

Attachment 1: Decision SS.VIII/1 adopted by the Governing Council at its eighth special session, in Jeju, Republic of Korea, on 31 March 2004

SS.VIII/1. Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling its Ministerial Declaration adopted in Malmö on 31 May 2000,

Recalling its decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance adopted in Cartagena on 15 February 2002,

Also recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted in Johannesburg on 4 September 2002, which, among other things, emphasized that the international community should fully implement the outcomes of the decision on international environmental governance, as contained in decision SS.VII/1 of the Governing Council,

Recalling further resolutions 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003 of the General Assembly, as well as its decision 22/17 I of 7 February 2003,

Emphasizing that all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance, as contained in decision SS.VII/1, should be fully implemented,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director¹ on the issue;

I.

Universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. *Notes* the variety and divergence of views, at the present time, of Governments on the question of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum contained in the note of the Executive Director², and as further reflected at the current session;

2. *Further notes* the issue paper on the question of universal membership contained in the note of the Executive Director³;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to invite views on universal membership with a view to conveying views expressed by Governments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as an input for his report to the United Nations General Assembly, as invited by the General Assembly in its resolutions 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003;

4. *Also requests* that the Executive Director present a report on this matter to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;

¹ UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5 and 5/Add.1-4.

² UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/6.

³ UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/11.

II.

Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

5. *Notes with appreciation* the consultative processes undertaken by the Executive Director to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme in pursuance of decision 22/1 I A, especially broad and regionally balanced participation in the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation, and to ensure the legitimacy and relevance of processes related to environmental assessment and monitoring;

6. *Also notes* the report of the Executive Director on the synthesis of responses on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme⁴;

7. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme⁵;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to evaluate the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation and to prepare a report to the Governing Council for consideration at its twenty-third session;

9. *Decides* to review the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation at its twenty-third session;

10. *Invites* developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so and other partners active in the field of development to consider providing additional funding for implementing the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular those related to participation by, capacity-building in, and support to sub-global assessments in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

III.

Intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building

11. *Welcomes* the submission of the report of the Executive Director on the elements for a draft intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building⁶;

12. *Underscores* the need to provide developing countries and countries with economies in transition with assistance for implementing their environmental goals, targets and objectives, in particular those set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the urgent need, for that purpose, to develop an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building as called for in decision SS.VII/1;

13. *Decides* to establish a high-level open-ended intergovernmental working group of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum with the mandate to prepare an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building for its consideration at its next regular session;

⁴ UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.3.

⁵ UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.4, annex I.

⁶ UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.1.

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to convene meetings of the above-mentioned open-ended intergovernmental working group as may be required for it to fulfil its mandate in the most practical way, in Nairobi and other venues, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 34 of decision SS.VII/1;

15. *Further requests* the Executive Director to seek additional financial resources from Governments in a position to contribute to this process, in particular to facilitate the participation of developing country representatives;

16. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders that are active in the field of capacity-building and technology support, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility, as specified in Governing Council decision SS.VII/1, other relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, as well as the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in pursuance of the mandates given to them by the respective conferences of the parties, to contribute to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group;

17. *Decides* that the high-level working group should start its work taking into consideration, among other things, the elements for a draft intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building set out in the relevant report of the Executive Director⁶;

18. *Invites* regional and subregional ministerial environmental forums to submit views on their needs for technology support and capacity-building to the high-level working group for its consideration;

19. *Requests* the Executive Director to make available relevant reports, including an inventory of existing capacity-building and technology support activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and of other relevant international organizations, to assist the high-level working group, as necessary, noting that the Environmental Management Group could play an active role in this regard;

IV.

Strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme

20. Takes note of the reports by the Executive Director on strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme⁷;

21. *Notes* the pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions and welcomes the significant broadening of the donor base and increase in the total contributions to the Environment Fund;

22. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts in seeking an increase in funding, from all sources, for strengthening the financial base of the United Nations Environment Programme and to implement decision SS.VII/1 with respect to the recommendations on financing of the Programme, including through resources approved for the United Nations Environment Programme by the General Assembly from the United Nations regular budget;

23. *Decides* to review all aspects of the strengthening of the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next regular session and requests the Executive Director to prepare a comprehensive report on this matter for its consideration;

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UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5.

V.

Multilateral environmental agreements

24. *Takes note* of paragraphs 56–67 of the report of the Executive Director on the overview of progress on international environmental governance⁷ and reaffirms paragraphs 26–30, as well as other relevant provisions of the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, adopted in decision SS.VII/1;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum with respect to coordination among and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements, in pursuance of its decision SS.VII/1, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties to those conventions;

VI.

Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system and the Environmental Management Group

26. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the secretariat of the Environmental Management Group;

27. *Takes note* of the work undertaken by the Environmental Management Group and its programme of work for the next two years;

28. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote coordination across the United Nations system on environmental activities, in particular those relevant to operations of the United Nations system, keeping in mind paragraphs 36 and 37 of decision SS.VII/1, through the work of the Environmental Management Group;

29. *Decides* to convey the report of the work of the Environmental Management Group⁸ to the General Assembly for its consideration as an annex to the report of the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

30. *Also requests* the Executive Director to present a report on this matter to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session, which should also include a comprehensive assessment of the location of the secretariat of the Environmental Management Group, taking into account, among other things, existing efforts to strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi, headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as well as the mandate and membership of the Environmental Management Group.

**6th meeting
31 March 2004**

⁸

UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.2.