Environmental Management Group (EMG)

9th Meeting of the Environmental Management Group
International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland, 08 November 2004
2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Document EMG 9/2

Provisional Annotated Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

On behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, a senior representative of UNEP will open the meeting and invite the members to adopt the meeting's provisional agenda.

2. The work of the EMG on enhancing UN system wide coordination, information exchange, experiences and lessons learned in the area of environmental capacity building

The last meeting of the EMG on 1 September 2004 in Nairobi considered the two surveys on "situation/needs analysis in the area of environmental capacity building for biodiversity and chemicals management". The Group while providing its comments, requested the task managers of the two studies (UNITAR and UNEP-WCMC) to further develop the two papers in the areas of the experiences, lessons learned and the possible role of the EMG in close coordination with the Issue Management Group (IMG) on capacity building and the EMG Secretariat. The Group particularly recommended more synergies between the two papers in terms of approach and the structure. The idea of horizontal linkages and the identification of possible areas of cooperation on cross cutting issues was also highlighted by the Group.

In view of these suggestions and on the basis of the supplementary inputs received from the members, particularly from UNDP, UNEP and CBD, the two surveys were revised and finalized.

Having discussed the results of the two above surveys and bearing in mind the valuable information received from the UN agencies, the Group also requested the Secretariat to prepare a study which should explore if such information and knowledge are well disseminated and shared within the UN system for more effective and coordinated capacity building activities. Such exercise would be useful as it could identify the possible needs and gaps in the area of information exchange and could propose possibilities for further interagency cooperation through strengthening/establishing effective cooperative frameworks, taking into account the potential role of the EMG.

In light of the above, the EMG Secretariat in close consultation with the IMG on capacity building, prepared the draft document entitled " *Enhancing the UN System wide information exchange, experiences and lessons learned in environmental capacity building – A 'Strategic Vision' for consideration of the Environmental Management Group (EMG).* The aim is to provide an insight on the UN system information exchange on activities, experiences and lessons learned in the area of environmental capacity building and to examine possibilities for further enhancing the UN system interagency cooperation in this area, including through examining the potential role of the EMG.

A presentation on the status and findings of this draft paper will be made to the EMG members by the EMG consultant who conducted the study in close contact with the members of the Group. The Group is invited to comment on the structure, the approach and the content of the study and to propose follow up actions.

3. The Report of the EMG to the UNEP Governing Council, including its medium term strategy and program of work for 2005

The Group is invited to provide comments on the draft report of the EMG prepared by the EMG Secretariat for consideration of the 23rd session of the UNEP GC/GMEF in February 2005. The report includes the proposed EMG medium-term strategy as well as its work program for 2005. The three main pillars of the proposed EMG work include:

- Focus on the UN system work on specific environmental and human settlements issues to provide, inter alia, information on the UN system activities, needs and gaps and to identify areas and possibilities for further interagency cooperation and coordination in the context of the EMG.

- Contribution to major intergovernmental processes and forums on environment and sustainable development by providing a consolidated UN system input. (Contributions to the UNEP GC/GMEF and CSD 12 on environmental aspects of water, sanitation and human settlements and most recently to the IGSP on environmental capacity building are examples of such EMG role.)

- Strengthening cooperation with other formal or informal UN interagency frameworks such as HLCP/CEB, UNDG, UN Water, IOMC to ensure that environmental and human settlements issues are fully integrated in the implementation of the overall UN system work on sustainable development.

The issues proposed for the work program in 2005 include:

- ✓ Environmental capacity building (follow up work on enhancing information exchange)
- ✓ UN system sustainable procurement
- ✓ Air pollution including indoor air pollution/atmosphere [1]
- ✓ Industrial practices with a focus on local and global emissions[2]
- ✓ The urban poverty-environment nexus

The suggested issues have been provided on the basis of the proposals received from some EMG members. The Group is therefore invited to provide specific comments on the suggested issues or ideas on the EMG's future strategic direction. The members are welcome to propose additional issues for inclusion in the work program.

4. Any other business

5. Date and agenda for the next meeting

It is suggested to hold the next EMG meeting end of January/beginning of February 2005 in Geneva.

6. Closure of the meeting

[1] In the context of implementation of the 2006/2007 cycle of the CSD's multi year program of work
[2] In the context of implementation of the 2006/2007 cycle of the CSD's multi year program of work