, including the strategic views and recommendations contained in the reports of consultation meetings held in Nairobi and New York, were also welcomed.

31. On the basis of a proposal of the technical segment, the senior officials:

(a) Authorized the issue management group on the post-2010 biodiversity targets to conclude its report on the United Nations system contribution to the formulation of post-2010 biodiversity targets to be submitted by the Chair of the Environment Management Group to the Convention on Biological Diversity process for the formulation of the 2010 targets;

(b) Agreed that the final report should be presented at the special session on biodiversity of the General Assembly and to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting;

(c) Established an issue management group on land for a period of two years to propose options for a coherent United Nations system-wide contribution to land challenges, including the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

(d) Requested the issue management group on land to prepare a United Nations system-wide rapid response report on drylands highlighting the importance of drylands to key emerging issues on the global agenda, including climate change, food security and human settlements together with options for follow-up action, for consideration by the senior officials of the Environment Management Group at their sixteenth meeting.

3. Operational issues: consultations on environmental and social safeguards in the United Nations

32. The senior officials welcomed the recommendation emanating from the technical segment on possibilities for enhancing social and environmental safeguards in the United Nations system and the potential benefits of a common approach to these safeguards for policies and operations in the United Nations system. They felt that a consultative scoping process was needed and welcomed the contribution by the World Bank to such a process.

33. On the basis of a proposal of the technical segment, the senior officials requested the Chair of the Group to prepare, in consultation with Group members, the United Nations Development Group and the High-level Committee on Management, for consideration by the Environment Management Group, a report on options for the development of a possible United Nations system-wide approach to environmental and social safeguards based on a review of existing policies and guidelines.

4. Approval of the Environment Management Group workplan for October 2009–October 2010 and process for reporting to the UNEP Governing Council

34. At the technical segment participants encouraged the Group secretariat to prepare a budget estimate, including, in so far as possible, expected contributions from members, as part of the development of the proposed workplan for the following year.

35. On the basis of a proposal of the technical segment, the senior officials:

(a) Adopted the workplan of the Group for the period October 2009–October 2010, as set out in annex II to the present report;

(b) Requested the Chair of the Group to circulate the draft report to be submitted at the eleventh special session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to Group members for their comments.

5. Date and venue of the sixteenth meeting of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group

36. On the basis of a proposal of the technical segment, the senior officials requested the Group secretariat to circulate to the Group members options for dates and venues for their sixteenth meeting and consult members on its agenda.

Annex I

Agenda

A. Agenda for the senior officials segment of the fifteenth meeting of senior officials of the Environment Management Group

1. Opening remarks by the co-chairs: Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and host of the meeting, and Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and Chair of the Environment Management Group.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Addressing unprecedented environmental change by transiting to a “green economy” and the role of international environmental governance.
4. Adoption of the recommendations from the technical segment on actions related to continuing work of the Environment Management Group.
5. Any other business.

B. Agenda for the preparatory technical segment of the fifteenth meeting of senior officials of the Environment Management Group

1. Opening remarks by the co-chairs.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Recommendations to the senior officials at their fifteenth meeting on action related to the work of the Environment Management Group:
 - (a) Management issues: moving toward climate neutrality, sustainable procurement and a coherent approach to sustainable management in the United Nations system;
 - (b) Programmatic issues: supporting post-2010 biodiversity target-setting and joint work on land;
 - (c) Operational issues: consultations on environmental and social safeguards in the United Nations system;
 - (d) Environment Management Group workplan for October 2009–October 2010 and process for reporting to the UNEP Governing Council.
4. Consideration of possible actions by the Environment Management Group to address unprecedented environmental change by moving to a “green economy” and the role of international environmental governance.
5. Date and venue of the next meeting.
6. Other business.

Annex II ***List of participants**

- 1. UNDP**
Helen Clark, *Administrator*
Olav Kjørven, *Assistant Director of Bureau for Development Policy*
Veerle Vandeweerd *Director of Environment and Energy*
Anne Marie Sloth Carlsen, *Climate Change Advisor*
- 2. UNEP**
Achim Steiner, *Executive Director and Chair of EMG*
John Scanlon, *Principal Advisor to the Executive Director*
Juanita Castano, *Director UNEP New York Office*
Niclas Svenningsen, *Head Sustainable United Nations (SUN)*
Maxwell Gomera Munyaradzi Chenje
Zehra Aydin
- 3. UNFCCC**
Yvo de Boer, *Executive Secretary*
Henning Wuester
Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary
- 4. UN/ISDR**
Margareta Wahlstrom,
Assistant Secretary-General for the UN/ISDR
- 5. ECLAC**
Alicia Barcena
Executive Secretary
Joseluis Samaniego,
Director of Sustainable Development and Human Settlements (by video conference)
Gerardo Mendoza
Programme Officer
- 6. UN/DESA**
Tariq Banuri, *Director, Division for Sustainable Development*
David O'Connor
Senior Programme Officer
- 7. UN Procurement Division**
Paul Buades, *Director*
Jacqueline Schroeder, *Senior Programme Officer*
- 8. IPCC**
Renate Christ, *Secretary to the IPCC*
- 9. IAEA**
Maria Betti, *Director, IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories*
(by video conference)
- 10. IFAD**
Vera Weill-Halle, *Senior Advisor for Innovative Financing*
- 11. ILO**
Stephen Pursey, *Director, Policy Integration Department and Senior Advisor to the Director General*
- 12. UNCCD**
Sergio Zelaya, *Director, Policy Advocacy*
- 13. WHO**
Maria Neira
Director, Public Health and Environment
(by teleconference)
- 14. IMF**
Elliott Harris, *Special Representative of the IMF to the United Nations*
- 15. Regional Commissions**
Paola Bettelli, *Economics Affairs Officer*
- 16. UNESCO**
Christine ALFSEN, *Senior Programme Specialist*
- 17. UN-Habitat**
Axumite Gebre-Egziabher
Director, UN-Habitat New York Office
Christoph Hutton
Disaster Management Specialist
- 18. UNCTAD**
Lucas Assuncao, *Coordinator Climate Change and BIOTRADE Initiative (by teleconference)*
- 19. UNICEF**
Richard Morgan
Director of Policy and Planning
- 20. CBD**
Nandhini Iyer Krishna, *Senior Liaison Officer, NY*
- 21. FAO**
Julie MacKenzie, *Senior Programme Officer*
- 22. UNIDO**
Richard Kennedy
Senior Planning Officer
- 23. UNITAR**
Achim Halpaap
Principal Programme Coordinator, Chemicals, Wastes and Environmental Governance
- 24. UNRWA**
Fabian McKinnon
Senior Programme Officer
- 25. WFP**
Carlo Scaramella, *Coordinator, Climate change, Policy and Strategy Division*
- 26. WMO**
Zamba Batjargal
Representative and Coordinator to the United Nations
- 27. World Bank**
Jarl Krausing
Environment Specialist
Afshan H. Khawaja
Senior Social Development Specialist
- 28. EMG Secretariat**
Ivar Baste, *Director*
Hossein Fadaei
Interagency Liaison Officer
Aniket Ghai
Coordinator, Climate Neutral UN
Ingunn Lindeman
Programme Officer
Julie Nevski, *Team assistant*

* The list of participants is presented without formal editing.

Annex III

Environment Management Group workplan October 2009–October 2010

Expected accomplishment	Activities and milestones ³	Key partners
A. Management issues		
Enhanced sustainability of management practices in the United Nations system ⁴	<p>1. Sustainable management Explore how sustainable management can be developed in the United Nations system.</p> <p>Identify options for developing sustainable management systems as an integral part of enterprise-resource-based planning systems.</p>	Issue management group (IMG) on sustainable management, in cooperation with HLCM (including its networks) and UNDG
	<p>2. Climate-neutral United Nations Facilitate cooperation between members of the Environment Management Group on implementation of the statement by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on moving toward a climate-neutral United Nations:</p> <p>(a) Prepare a final report on the United Nations system’s activities to move toward climate neutrality and make it available at the forthcoming climate change meeting in Copenhagen; (b) Facilitate a common methodology for greenhouse gas inventories and tracking performance through an online reporting and monitoring system with appropriate linkages to enterprise-resource-based planning systems; (c) Facilitate the development of individual emissions reduction strategies for each organization by the end of 2010, including for travel, together with a common approach on emission reductions across the United Nations system; (d) Explore modalities for common purchase of offsets.</p>	IMG on sustainable management in cooperation with HLCM (including its networks) and UNDG
	<p>3. Sustainable procurement Develop, in cooperation with the HLCM procurement network, support services for integrating sustainable procurement practices into the United Nations system:</p> <p>(a) Promote training for requisitioners and procurement practitioners and finalize an online training module; (b) Document success stories and good practices related to sustainable procurement from the United Nations system; (c) Continue to develop sustainable procurement practical tools such as product guidelines; (d) Update the section of the United Nations procurement practitioner’s handbook on sustainable procurement;</p>	IMG on sustainable management and the HLCM procurement network

3 Activities will be undertaken with the support of members in the form of personnel time, travel, in kind and financial support, with support provided by the UNEP-hosted Group secretariat and for expected accomplishment A with the support provided by the UNEP Sustainable United Nations facility.

4 The management of the support to this accomplishment will be undertaken by the UNEP Sustainable United Nations facility.

Expected accomplishment	Activities and milestones ³	Key partners
	(e) Promote awareness on sustainability for the business community through business seminars in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact.	
B. Programmatic issues		
Enhanced coherence in programming of environmental activities in the United Nations system, including for mainstreaming environmental concerns into sectoral programmes	<p>1. Post-2010 biodiversity targets Facilitate the contributions of EMG members to the preparation of the report for the intergovernmental processes on the formulation of post-2010 biodiversity targets:</p> <p>Prepare a report on the United Nations system contribution to the formulation of post-2010 biodiversity targets to be submitted by the EMG Chair to the United Nations General Assembly at its tenth special session, the senior officials of EMG at their sixteenth meeting for any further action and to the Conference of the Parties to the CBD at its tenth meeting.</p>	<p>IMG on post-2010 biodiversity targets in cooperation with the bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CBD secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and WWF</p>
	<p>2. Land Propose modalities for a coherent United Nations system-wide contribution to land challenges, including the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) 10-year strategic plan: Prepare a United Nations system-wide rapid response report on drylands that highlights the importance of drylands as they relate to key emerging issues on the global agenda, including climate change and food security, together with options for follow-up actions, for consideration by the EMG senior officials at their sixteenth meeting.</p>	<p>The IMG on land with support from the UNCCD secretariat and UNEP-WCMC</p>
	<p>3. Making the transition to a “green economy” Consider assessing how the United Nations system can more coherently support countries in making the transition to a “green economy” and working on joint and consistent messaging on measures needed to support the transition to a “green economy”: (a) Engage electronically to develop terms of reference, process, budget and time frame for an issue management group to tackle this issue by the end of 2009; (b) Subject to agreement, prepare an assessment of how the United Nations system can more coherently support countries in making the transition to a “green economy”; (c) Subject to agreement, prepare joint and consistent messaging on measures needed to support the transition to a “green economy”.</p>	<p>EMG members in cooperation with HLCP and UNDG</p>

<p>C. Operational issues</p> <p>Enhanced coherence in mainstreaming environmental considerations in operational activities at the country level by the United Nations system</p>	<p>1. Consultations on environmental and social safeguards Prepare options for scope of and modalities for the development of a possible United Nations system-wide approach to environmental and social safeguards for consideration by EMG based on a review of existing policies such as existing work by UNDG on a guidance note on environmental sustainability: (a) Take stock of existing social and environmental safeguards, analyse the possibility of a common approach and identify deliverables under EMG; (b) Prepare a report for consideration by the EMG senior officials at their sixteenth meeting with recommendations on follow-up actions.</p>	<p>EMG members in cooperation with UNDG and HLCM</p>
<p>D. Overall cooperation</p> <p>Strengthened cooperation among EMG members in setting a common agenda, implementing joint initiatives and report on progress</p>	<p>1. Undertake an annual senior officials meeting of EMG Convene the annual senior officials meeting of EMG based on joint consideration of options for dates and venues for its sixteenth meeting and consultation among members on its agenda.</p> <p>2. Facilitate exchange of information and outreach on EMG activities Facilitate exchange of information and outreach on EMG activities including through upgrading and maintaining the EMG website</p> <p>3. Report to UNEP Governing Council on EMG accomplishments Preparation of a report by the EMG Chair, reviewed by EMG members, for submission to the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session.</p>	<p>EMG members</p> <p>EMG members</p> <p>EMG members</p>