

SELECTED DOCUMENTS

UNEP

21st Session of the GC and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum*

– Selected Decisions –

21/1 Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Conven- tion to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experienc- ing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The Governing Council,
Recalling its decision 20/10 of 5 Feb-
ruary 1999,

Recognizing that land degradation is
a major problem for many countries, par-
ticularly those in Africa,

Noting the statement by the fourth
session of the Conference of the Parties
to the United Nations Convention to Com-
bat Desertification in those Countries Ex-
periencing Serious Drought and/or Deser-
tification, particularly in Africa; that "despite
important efforts made by all interested
parties, adequate financial and other re-
sources have not been mobilized, con-
straining the ability of affected developing
country parties to fulfil their commitments
under the Convention";

Recalling also the United Nations
Secretary-General's report A/54/2000 and
its chapter 5, section C "Defending the
Soil",

Recalling the experience of the United
Nations Environment Programme in devel-
oping desertification assessments and
databases, in research initiatives and co-
operative studies with the Scientific Com-
mittee on Problems of the Environment of
the International Council of Scientific Un-
ions, and through the numerous joint pro-
grammes and studies on desertification
with various centres of excellence includ-
ing those of the Consultative Group for In-
ternational Agricultural Research and with
other United Nations organizations,

1. **Welcomes** the efforts of the United
Nations Environment Programme to assist
countries affected by land degradation,
strengthen cooperation and collaboration

with other relevant United Nations bodies
and agencies and other organizations in
the field of land degradation, develop and
implement land-degradation projects in
accordance with the action plan on land
degradation of the Global Environment
Facility, and to assist Governments in the
implementation of the United Nations Con-
vention to Combat Desertification;

2. **Welcomes** also the increasing col-
laboration between the United Nations
Environment Programme, the United Na-
tions Centre for Human Settlements (Habi-
tat), the International Council of Research
on Agro-Forestry and other relevant Nai-
robi based agencies in addressing the en-
vironmental aspects of land degradation;

3. **Further welcomes** the intergovern-
mental dialogue being conducted within the
framework of the regional ministerial con-
ferences on the environment relating to
land degradation and its impacts on the
environment;

4. **Also welcomes** the efforts being
taken by the United Nations Environment
Programme to review and analyse its role
in land use management, including soil
protection, in conformity with the functional
approaches approved by the Governing
Council at its twentieth session;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director to
strengthen the capability of the United
Nations Environment Programme to re-
spond to global land issues in order to ful-
fil the mandate of Task Manager for Agenda
21¹/chapter 12 (and other related chap-
ters), and to support the Conference of the
Parties to the Convention to Combat De-
sertification, in particular its Committee on
Science and Technology in the assessment
and monitoring of desertification and the
enhancement of the scientific and techno-
logical knowledge base on land degrada-
tion;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director to
further strengthen the functional integra-
tion of land resource management and soil
conservation policy of the United Nations
Environment Programme as outlined in its
land policy review;

7. **Requests** the Executive Director to
strengthen the United Nations Environment
Programme's collaboration with the World
Bank and the United Nations Development
Programme with a view to enhancing the
Global Environment Facility assistance to
countries for activities identified in the
Global Environment Facility's action plan on
land degradation, in view of the inter-
linkages between land degradation and the
focal areas of the Global Environment Fa-
cility;

8. **Welcomes** the decision of the Global
Environment Facility Council as adopted
in November 2000 requesting the Chief Ex-
ecutive Officer to explore the best options
for enhancing the support of the Facility in
assisting countries, especially those in Af-
rica, in implementing the United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification tak-
ing into account the third replenishment,
and in this regard stresses the need to
enhance the role of the United Nations
Environment Programme in the Global
Environment Facility in assisting African
countries to implement the Convention to
Combat Desertification at regional and
subregional levels as well as at national
level, when appropriate, based on its dem-
onstrated comparative advantage as well
as its unique relation to the African conti-
nent;

9. **Also requests** the Executive Direc-
tor to strengthen collaboration with relevant
United Nations organizations and agencies
and other organizations concerned with
assistance to countries for mitigating land
degradation and for the implementation of
the Convention to Combat Desertification;

10. **Further requests** the Executive Di-
rector, in cooperation with other bodies,
particularly the Secretariat of the Conven-
tion to Combat Desertification, the Global
Mechanism under the Convention and the
other implementing agencies of the Glo-
bal Environment Facility, as well as relevant
regional and subregional organizations, to
continue to assist countries affected by
land degradation, in the development of a
pipeline of land-degradation projects for fi-
nancing by the Global Environment Fa-
cility and other relevant financial mecha-
nisms.

21/3 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazard- ous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Governing Council,
Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21
and its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995,
19/13 A of 7 February 1997, SS.V/5 of 22
May 1998 and 20/22 of 4 February 1999,

Noting with appreciation the work
done by the Intergovernmental Negotiat-
ing Committee in overseeing the implemen-
tation of the interim prior informed consent
procedure and in preparing for the first
meeting of the Conference of the Parties,
Concerned about the slow progress

* 5-9 February 2001. Decisions adopted 9 Feb-
ruary 2001. See also page 67.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on
Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro,
3-14 June 1992, A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and
Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and
corrigenda), Vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the
Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

in ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention,

1. **Calls upon** States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with a view, as underscored in the Priorities of Action beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its third session, to its entry into force as soon as possible, preferably by the fourth session of the Forum in 2003. All efforts should be made to ensure that the necessary procedures are put into place so that countries can successfully implement the Convention in a prompt manner;

2. **Also calls upon** States and regional economic integration organizations to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the United Nations Environment Programme in order to support the interim arrangements and the operation of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of Parties takes place, and to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the further work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

3. **Requests** the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the progress in implementing the interim prior informed consent procedure and in preparing for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the present decision.

21/4 Convention for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/32 of 25 May 1995, 19/13 C of 7 February 1997 and 20/24 of 4 February 1999 on persistent organic pollutants,

Noting with appreciation that through the "POPs Club" funding effort, Governments and other actors in a position to do so provided the necessary financial resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutant as called upon in paragraph 17 of Governing Council decision 19/13 C,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of a legally binding instrument (UNEP/GC.21/2),

1. **Welcomes** the completion of the negotiations of the convention for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants² which was accomplished before the end of the year 2000 as requested in paragraph 12 of its decision 19/13 C;

2. **Calls on** Governments and regional economic integration organizations to

adopt and thereafter sign the Convention at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to be held in Stockholm from 22 to 23 May 2001;

3. **Encourages** countries to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible, preferably by 2004, as underscored in the Priorities of Action beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its third session;

4. **Authorizes** the participation of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in an interim secretariat and in a secretariat to the Convention, if so decided by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Convention provided that such arrangements are satisfactory to the Executive Director and that costs are met through extrabudgetary resources;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director to promote full cooperation between such a secretariat and the secretariats of other relevant conventions, in particular with respect to the development of support to Governments in developing implementation plans;

6. **Urges** the Executive Director through the interim secretariat of the Convention to assist in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries with a view to facilitating capacity-building, early entry into force and financing;

7. **Invites** the Executive Director to take actions to facilitate voluntary implementation of the Convention prior to its entry into force if such action is called for by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries;

8. **Appeals** to Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to provide sufficient financial resources necessary for implementation of interim arrangements for the Convention prior to the first session of its Conference of the Parties;

9. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue taking actions as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 19/13 C, including the immediate actions identified in paragraph 13 of that decision;

10. **Encourages** Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to provide financial and in-kind contributions for supporting implementation of the immediate actions as called for in paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/13 C;

11. **Requests** the Executive Director to invite the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take into account the relevant resolutions of the Stockholm Conference of Plenipotentiaries and consider ways and means of implementing them.

2/ For the text of the convention as agreed by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants at its fifth session, see UNEP/POPS/INC.5/7.

21/8 Biosafety

The Governing Council,

Recalling that a number of delegates commended the outcome of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Biosafety En-

abling Activity Project and progress made by participating countries in identifying and prioritizing the requirements for biosafety capacity-building during the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nairobi, from 15 to 26 May 2000,

Also recalling that many countries expressed their desire to participate in a similar but expanded programme that would cater for the development of the national biosafety frameworks, during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the Global Environment Facility lunchtime workshop on the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project and the ministerial round table on capacity-building in developing countries to facilitate the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

1. **Notes** with appreciation the successful completion of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project implemented by national executing agencies of 18 Global Environment Facility-eligible countries through the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with the Information Resource for the Release of Organisms into the Environment and other institutions;

2. **Commends** the Global Environment Facility approval of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project to benefit up to 100 Global Environment Facility-eligible developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. **Congratulates** the 18 countries that participated in the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Enabling Activity Project for their exemplary execution of the national component of the pilot project, and invites the Global Environment Facility to provide further financial support to these and other countries for the implementation of national biosafety frameworks (or similar policy administrative, legislative biosafety frameworks) they have developed in preparation for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and for the first phase of the biosafety clearing house;

4. **Compliments** countries that have already ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as well as those countries that have signed the Protocol, noting the subsequent need for its ratification, and encourages countries that have not yet signed to do so followed by ratification thereof;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue mobilizing resources, including through the Global Environment Facility, for support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly countries that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity for capacity-building initiatives in the field of biosafety that would facilitate effective implementation of their national biosafety frameworks in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and consistent with the obligations of the parties to the Conven-

tion on Biological Diversity under Article 8(g) of the Convention;

6. **Further requests** the Executive Director to mobilize resources and support as appropriate, the establishment and/or further strengthening of subregional and regional biosafety risk-assessment capabilities considering the capacity need at national level, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant organizations;

7. **Requests** the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

21/9 Atmosphere

A. The climate agenda and the world climate impact assessment and response Strategies programme

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B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

.....
C. Global Climate Observing System

.....
D. *Programmatic support to atmosphere-related conventions*

The Governing Council,

Recalling Governing Council decisions concerning programmatic support to the multilateral environmental conventions in the field of atmosphere, including decisions 15/30 of 25 May 1989 and 16/40 of 31 May 1991 concerning the protection of the ozone layer, decision 18/20 of 26 May 1995 concerning climate change and decision 20/18 of 4 February 1999, concerning environmental conventions,

Considering the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Environment Programme's programmatic support to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,

Noting in particular the United Nations Environment Programme activities in support of: the Global Climate Observing System, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Climate Agenda which in part supports the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Welcoming the programmatic activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol,

Cognizant of the need to enhance synergies and interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and the functions of the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Environmental Conventions in addressing such interlinkages and synergies,

Noting further the United Nations Environment Programme activities on the clearing-house function related to information on ozone layer and its depletion, and activities related to phasing-out of ozone depleting substances, institutional strengthening in developing countries and the strengthening and management of regional networks under the OzonAction programme,

Cognizant of the fact that recent sci-

entific observations of the ozone layer over the South and North Poles seem to suggest that the expected improvement trend in the state of the ozone layer is not materializing,

1. **Urges** the Executive Director, within available resources, to continue programmatic activities in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, in particular to encourage the enhancement of synergies between these instruments;

2. **Calls upon** the Executive Director to continue to liaise with relevant United Nations agencies, and international organizations with a view to addressing the issue of systematic observations and assessment of the ozone layer.

21/11 Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 D of 7 February 1997, SS.V/4 of 22 May 1998, 20/25 of 5 February and SS.VI/2 of 31 May 2000,

1. **Takes note of** the report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on water issues related to Governing Council decisions 20/25 and SS.VI/2;

2. **Accepts** in its present form the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme as contained in document UNEP/GC.21/2/Add.1 which enhances the focus of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the environmental aspects of sustainable development and integrated management of water in accordance with national needs and subject to Governments' requests;

3. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Executive Director for the measures taken to implement Governing Council decisions 20/25 and SS.VI/2;

4. **Also expresses** its appreciation to the Executive Director for the progress reports submitted to the Committee for Permanent Representatives, respectively on: the Global International Waters Assessment; the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; the regional seas conventions; and the water activities of the International Environmental Technology Centre;

5. **Further expresses** its appreciation for the establishment of an expert group on exchange of information on best practices in the freshwater management;

6. **Decides** that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, and taking into account national priorities, should place a high priority on the identification of expertise and knowledge available in countries relating to the environmental aspects of water quality, and facilitate the establishment of partnerships between those countries and countries in need of that expertise and knowledge and the promotion of intergovernmental collaboration upon requests of the Governments concerned;

7. **Requests** the Executive Director to enhance, through the International Environmental Technology Centre, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for

water management, with due attention to the use of local technologies, the identification and analysis of the costs, effectiveness and strengths and limitations of alternative technologies, and awareness-raising initiatives on technology development and transfer in the water sector;

8. **Also requests** the Executive Director to intensify collaborative activities with Governments, upon request, as well as with other organizations and agencies in furtherance of the implementation of the water policy and strategy;

9. **Also requests** the Executive Director to take the necessary measures in furtherance of the continued implementation of the water policy and strategy, consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the priorities outlined in Governing Council decisions at its respective sessions and in line with the relevant chapters of Agenda 21;

10. **Also requests** the Executive Director to ensure the review of the water policy and strategy at the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2003;

11. **Also requests** the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water, arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in line with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and the outcome of the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21, and to propose policy options to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

12. **Also requests** the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of water, takes into account the work carried out by other United Nations agencies and international organizations as well as by national Governments to avoid duplication;

13. **Further requests** the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-second session, on the progress in the implementation of the present decision and in related environmental issues.

21/18 Implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as the embodiment of a strong and vibrant international consensus on major environmental challenges faced in the twenty-first century and as a holistic strategy to address them,

Recalling also the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Noting General Assembly resolution 55/200 of 20 December 2000 by which the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as one of the contributions to the Millennium Summit and to the preparation of the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environ-

ment and Development as well as the environment-related aspects of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and conscious of the responsibilities of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environment authority,

Stressing that the Malmö Ministerial Declaration constitutes a significant contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Highlighting the need to close the gap between the commitments made and action taken in relation to sustainable development as identified by the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Conscious that the root causes of global environmental degradation are embedded in social and economic problems such as pervasive poverty, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, inequity in distribution of wealth and the debt burden,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director concerning the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration (UNEP/GC.21/3),

1. **Stresses** its commitment to comprehensive implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;

2. **Urges** Governments to translate the commitments made in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration into concrete action at the national, regional and global levels;

3. **Encourages** the civil society, the private sector and other major groups to actively contribute to the full implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;

4. **Decides** to transmit, through the President of the Governing Council, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as well as the present decision to other intergovernmental bodies and conferences in the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and invite these bodies and conferences to promote its implementation;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director to transmit the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as well as the present decision to all relevant United Nations bodies, programmes and agencies to promote its implementation;

6. **Invites** the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider the integration of the commitments contained in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration into its work, especially in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

7. **Requests** the Executive Director to take further steps in the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as it relates to the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, including coordination within the United Nations system through, *inter alia*, the Environmental Management Group;

8. **Requests** the Executive Director to monitor the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and to report thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives as well as to the Governing Council at its next session.

21/19 The role of civil society

The Governing Council,

Recalling resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972 of the General Assembly, in particular its section IV, paragraph 5, as well as chapter 28 of Agenda 21,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and General Assembly

resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000 concerning the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

Also recalling its decision 18/4 of 26 May 1995, which called for the development of a policy framework and appropriate mechanisms for working with the civil society, private sector and other major groups and a subsequent policy of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning non-governmental organizations and other major groups, issued on 30 October 1996,

Further recalling the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, in particular rule 69, which allows "international non-governmental organizations having an interest in the field of the environment to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary bodies",

Stressing paragraph 14 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme with respect to the civil society, private sector and other major groups,

Also taking note of the civil society statement presented during the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

Aiming at further developing the relationship between the civil society, private sector and other major groups and the United Nations Environment Programme and its governing bodies,

1. **Requests** the Executive Director to further the consultative process, including at the regional level, with Governments, the civil society, private sector and other major groups on ways and means to enhance the active engagement and participation of civil society in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. **Also requests** the Executive Director to submit, before the end of 2001, a report on the outcome of these consultations and a draft strategy for the active engagement of the civil society, private sector and other major groups in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its consideration and subsequently to submit the report and the draft strategy to the Governing Council at its seventh special session in 2002;

3. **Decides** to include an agenda item entitled "Strengthening the role of the civil society, private sector and other major groups in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme" in the provisional

agenda of the seventh special session of the Governing Council.

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,

1. 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



A show of cards during the Plenary proceedings.

Courtesy: IISD

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;

II. Implementation of other aspects of General Assembly resolution 53/242

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

2. **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;

3. **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;

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

5. **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;

6. **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;

7. **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;

8. **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;

9. **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;

10. **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;

11. **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;

12. **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;

13. **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;

14. **Notes** with appreciation the establishment of the Civil Society and Non-governmental Organizations Unit within the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme;

15. **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;

16. **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;

17. **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 of 20 December 2000 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 on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 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 realize 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 specialized 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.

21/23 The Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law For the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century

(for the full text of the Programme, please see EPL 30/6 (2000) p. 309)

21/26 Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,
Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international conven-

tions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.21/4 and INF/16),

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

1. **Authorizes** the Executive Director to transmit the report and related status table, on its behalf, together with comments made by delegations thereon, especially on the need for institutional capacity building, as well as further information which the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme might receive by 31 May 2001, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX);

2. **Urges** States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to do so expeditiously and to proceed with their implementation;

3. **Calls also** on States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme with information on new conventions and protocols in the field of the environment as well as information on any changes to the status of the existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

21/27 Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements

The Governing Council,
Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Deeply concerned that, despite many successful international and regional environmental agreements, and some progress having been achieved, environmental damage caused by illegal traffic in endangered species and dangerous and harmful substances and products is growing,

Reaffirming the importance of speedy implementation of the legal commitments contained in the multilateral environmental agreements,

Recognizing the stronger role of the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization, which have been referred to as "Green Interpol" or "Green Customs",

Convinced that continuous efforts are required to be undertaken by all countries and relevant organizations and operational agencies concerned in ensuring compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the convention secretariats,

1. **Requests** the Executive Director to continue the preparation of the draft guidelines on compliance with multilateral environmental agreements and on the capacity-strengthening, effective national environmental enforcement, in support of the ongoing developments of compliance regimes within the framework of international agreements and in consultation with Governments and relevant international organizations;

2. **Requests** the Executive Director to ensure the open-ended and transparent nature of this process;

3. **Encourages** the Executive Director to see the completion of this process and to submit the draft guidelines to the Governing Council for its consideration at its seventh special session in 2002.

21/31 The Environment Fund budgets: Proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003

The Governing Council,
Having considered the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003, as contained in document UNEP/GC.21/6, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNEP/GC.21/6/Add.1),

1. **Approves** the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Council;

2. **Approves** appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of \$119.9 million for the purposes indicated below:

2002-2003 Biennial programme and support budget
 (Thousands of US dollars)

Programme of work	
Environmental assessment and early warning	23 000.0
Environmental policy development and law	13 925.0
Environmental policy implementation	8 000.0
Technology, industry and economics	21 350.0
Regional cooperation and representation	21 025.0
Environmental conventions	6 975.0
Communications and public information	5 725.0
Total programme of work	100 000.0
Fund programme reserve	5 000.0
Support budget	14 876.3
Grand total	119 876.3

3. **Reconfirms** the authority of the Executive Director to reallocate resources between programmes up to a maximum of 20 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources are reallocated;

4. **Urges** the Executive Director to further increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the biennia 2000-2001 and 2002-2003;

5. **Authorizes** the Executive Director to adjust on a pro rata basis the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

6. **Recommends** that the Executive Director, in light of possible financial constraints, take a cautious approach to the creation of additional posts under the Environment Fund programme;

7. **Requests** the Executive Director to keep Governments specifically informed, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis and the Governing Council at its regular and special sessions, of reallocations of the appropriations or adjustments of the allocation;

8. **Notes** that the proposed 2002-2003 budget has been formulated in line with the harmonized budget format developed by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Children's Fund, and that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions have been fully taken into account;

9. **Endorses** the formats of the budget and programme of work presented for the biennium 2002-2003, including the harmonized budget and programme of work presenting overall strategies, performance indicators, regulatory mandate, objectives, outputs and partners of each sub-programme, and requests the Executive Director to apply this format, or refinements thereof, in the presentation of future biennial budgets and programmes of work in line with relevant United Nations rules and procedures;

10. **Welcomes** the extensive consultations between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing the draft budget and programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 and requests the Executive Director to regularize such consultations for the preparation of each biennial budget and programme of work;

11. **Requests** the Committee of Permanent Representatives to consult with the Executive Director on ways to provide the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives with further information, including financial information and on the sub-programme levels, on the distribution at the regional level of the activities of the programme of work;

12. **Expresses** its appreciation to those Governments that have contributed to the

Environment Fund in the biennium 2000-2001 and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, in cash and/or in kind, in order to permit the full implementation of the programme;

13. **Expresses** growing concern over the shrinking number of countries that contributed to the Fund in 2000;

14. **Recognizes** the pressing need to broaden the base of contributions to include all Governments, especially countries that have developed a greater capacity to pay;

15. **Urges** all Governments, where possible, to pay their contributions prior to the year to which the contributions relate or, at the latest, at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

16. **Urges** all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate, and if possible, on a multi-year basis;

17. **Approves** the recommendation by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.21/6, para. 39) that the outstanding pledges in 1995-1996 not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;

18. **Approves** the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2002-2003 as set out in the Executive Director's report;

19. **Notes** that the proposed appropriation of Environment Fund resources in the biennium 2002-2003 in the amount of \$14.87 million for the biennial support budget is conditional on an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi and/or the United Nations Environment Programme in the biennium 2002-2003;

20. **Notes** with concern that the present level of funding from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Envi-

ronment Programme is not sufficient to provide for the core functions of the Programme, as stipulated in section II, paragraph 3 of resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 of the General Assembly;

21. **Appeals** to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in order to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme, to consider positively a substantial increase in the regular budget allocation to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

22. **Requests** the Executive Director to provide financial details of work programmes to Governments in accordance with article VI of the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, if so requested;

23. **Requests** the Executive Director, further to article VI of the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund, to make available to Governments, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work. This information shall be structured according to the programme of work;

24. **Requests** the Executive Director to ensure that earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, apart from those for which the United Nations Environment Programme merely acts as a treasurer, fund activities that are in line with the programme of work;

25. **Authorizes** the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding \$20 million for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2004-2005;

26. **Requests** the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 2004-2005 a programme of work consisting of Fund programme activities with a cost of \$120.0 million;

27. **Requests** the Executive Director to submit a finalized draft budget and work programme for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

