



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



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21 January 2009

Dear Colleagues,

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you a happy new year and thank you for the commitment to the work of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) in 2008. I also wish to thank you for your participation at the 14th Senior Officials meeting of the EMG on 10 December in Poznań. The results of the meeting confirmed the renewed interest in the work of the Group and your commitment to its success.

I am pleased to attach the report of the meeting which reflects key issues and agreements reached on the follow-up steps. Against the setting of the climate change discussions in Poznań, the Group focused on the issue of climate-neutrality, reviewed the progress made and provided policy advice on moving forward implementation of the CEB decision on a climate-neutral UN. In particular, EMG members settled on a common approach to calculating greenhouse gas inventories (pending methodological issues). It also finalized the rulebook on the UN's minimum agreed boundary, and decided on key next steps.

Following the successful results of the climate neutral exercise, the Group initiated discussions on two new issues i.e. sustainable land-use and 2010 biodiversity target proposed by United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) respectively. The aim is to provide a UN system-wide contribution to the implementation and the mid-term review of the UNCCD ten-year strategy and a UN system-wide support to the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 with a view to developing a post-2010 biodiversity strategy and targets.

The Group agreed to launch a strategic process on these issues to solicit the views of the members on the scope, modalities and deliverables in the framework of the EMG. As decided by the Group and in order to start consideration of these issues, the EMG secretariat will convene a technical meeting of the EMG from 14–15 February 2009 in the margins of the 25th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC.25/GMEF) to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Executive Office

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I would be most grateful if you could ensure participation of your representative in this technical meeting and inform the EMG Secretariat on your agency's attendance by email to (EMG@unep.ch) or fax (+4122-917-8024). The EMG Secretariat in close consultation with the UNCCD and CBD Secretariats will forward the meeting agenda as soon as possible.

I look forward to your agency's participation in the meeting and our continued cooperation within the framework of the EMG.

Yours sincerely

Achim Steiner
Executive Director and
Chairman, EMG

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