Environmental Management Group (EMG)

6th Meeting of the Environmental Management Group
International Environment House, Geneva, 6 February 2004
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Provisional Annotated Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

The Deputy-Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, as the chairman of the EMG will open the meeting and invite the members to adopt the meeting's provisional agenda.

2. The EMG's contribution on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements to the UNEP GC/GMEF and CSD 12

The issue of water will be addressed by the next Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Jeju/Republic of Korea, March 2004). In April 2004, CSD 12 will review progress in implementation of the water agenda under the thematic clusters of (i) water, (ii) sanitation and (iii) human settlements.

At its last meeting the Group decided that the EMG should prepare a paper containing information on current and planned activities of its members related to environmental aspects of fresh water as well as suggestions on how the EMG members could contribute to strengthening implementation in the areas addressed by the GMEF.

Consequently, the EMG Secretariat has prepared a draft document entitled "addressing environmental aspects of the water agenda: activities of the United Nations System". The draft is based on the information received from the EMG members on their activities in the field of water, focusing upon environmental aspects and the ecosystem approach in particular.

The Group is invited to consider and discuss the draft document and provide its additional comments and views. The Secretariat will incorporate these comments and submit the paper to the meeting of the GC/GMEF as an information document for consideration by Ministers and Heads of Delegations.

3. The potential role of the EMG in the area of capacity building

In view of the interest expressed by some EMG members, the EMG Secretariat has initiated a series of informal consultations, including a teleconference [1]in order to examine a potential role of the EMG in the area of capacity-building. As a result of these consultations, the Secretariat has prepared a note entitled " The potential work on capacity building within the framework of the Environmental Management Group" for consideration by the Group. The aim of the note is to initiate further discussions with all EMG members on their specific capacity building needs and to identify possibilities for addressing these in the context of the EMG.

[1] The report of the teleconference and the list of participants are attached as annexes to the Note on Capacity Building.

The note proposes some specific areas where the EMG could play a role and provide added value, taking into account its issue management and problem solving approach. The Group is invited to discuss these suggestions and to provide its recommendations on the potential areas of work suggested for the EMG as well as on the next steps to be undertaken.

4. Review and finalization of the work on 'Harmonization of information management and reporting for biodiversity-related conventions'

At its last meeting, the EMG decided that the Secretariat should prepare a report on the results of the IMG's work for consideration and policy advice of the ministers of environment at the GMEF. The UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) as the task manager for the IMG will present the draft of this report for discussion and approval by the EMG.

5. Reporting of the EMG to the GC/GMEF and to the UNGA

The Secretariat will inform the Group about reporting requirements for the GC/GMEF and the UN General Assembly. The Group may wish to comment on the structure as well as the content and presentation of these reports.

6. Date and agenda for the next meeting

It is proposed to hold the next meeting of the EMG back-to-back with the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in New York in late April 2004.

7. Any other business

8. Closure of the meeting