



# United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署

PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

**Our Ref:** EMG/PF

**Date:** 6 March 2006

Excellency,

On 24 January 2006 I chaired the High-Level Forum of the Environment Management Group (EMG) which was well-attended by senior representatives of a large number of UN entities and Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The Regional Economic Commissions, Commonwealth Secretariat and non-UN administered conventions were represented. Besides the impressive attendance, the Forum was constructive in its approach, and optimism regarding the future of the EMG was expressed.

Among other achievements for transforming the EMG into an effective, authoritative, service and results oriented mechanism for securing UN system-wide coherence and coordination in the fields of environment and human settlements, the EMG High-Level Forum agreed to undertake a strategic reorientation and refocusing of the EMG terms of reference and work methods; to provide a platform for contributing to broad environmental policy development in key areas such as the poverty and environment nexus; to undertake joint implementation on major initiatives such as the Bali Strategic Plan on capacity-building; to enhance the EMG financial resources and strengthen its administrative capacity; and to facilitate support and contributions for on-going UN reform initiatives and particularly the UN Secretary General's Panel on System-Wide Coherence.

As an immediate follow up action to the forum, our colleague Mr. Walter Endelen, the UNESCO Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, presented the main outcomes of the EMG High-Level Forum to the 9th Special Session of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) held in Dubai, from 7-9 February 2006. The Ministers at the Forum welcomed the unfolding efforts aimed at reinvigorating the EMG which is also a practical response to the outcome of the 2005 World Summit which adopted decisions regarding the need for enhanced system-wide coherence and coordination in the fields of environment and human settlements.

As a second crucial follow up step, a letter has been sent (copy attached) to the UN Secretary General regarding our commitment to facilitate support and contributions for the on-going UN reform initiatives and particularly for the new UN Panel on System-Wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and Environment.

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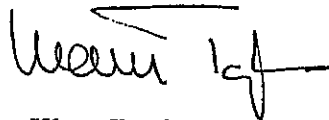
As a third follow up step, I wish to invite you to participate in the roundtable discussion at the EMG Partnership Forum which will take place in Curitiba, Brazil on Sunday 26 March 2006 in the margins of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It will be co-hosted by the Secretariat of the CBD, demonstrating that the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements are actively participating in the process of reinvigorating the EMG. The provisional agenda for the Forum is attached. As it is the UN member States who ultimately decide our policies, priorities, establish programmes and allocate budgets, we are convening an EMG Partnership Forum with our development cooperation partners, our developing country partners in the G-77 and as well as China and key agencies other key institutions.

Our renewed inter-agency commitment to achieve greater UN system-wide coherence and coordination on environment and human settlements issues through a revitalized EMG will only succeed if done in consultation and concert with our member States. The main aim of the Partnership Forum is therefore to initiate that necessary dialogue between the EMG members and key representatives of our development cooperation and developing country partners so that the new EMG initiatives better reflect their priority issues and concerns and also support the larger UN reform goals and efforts.

I look forward to your support for and participation in the Partnership Forum. I am extending an invitation also to the member states of the EU, the Group of 77 and China as well as other partners to take part in the event. It is critical that representation at the Forum be at the senior level to ensure commitment on the way forward for the EMG.

Accept Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration

Sincerely,



Klaus Töpfer  
Executive Director