Meeting of the Environmental Management Group (EMG)

Geneva
8 February 2005
International Environment House
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Provisional Annotated Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

The Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, as the chairman of the EMG will open the meeting and invite the members to adopt the meeting's provisional agenda (tbc).

2. The EMG's program of work for 2005

a. The work of the EMG in the area of enhancing UN system wide information exchange on environmental capacity building

The EMG in its last meetings has substantively discussed the issue of environmental capacity building to identify its role and contribution to the work of the UN system in this area. This included the preparation of two surveys on environmental capacity building in the areas of biological diversity and chemicals management as well as a study on the existing UN system information exchange and other cooperative frameworks on environmental capacity building. The work of the EMG also contributed to the preparation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building (IGSP).

The results of these activities, including the recommendations of the above studies, confirmed that the EMG could play a useful and supportive role in the area of enhancing UN system wide information exchange on environmental capacity building. For this purpose the EMG could establish a UN system resource library or clearinghouse on environmental capacity building with a focus on enhancing information exchange on activities, lessons learned, experiences and best practices as well as promoting areas of horizontal cooperation across the UN system.

Some options have been suggested on the design and work of such a clearinghouse, details of which are provided in the Note of the Secretariat entitled "The UN System Information Exchange on Environmental Capacity Building and the Role of the Environmental Management Group". The Note is prepared on the basis of the recommendations provided by the above surveys.

The EMG members are invited to provide their comments on the suggested options and their experiences on similar resource libraries as well as their views on the content and future functioning of the EMG clearinghouse.

To contribute to an interactive discussion, the representative of the UNECE will make a presentation on the establishment and the current work of the joint UNECE, WHO clearing house on Transport, Health and Environment, Pan European Program (PEP).

b. Contribution of the EMG to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

In the context of preparations for the 2006/2007 cycle of the CSD's multi year program of work, the EMG Secretariat has been invited by the CSD Secretariat/UNDESA to work on the issues of air pollution, including indoor air pollution/atmosphere, and industrial development with a focus on local and global emissions. It has been suggested that the EMG could focus on collecting information from its members on their best practices, lessons learned and possible case studies in this area and submit its input as a contribution to the annual meeting of the CSD in 2006.

The Representative of the UNDESA will further inform the EMG members on preparations for the implementation of the CSD cycle 2006/2007 and provide more detailed suggestions on the contribution of the EMG.

The EMG members may want to consider establishing an Issue Management Group (IMG) for this issue.

3. Date and agenda for the next meeting

4. Any other business

The EMG Secretariat will inform the meeting on the upcoming 23rd Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (21-25 February 2005, Nairobi), including the report prepared by an independent consultant on the comprehensive assessment of the location of the EMG Secretariat.

5. Closure of the meeting