04 July 2006

United Nations Environment Management Group

United Nations Environment Management Group
Forum on the UN Reform Initiatives
Palais des Nations, Room XXV
Geneva, 3 – 4 July 2006

Chair's Notification and Annotated Agenda

I. EMG consultations on the UN Reform Initiatives: Context and Purpose

1. The General Assembly, in line with paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, has mandated its President, Mr. Jan Eliasson, to look at the institutional framework for the environmental work of the United Nations. Mr. Jan Eliasson, assisted by two co-chairs, Ambassador Enrique Berruga of Mexico and Ambassador Peter Maurer of Switzerland, has already held three consultations, in New York and in Nairobi (in April and May 2006).

2. Secondly, the Secretary-General has established a High-level Panel composed of 15 eminent personalities and co-chaired by three Prime Ministers (the Prime Ministers of Pakistan, Mozambique and Norway) to explore how the United Nations system can work more coherently in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. The Panel members are engaged in a series of thematic consultations to gain better insights into the work of the United Nations system in the specific areas referred to above. The first consultation on the environment was held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi on 5 May 2006, with particular focus on mainstreaming environment in decision-making, the institutional framework for the environmental activities of the United Nations system, and strengthening coherence in the normative and operational work of the United Nations in the field of environment.

3. In his letter dated 1 March 2006 to Mr. Kofi Annan, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, the then Executive Director and Chairman of EMG, wrote to brief the Secretary-General on the measures being taken by the United Nations agencies and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements to reinvigorate EMG. In that communication, Dr. Töpfer also confirmed the commitment of EMG to facilitating support for and contributions to the United Nations reform initiatives.

4. To facilitate discussions on the EMG contribution to these two reform initiatives, a Forum will be convened in the margins of the High-level segment of ECOSOC (Geneva, 3 – 5 July 2006). The Forum will ensure that the contribution fully reflects the perspectives and views of its members and is endorsed by them. Participants are encouraged to prepare their views and perspectives on the core issues at the centre of the ongoing consultations on the UN reform initiatives. The EMG Secretariat looks forward to receiving advance copies of the views and perspectives preferably before the Forum or, if that is not possible, at the Forum for compilation and dissemination. At the consultations of the UNGA and the Secretary-General's Panel in Nairobi, 3 – 5 May 2006, UNEP had an opportunity to present its views and perspectives on a number of issues (see item vi in section II below).

5. Invitations have been extended to the two co-chairs, Ambassador Enrique Berruga of Mexico and Ambassador Peter Maurer of Switzerland, of the GA informal consultations on the UN reform initiatives and Mr. Adnan Amin, the Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel.

6. In addition, two eminent experts – Prof. Adil Najam (Associate Professor of International Negotiation and Diplomacy, Tufts University) and Prof. Maria Ivanova (Director, Global Environmental Governance Project, Yale Center of Environmental Law and Policy), both of whom have written extensively on the issues being considered in the continuing United Nations reform consultations, have been invited to make presentations. They were also resource persons at the consultations of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel in Nairobi on 5 May 2006. The paper of the two resource persons and any other contributions from them will be circulated to the members as soon as they are received.

II. Structure of the EMG Forum on the UN reform initiatives

7. The Forum will have two segments, both will take place at the Palais de Nations, Geneva in the margins of the High-level segment of the ECOSOC.

(a) First, a consultation of senior-level officials representing the EMG members (3 July 2006, whole day). It is expected that the discussions will take into account the specific questions posed within the framework of the UNGA informal consultations on the reform initiatives and the Secretary-General's High-level Panel. For easy reference we have attached the following documents:

i. Letter of the co-chairs of the GA informal consultations, dated 24 May 2006, which raises specific questions which the EMG forum participants may wish to address;

ii. The Issue Note of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel, titled "ENVIRONMENT CONSULTATION" which also poses a number of questions with respect to the institutional system for the UN system's environment activities and mainstreaming environment in development decision making;

iii. The letter of the UN General Assembly President, dated 26 January 2006, to which was attached a background note on "The Institutional Framework for the United nations Systems Environmental Activities";

iv. Annotated Agenda for the environment consultation of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment (Nairobi, 5 May 2006);

v. UN Secretary-General's remarks at the first meeting of the High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment (New York, 5 April 2006); and

vi. UNEP's contribution to the GA and Secretary-General's Panel processes, titled "United Nations reform: Implications for the environment pillar". (UNGA and Secretary-General's consultations at the UN Office in Nairobi, 3 -5 May 2006).

(b) The second segment will be a high-level consultation of executive heads of agencies and executive secretaries of multilateral environmental agreements (4 July 2006, 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.), who will exchange views on the implications of the UN reforms initiatives for the EMG and consider the draft EMG contribution emanating from the consultations of the senior officials (3 July 2006). They will also consider modalities and arrangements for transmitting the EMG contribution to the GA President and the Executive Director of the Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel.

8. The Provisional Agendas for the two segments are presented in sections III and IV.

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III. Provisional Agenda (Consultation of Senior Officials, Geneva, 3 July 2006)

10:00 Opening remarks by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP and EMG Chairman
Assisted by the Co-Chairs

- Introduction of the proposed co-chairs for the deliberations at the EMG Forum
- Nomination of the drafting team for the EMG contribution

10:15 Introductory remarks by Mr. Adnan Amin, Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel

10:30 Presentations by special invitees, Mr. Adil Najam and Ms. Maria Ivanova

11:15 Coffee Break

11:30 Views and perspectives of senior officials/focal points of EMG members on the issues being addressed by the UNGA and Secretary General's High-level Panel processes.

13:00 Lunch (hosted by the Chair of EMG), Restaurant Vieux-Bois located at the Pregny entrance (Door 40), at 13:00 – 15 Hrs.

15:00 Open discussions on the key issues and questions at the centre of UN reforms initiatives
(participants are requested to focus on the specific questions in documents i) and ii) listed in para 7 in section I to facilitate consolidation of their views and perspectives as input to the draft EMG contribution)

16:15 Coffee Break

16:30 – onwards

- Consideration of key elements of the EMG's contribution
- Consideration of the summary of key points prepared by the drafting committee (outcome of this consideration will constitute the draft EMG contribution to the UN reform initiatives).

18:00 Closure of the meeting

IV. Provisional Agenda (Consultation of Executive Heads of Agencies and Executive Secretaries of the MEAs, Geneva, 4 July 2006

Chair: Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP and Chair of the EMG

9:00 Key points of the outcome of the segment of Senior Officials and EMG Focal Points (by Walter Erdelen, Chairman of the segment, 3 July)

9:10 Overview of the key points in the presentations of the resource persons (Adil/Maria)

9:15 Remarks by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP and EMG Chairman

9:25 Remarks by Co-Chairs (WHO, WMO, UNFCCC)

9:35 Roundtable discussion: views and perspectives of the Executive Heads of Agencies and Executive Secretaries of the MEAs on the issues before the UN reform processes

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 Remarks by the UNGA Process co-Chairs (Ambassador Peter Maurer)

11:00 Round table discussion continued

11:45 Way Forward and closing remarks

12:00 End of consultation