



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Reference: EMG/IB

Date: 13 November 2008

Dear Colleague,

I wish to take advantage of the presence of a critical mass of EMG members during the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Poznań, Poland and invite you to a senior officials meeting of the EMG in the margins of the conference on 10 December 2008 from 8.15 to 10.45 a.m.

As you may recall, the senior officials meeting of the Environment Management Group (EMG) held in October 2007 considered several issues of importance to the way in which the UN system supports the implementation of the intergovernmental environmental agenda.

On climate change, the meeting provided impetus to the commitment by the Chief Executives' Board (CEB) on moving the UN system towards climate neutrality. The Secretary General called upon the UN system to collectively respond to the climate challenge by working as one and leading by example. The main focus of the EMG since then is to facilitate cooperation among its members in embarking on this truly transformative process.

Last year, we witnessed an encouraging level of engagement in the process with extensive sharing of experience and ideas throughout the system. A progress report is included in the CEB report to Poznań, "Acting on Climate Change: Delivering as One". There are challenges still remaining and outstanding technical, methodological and process issues will be considered at a meeting of the EMG Issue Management Group (IMG) on Climate Neutral UN on 24 November 2008. Moving the UN system with its diverse operations towards climate neutrality require that senior-level managers regularly review progress and give policy guidance on future steps in the process.

On other aspects of the international environmental governance agenda, the last EMG was not conclusive. Several members have since expressed the view that EMG needs to adopt a practical and forward looking approach to cooperation in assisting member states to address environmental change. The EMG may wish to give guidance on future work, including a possible strategic process on how to proceed with new issues proposed by members. Recent examples include the strategy for the implementation of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) and the 2010 biodiversity targets.

Any relevant conclusions from the meeting would be conveyed to the Poznań side event of the Chief Executives Board, chaired by the Secretary General, on 11 December.

To: Members of the Environment Management Group

Executive Office

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I am pleased to attach the provisional agenda for the meeting. Additional documentation will be sent to you in due course and would be most grateful if you could indicate whether you will be able to participate by sending an email to emg@unep.ch.

Yours sincerely,

Achim Steiner
Executive Director and
Chair, Environment Management Group

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14TH SENIOR-LEVEL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP **10 DECEMBER 2008, POZNAŃ, POLAND FROM 08.15 A.M – 10.45 A.M**

Provisional Agenda

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

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