



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

United Nations Environment Management Group

High-Level Forum of the United Nations Environment Management Group

09:30Hrs, 24 January 2006,
International Environment House 2 (IEH)
7, chemin de Balexert
1219 - Chatelaine
Geneva

Notification by the Chairman of the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG)

High-Level Forum (Geneva, Switzerland, 24 January 2006)

1. The High-Level Forum of the United Nations Environment Management Group, will take place at the International Environment House 2 /IEH, (7, in Geneva, Switzerland, chemin de Balexert, 1219 – Chatelaine) on 24 January 2006. The opening segment begins at 09:30 hrs.
2. In my invitation letter of 8 November 2005, extended to United Nations bodies, Agencies, Programmes and Funds as well as MEAs Secretariats, I underlined that the purpose of the High-Level forum is to revitalize support arrangements for UN System-wide cooperation and coordination in the field of Environment and Human Settlement, in response to increased demand from our member states which was underscored by the 2005 World Summit Outcome document. The outcome of the 2005 World Summit specifically accorded priority to system-wide coherence and underscored the importance of environmental issues for sustainable development. The Outcome document also specifies the need to ensure “more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance, strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework. In light of this, it is essential that we have at our disposal an effective forum at which we can discuss and agree in a more productive and cost-effective manner, common and co-ordinated approaches to the environmental challenges of our time.
3. I accord a high degree of priority to the participation of your organization in this very important forum. It is crucial that representation at the forum be at the senior level to ensure collective decision making and commitment. I shall chair the forum and give it my full attention. I have transmitted to your office as well to your senior officials responsible for EMG related matters, the following documents:
 - i. Information Note on Venue of the forum
 - ii. Provisional Agenda
 - iii. Chairman’s Letter of Invitation.
 - iv. The above-mentioned papers as well as other relevant reference/background documents may be accessed by visiting the following address www.unemg.org

4. I shall be transmitting to you, within the next few days, an issues paper for the forum. Upon receipt of the Issues Paper, I wish to draw your attention particularly to the questions in sub-section V of the paper:

- i. Proposal for the future of EMG: How best to revitalize and strengthen the EMG?
- ii. EMG's Terms of Reference – do they need to be revisited?
- iii. Working Methods – is issue-management a useful approach?
- iv. Working Methods – beyond issue-management: broader policy coherence
- v. Working Methods – how can EMG's operational links with other relevant UN inter-agency and issue-based coordination mechanisms be improved?
- vi. Membership – how best to engender ownership and deliver returns on investment to members?
- vii. Support structure –Efficacy and sufficiency of Secretariat arrangements

5. I welcome receiving your views on the above issues as well as any other suggestions you may have.

6. All communications concerning the Forum, including names, titles and contact addresses of the proposed participants should be addressed to the following:

The Director,
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4. Any queries regarding logistical and organizational matters may be addressed to:

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