



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



Our Reference: EMG-IB-IYB

Date: 15 July 2010

Dear Colleagues,

The UN General Assembly's high level event on Biodiversity will bring a number of the Environment Management Group (EMG) members to New York to celebrate with Member States the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

I would like to take advantage of this event to invite you to attend the 16th Senior Officials meeting of the EMG on 21 September from 14:30 to 17:30 p.m. The Senior Officials meeting will be preceded by a technical and preparatory meeting in the morning from 09:00 a.m. to 13:00 p.m.

I am most grateful to Mr. Sha Zukang, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for accepting to host the meeting at UNDESA's premises in New York.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to you for your organisation's contribution and support to the joint work of the EMG. Since the last meeting of the EMG in September 2009, we have witnessed an encouraging level of engagement by EMG members in the various EMG processes. As a result, the Group has made significant progress in enhancing environmental sustainable management and advancing climate neutrality in the UN system. The ongoing consideration of a possible UN system-wide approach to environmental and social safeguards adds a new dimension to this important work.

Increasingly, the EMG is also bringing a "multi-sectoral" and a "delivering as one" perspective to the development and implementation of the intergovernmental environmental agenda. This is evidenced in the EMG contribution to the process of setting and implementing the post 2010 biodiversity targets, as well as in its work on green economy, land and broader reform of international environmental governance.

In preparing the agenda for the EMG Senior Officials meeting in September, I wish to seek your views on issues you believe warrant further discussion. I envisage that the technical segment of the meeting, as was the case last year, will consider a progress report on the work of EMG and a proposed work plan.

I suggest that the Senior Officials segment focus on strategic directions to EMG. Possible elements for discussion include green economy, international environmental governance and environmental and social safeguards. In this context, I would appreciate receiving your views on the idea of furthering such strategic discussions in an extraordinary meeting of EMG Senior Officials just prior to the 2011 spring session of the UN Chief Executives Board which will be held at the UN Headquarters in Nairobi.

To: Executive Heads of members of the Environment Management Group

Executive Office

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I would appreciate to receive your views by e-mail to emg@unep.org before 7 August. Please let me know of your availability or that of other senior officials who will attend the two segments of the meeting.

Finally, I would like to inform you of some new arrangements in the management of the EMG secretariat. These arrangements follow the departure of Mr. Ivar Baste, Director of the EMG Secretariat. He has resigned from UNEP to join his family in Norway. In thanking him for his outstanding contributions as a long serving staff member of UNEP, I am pleased to inform you that he will continue to stay involved in the work of EMG as an expert and facilitator.

I have requested Mr. Hossein Fadaei to serve as the Acting Secretary to the EMG. In addition, the EMG will continue to benefit from substantive support from the UNEP secretariat, as is currently the case amongst others in the areas of sustainable management and green economy.

I look forward to our continued cooperation on the UN system-wide environmental issues within the framework of EMG.

Yours sincerely,

Achim Steiner
Executive Director and
Chair, Environment Management Group

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