

# Questions Raised on International Environmental Governance\*

## Note by the Executive Director

1. The establishment of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum with universal participation at the ministerial level has resulted in a renewed focus for high-level environmental policy discussion.

– Is there a need to further strengthen the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and enhance its relationship with other intergovernmental environmental forums to assist in developing policy coherence?

2. The fragmentation of the institutional structure for environmental decision-making and the loss of policy coherence and missed opportunities for synergistic cooperation have been identified as major problems.

– Is there a need to develop a clustering approach to multilateral environmental agreements?

– Should such a clustering approach take place at the functional or the issue level?

– What would need to be done to develop the necessary authority and linkages to pursue such an approach?

3. There is general consensus on the need for inter-agency coordination and an authoritative role for the Environmental Management Group.

– Is there a need to further strengthen, define and provide authority to the role of the Environmental Management Group?

– How could that be achieved?

– If a clustering approach to multilateral environmental agreements is agreed, could the Group be the instrument to achieve that?

4. There is general agreement that the need for increased and stable financing for the international environmental agenda is required.

– Is there a need to establish a system of assessed contributions to the Environment Fund of UNEP?

– What should be the relationship between UNEP as the principal environmental policy body and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as the principal environmental financing body?

– What would be required to translate the positive sentiments expressed by Governments into real financial contributions?

5. The question of the status and authority of UNEP has been underscored.

– Is it a realistic and effective approach for UNEP to become a specialized agency of the United Nations?

– Are there other ways to strengthen UNEP's authority?

– What should be the relationship between UNEP and other entities dealing with the environment?

6. There is a clear consensus on the need to strengthen the Nairobi headquarters as the location of UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat), as underlined in General Assembly resolution 53/242.

– Is there a need to strengthen UNEP's work in the area of capacity-building and technology transfer?

– What should be the relationship between different environmental activities in capacity-building and technology transfer?

– Is there a need for increased cooperation between UNEP and operational bodies of the United Nations?

8. There is a consensus that interna-



Acting Chair Karen Redman (Canada)

Courtesy: IISD

– Is there a need to further strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and to increase the United Nations regular budget contribution to UNON and UNEP?

– How can the headquarters location of UNEP be better utilized?

7. It is increasingly clear that the implementation of international environmental policy will require substantial progress in terms of strengthening international cooperation and increased provision of the means of implementation to developing countries.

tional environmental governance should be addressed in the context of sustainable development.

– Is there a need to better define the sustainable development objectives for the environmental work of the United Nations system?

– Should UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements integrate cross-sectoral issues into their work?

– How should this exercise relate to sustainable development governance?



\* UNEP/IGM//CRP.1.  
See also page 194.