

**21/20. Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme and implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242**

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/32 of 4 April 1997 and 20/17 of 5 February 1999 as well as General Assembly resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/162 of 14 December 2000, 55/198 of 20 December 2000, 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and 55/200 of 20 December 2000,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 55/200, by which the General Assembly, *inter alia*, underscored the need for sufficient financial resources, on a stable and predictable basis, to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular with a view to ensuring its strong involvement in the preparatory process for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

(a) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme, including governance aspects of General Assembly resolution 53/242

1. Resolves to continue strengthening the role of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum as the policy organ of the United Nations Environment Programme, the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves an authoritative advocate for the global environment;
2. Invites the regional ministerial environment forums to provide the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum with their respective views on policy issues in the field of the environment, and to consider the outcome of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, thereby ensuring interaction between the two;
3. Decides, subject to the availability of an offer from a host country, to hold its sessions in alternate years in the United Nations regions, where possible, on a rotational basis, in keeping with the spirit of its decision 20/17 of 5 February 1999;
4. Calls upon Governments in a position to do so to provide financial resources to facilitate participation of environment ministers and other officials from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in all meetings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
5. Decides, following the successful completion by the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials of the role entrusted to it in Governing Council decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997 on the governance of the United Nations Environment Programme, and with appreciation for its work, to discontinue the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials;
6. Decides, that the proceedings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall be conducted in all official languages following the installation of full interpretation services in Nairobi;

7. Requests the Executive Director to provide all documentation for a session of the Governing Council to the Committee of Permanent Representatives eight weeks in advance of the session and that the Committee endeavour to finish its work four weeks prior to the actual Governing Council session;

8. Requests the Executive Director to notify designated focal points for the United Nations Environment Programme of upcoming meetings and, as practical, of the invitees;

(b) Implementation of other aspects of General Assembly resolution 53/242

9. Welcomes the recent commencement of the work of the Environmental Management Group of the United Nations;

10. Invites the Environmental Management Group to publish a benchmark report on progress in its work at a regular interval to be agreed upon by the Group;

11. Urges the Secretary-General to take measures to secure adequate human and financial resources required for the proper functioning of the secretariat of the Environmental Management Group;

12. Further invites Governments in a position to do so to contribute in support of the functioning of the Environmental Management Group and its secretariat;

13. Recalls the authority and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote the integration of the environmental aspects of sustainable development into the work of the United Nations system, and emphasizes the importance of practical and efficient execution of this authority;

14. Invites, in this context, the Executive Director to approach relevant organizations within the United Nations system with the proposal to make a joint review of their roles in the environment area, aiming at identifying and analysing the need for strengthened coordination and cooperation, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;

15. Encourages the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in areas of mutual interest through, inter alia, joint projects and complementary programmes of action;

16. Requests the Executive Director to continue efforts to enhance policy coherence and synergy among international legal instruments related to environment and sustainable development at both inter-agency and intergovernmental levels;

17. Urges the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 2002-2003, in accordance with current budgetary practices, and to consider other ways of lending support to the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, in view of preparations for and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

18. Calls upon the Executive Director to promote further international action to enhance synergy between the programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental conventions, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, including streamlining of reporting, capacity-building and other actions aimed at the implementation of Agenda 21;
19. Encourages conferences of parties to the multilateral environmental conventions to involve, as appropriate, the Environmental Management Group in enhancing complementarities among them while respecting their autonomous nature;
20. Supports the enhancement that has taken place of the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of Global Environment Facility in securing Facility funding for the programme priorities of those multilateral environment conventions for which the Facility serves as a financing mechanism;
21. Encourages the Executive Director to take further steps to promote the engagement of the private sector in addressing environmental challenges, inter alia through the promotion of environmental reporting, voluntary codes of conduct, cleaner production and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies;
22. Notes with appreciation the establishment of the Civil Society and Non-governmental Organizations Unit within the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme;
23. Calls for the prompt strengthening of the capacity and capability of the United Nations Environment Programme in the areas of information, the monitoring and assessment of global and regional environmental trends and early warning information on threats, so as to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action in these areas;
24. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that capacity building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, as well as research and scientific studies in the field of environment must remain important components of the work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, and also stresses in this regard the need for adequate financial resources;
25. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its twenty-second session on the implementation of the present decision.

#### **21/21. International environmental governance**

The Governing Council,

Underlining the importance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in 2002 to review the outcome of the United Nations Conference on

Environment and Development, to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development and, as a critical opportunity to advance international cooperation for sustainable development on the basis of concrete commitments at the highest level,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/200 in which the Assembly stressed the important role that the United Nations Environment Programme has to play in the ten year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration in which the role of the United Nations Environment Programme is confirmed as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Welcoming efforts already made to realise the objectives of the Nairobi Declaration, as well as the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 and the subsequent establishment of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the Environmental Management Group and the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Nairobi,

Recognizing that these reforms constitute first steps in a process of necessary streamlining and strengthening of the system of international environmental governance including in the context of sustainable development with the objective of enhancing policy coherence and implementation,

Emphasizing that stable, predictable and adequate funding is a prerequisite for improved governance and should constitute a central aspect of deliberations on improving international environmental governance,

Recalling the recommendations from the Malmö Ministerial Declaration that the 2002 conference should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world, and that United Nations Environment Programme's role in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable,

1. Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme and member governments of the United Nations and its specialised agencies to intensify efforts to implement General Assembly resolution 53/242 as a basis for further institutional strengthening;
2. Decides to establish an open-ended Intergovernmental Group of ministers or their representatives, with the Executive Director as an ex-officio member, to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs and options for strengthened international environmental governance, including the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to presenting a report containing analysis and options to the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

3. Requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives as the subsidiary body of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum to provide its due contribution to this process in an expeditious manner;
4. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with governments to review the state of international environmental governance and elaborate a report to be submitted to the Intergovernmental Group at its first meeting;
5. Decides that the process should benefit from incorporating the views and perspectives of other United Nations entities, international financial institutions, expert institutions, major groups, and individuals outside the United Nations system;
6. Decides that the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should undertake in depth discussion of the report with a view to providing its input on future requirements of international environmental governance in the broader context of multilateral efforts for sustainable development to the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its meeting at the Ministerial level in May 2002 as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
7. Requests the President of the Governing Council to inform the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its first session as the preparatory body of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, of this decision of the Council and of the views expressed by Ministers of the Environment on international environmental governance at this session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
8. Requests the Executive Director to seek additional financial resources from governments in a position to contribute to supporting this process in particular to facilitate the participation of developing country representatives.