



**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

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**Twenty-third session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 21–25 February 2005
Agenda item 12 F

Adoption of the report

**Proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial
Environment Forum at its twenty-third session**

Introduction

1. The twenty-third session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 21 to 25 February 2005. The Council adopted the present proceedings at the 10th plenary meeting of the session, on 25 February 2005.

I. Opening of the session

2. The twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was opened at 10.20 a.m. on 21 February 2005 by the master of ceremonies. The proceedings commenced with a musical performance by the Kibondo Environmental Management Association cultural group from the United Republic of Tanzania, in honour of the outgoing President of the Governing Council, Mr. Arcadio Ntagazwa, Minister of State for the Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP; the outgoing President; Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered on his behalf by Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP; Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Mr. Zeng Peiyan, Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China; and Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya.

4. Before delivering his statement, the Executive Director invited those present to take time to remember the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster. Participants stood to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the hundreds of thousands who lost their lives in the tragedy.

5. In his statement, he noted with satisfaction that never before had a session of the Council/Forum been so well attended, which was indicative of the willingness of States to strengthen the environment as one of the pillars of sustainable development and demonstrated the importance of the environment globally. He welcomed the attendance at the session of so many high-level dignitaries and representatives not only of Governments, but also of civil society, non-governmental organizations, business communities and young people. Extending a particular welcome to Mr. Kibaki, he said that UNEP was proud, as one of only two United Nations organizations with headquarters in Africa, to have been in Kenya for 30 years. In conclusion, he thanked the outgoing president for his excellent work.

6. In his statement, Mr. Ntagazwa reflected on his tenure as President of the Governing Council since the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in March 2004. Noting the extent to which the outcome of the Jeju meeting had allowed international environmental governance to move forward, he said that the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group at its third session, in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 December 2004, was a landmark achievement. Technology support was important not only for cleaner production and sustainable consumption, but also for viable and sustainable economic growth. Expressing a firm belief in the concept of environment for development, he thanked the Executive Director for the support which he had provided over the past year and congratulated him on receiving an award from the Theodor Heuss Foundation, whose mission was to support democracy and promote education and culture.

7. The Council/Forum also heard a statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered on his behalf by Mr. Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. In his statement, the Secretary-General noted that the task of safeguarding the environment was as urgent as ever and key to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Success in achieving those Goals was dependent on healthy ecosystems and on the development of resources to defeat poverty, treat disease and promote sustainable economic growth. Environmental concerns needed to be better integrated into policy-making and strategies for security, development and humanitarian action.

8. In the light of recent developments, including the unprecedented response to the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, the important advances made at the International Meeting to Review the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Port Louis, Mauritius, and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, both held in January 2005, and the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, global understanding of the interlinkages between the environment and economic development had gained fresh significance. Noting that there was much at stake for the United Nations, he urged participants to sustain the current momentum and to ensure that UNEP had the policies and support which it needed to play its proper role.

9. In her statement, Ms. Tibaijuka highlighted the important partnership between UNEP and UN-Habitat and the complementarities between their mandates and activities, which were designed to ensure that the environment was an integral component of urban development and poverty alleviation efforts worldwide. Drawing attention to the rapid joint response by the two bodies in providing assistance to the countries and people affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami, to whom she offered her condolences, she said that UNEP and UN-Habitat had worked together in providing early assessment and in coordinating mitigation and reconstruction proposals. They would continue to adapt, strengthen and broaden their frameworks for cooperation. In that connection, she invited the Executive Director of UNEP to address participants at the opening of the forthcoming twentieth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

10. Noting that the ministerial consultations to be held during the current session would focus on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration, she said that the struggle to achieve those goals must be waged in human settlements, particularly slums, where rapid urbanization had led to a substantial increase in poverty. In that regard, she announced with satisfaction that the problem of waste leakage from a sewer at the Kibera slum in Nairobi had finally been resolved and that spillage into the Nairobi dam had been halted.

11. Mr. Zeng Peiyan, after extending his Government's condolences to the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, acknowledged the important role that had been played by UNEP over the years in global environmental and development affairs and noted that the current session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum would play a positive role in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. Although his Government attached great importance to the issue of sustainable development and had adopted a national strategy to promote such development, China was still a developing country and suffered from many of the social and economic problems shared by developing countries worldwide. In recognition of the fact that greater cooperation was needed to preserve the natural environment and achieve global development, his Government would increase its assistance to the countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster: in addition to the 500 million yuan of assistance which it was providing through bilateral channels, it had earmarked a further \$20 million to be provided through multilateral channels, of which \$500,000 would be channelled through UNEP.

12. A poem with an environmental theme was read out by Ms. Caroline N'Deritu, a contemporary Kenyan poet.

13. In his statement, Mr. Kibaki welcomed participants to Kenya and, recalling the recent Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, noted that the last century had seen a transformation of the world into a global village where events in one region had far-reaching consequences in others. He conveyed his personal condolences and those of the Kenyan people to the Governments and people affected by the tsunami.

14. Kenya was particularly sensitive to environmental issues and the global recognition of its Nobel Laureate, Ms. Wangari Maathai, was a source of great pride and inspiration. Welcoming the recent entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, he commended the countries which had taken the brave step of ratifying it and strongly urged those that had not to do so as soon as possible for the sake of sustainable development. Given the nature and the scale of the challenges faced by developing countries in achieving the goals of the Millennium Declaration, increased international cooperation was needed. Strengthening the financial and scientific base of UNEP was key to the achievement of those goals and to the fulfilment of the vision established in 1972 at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm.

II. Organization of the session

A. Attendance

15. The following 54 States members of the Governing Council were represented:

Antigua and Barbuda	Kyrgyzstan
Argentina	Mexico
Bahamas	Monaco
Bangladesh	Morocco
Belgium	Namibia
Brazil	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Nicaragua
Burkina Faso	Nigeria
Cameroon	Poland
Canada	Republic of Korea
Cape Verde	Romania
China	Russian Federation
Colombia	Saudi Arabia
Congo	Senegal
Costa Rica	Somalia
Cuba	Sudan
Czech Republic	Sweden
France	Switzerland
Germany	Turkey
Ghana	Tuvalu
Greece	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Hungary	United Republic of Tanzania
India	United States of America
Indonesia	Uruguay
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Zambia
Israel	Zimbabwe
Japan	
Kenya	

16. The following 86 States not members of the Governing Council but members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Algeria	Lithuania
Angola	Madagascar
Armenia	Malawi
Australia	Malaysia
Austria	Maldives
Bahrain	Mali
Barbados	Mauritania
Belarus	Mauritius
Belize	Mongolia
Benin	Mozambique
Botswana	Nepal
Burundi	New Zealand
Cambodia	Norway
Comoros	Oman
Côte d'Ivoire	Pakistan
Croatia	Panama
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Papua New Guinea
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Paraguay
Denmark	Peru
Djibouti	Philippines
Dominican Republic	Portugal
Egypt	Republic of Moldova
Equatorial Guinea	Rwanda
Eritrea	Saint Lucia
Ethiopia	Serbia and Montenegro
Finland	Seychelles
Gambia	Sierra Leone
Grenada	Singapore
Guatemala	Slovakia
Guinea-Bissau	South Africa
Honduras	Spain
Iceland	Sri Lanka
Iraq	Swaziland
Ireland	Thailand
Italy	Timor-Leste
Jordan	Tonga
Kiribati	Trinidad and Tobago
Kuwait	Tunisia
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Uganda
Latvia	Ukraine
Lesotho	United Arab Emirates
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
	Viet Nam
	Yemen

17. Observers to UNEP for the Holy See and the Palestinian Authority also participated.

18. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented:

- Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat

Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
 Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
 Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries
 Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
 Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 United Nations Human Settlements Programme
 United Nations Children's Fund
 United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development
 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
 United Nations Development Fund for Women
 United Nations Development Programme
 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
 United Nations Population Fund

19. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 International Civil Aviation Organization
 International Maritime Organization
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 United Nations Industrial Development Organization
 World Bank
 World Health Organization
 World Meteorological Organization

20. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Centre for Technology Studies
 African Union
 Commonwealth Secretariat
 European Community
 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 League of Arab States
 Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
 South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
 World Conservation Union

21. In addition, 206 non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations were represented.

B. Election of officers

22. At the opening session of the meeting, on 21 February, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. Rachmat Witoelar (Indonesia)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Sedogo Laurent (Burkina Faso) Ms. Sulfina Barbu (Romania) Mr. Beat Nobs (Switzerland)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Donald Cooper (Bahamas)

23. Pursuant to a request by the group of Western European and other States, the Council decided that, in the event that Switzerland was not a member of the Governing Council in 2006, Mr. Nobs would be replaced by a representative of a State member of the Governing Council from the group of Western European and other States.

24. Following his election, the President thanked the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum for entrusting him with such a challenging and noble task and expressed his gratitude to the Executive Director for his tireless efforts to promote the environment for sustainable development. He paid special tribute to the outgoing president, Mr. Ntagazwa, whose wise counsel and leadership had contributed significantly to enhancing the role of UNEP and to the adoption of the Bali

Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building. He expressed his gratitude to all those who were working in the common endeavour to protect the planet and congratulated Ms. Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. He also thanked the Government and the people of Kenya for their warm welcome and hospitality.

25. In view of the continuing degradation of the environment and the challenges impeding the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, it was vital to strengthen UNEP, the leadership role of the Council/Forum, cooperation and coordination with other United Nations bodies and the Environmental Management Group, which had been established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999. Cooperation and coordination were increasingly important given the recent entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. Reiterating the need to provide stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP, he commended Governments on the spirit of cooperation which they had shown in adopting the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building.

26. He conveyed the gratitude of the people and Government of Indonesia for the assistance, expressions of sympathy and support that had been extended to them in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster.

C. Credentials of representatives

27. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the Council/Forum. The credentials of the representatives of 54 of the 58 member States had been formally notified and had been found to be in order, and the Bureau so reported to the Council. The Council/Forum approved the Bureau's report at the 9th plenary meeting, on 25 February 2005.

D. Agenda

28. At the opening meeting, the Council/Forum adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council/Forum at its twenty-second session (UNEP/GC.23/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment.
5. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
6. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
7. International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance.
8. Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters.
9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
10. Provisional agenda, date and place of:
 - (a) The ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(b) The twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the session.

E. Organization of the work of the session

29. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, the Council/Forum considered and approved the organization of work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated agenda and organization of work (UNEP/GC.23/1/Add.1) suggested by the Executive Director and recommended by the Bureau. Pursuant to one of those recommendations, it was decided that the Council/Forum would hold ministerial consultations to review the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration in relation to poverty alleviation, gender and environment, and also to policy issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements, under agenda items 5 and 6.

30. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Council/Forum decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a sessional Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole would meet concurrently with the plenary to consider agenda items 4 (Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment); 7 (International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance); 8 (Cooperation and coordination with the United Nations system on environmental matters); 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters); 10 (a) (Provisional agenda, date and place of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum); and 10 (b) (Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum).

31. It was further decided at the 1st plenary meeting that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. Beat Nobs (Switzerland), Vice-President of the Council. A decision was also made to establish a drafting group to work on draft decisions for possible adoption by the Council, to be chaired by Mr. Paul Zom Lolo (Nigeria).

F. Report of the ministerial consultations

32. The report of the ministerial consultations held on 21, 22 and 23 February 2005 is contained in annex II to the present proceedings. The Council/Forum took note of the report at its 9th plenary meeting, on Friday, 25 February 2005. At its 10th plenary meeting, the Council/Forum took note of the President's summary of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegation, which had been prepared as a contribution to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, to be held in New York in September 2005, to review the progress made in the fulfilment of the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The text of the President's summary is set forth in the appendix to annex II.

G. Report of the Committee of the Whole

33. The Committee of the Whole held nine meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. Nobs, Vice-President of the Council, from 21 to 25 February, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 25 February, the Council/Forum took note of the report of the Committee of the Whole, which had been adopted by the Committee at its 9th meeting, on 25 February, on the basis of the draft report which had been circulated. The report is attached as annex III to the present proceedings.

H. Policy statement by the Executive Director

34. Also at the first plenary meeting, the Executive Director delivered a policy statement, in which he suggested that 2005, the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations, should be viewed as a year of responsibility and accountability, including responsibility for the reform of the United Nations as a whole. The preparation of a strong Governing Council contribution to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review the progress made in the fulfilment of the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration was a task which lay before the Council/Forum. Noting that, in Africa, the

implementation of the goals of the Millennium Declaration was not only off track but heading in the wrong direction, he stressed the need for greater efforts and resources to reverse that trend. Nevertheless, the establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was a good example of solidarity in Africa.

35. The formal adoption by the Governing Council of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building would be an important step forward for UNEP. Approximately 30 per cent of UNEP reserve funds would be allocated in 2005 to the regional offices to promote the implementation of the Plan. He thanked the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) for their contributions and hard work over the past two years in partnership with UNEP, and particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster.

36. The policy statement of the Executive Director was circulated as document UNEP/GC.23/2.

III. Adoption of decisions¹

A. Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance (decision 23/1)

37. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the drafting group and the Committee of the Whole.

38. Referring to part IV of the decision, on strengthening the financing of UNEP, the representative of the United States of America said that her Government did not intend to make contributions to the Environment Fund on the basis of the proposed voluntary indicative scale of contributions for the biennium 2006–2007 and did not wish to participate in the operation of that scale.

B. Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 23/2)

39. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the drafting group, as orally revised.

C. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2006–2007 (decision 23/3)

40. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

41. One representative noted that the working group established by the Committee of the Whole to discuss the UNEP programme of work and budget had reached a certain understanding on the meaning of paragraph 11 of the decision, which was that the paragraph was solely intended to encourage good management.

42. Noting that, by adopting the decision, the Governing Council had approved the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2006–2007, the representative of the United States of America said that her Government did not intend to increase its contributions to the Environment Fund for the purpose of funding additional posts.

D. Administrative and other budgetary matters (decision 23/4)

43. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

E. Small island developing States (decision 23/5)

44. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole, as orally amended.

¹ For the texts of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session, see annex I to the present proceedings. All the decisions were adopted at the 10th plenary meeting, on Friday, 25 February 2005.

F. Keeping the world environmental situation under review (decision 23/6)

45. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

G. Strengthening environmental emergency response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster (decision 23/7)

46. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

H. Environmental and equity considerations in the procurement practices of UNEP (decision 23/8)

47. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

I. Chemicals management (decision 23/9)

48. The Council adopted the draft decision on chemicals management on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

49. The representative of the United States of America announced her Government's decision to provide \$1 million in support of the UNEP mercury programme and the partnership approach to reducing the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds, which were outlined in the decision.

J. Gender equality in the field of the environment (decision 23/10)

50. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

K. Poverty and the environment (decision 23/11)

51. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

L. Provisional agenda, dates and venues of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (decision 23/12)

52. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

IV. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment

53. Agenda item 4 (Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment) was considered by the Committee of the Whole. The discussions on the item are reflected in the Committee's report, which is attached as annex III to the present proceedings.

V. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

54. Agenda item 5 (Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum) was considered by the Council/Forum during the ministerial consultations. The report of the ministerial consultations is attached as annex II to the present proceedings.

VI. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

55. Agenda item 6 (Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development) was also considered by the Council/Forum during the ministerial consultations. The report of the ministerial consultations is attached as annex II to the present proceedings.

VII. International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance

A. Consideration and adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

56. The Council/Forum began its consideration of agenda item 7 at its 7th plenary meeting.

57. A representative of the secretariat outlined the history behind the development of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, highlighting that the Plan cut across and reinforced almost all aspects of international environmental governance. He attributed the successful adoption of the Plan to an effective preparatory process of wide-ranging and high-level commitment, participation, expert consultations and regional inputs and stressed the need to mainstream the Plan within UNEP, possibly through one responsible coordinating division and a number of focal points.

58. While most of the representatives who spoke in the ensuing debate endorsed the Bali Strategic Plan, they recognized the need for greater emphasis to be placed on its implementation. Some noted that the stable and predictable funding of UNEP remained crucial to the effective implementation of the Plan. It was noted that some improvements had already been seen during the pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions. The representative of Spain announced that his Government would conform with immediate effect to the indicative scale of contributions and provide resources which would help UNEP to become more effective. The representative of Norway stressed that Norway would assign much of the funding that it had earmarked for UNEP to the Bali Plan, and several other representatives announced that their Governments had signed memorandums of understanding on strategic frameworks promoting cooperation with UNEP.

59. A suggestion that UNEP be transformed from a programme to a specialized agency of the United Nations was supported by many representatives, who believed that such a transformation would provide greater visibility and political force to the environmental cause. A suggestion that UNEP should increase its influence through the expansion of its representation in the subregions also received wide support.

60. A representative of the secretariat noted with appreciation the powerful message of support which had been given to UNEP and emphasized the need for a bottom-up approach to the implementation of the Bali Plan. Noting that one of the key priorities of UNEP was to make the Plan functional, he said that the implementation process had already started, and he thanked the countries which had pledged financial support for the Plan. He noted that the Plan would naturally lend its support to small island developing States and drew attention to the recently adopted Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.² He also noted that the issue of South-South cooperation would be an important component of the Plan.

² *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port-Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4), annex II.

B. Consideration of the item by the Committee of the Whole

61. The item was also considered by the Committee of the Whole. The discussions of the Committee on the item are reflected in its report, which is attached as annex III to the present proceedings.

VIII. Cooperation and coordination with the United Nations system on environmental matters

62. Agenda item 8 (Cooperation and coordination with the United Nations system on environmental matters) was considered by the Committee of the Whole. The discussions on the item are reflected in the Committee's report, which is attached as annex III to the present proceedings.

IX. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters

A. Activities of UNEP relating to the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

63. At the 6th plenary meeting, the Executive Director introduced the agenda item. The Council/Forum began its consideration of the item by discussing the activities of UNEP in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004. In his introduction, the Executive Director emphasized that the goal of UNEP was to extract meaningful lessons from the disaster. He commended Mr. Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, on his exemplary efforts to coordinate relief to the affected countries.

64. Ms. Erna Witoelar, United Nations Special Ambassador in the Asian and Pacific region for the Millennium Development Goals, gave a presentation on the theme of financing the Millennium Development Goals in the wake of the Asian tsunami disaster. She drew attention to the fact that, although most of the countries directly affected by the tsunami had been making progress prior to the disaster in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, most had not been on track in achieving Goal 7, ensuring environmental sustainability. Outlining how the tsunami had affected the achievement of the Goals and commending the unprecedented solidarity shown at all levels in response to the disaster, she said that the common challenge was how to turn the tsunami devastation into an opportunity to promote the Millennium Development Goals.

65. A representative of the secretariat, speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force, which had been established by UNEP immediately after the disaster in December 2004 to assist Governments in assessing and responding to the environmental impacts of the tsunami, introduced a UNEP report entitled *After the Tsunami: Rapid Environmental Assessment*, which summarized the interim findings from environmental assessments in Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Yemen and offered a number of recommendations on reconstruction and restoration. He explained that the information on Somalia had been based on a desk study only, as security restrictions had precluded the deployment of an assessment mission to the field. In a presentation, he outlined the activities of the Task Force.

66. The Regional Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific gave a presentation outlining the impact of the tsunami, the major findings of the environmental assessment which had been carried out by UNEP in tsunami-affected countries and the recommendations contained in the UNEP report on the tsunami. He emphasized the need for early-warning systems and the need to harness the spirit of solidarity which had been shown towards affected countries, to enhance progress towards sustainable development.

67. Representatives of a number of tsunami-affected countries delivered statements, some in conjunction with presentations, in which they described the environmental impact of the tsunami in their countries, the steps which had been taken to address the environmental challenges posed by the disaster, the results of the environmental assessments which had been carried out and the lessons learned. They each expressed their gratitude to the international community for its support in the aftermath of the disaster, emphasized the need for an effective tsunami warning system and called for greater regional cooperation. A short film documenting the destruction caused by the tsunami was shown by the representative of the Maldives as part of his presentation.

68. In the ensuing debate, all speakers expressed their condolences for the immense loss and suffering of the victims of the disaster. Representatives of a number of countries which had not been directly affected by the disaster spoke of the loss of their own citizens in affected countries and said that the tragedy had deepened their understanding of the vulnerability of other countries to natural disasters. There was general acknowledgement of the swift and efficient action of UNEP in the aftermath of the disaster.

69. The topic of primary concern among countries affected by the tsunami was preparedness in the event of natural disasters and the need to establish effective early-warning systems. It was generally agreed that, had such systems been in place, the tsunami would have claimed fewer victims. According to one representative, that shortcoming was a global challenge which involved educating people, establishing a global network of information and acting on the recommendations made at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005. Another representative said that heightened efforts to promote international cooperation in all fields relating to sustainable development would help to transform the disaster into a chance for hope. One representative urged the international community to view the disaster as a serious warning that humankind might not be targeting its development efforts in the right direction.

70. Representatives of a number of countries said that strengthening ecosystems would help in the prevention of natural disasters. Several called on UNEP to offer its expertise on such matters, to help provide greater protection for coastal areas, especially for small island developing States, which were particularly vulnerable, and emphasized the need to assess damage to marine environments, in particular coral reefs.

71. A number of representatives spoke of the economic effects of natural disasters, citing the destruction caused by such disasters to watersheds, agriculture and fisheries. It was suggested that a code of environmental ethics should be established to tackle the problems relating to dangerous debris and hazardous waste. One representative, noting that the conflict in his country had made it impossible to assess and rehabilitate tsunami-affected areas, referred to the malnutrition and health problems ensuing from the disaster as a "silent tsunami". He emphasized his country's dependence on the donor community for assistance in addressing those problems.

B. Water and chemicals linked with biodiversity

72. At its 7th plenary meeting, the Council/Forum continued its discussions under agenda item 9, focusing in particular on the link between water, chemicals and biodiversity.

73. Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda), who had been elected to chair the forthcoming thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, provided an overview of the work of the twelfth session of the Commission and outlined the objectives of its thirteenth session. Noting that the Millennium Development Goals had become the primary focus of international development efforts, he described the three thematic areas of the current two-year cycle of the Commission – water, sanitation and human settlements – in relation to those Goals. After outlining the policy challenges which had been highlighted in the course of the twelfth session, he said that the thirteenth session aimed to offer tangible solutions and practical measures and actions to address those challenges.

74. A representative of the secretariat outlined the contributions made by UNEP at the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and described the approach which it would take at the thirteenth session. Describing the approaches and recommendations of several high-level meetings on the issue of water and underlining some of the key points reflected in the Jeju Initiative, which had been developed at the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, she noted the need to quantify the cost of the environmentally unsustainable use of natural resources and also to place a value on the goods and services provided by the environment.

75. Another representative of the secretariat stressed that note had been taken of the challenges identified during the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including the need to mobilize resources in pursuit of the achievement of existing goals and targets. In that regard, he thanked the Governments of Denmark and the Netherlands for the supplementary resources which they had provided. Emphasizing that UNEP regional offices were expanding their work and that inter-agency cooperation was being enhanced, he said that capacity-building remained a central challenge. The Bali Strategic Plan would be a major contributor in that regard and required rapid implementation. He outlined a number of initiatives by UNEP to address technology transfer needs and water issues, including integrated water resources management.

76. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives highlighted the relationship between water, sanitation and human settlements and their links to poverty alleviation. One representative called for the link between the Commission on Sustainable Development and UNEP to be enhanced and for both bodies to be strengthened. Several spoke of the need for greater coordination and cooperation between organizations and others called for enhanced participation by non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and women for more effective policy implementation.

77. One representative requested an assessment of existing initiatives at the regional and international levels to evaluate gaps and needs; another pointed to the need to disseminate lessons learned, successes and best practices in integrated water-resource management. The need to employ the water-basin principle of management with all levels of popular participation was described as important by one representative, and another highlighted the need for small-community water-supply-management initiatives.

78. One representative suggested that Governments should consider establishing revolving funds for water-pollution abatement projects and that they should develop and implement water safety plans at national, municipal and community levels.

79. Highlighting the significant problem of barriers to information, which existed particularly in developing countries, one representative expressed the hope that, at its thirteenth session, the Commission on Sustainable Development would focus on support for developing countries to improve information systems on water and sanitation. He spoke of the need for networks to monitor water quality and the need for early-warning systems to alert communities to the risks involved in water pollution.

80. Ms. Viveka Bohn, President of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), provided an overview of the SAICM process. The process had been agreed upon at the seventh special session of the Council/Forum, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in February 2002, and confirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in August and September 2002. Steps had been taken to initiate the development of the strategic approach and two sessions of the Preparatory Committee had been held, as had a number of regional meetings; the culmination of the process would be the adoption of the approach at the ninth special session of the Council/Forum, in 2006. Thanking donors who had supported the process and stressing the importance of continued funding, she noted that the approach should provide a framework for global actions and measures to eliminate or reduce the risks associated with the life-cycle of chemicals, close the widening gap between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition and create a level playing field for global chemicals control. She underlined the need to learn from past experiences and to use all chemicals in a responsible manner, bearing in mind the precautionary principle, under the overarching global strategy of SAICM.

81. Most of the representatives who spoke in the ensuing debate agreed on the need to give UNEP a more forceful role in international environmental policy-making and on the need for a strengthened economic and scientific base as a means to ensure the success of the SAICM process. Many stressed the need for information gathering and dissemination to all relevant stakeholders. Impact assessments and monitoring of progress through indicators, success stories and lessons learned were stressed as valuable tools and the participation of civil society, non-governmental organizations and local communities was highlighted as essential for the success of a resource management process that was integrated at all levels.

82. Several representatives noted the problem of hazardous materials, chemicals and waste dumping, especially in Africa, and the urgent need to regulate such dumping and to find alternative methods of disposal. Substantial resources were needed to curb that trend. The need to integrate chemical safety into policy-making was also stressed.

83. The representative of Canada strongly endorsed the SAICM process and was pleased to announce a further contribution of Can\$ 200,000 towards the completion of SAICM. The representative of Norway pledged on behalf of his Government US\$ 100,000 for the mercury programme and US\$ 250,000 for the SAICM process.

84. The acting Chief of UNEP Chemicals thanked the Government of Sweden for its financial support and Ms. Bohn for her valuable work and noted that the SAICM process presented chemicals as an issue in its own right, one which cut across all sectors, at all levels and in all countries. He recalled that SAICM dealt not only with policy but also with development assistance issues and pointed out that, although the past year had been a very busy one for chemicals issues on the policy side, much work remained to be done in terms of implementation.

85. Acknowledging the important work of SAICM, the representative of Austria informed the Council/Forum of his Government's intention to provide €250,000 in financial support towards the third session of the SAICM Preparatory Committee, which was to be held in Vienna in September 2005.

C. State of the environment and capacity-building

86. At the 8th plenary meeting, a representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the state of the environment in 2004. In 2004, not only had the world been plagued by natural disasters, it had also faced a number of other hazards, including environmental degradation, technological disasters and, most egregiously, global poverty and hunger, all of which had a strong environmental dimension.

87. The *Global Environment Outlook Yearbook 2004-2005* focused on the three-way interaction between gender, poverty and the environment and identified two new challenges: emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and their links to environmental change; and ocean salinity changes and the potential impacts of such changes on ocean circulation. After outlining a number of positive developments, he predicted that the issue of freshwater stress would be an underlying theme over the next few decades. Emphasizing the need to look forward, he described a number of developments which were due to take place in 2005 and stressed the need for all activities to be coherent with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building. Drawing attention to some of the issues raised in the recent report³ of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change convened by the Secretary-General, he noted that, if the Millennium Development Goals were the building blocks of human development, they were resting on a very fragile base. Unless Goal 7 was achieved, it would be impossible to achieve any of the others.

88. In the ensuing debate, one representative expressed concern that scientists had thus far been unable to determine a threshold beyond which climate change represented an unacceptable risk and emphasized the significant environmental hazard which continued to be posed by air pollution in cities across the globe. The representative of the secretariat warned that it was dangerous to rely too heavily on setting climate change thresholds, as different ecological systems were affected by climate change at different rates. The issues of risk assessment, lootable natural resources, environmental borrowing and greenhouse emissions were also raised.

D. Consideration of the item by the Committee of the Whole

89. The item was also considered by the Committee of the Whole. The discussions of the Committee on the item are reflected in its report, which is attached as annex III to the present proceedings.

X. Provisional agenda, date and place of the ninth special session and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

90. Agenda item 10 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the ninth special session and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum) was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at its 4th meeting. The discussions of the Committee on the item are reflected in its report, which is contained in annex III to the present proceedings. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 25 February 2005, and on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Council adopted decision 23/12 concerning the date and place of the ninth special session and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Forum and a draft provisional agenda for each session.

91. The text of the decision, as adopted by the Council, is contained in annex I to the present proceedings.

92. Mr. Hamad Abdulrahman Al Madfa, Minister of Health and Chair of the Federal Environment Agency of the United Arab Emirates, made a statement on behalf of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and patron of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, in which he conveyed the Crown Prince's commitment to the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and his pleasure at being able to host the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Dubai in February 2006. Given that

the session was due to take place during the international year of deserts and desertification, it was to be hoped that its focus would be on the challenges arising from desertification and that it would be a landmark in the history of meetings on environment and development.

XI. Other matters

93. At the ninth plenary meeting, Mr. Cameron Rennie, Director of the Sustainable Livelihoods Project, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, gave a presentation on the outcome of a round-table dialogue on African business and sustainable development which had taken place at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi on Thursday, 24 February, to discuss the theme of energy and water services provision in Africa with a focus on technology and finance. He said that the dialogue had highlighted that the participation of all stakeholders was key to the development of sustainable and available services and had underscored the need for a stronger and more effective partnership between the private sector, Governments, communities, civil society and non-governmental organizations. The need for capacity-building at the human, managerial and institutional levels had been noted during the dialogue, as had the need for responsible public and corporate governance and legal frameworks and regulations to combat corruption. In order to cover the financial implications of energy challenges, a proposal had been made to establish an African energy development fund. The participants at the round table had expressed their readiness for action and had strongly urged UNEP to pursue the debate on the subject, possibly at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in order to ensure the integration of energy and water management issues into planning and policy.

94. Following a brief debate on the outcome of the round-table dialogue, the Executive Director expressed his gratitude to all those who had contributed to the dialogue, noting that it was the first time that private businesses had participated in talks of that kind during a Governing Council session. He expressed the hope that further such meetings would be held.

XII. Adoption of the report

95. The present proceedings were adopted by the Council/Forum at its 10th plenary meeting, on 25 February 2005, on the basis of the draft proceedings which had been circulated and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with the finalization of the document.

XIII. Closure of the session

96. At the 10th plenary meeting, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum heard closing statements from the President of the Council; the Executive Director of UNEP; Ms. Wangari Maathai; and representatives of the regional groups, the Group of 77 and China and the European Union.

97. Following those statements and the customary exchange of courtesies, the session was declared closed at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 25 February 2005.

Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session

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Decision 23/1: Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted in Nairobi on 7 February 1997,¹ and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,² adopted in Malmö, Sweden, on 31 May 2000,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003 and 59/226 of 22 December 2004,

Recalling further its decisions SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 adopted in Cartagena, Colombia, and SS.VIII/1 of 31 March 2004 adopted in Jeju, Republic of Korea,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,³ which emphasized the full implementation of decision SS.VII/1 of the Governing Council,⁴

Emphasizing that all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance, as contained in decision VII/1, should be fully implemented,

Reiterating that the promotion and provision of technology support and capacity-building in environment-related fields for developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition remain an important component of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting with appreciation the work of the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, as well as the contributions submitted to it by regional ministerial and other intergovernmental forums in the field of the environment, by United Nations bodies and agencies, including their submissions through the Environmental Management Group, and by civil society organizations, major groups and expert institutions,

Recognizing the critical role of knowledge and capacity-building for mainstreaming environmental issues and considerations into decision-making processes across all relevant social and economic sectors,

Recognizing also the importance of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting inter-agency cooperation in capacity-building,

Recognizing further the many existing networks for data and information collection, management, exchange and dissemination, the rapidly evolving information and communication technologies and the need to maximize their potential for providing information for decision-making on environmental issues,

Recognizing that increased availability of environmental data and information would contribute to strengthening international, regional and national capacity for environmental governance, to enhancing progress towards internationally agreed goals and targets and to monitoring and reporting efforts, and that such increased availability will require improved cooperation and collaboration at all levels, including in building capacity for national-level data-gathering,

Taking note with appreciation of the evaluation report by the Executive Director on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation⁵ held in January 2004 on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the continuing consideration of the important but complex issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum,

¹ Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

² Governing Council decision SS.VI/1, annex.

³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 140 (d).

⁵ UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.4.

Reiterating the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlining the need to consider adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget,

Recognizing in that regard the need for a stronger financial base of the United Nations Environment Programme, including a broader donor base,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international environmental governance,⁶

I

Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

1. *Adopts* the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,⁷ as adopted by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building at its third session in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 December 2004;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director, as a matter of priority, to undertake the necessary steps regarding coordination mechanisms as provided for in section V of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to work out a resource-mobilization strategy and coordinate with other funding agencies, when appropriate, to ensure the immediate and sustained implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan;
5. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so to provide necessary additional financial resources for the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on measures taken for the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building at its ninth special session, in 2006, and on the further implementation thereof at its twenty-fourth session, in 2007;

II

Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

7. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, as recommended by the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, including through the provision of adequate financial resources;
8. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so and other partners active in the field of development to provide funding, including through in-kind support for the participation of national scientific experts and institutions, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for further strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme;

⁶ UNEP/GC.23/6.

⁷ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to update his proposal for an “Environment Watch” framework,⁸ taking into account the recommendations of the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme held in January 2004⁹ and also the outcome of the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation on the fourth Global Environment Outlook of February 2005,¹⁰ and to submit that update to Governments, for their views, so as to enable submission of a report to the Governing Council at its ninth special session;

III

Universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

10. *Notes* the differences in the views expressed so far on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

11. *Decides* to undertake the further review and consideration of the issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session in 2006, during the ministerial consultations, with a view to providing inputs as a contribution to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

IV

Strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme

12. *Emphasizes* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Fund, in the context of the United Nations regular budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII);

13. *Takes note* of the note by the Executive Director on strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme;¹¹

14. *Reaffirms* its support for the provision of adequate, stable and predictable financing of the United Nations Environment Programme as an essential prerequisite for the strengthening of its capacity and functions, as well as effective coordination of the environmental component of sustainable development;

15. *Encourages* Governments, to the extent feasible, to move towards contributions to the Environment Fund in preference to contributions to earmarked trust funds, with a view to enhancing the role of the Governing Council in setting the agenda of work and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

16. *Also encourages* Governments, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, to make their voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund on the basis of either the voluntary indicative scale of contributions or any of the other voluntary options contained in paragraph 18 of decision SS.VII/1;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director, in accordance with paragraph 19 of decision SS.VII/1, to notify all member States of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions which he intends to propose for the biennium 2006–2007 and urges all member States to inform the Executive Director whether they will use the proposed voluntary indicative scale of contributions;

18. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report to enable the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session to assess the operation of the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions and the other voluntary options contained in paragraph 18 of decision SS.VII/1;

⁸ UNEP/GC.23/3.

⁹ UNEP/SI/IGC/3.

¹⁰ UNEP/DEWA/GEO/IGC.1/2.

¹¹ UNEP/GC.23/INF/12.

19. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts in seeking an increase in funding, from all sources, for strengthening the financial base of the United Nations Environment Programme;

20. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report on all aspects of financial strengthening for consideration by the Governing Council at its ninth special session, in 2006;

V

Multilateral environmental agreements

21. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) Within the mandate of decision SS.VII/1, to continue to focus on activities to improve the coordination among, synergy between and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties to such agreements and the need to promote the environmental dimension of sustainable development among other relevant United Nations organizations;

(b) To intensify efforts to support implementation by parties to multilateral environmental agreements of their obligations under such agreements, upon request, including through the provision of technical assistance through, among other things, the Bali Strategic Plan;

VI

Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system and the Environmental Management Group

22. *Acknowledges* the report on the work of the Environmental Management Group¹² as well as the assessment of the location of the Environmental Management Group secretariat, including its mandate and future programme of work, and in that regard calls upon the Executive Director to initiate discussions with members of the Environmental Management Group and with the Committee of Permanent Representatives with a view to reporting on the outcome to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote coordination across the United Nations system on environmental activities, in particular those relevant to operations of the United Nations system, keeping in mind paragraphs 36 and 37 of decision SS.VII/1, through the work of the Environmental Management Group.

Decision 23/2: Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 21/11 of 9 February 2001 and 22/2 of 7 February 2003,

Recognizing the priorities outlined in Governing Council decisions and consistent with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the internationally agreed goals of the Millennium Declaration¹³ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development¹⁴ and the outcome of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development¹⁵ and in anticipation of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on water, sanitation and human settlements,

¹² UNEP/GC.23/7.

¹³ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

¹⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

¹⁵ E/2004/29-E/CN.17/2004/21.

Recalling the commitment of Governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries,¹⁶

Recalling in particular the commitments of Governments to reduce by half, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and to achieve internationally agreed development goals related to the environment,

Bearing in mind principles 2, 3, 4, 7, 10 and 11 of the Rio Declaration,¹⁷

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy¹⁸ as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 22/2,

Expressing its appreciation to the Executive Director for the measures taken to implement Governing Council decision 22/2,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the third World Water Forum on 23 March 2003,¹⁹

Recalling the Jeju Initiative,²⁰ which is a summary of the rich and interactive discussion on the part of the ministers attending the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, rather than a consensus view on all points,

1. *Adopts* the updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme²¹ as a general framework and guidance for the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of water and sanitation for the period 2005–2007, to be implemented with interested countries, upon their request;

2. *Notes* the concerns and reservations of Governments regarding the outstanding substantive and procedural issues in the development of the updated water policy and strategy;

3. *Recommends* that the Executive Director in his review takes into account areas of interest and concerns relating to, among other things, the following concepts included in the updated water policy and strategy:

- (a) Ecosystem approaches to integrated water resource management;
- (b) Emerging concepts;
- (c) Global assessment and monitoring;
- (d) Innovative instruments;
- (e) Participation and water governance;
- (f) Support to regional and subregional water bodies;
- (g) Groundwater;
- (h) Mention of the final report of the World Commission on Dams;²²
- (i) Conceptual precision in the use of the terms “global waters”, “international waters” and “transboundary waters” applied to oceans, seas and inland bodies of water;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to take the necessary effective measures to monitor the implementation of the water policy and strategy as updated;

¹⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

¹⁷ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

¹⁸ UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1.

¹⁹ Final report of the third World Water Forum (March 2003).

²⁰ UNEP/GCSS.VIII/8, annex II.

²¹ UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1/Add.1.

²² Final report of the World Commission on Dams, *Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-making* (November 2000).

5. *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;
6. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in anticipation of the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly to review implementation of the Millennium Declaration and other major relevant international meetings, in consultation with Governments, further to review the water policy and strategy to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of the internationally agreed goals contained in the Millennium Declaration²³ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;²⁴
7. *Requests* that the draft updated water policy and strategy should be circulated by the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in order that a final draft may be circulated no later than September 2006 for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;
8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to circulate a report on the implementation and resource allocation of the water policy and strategy before the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
9. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other agencies, to revise the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater²⁵ of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, with a view to including the present work of the Global Programme of Action on urban sanitation, as well as rural sanitation, in order to address the environmental dimension of sanitation, and to include the Strategic Action Plan for consideration by the Governing Council in its review of the updated water policy and strategy at its twenty-fourth session;
10. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate the further development of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Monitoring System on Water to ensure:
- (a) Its continued role as a major global water quality assessment and monitoring programme;
 - (b) Its continued role as the repository for global water-quality data and its growing role in the development of water-quality indicators to support achievement of the water-related goals contained within the Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
 - (c) Its continued provision of inputs to the World Water Assessment Programme and the World Water Development Report;
11. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of the People's Republic of China to host the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in 2006, which will serve as an important contribution to furthering implementation of the goals and targets associated with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Declaration, as well as to the review of oceans and seas, marine resources, small island developing States and disaster management and vulnerability scheduled to be undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2014–2015;
12. *Requests* the Executive Director to proceed with organizing the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, working to ensure as broad participation as possible, and to that end urges all Governments to be actively involved in the intergovernmental review process and, when possible, to make financial contributions to support the costs associated with that milestone event;

²³ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

²⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

²⁵ UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/1.

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of water and sanitation, fully takes into account the work carried out by national Governments, international and regional organizations, multilateral environmental agreements and other United Nations agencies, so as to avoid duplication and to promote synergies, and takes into account the possibilities of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme in that respect;

14. *Further requests* Governments in a position to do so, as well as intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, to respond positively to the resource-mobilization efforts of the Executive Director supporting the implementation of the activities provided for in the water policy and strategy in order to augment the budgetary support provided for in the relevant subprogrammes for the period 2005–2007;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the necessary support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition through the implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of activities under the water policy and strategy within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;²⁶

16. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

Decision 23/3: Budget and the programme of work for the biennium 2006–2007

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2006–2007²⁷ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²⁸

1. *Approves* the programme of work for the biennium 2006–2007, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;

2. *Approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 144 million United States dollars for the purposes indicated below:

2006–2007 biennial programme and support budget (thousands of United States dollars)

Programme of work

Environmental assessment and early warning	25,350
Policy development and law	17,901
Policy implementation	11,370
Technology, industry and economics	25,954
Regional cooperation and representation	24,675
Environmental conventions	8,625
Communications and public information	8,125
Total programme of work	122,000
Fund programme reserve	6,000
Support budget	16,000
Grand total	144,000

3. *Urges* Governments to support further strengthening of the Environment Fund through the options envisaged in Governing Council decision SS.VII/1, including the voluntary indicative scale of contributions;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the regional annexes prepared in line with paragraph 31 of Governing Council decision 22/20 and paragraph 1 of decision SS.VIII/3;

²⁶ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

²⁷ See document UNEP/GC.23/8.

²⁸ See document UNEP/GC.23/8/Add.1.

5. *Also notes with appreciation* the prudent and responsible manner in which the Executive Director has exercised his budgetary and financial discretion;

6. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources are reallocated;

7. *Requests* that, should the Executive Director need to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of an appropriation, he do so in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

8. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

9. *Urges* the Executive Director further to increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million United States dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the bienniums 2004–2005 and 2006–2007;

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

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue the shift in emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results, ensuring that United Nations Environment Programme managers at all levels take responsibility for the achievement of the programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;

12. *Also 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 the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including contributions and expenditures, and reallocations of the appropriations or adjustments of the allocations;

13. *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 2006–2007 and requests the Executive Director to continue such consultations for the preparation of each biennial budget and programme of work;

14. *Expresses* its appreciation to those Governments which have contributed to the Environment Fund in the biennium 2004–2005 and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, in cash or in kind, in order to permit the full implementation of the programme;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to step up his efforts to mobilize resources from all sources, in order further to broaden the donor base and to enhance income levels;

16. *Also requests* all Governments, where possible, to pay their contributions before 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;

17. *Further requests* 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;

18. *Approves* the recommendation by the Executive Director that the outstanding pledges for the period 1999–2000 should not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;

19. *Approves* the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2006–2007 as set forth in the relevant report of the Executive Director;²⁹

²⁹ UNEP/GC.23/8.

20. *Notes* that an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi or the United Nations Environment Programme in the biennium 2006–2007 would decrease the requirement under the Environment Fund biennial support budget, thereby releasing resources which should be reallocated for the programme activities or the Environment Fund financial reserve;

21. *Calls for* an allocation of an appropriate share of the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme;

22. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which underlined the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, looks forward to the implementation of the requests of the General Assembly to the United Nations Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review, so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the United Nations Environment Programme and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

23. *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;

24. *Also 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 and further requests that the information be structured in accordance with the programme of work;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a quarterly basis, with comprehensive information on all financial facilities made available for the United Nations Environment Programme, including core funding, Environment Fund, earmarked funds and payments by the Global Environment Facility and other sources, in order to contribute to the transparency of the overall financial status of the United Nations Environment Programme during the biennium 2006–2007;

26. *Also 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 treasurer, are used to fund activities which are in line with the programme of work;

27. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to propose ways and means of addressing the balance between non-earmarked and earmarked funding of the programme of work and to ensure clarity with respect to resources and expected results;

28. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2008–2009;

29. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 2008–2009 a programme of work consisting of Environment Fund programme activities amounting to 130 million United States dollars;

30. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined draft budget and work programme for the biennium 2008–2009 for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

31. *Further requests* the Executive Director to give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;³⁰

32. *Requests* the Executive Director, in exercising his authority to reallocate resources, reconfirmed in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present decision, and in drawing on the Fund Programme reserve, to give particular attention to high-priority areas;

³⁰ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

33. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake the work set out in his proposed road map³¹ for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, in accordance with the consultation process outlined in the aforementioned documents, and to present a report containing a detailed proposal for its further implementation to the Governing Council at its ninth special session, which should include an assessment of the availability of requisite technical and financial resources, as well as the implications of that plan for the programme of work and budget of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Decision 23/4: Administrative and other budgetary matters

A. Proposal to reduce the number of trust funds in support of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds,³²

Notes and approves the proposed actions of the Executive Director to reduce the number of trust funds in support of the work programme.

B. Management of trust funds

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds,³³

1. Trust funds in support of the work programme

1. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds:

- (a) General trust funds:
 - (i) CWL – General Trust Fund for the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), which was established in 2005 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;
 - (ii) RPL – General Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries in a Regular Process for Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, which was established in 2003 with no fixed expiry date;
 - (iii) YPL – General Trust Fund for a Long Term Strategy for Engaging and Increasing Participation of Youth in Environmental Issues – Tunza Fund, established in 2003 with an expiry date of 31 December 2008;
- (b) Technical cooperation trust funds:
 - (i) BPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (financed by the Government of Belgium), which was established in 2004 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;
 - (ii) DPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Partnership Agreement between the Government of the Netherlands and UNEP, which was established in 2002 with no fixed expiry date;
 - (iii) REL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund For the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region, which was established in 2002 with an expiry date of 30 September 2006;

³¹ “Draft road map for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building”, presented to the meeting of the Joint Subcommittees I and II of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 10 February 2005.

³² UNEP/GC.23/9.

³³ Ibid.

- (iv) TOL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the International Organization of the Francophonie) which was established in 2004 with no fixed expiry date;
2. *Approves* the extensions of the following trust funds:
- (a) General trust funds:
- (i) DUL – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Dams and Development Unit to Coordinate Follow-up to the World Commission on Dams, which is extended through 31 December 2007;
- (ii) ETL – Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is extended through 31 December 2007;
- (iii) MCL – General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation of a Global Assessment of Mercury and its Compounds, which is extended through 31 December 2007;
- (b) Technical cooperation trust funds:
- (i) ELL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which is extended through 31 December 2007;
- (ii) GNL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which is extended through 31 December 2007;
- (iii) GWL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Support to the Global International Waters Project (financed by the Government of Finland), which is extended through 31 December 2007;
- (iv) TCL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Nordic Governments through the Governments of Denmark and Sweden), which is extended through 31 December 2007;
3. *Notes and approves* the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and satisfaction of all financial implications:
- (a) General trust funds:
- (i) BKL – General Trust Fund for the Clean-up of Environmental Hotspots following the Kosovo Conflicts and Preparation of Guidelines on Assessment and Remedial Measures for Post-conflict Environmental Damages;
- (ii) EGL – General Trust Fund to establish a Secretariat to the Environment Management Group in the International Environment House, Geneva;
- (iii) IGL – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Open-ended Group of Ministers or their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, including the Participation of Developing Countries;
- (iv) RCL – General Trust Fund in Support of the Implementation of Governing Council Decisions in the North America Region;
- (b) Technical cooperation trust funds:
- (i) AHL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands);

- (ii) ANL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the UNEPnet Implementation Centre (financed by the Government of Norway);
- (iii) BNL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Senior Technical Cooperation Advisor/Liaison Officer for the UNEP Office in Brussels (financed by the Government of the Netherlands);
- (iv) CGL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in the use of Geographic Information Systems in Agricultural Research Management (financed by the Government of Norway);
- (v) FGL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Senior Programme Officer to the UNEP/GPA Office in The Hague (financed by the Government of France);
- (vi) GTL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of UNEP Implementation of Enabling and Pioneering Environmental Projects (financed by the Government of Germany);
- (vii) IPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden);
- (viii) ITL – INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States of America);
- (ix) JGL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Activities on Environmental Issues (financed by the Government of Japan);
- (x) KTL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Cleaner Production Investments in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Norway);
- (xi) PUL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the UNEP Executive Director’s Implementation of Personnel Reforms in the UNEP Secretariat (financed by the Government of the United States of America);
- (xii) RUL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of Meetings of Subcommittees or Working Groups on the Programmatic and Administrative Reform of UNEP (financed by the Government of the United States of America);
- (xiii) SNL – Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Provision of a Programme officer to UNEP/SBC (financed by the Government of Switzerland - SAEFL);
- (xiv) TAL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Government of Austria);
- (xv) UCL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Enhancement of Cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) in the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 687 (1991) financed by UNCC;
- (xvi) UKL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of an Executive Assistant of the Executive Director (financed by the Government of the United Kingdom);

2. Trust funds in support of regional seas programmes, protocols and conventions and special funds

4. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds:

(a) General trust funds:

- (i) BFL – General Trust Fund for Biosafety, which was established in 2002 with an expiry date of 31 December 2005;
- (ii) BGL – General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which was established in 2004 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;
- (iii) BHL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for the Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities, which was established in 2004 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007 (Biosafety Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity);
- (iv) ROL – General Trust Fund of the Rotterdam Convention, which was established in 2005 with an expiry date of 31 December 2006;
- (v) SOL – General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations relevant to the Vienna Convention, which was established in 2003 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

- (i) BIL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Developing Country Parties, in Particular the Least Developed and Small Island Developing States amongst them, and Parties with Economies in Transition, which was established in 2004 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007 (Biosafety Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity);
- (ii) LDL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Management of UNEP/GEF National Adaptation Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries established in 2002 with no fixed expiry date;
- (iii) RSL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition (financed by the Government of Switzerland), which was established in 2002 with no fixed expiry date;
- (iv) RVL – Special Trust Fund of the Rotterdam Convention, which was established in 2005 with an expiry date of 31 December 2006;

5. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests for extension from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

(a) General trust funds:

- (i) AWL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA), through 31 December 2008;
- (ii) BAL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) through 31 December 2009;
- (iii) BCL – Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, through 31 December 2007;
- (iv) BDL – Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and other Countries in need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, through 31 December 2007;

- (v) BEL – General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2007;
- (vi) BTL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the European Bats, through 31 December 2009;
- (vii) BYL – General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2007;
- (viii) BZL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2007;
- (ix) CRL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, through 31 December 2007;
- (x) CTL – Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), through 31 December 2008;
- (xi) EAL – Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, through 31 December 2007 (Nairobi Convention);
- (xii) ESL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, through 31 December 2007;
- (xiii) MEL – Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, through 31 December 2007 (Barcelona Convention);
- (xiv) MSL – Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, through 31 December 2008;
- (xv) PNL – General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, through 31 December 2007 (NOWPAP);
- (xvi) WAL – Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, through 31 December 2007 (Abidjan Convention);

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

GFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility, through 30 June 2007;

6. *Notes and approves* the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and satisfaction of all financial implications:

(a) General trust funds:

BFL – General Trust Fund for Biosafety;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

- (i) BSL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland);
- (ii) PHL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Professional Officers to the Ozone Secretariat (financed by the Government of the Netherlands).

C. Loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/33 of 9 February 2001, by which the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to approve an advance of up to 8 million United States dollars from the Environment Fund financial reserve to the United Nations Secretariat towards the construction of additional office accommodation at the United Nations complex in Nairobi, and its decision 22/23 II of 7 February 2003, by which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the further progress of loan drawdowns and the status of the construction project and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session on the implementation of decision 22/23 II;

1. *Notes with appreciation* the Executive Director's report on administrative and other budgetary matters, in particular section IV on the loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve, and the progress achieved in the implementation of the first phase of the construction project;³⁴
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on further progress on loan drawdowns and the status of the construction project.

D. Flow of financial information between the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the secretariats of relevant conventions

The Governing Council

Requests the Executive Director, in conjunction with the executive secretaries of conventions for which the United Nations Environment Programme is the trustee, to explore possibilities for further improving the financial information flows to ensure that the convention secretariats have up-to-date, accurate information available to them at all times, and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereon.

Decision 23/5: Small island developing States

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.VIII/2 of 31 March 2004 on small island developing States and the request contained therein for the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council on the outcome of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 10 to 14 January 2005,

Having considered the report subsequently submitted by the Executive Director,³⁵

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the outcomes of the Mauritius International Meeting;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue strengthening activities by the United Nations Environment Programme related to small island developing States on a tailored and regional basis and further to rationalize delivery by the United Nations Environment Programme in the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian Ocean, the South China Seas and the Caribbean region, using the network of United Nations Environment Programme regional offices, regional seas programmes, conventions and action plans and partners to the greatest extent possible;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the activities which the United Nations Environment Programme undertakes in relation to small island developing States contribute to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted at the Mauritius International Meeting;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth regular session on the implementation of the present decision.

³⁴ UNEP/GC.23/9.

³⁵ UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.6/Rev.1.

Decision 23/6: Keeping the world environmental situation under review

The Governing Council,

Pursuing its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments and, among other things, to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information,

Noting the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its tenth meeting¹ to support the increased involvement of African scientists and research institutions and regional and subregional centres of excellence in international environmental assessment,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/224 of 22 December 1989, 46/217 of 20 December 1991, 48/192 of 21 December 1993, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003 on, among other things, international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats,

Recalling also the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,² adopted in Johannesburg on 4 September 2002,

Noting the continuing work of regional and global specialized organizations, including, among others, the Arctic Council, the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Climate Observing System, the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, the Global Ocean Observing System, the Global Terrestrial Observing System, the Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recognizing the need further to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme and welcoming the report of the Executive Director³ on activities and plans for so doing,

Noting the outcomes of the global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation on the fourth Global Environment Outlook, held in Nairobi on 19 and 20 February 2005,⁴

1. *Acknowledges* the findings of the *Global Environment Outlook Yearbook 2004–2005*;
2. *Welcomes* the feature focus of the *Yearbook* on gender, poverty and environment⁵ and calls upon Governments and intergovernmental organizations to mainstream gender considerations into their relevant environmental policies, plans, programmes and activities, in particular through promoting:
 - (a) Gender-balanced participation in environmental assessments, monitoring, policy and decision making;
 - (b) Gender perspectives in the design of assessment, monitoring and early-warning processes and identifying priority environment-related data sets for gender disaggregation;
 - (c) Gender dimensions in the formulation of environmental policies, decisions and actions;
3. *Decides* that, in support of the agenda⁶ of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2006, the feature focus of the 2005–2006 *Yearbook* should be energy and air pollution, which are both elements of the thematic cluster of issues for the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for 2006–2007;

¹ UNEP/AMCEN/10/8, annex II, decision 8.

² *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

³ UNEP/GC.23/3, chap.III.

⁴ UNEP/DEWA/GEO/IGC.1/2.

⁵ See document UNEP/GC.23/INF/2, attachment.

⁶ See Governing Council decision 23/12.

4. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Executive Director and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment of the International Council for Science on identifying emerging environmental issues and bringing them to the attention of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and of the public at large;

5. *Notes* the importance of environmental management in controlling emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and, in that connection:

(a) Calls upon Governments to promote cooperation between health and environmental authorities in order to control emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases;

(b) Requests the Executive Director to keep the human health aspects of environmental change under review in cooperation with the scientific community and relevant international organizations, in particular the World Health Organization;

6. *Notes* emerging scientific evidence relating to global climate change and its impacts and, in that connection:

(a) Encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take such emerging scientific evidence into account in its fourth assessment report;

(b) Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental bodies, to keep those changes and their impacts under review and to report on any new developments in that area;

(c) Encourages Governments, the private sector and civil society to continue to address the serious challenges of global climate change, including through the implementation of international agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and, for those countries which have ratified it, its Kyoto Protocol;

7. *Notes* the set of environmental indicators presented in the *Yearbook* and the cooperation between the Executive Director and the United Nations Statistical Division⁷ on environment statistics and, in that connection:

(a) Expresses its appreciation for the contribution of environmental data by Governments and international organizations;

(b) Notes the need to continue to improve the quantity and quality of environmental data and statistics and calls upon Governments to undertake national networking for data collection and dissemination and to provide data of high quality and credibility for the *Yearbook* indicators, and to respond to the United Nations Statistical Division/United Nations Environment Programme questionnaire on environment statistics;

(c) Invites Governments and international organizations to support capacity-building for data collection and management in support of the *Yearbook* environmental indicators and also for the broader collaboration between the United Nations Statistical Division and the United Nations Environment Programme on environment statistics;

8. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on activities and plans for supporting the 10-year plan for the implementation of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems, including the possibility of contributing to the secretariat for the governing body of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems, which will be hosted by the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to establish a process of developing the fourth Global Environment Outlook as an integrated assessment of the global environment which involves Governments and builds upon national, subregional and regional information, assessments and experiences, in consultation with United Nations Environment Programme national focal points through the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme, strengthening as appropriate subregional and regional capacities;

⁷ See UNEP/GC.23/INF/15.

10. *Calls upon* Governments and relevant institutions to provide extrabudgetary resources for technical cooperation and capacity-building within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building⁸ and the proposed “Environment Watch” framework, for keeping the world environmental situation under review.

Decision 23/7: Strengthening environmental emergency response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 21/17 and 22/8 on further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation,

Noting with deep concern the unprecedented Indian Ocean tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004 and its devastating impact on the people, societies, economies and environments of the affected countries;

Expressing concern over the medium and long-term social, economic and environmental impacts of the disaster on the affected countries;

Noting with deep concern the extent to which limitations in capacities for preparedness for natural and human-induced disasters, particularly in developing countries, can jeopardize progress towards implementing internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,⁹

Welcoming with deep appreciation the generous response and strong commitment by Governments, the United Nations system, international financial institutions and the international community to support the affected countries and to address the broad range of challenges in the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, including activities in the area of disaster reduction,

Pursuing its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments and, among other things, to promote the contribution of relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/224 of 22 December 1989, 46/217 of 20 December 1991, 48/192 of 21 December 1993, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003, on, among other things, international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats, and resolution 59/279 of 19 January 2005 on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster,

Recalling also the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,¹⁰ adopted in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 4 September 2002,

Recalling further the Jakarta Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004,¹¹ adopted at the special meeting of leaders of the Association of South-East Asian Nations held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005 in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, and the pledges made by donor countries and international financial institutions for assistance to the affected countries,

⁸ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/2 of September 2000.

¹⁰ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I resolution 2, annex.

¹¹ A/59/669, annex.

Noting the outcome of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,¹² held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005,

Noting also the Hyogo Declaration¹³ and the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005–2015,¹⁴ as well as the common statement¹⁵ of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster arising from the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Noting further the Phuket Declaration¹⁶ arising from the Phuket Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements held in Phuket, Thailand, on 28 and 29 January 2005,

Welcoming the appeal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a global early-warning system for disasters and the efforts of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to coordinate efforts by the United Nations system for the establishment of a tsunami early-warning system for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian region and other high-risk areas,

Recognizing that sound environmental management and effective early-warning systems are important and integral components of disaster prevention and mitigation,

Expressing its satisfaction and recognizing the continued positive collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in enhancing the ability of the international community to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in responding to environmental emergencies,

Taking note of the report by the Executive Director on the devastating impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster on countries, including small island developing States and millions of people in South and South-East Asia and in East Africa,¹⁷

1. *Notes* the establishment by the Executive Director of the internal ad hoc task force to coordinate the response by the United Nations Environment Programme, in close cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other relevant organizations, to the tsunami disaster;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit to continue its mandate as the United Nations coordinating body for international assistance to countries facing environmental emergencies;

3. *Notes* the work on the development of the five-pillar strategy for responding to the tsunami disaster in close coordination with the United Nations humanitarian and development system and Governments of the affected countries, which focused on:

- (a) Response to requests from affected countries;
- (b) Mobilization of immediate environmental assistance by integrating environmental needs into the humanitarian flash appeal;
- (c) Mobilization of environmental recovery by integrating environmental considerations into rehabilitation and reconstruction;
- (d) Establishment of and advocacy for an environmental agenda for reconstruction of affected areas;

¹² *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port-Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4).

¹³ Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005 (A/CONF.206/6), chap.I, resolution 1.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, resolution 2.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, annex II

¹⁶ Phuket Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements, 29 January 2005.

¹⁷ See document UNEP/GC.23/INF/2, attachment.

(e) Support to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the development of tsunami early-warning systems as a priority in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian region and other high-risk areas;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to work in cooperation with the Governments of the countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami, along with the scientific community and other United Nations bodies, while avoiding duplication of work being carried out by those bodies, other relevant institutions and civil society in:

(a) Providing appropriate expertise for supporting emergency environmental planning and assistance;

(b) Assessing environmental impacts of the tsunami and the environmental aspects of any consequent risks to human health and livelihoods;

(c) Promoting the integration of environmental considerations into wider mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

(d) Promoting, in reconstruction efforts in particular, international cooperation on the use of renewable energy technologies, as appropriate;

(e) Supporting short and long-term environmental restoration and management, in particular as they relate to human vulnerability and well-being, taking into account the role of integrated coastal-zone management, land-use planning and management of ecosystems, which may help mitigate the impacts of natural and human-induced disasters;

5. *Supports* the efforts of Governments and the international community to cooperate in the development of a worldwide early-warning system for natural and human-induced disasters through, among other things, a multimodal approach, and taking into consideration the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for all-hazards warning systems, which should include a tsunami early-warning system for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian region and other areas potentially at risk, under the coordination of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to support the efforts of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to coordinate the efforts by the United Nations for the establishment of the tsunami early-warning system for the Indian Ocean, South-East Asian region and other high-risk areas;

7. *Decides* to continue and strengthen participation by the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, in particular in the context of the communiqué of the third Earth Observation Summit relating to support for tsunami and multi-hazard warning systems within the context of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to work in close cooperation with Governments and relevant international organizations and inter-agency mechanisms, including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to promote the environmental components of such systems, including by making use of local observations and indigenous knowledge as a complement to scientifically and technologically-advanced systems, and by assisting countries with the development of strategies for enhancing ecosystems which mitigate the impacts of tsunami and other disasters;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue developing, in close consultation with Governments, relevant international institutions and secretariats of multilateral environment agreements:

(a) An environmental approach to the identification and assessment of areas which are potentially at risk from natural and human-induced disasters, noting that intact mangrove and coral-reef ecosystems may help protect shorelines and islands;

(b) Guidelines outlining procedures and methodologies for environmental assessments of natural and human-induced disasters;

10. *Invites* Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to continue cooperating with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in their efforts to provide emergency assistance to countries, in particular developing countries facing environmental emergencies and natural disasters with environmental impacts;

11. *Also invites* Governments and relevant institutions to provide extrabudgetary resources, on a voluntary basis, for technical cooperation and capacity-building, within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,¹⁸ for strengthening national and local-level capacity for coping with the environmental aspects of hazard and risk reduction, early warning, preparedness, response and mitigation relating to natural and human-induced disasters through, among other things, working with national Governments, local communities and civil society and making use of existing mechanisms such as the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level process developed by the Executive Director in cooperation with an international consortium of organizations and industries;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its ninth special session on the implementation of the present decision.

Decision 23/8: Environmental and equity considerations in the procurement practices of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/10 on good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system, as regards environmental housekeeping in the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting that the environmental and equity considerations of normal purchasing practices of the United Nations Environment Programme should be consistent with traditional factors such as performance, availability, price and product safety and should contribute to the enhancement of the mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and development, with a view to achieving sustainable development,

Noting that other international organizations and Governments may have useful information to provide on programmes in that area,

1. *Invites* Governments to share with the United Nations Environment Programme their experiences, lessons learned and best practices related to environmental and equity considerations in procurement practices;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a compilation report on environmental and equity considerations regarding current procurement practices in the United Nations Environment Programme and an assessment of its performance and to present it to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-fourth session;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council on the implementation of environmental housekeeping aspects of decision 18/10 by the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session.

Decision 23/9: Chemicals management

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21¹⁹ and Governing Council decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 18/32 of 25 May 1995, 19/13 of 7 February 1997, SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, 20/22 of 4 February 1999, 20/23 and 20/24 of 4 February 1999, 21/3, 21/4, 21/5 and 21/6 of 9 February 2001, SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002 and 22/4 of 7 February 2003 concerning global policies related to chemicals management,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

¹⁸ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

¹⁹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

Welcoming also the continuing good cooperation between the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Customs Organization in addressing international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes,

Noting the existing good cooperation and the potential for further enhancing coherence and synergies between the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,²⁰ adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development on 4 September 2002, concerning the renewed commitment on the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development and for the protection of human health and the environment, as well as the aim of achieving, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent, science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set forth in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,²¹ and the call for support to developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste by providing technical and financial assistance,

Recalling also paragraph 23 (b) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in which the World Summit endorsed the further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Recalling further paragraph 23 (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in which the World Summit encouraged partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing the environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data,

Recalling paragraph 23 (g) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which called for action at all levels to promote the reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals which are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds,²²

Welcoming the participation of Governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations from multiple sectors such as agriculture, environment, foreign affairs, health, industry, labour and science at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, held in Bangkok from 9 to 13 November 2003, and at its second session, held in Nairobi from 4 to 8 October 2004,

Noting the Sirte Declaration on the Environment for Development²³ adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its tenth session, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 26 to 30 June 2004, in which ministers committed themselves further to prioritizing and drawing synergies from, among other things, the strategic approach to international chemicals management process, and decision 5 of the same session²⁴ in which ministers endorsed and encouraged the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Noting with appreciation those Governments which have made financial contributions to the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme relating to sound chemicals management,

²⁰ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

²¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

²² Governing Council decision 22/4.

²³ Report of the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 29–30 June, 2004, (UNEP/AMCEN/10/8, annex I).

²⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on chemicals management,²⁵

I

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen support, within available resources, for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation between the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Customs Organization in addressing international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation with the Basel Convention regional training centres in the implementation of activities, as appropriate, of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions related to hazardous wastes and chemicals;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote full cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision, as it relates to cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

II

Strategic approach to international chemicals management

6. *Urges* governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental participants as defined in the rules of procedure²⁶ adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, to continue to participate actively in the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide funding to support the further development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management;
8. *Also requests* Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to contribute the extrabudgetary resources needed to support the further development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management with participation by stakeholders from diverse sectors;
9. *Further requests* the Executive Director to make the necessary preparations, including intersessional work and preparation of documents, for a third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, to be held in September 2005 in Vienna, and, in cooperation with the other co-conveners, for the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which is envisaged to take place in conjunction with the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2006;
10. *Welcomes* the concurrence of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, as co-conveners along with the United Nations Environment Programme, that the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at which the adoption of the strategic approach to international chemicals management is to be considered, should be held in conjunction with the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in early 2006;

²⁵ UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.1.

²⁶ *Report of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Bangkok, 9–13 November 2003 (SAICM/PREPCOM.1/7. annex I).*

11. *Invites* the participants at the International Conference on Chemicals Management to refer the adopted document to the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations for consideration;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session on the outcomes of the process for developing the strategic approach to international chemicals management, with a view to the Governing Council considering its endorsement on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director, as a matter of high priority, to make appropriate provision for the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme's responsibilities under the strategic approach to international chemicals management, once adopted;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Director to make provision for activities to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the strategic approach to international chemicals management, taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,²⁷ the effective implementation of which is a matter of high priority, and to report on the provision of such support to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session;

III

Lead and cadmium

15. *Reaffirms* its decision 22/4 III of 7 February 2003 on lead;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to undertake a review of scientific information, focusing especially on long-range environmental transport, to inform future discussions on the need for global action in relation to lead and cadmium;

17. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders to increase contributions in order to facilitate the timely implementation of the work required by the present decision;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on implementation of the present decision as it relates to lead and cadmium to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

IV

Mercury programme

19. *Reiterates* the conclusion of the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment that there is sufficient evidence of significant global adverse impacts from mercury and its compounds to warrant further international action to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds into the environment;

20. *Also reiterates* its decision that national, regional and global actions, both immediate and long-term, should be initiated as soon as possible to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce or eliminate releases of mercury and its compounds into the environment;

21. *Continues to urge* all countries to adopt goals and to take national actions, as appropriate, with the objective of identifying exposed populations and ecosystems and reducing anthropogenic mercury releases which affect human health and the environment;

22. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop further the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme established under decision 22/4 V of 7 February 2003 by initiating, preparing and making public a report summarizing supply, trade and demand information for mercury, including in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and, based on a consideration of the life-cycle approach, to submit a document forming a basis for consideration of possible further actions in those areas for the consideration of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

23. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop further the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, established under decision 22/4 V, with the aim of facilitating and conducting technical assistance and capacity-building activities through, among other things, the

²⁷ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,²⁸ in order to support the efforts of countries to take action regarding mercury pollution;

24. *Encourages* Governments to promote and improve evaluation and risk communication methods, based on, among other things, guidance from the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which enable citizens to make health-protective dietary choices, considering risk and benefit information, primarily concerning fish consumption;

25. *Requests* Governments, the private sector and international organizations to take immediate actions to reduce the risks to human health and the environment posed on a global scale by mercury in products and production processes, such as:

(a) Considering the application and sharing of information on best available techniques and measures to reduce mercury emissions from point sources;

(b) Taking action on reducing the risk of exposure related to mercury in products such as batteries, and to production processes such as chlor-alkali facilities, through, for example, when warranted, introduction of bans or restrictions on uses;

(c) Considering curbing primary production and the introduction into commerce of excess mercury supply;

26. *Requests* Governments in a position to do so to assist developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, through technology transfer, capacity-building and access to financial resources in order to achieve the goals listed in paragraph 7 of the present decision;

27. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to develop and implement partnerships, in a clear, transparent and accountable manner, as one approach to reducing the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds to the environment and thereby achieving the objectives set forth in the annex to decision 22/4 V;

28. *Requests* the Executive Director, building upon decision 22/4 V, which addresses the issue of further measures for addressing the significant global adverse impacts of mercury and its compounds:

(a) To invite Governments, particularly of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to identify, in consultation with stakeholders, priority partnership areas as soon as possible, with the goal of identifying a set of pilot partnerships by 1 September 2005, posting that information on the website of the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and keeping the website current as additional partnerships are proposed and developed;

(b) To work with Governments and relevant stakeholders to compile and report needs identified to execute the partnerships and assist in the mobilization of resources in support of the partnerships;

(c) To share and disseminate information submitted by partnerships on progress, lessons learned and emerging best practices via the website of the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and other methods of communication, and report on the results of those partnerships;

(d) To report at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the International Conference on Chemicals Management about the partnership programme;

(e) To report on the progress of implementation of the partnerships to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

29. *Requests* that, for each partnership established under the present decision, at least the following be identified:

(a) The goals of the partnership;

(b) The process and timeline according to which the partnership will be developed and implemented;

²⁸ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

(c) The roles and responsibilities of the partners, including identification of lead countries in particular areas (for example, both a developing and a developed country might share the lead role);

(d) A mechanism to implement effective monitoring and evaluation procedures to assess and report on the progress of the partnership;

30. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to form a partnership to assist the Executive Director in the mobilization of resources;

31. *Also encourages* the development of pilot partnerships to demonstrate early success, including by using, as appropriate, existing structures such as regional centres, and fostering collaboration by countries in and between regions;

32. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate work between the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and Governments, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the partnerships, as appropriate:

(a) To improve global understanding of international mercury emission sources, fate and transport;

(b) To promote the development of inventories of mercury uses and releases;

(c) To promote the development of environmentally sound disposal and remediation practices;

(d) To increase awareness of environmentally sound recycling practices;

33. *Encourages* Governments and stakeholders, especially in developed countries, and relevant international organizations within their respective mandates, to mobilize technical and financial resources to work towards successful partnerships; that assistance could include, among other things, identification of best practices and transfer of appropriate technology;

34. *Concludes* that further long-term international action is required to reduce the risks to human health and the environment arising from releases of mercury;

35. *Notes* the strengthened actions to be taken to address global mercury issues in the present decision;

36. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision as it relates to mercury to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

37. *Decides* to assess at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council, on the basis of the aforementioned progress report, the need for further action on mercury, considering a full range of options, including the possibility of a legally binding instrument, partnerships and other actions;

38. *Urges* Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to make contributions in order to support the implementation of the mercury programme.

Decision 23/10: Poverty and the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 22/10 of 7 February 2003 concerning poverty and the environment in Africa,

Recalling further paragraph 11 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,²⁹ which recognizes poverty eradication as an essential requirement for sustainable development, as well as chapter II of the Plan of Implementation³⁰ of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its specific actions on poverty eradication,

Having regard to the discussions which took place during the ministerial-level consultations of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council with respect to the environmental dimension of the

²⁹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 1, annex.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

commitments and internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular those relating to poverty and the environment,

Requests the Executive Director to enhance further the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in all regions to promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment and, where appropriate, to assist Governments, upon their request, to integrate environmental decision-making into social and economic policy on poverty eradication, in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and in line with its programme of work.

Decision 23/11: Gender equality in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 20 of the Rio Declaration,³¹ paragraph 20 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³² goals 3 and 7 of the internationally agreed goals of the Millennium Declaration and the targets on water and slums and paragraph 20 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,³³

Recalling also its own decisions 17/4 of 21 May 1993, 18/6 of 26 May 1995, 19/7 of 7 February 1997 and 20/9 of 5 February 1999 on the United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development,

Reaffirming the need to continue the implementation of Agenda 21³⁴ and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation³⁵ and to pursue gender mainstreaming in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in a spirit of full cooperation and global solidarity,

Concerned about the impact of environmental degradation on the livelihoods of communities, particularly for women living in poverty,

Underlining the importance of integrating into national sustainable development strategies and into poverty reduction strategy papers gender equality and the particular role of women as natural resource managers,

I

Equal participation in decision-making

1. *Invites* Governments to promote methods of work conducive to women's participation in environmental decision-making at all levels with the aim of achieving broad gender balance;
2. *Encourages* the Executive Director to work with other United Nations agencies to assist Governments in promoting the equal participation of women and men in policy formulation, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and reporting on sustainable development;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote the sharing of good examples of gender-sensitive environmental initiatives of Governments and all stakeholders;

³¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

³² General Assembly resolution 55/2 of September 2000.

³³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 1, annex.

³⁴ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

³⁵ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 1, annex.

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to develop a mentorship programme which would encourage young women to take an active role in environmental policy formulation and decision-making;

5. *Encourages* the Executive Director to enhance work, including at the regional level, to develop and disseminate gender-disaggregated analyses, data and information on United Nations Environment Programme issues and activities;

6. Encourages the Executive Director to strengthen further the involvement of women in United Nations Environment Programme activities;

II

Gender mainstreaming in environmental policies and programmes

7. *Calls on* the Executive Director to develop and promote a set of gender-equality criteria for the implementation of programmes;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to apply the United Nations Environment Programme gender-sensitivity guidelines;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building,³⁶ to take into account paragraph 3 (e) thereof, which states, as one of the objectives of the Plan,

“To integrate specific gender-mainstreaming strategies, as well as education and training for women, in formulating relevant policies, and to promote the participation of women in environmental decision-making”;

10. Further *requests* the Executive Director to give an account of lessons learned about gender-related aspects of environmental issues in conflict situations and to apply its conclusions to the post-conflict assessment work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

III

Assessment of effects on women of environmental policies

11. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to assist Governments in building capacity for gender mainstreaming in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building;³⁷

12. *Encourages* the Executive Director to collaborate with scientific institutions to promote research-exchange programmes on gender and the environment as an input to the Decade for Education on Sustainable Development;

13. *Also encourages* the Executive Director to work with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and other relevant human rights bodies in identifying lessons learned on gender-related aspects of environmental issues;

IV

Implementation

14. *Invites* Governments, in accordance with its decision 20/9 of 5 February 1999, to designate gender focal points and to notify the Executive Director thereof;

15. *Also invites* Governments actively to involve all stakeholders in their gender-equality and environment-related activities;

³⁶ UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

³⁷ Ibid.

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to integrate further gender-equality and environment activities into the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

17. *Invites* the Executive Director, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, to explore options, in consultation with Governments, on the possibility of developing an action plan for gender mainstreaming within the work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to communicate the present decision to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and to report on the situation with regard to gender equality and the environment and progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

Decision 23/12: Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999 and 56/242 of 24 December 2001,

Recalling further decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum,

I

Ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. *Decides* to hold its ninth special session in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 7 to 9 February 2006, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for its generous offer to host the session;

2. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment.
5. Policy issues:
 - (a) Energy and environment;
 - (b) Chemicals management;
 - (c) Tourism and the environment.
6. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
7. International environmental governance.
8. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

9. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the session.

II

Twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

3. *Decides* that, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum shall be held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2007;

4. *Decides also* that informal consultations between heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 4 February 2007, the day before the opening of the twenty-fourth session;

5. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
 - (a) State of the environment;
 - (b) Emerging policy issues;
 - (c) Coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters;
 - (d) Coordination and cooperation with civil society;
 - (e) International environmental governance;
 - (f) Water policy and strategy.
5. Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
6. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council.
7. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009 and the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
8. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
 - (a) Tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
 - (b) Twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the session.

Annex II

Report of the ministerial consultations

I. Opening of the consultations

1. After its first plenary meeting, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum convened ministerial consultations, beginning on the afternoon of Monday, 21 February, with four meetings taking place until and including the morning of Wednesday, 23 February, 2005. The discussions focused on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration in relation to the environment, poverty alleviation and gender, and also to policy issues relating to water, sanitation and human settlements, under agenda items 5 and 6. The consultations were opened by Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, President of the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

2. In his opening statement, Mr. Klaus Töpfer, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), welcomed the presence at the consultations of two representatives of civil society and one representative of the Tunza youth network, whose participation had been agreed by the Bureau to increase the participation of different groups in the discussion of environmental issues. He also welcomed the presence of Ms. Erna Witoelar, former Minister for Resettlement and Regional Infrastructure of Indonesia and United Nations Special Ambassador in the Asian and Pacific region for the Millennium Development Goals.

II. Implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration

A. Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger – environment and poverty

3. The ministerial discussion on Millennium Development Goal 1 was moderated by Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Minister of Housing, Lands and Environment of Barbados, and Mr. Miklos Persanyi, Minister of Environment and Water of Hungary.

4. The links between poverty reduction and environmental sustainability were described in some detail in a keynote address by Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals and Director of the United Nations Millennium Project. In his address, Mr. Sachs observed with regret that the Millennium Development Goals were not being achieved. Outlining the work of the Millennium Project, he drew attention to its recent report to the Secretary-General, entitled "Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals", which stressed the need to step down from high concept and focus on practical issues. In order to meet the challenge of financing the Goals, developed countries should honour their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their GNP in official development assistance, a target that had first been set in 1970 for achievement by 1975. Some 30 years later, that target, although reiterated often, had yet to be met. In closing, he warned that the world would become a far more dangerous place if existing commitments were not honoured and the Millennium Development Goals were not achieved.

5. In the ensuing debate, a number of representatives outlined the steps taken in their countries towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, emphasizing the link between poverty eradication and the protection of the environment.

6. One representative stressed that the Millennium Development Goals could be achieved only through global partnership. Another emphasized the importance of engaging civil society at all levels in the implementation of the Goals, and a third stressed that poverty eradication was possible, but required political will, determination and public participation and support. A number of representatives drew attention to the link between gender and the environment, noting that unless women were involved in efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals, very little progress could be made. Several underlined the need to involve youth in environmental work. The representative of a non-governmental organization said that it was essential to involve business partners and to use all available resources.

7. It was generally agreed that UNEP should play a more prominent role on the ground in promoting the link between environment and development and a stronger role within the United Nations system. UNEP should also be more active in advising Governments on their environment policies. Greater efforts should be made to incorporate the issue of environmental sustainability into all United

Nations programmes. One representative urged UNEP to continue to provide scientific evidence of the losses caused by environmental degradation and the benefits of environmentally sound solutions. It was generally agreed that UNEP required more funding. Expanding the Global Environment Facility was one way of ensuring such funding.

8. Recalling the widespread poverty that had been created as a result of the Asian tsunami disaster, one representative emphasized the need for a framework linking policy and environment and a greater commitment to move existing development projects forward. There was also a need for greater recognition of the benefits that could be generated by safeguarding the environment. Another representative stressed the importance of linking environmental management with natural disasters. Regional arrangements such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) were positive steps towards ensuring better environmental management.

9. Two representatives described the relationship between desertification and poverty in their countries. One of them called for post-conflict assessment to ensure environmentally sustainable reconstruction and development in regions affected by conflict.

10. It was noted that the debt burden was a major obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and various remedial measures were suggested, including the reform of the existing trading system. It was generally agreed that wealthy countries should provide effective assistance to developing countries in need. Particular attention should be paid to small island developing States, countries in sub-Saharan Africa and poor mountainous regions. Several representatives stressed the need for a commitment by all donor countries to reach the United Nations official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. One representative called for innovative financial instruments, such as the introduction of a tax on kerosene. The funds generated from such taxes could be used to help developing countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

11. A number of representatives lauded the proposal by the British Government for an international financing facility. One said that a financial mechanism should be established which would enable countries to differentiate between legitimate and non-legitimate debts and suggested that non-governmental organizations could play a role in that regard.

12. A number of representatives spoke of the need to convince finance ministers of the importance of environment and of the need for ministries to work together. One suggested that ministers should be made aware of the costs of inaction and proposed that UNEP, in collaboration with relevant partners, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, should undertake an analysis of the negative impacts of environmentally unsustainable activities in certain sectors.

13. Mr. Sachs drew attention to a recommendation in the report of the Millennium Project that the servicing of debt should be made compatible with achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with 100 per cent debt cancellation for some countries and significant debt cancellation for others. He noted the need for new donors, especially among middle-income countries and the new member States of the European Union, and said that it was crucial for finance ministers to understand the specifics and costs of environmental degradation. He appealed to UNEP to provide technical assistance to carry out assessments on environmental issues, in order to determine priority areas. It was important to examine whether existing aid was adequate and whether it was channelled towards real development. He urged delegations to advocate the need to incorporate environmental analysis and accounting into all poverty-reduction strategy papers to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to find ways to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

14. Noting that health was a basis for wealth and development, one representative suggested that a legally binding framework for mercury should be developed as a contribution to improving public health.

B. Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability – in relation to water, sanitation and human settlements

15. At its 3rd meeting, the Council/Forum continued its ministerial consultations, focusing on the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 7, ensuring environmental sustainability, in relation to water, sanitation and human settlements. The Executive Director introduced the two moderators, Mr. Henri Djombo, Ministry of Forestry and Environment of Congo, and Mr. Peter Van Geel, State Secretary for the Environment of the Netherlands, after which a keynote statement was delivered by Mr. Achim Steiner, Director-General of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

16. Mr. Steiner observed that the case for environmental investment was weaker in 2005 than it had been for a long time, despite the knowledge and experience that had been acquired on how to promote it. It was becoming increasingly clear that a human agenda – rather than an environmental one – was at the centre of sustainable development discourse at both the national and international levels. Noting that the traditional approach of environmentalists of limiting human presence in natural systems was doomed to fail, he said that it was essential to link the human agenda with the environmental agenda. Ministers should remember that, while every environmental source did not need to be justified as an economic resource, investing in the water cycle would yield high returns and sustainability. The tools and expertise available should be used to promote environmental sustainability, and efforts should be made to raise awareness among all stakeholders of the social aspects of water. Stakeholders should accept responsibility rather than blame society.

17. In the ensuing debate, many representatives provided examples of the water initiatives taken in their countries, which included the development of management structures to handle transboundary water issues; water purification systems; sewage collection and treatment plants; so-called “water banks”; and a register of water supplies and basins.

18. Many representatives acknowledged the fundamental linkages between water policy, poverty eradication and sustainable development. It was generally agreed that water and the environment had a key role to play in the achievement of most Millennium Development Goals and should be reflected in all activities to implement them.

19. Another representative drew attention to the adverse effects of inadequate sanitation and wastewater practices and underscored the link between marine and freshwater management.

20. Several representatives said that the achievement of the water and sanitation targets agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development required a joint effort by all stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels. One representative drew attention to the recently established African Water Facility, which had been designed by African ministers to mobilize financial resources for investment in the African water sector and had received the support of the European Union, UNEP and a number of other partners. UNEP should promote the establishment and operation of other, similar regional institutions to ensure the harmonization of water policies.

21. It was noted that, although investment in water yielded high returns in terms of human welfare, it was hard for many developing countries to mobilize resources for measures in that field. Attention was drawn to obstacles to progress in that regard, which included heavy debt burdens, armed conflicts, poor governance and illicit traffic in toxic and hazardous substances. It was pointed out that the amount of funding available for environmental protection was minimal in comparison with the amount devoted to military spending. One representative, stressing that existing official development assistance was insufficient to address the challenges faced by developing countries, spoke of the need to secure funding for private sector investment using new and creative models of financing.

22. There was general agreement about the need to move from policy and assessment to practical and tangible action. The international community should lend greater support to regional water trust funds and integrated water management plans for developing countries. It should also do more to promote technology transfer. It was suggested that UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should develop a road map on how to include integrated water-resources management in national development programmes. One representative requested guidance on how to establish an environment fund in his country.

23. A number of representatives called for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building as a matter of priority.

24. Several representatives pointed to the need for an effective system to monitor global water resources, with suggestions being made for a world water board and water advisory committees; it was stressed that UNEP should play a central role in monitoring. One representative suggested that the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre might be asked to report to the Governing Council and another, noting that UNEP should be more proactive in sharing its expertise at the national level, called on the Programme to strengthen its regional offices. Emphasizing the need for good governance, one representative suggested that cost recovery mechanisms should be introduced to ensure the viability of action at the local level.

25. One representative, drawing attention to the poverty and environmental damage caused in his country by its foreign occupiers, suggested an additional Millennium Development Goal: by 2007, there

should be no foreign occupation of land and all conflicts should be halted. Another speaker highlighted the importance of enabling occupied countries to achieve the Goals.

26. A number of representatives spoke of the importance of education on water issues, and one urged UNEP to take a more proactive role in efforts to promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. One, underscoring the benefits of involving young people in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, urged Governments to create environment-related employment for them. Another, stressing the need to promote a sustainable global society, urged all Governments to promote the “3R” concept of reduction, reuse and recycling.

27. One representative emphasized the need to focus on adequate sanitation for women and girls, in accordance with cultural preferences. Another said that more support should be given to promoting gender equality at the national and international levels in connection with water governance.

28. Several representatives drew attention to the specific needs of mountainous and arid areas and small island developing States.

29. In response to a number of the issues raised during the debate, Mr. Steiner said that a major obstacle to progress was the division between rich and poor and the lack of a collective voice. Climate change had recently re-emerged on the international agenda only because economic interests were forcing Governments to act. Although efforts to implement the water agenda had been hampered because of a fundamental disagreement on the role of private-sector actors, there was a new focus on the need to combine private and public resources for water management. Underlining the need to promote ecosystem restoration and water recycling, he urged representatives, in cooperation with civil society and the private sector, to send a strong message to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly that would be held in September 2005 to review the progress made in fulfilling the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to the effect that resources were being wasted because of a lack of investment in the environment.

C. Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women – gender and environment

30. On the afternoon of Tuesday, 22 February, the ministerial consultations focused on the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 3, which was to promote gender equality and empower women, and on the link between gender and environment. At the invitation of the President, the Executive Director introduced the keynote speaker, Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Republic of South Africa, and the moderators, Ms. Lena Sommestad, Minister of the Environment of Sweden, and Mr. Malik Aslam, Minister of State for the Environment of Pakistan, and underscored the importance of gender mainstreaming in all sustainable development efforts and planning at all levels.

31. In her statement, Ms. Mabudafhasi commended the United Nations on its decision to review the Beijing Platform of Action and recalled that a number of recent high-level events had focused on encouraging women to take a more active and direct role in environmental management. After outlining a number of steps that could be taken to advance the involvement of women in environmental policy-making at all levels, she emphasized the need to address the question of women’s land ownership, increase the participation of women in water management and promote the education of women and the dissemination to them of information on environmental management technologies and practices.

32. Mr. Aslam, noting that Goals 3 and 7 were less focused than the other Millennium Development Goals, outlined the steps taken to promote gender equality in Pakistan.

33. The ensuing discussion covered a number of recurring themes. Most speakers agreed that the representation of women in decision-making posts at all levels produced the greatest benefits in terms of policy change and the integration of gender and environmental issues into new policies. While a number of representatives spoke in favour of quotas or positive discrimination to increase the participation of women in policy-making, some felt that there should be no quotas but that if women were equally qualified, they should have equal access to posts. Most were optimistic that Goal 3 of the Millennium Declaration would be achieved.

34. The link between gender and the environment was described as being of particular importance to efforts to eradicate poverty. There was general agreement that Goals 3 and 7 were closely linked. One representative called for greater parity between the roles of women in developing and developed countries, and another said that the importance of gender and environment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals should be underlined in the contribution of UNEP to the high-level

meeting of the General Assembly that would be held in September 2005 to review progress in the implementation of the Goals. He underlined the need for gender indicators, including one to measure the representation of women in government.

35. One representative argued that gender equality was key to sustainable economic development and that market-based conservation mechanisms and bio-prospecting tended to have a negative impact on women and called on UNEP to strengthen its links with indigenous women and to develop a clear strategy on cultural diversity.

36. There was general agreement on the vital importance of education and training for both girls and women. Education empowered women and helped to mainstream gender issues at the rural level. The important role of non-governmental organizations in promoting women's education was emphasized, especially with regard to civil and political rights. In that connection, several representatives suggested that UNEP should play a more active role in capacity-building and education for women. One representative called for UNEP to assist in the establishment of an environmental issues mentorship programme for girls.

37. One representative, describing a recent study in which a direct connection had been demonstrated between the presence of mercury in the bodies of mothers and the health of their children, called for a legally binding instrument on mercury.

38. Several representatives spoke of the need to promote the right of women to own land. A number of them shared the view that women were the best managers and best protectors of the environment and should be at the centre of all activities to protect the environment. Women had an impact on modes of production and consumption around the world and were strong agents of change. If educated, they could become a powerful force for world change towards sustainable consumption. A number of representatives spoke of the need to optimize the economic benefits of goods produced by women, noting that women should be able to determine the market value of their own products.

39. Another speaker urged participants at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to adopt a decision on gender and to ensure a successful outcome of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development by encouraging broad participation by relevant ministers and promoting tangible action.

40. The issue of providing assistance to women dealing with post-conflict environmental management problems was also raised, as was the issue of facilitating the access of mothers to paid employment. Community participation – and women's participation in particular – in planning and decision-making was described as crucial to the success of environmental management and gender empowerment.

D. Summary of the discussions by the President of the Governing Council

41. On the morning of Wednesday, 23 February 2005, the President of the Council/Forum introduced a draft summary of the discussions that he had prepared. Mr. Elliot Morley, Minister of the Environment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, served as moderator during the consultations that followed.

42. The Executive Director noted that the text before the Council/Forum was not a negotiated document but rather a summary of the discussions which had taken place. He pointed out that the contents of the document would remain the responsibility of the President and would be delivered to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly which would be held in September 2005 to review the progress made in fulfilling the commitments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

43. Following a discussion in which representatives suggested a number of improvements to the draft text, the President stressed that he had taken note of all comments and would ensure that any concerns raised were adequately reflected in the final version. He reaffirmed his will to ensure that the document would receive the attention it deserved.

44. The text of the President's summary is provided in the appendix to the present annex.

Appendix

President's summary of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegation at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme: contribution to the summit meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration

Summary

1. Ministers and heads of delegations of 133 United Nations Member States attending the twenty-third session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, from 21 to 25 February 2005 met to discuss the environmental underpinnings of the Millennium Development Goals and to put forward recommendations for their accelerated and sustainable implementation to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session in September 2005.
2. These deliberations were carried out under the leadership of the President of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Indonesia), with the assistance of ministers from Barbados, Congo, Hungary, Pakistan, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
3. Following presentations by distinguished speakers, including Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and head of the Millennium Project, Mr. Achim Steiner, Director-General, World Conservation Union (IUCN), and Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environment of the Republic of South Africa, ministers and heads of delegation addressed the implementation of the following Millennium Development Goals:
 - (a) Goal No.1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger – environment and poverty;
 - (b) Goal No.7: Ensure environmental sustainability – in relation to water, sanitation and human settlements;
 - (c) Goal No.3: Promote gender equality and empower women – gender and environment.
4. A rich, wide-ranging and interactive debate took place, which underscored the conviction of all ministers and heads of delegation that heightened attention needed to be given to the environmental underpinnings of the Millennium Development Goals in the future implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular goals and targets that were complementary to the Goals. Ministers and heads of delegation were also unanimous in their view that specific and prioritized actions were required to ensure that environmental sustainability was an integral part of the strategy for the implementation of the Goals that should emerge from the summit meeting later in the year. The present President's summary attempts to draw on the major thrusts of the discussion among ministers and other heads of delegation attending the meeting, rather than provide a consensus view on all points.
5. In this conviction, and recognizing the Jeju Initiative, ministers and heads of delegation requested the President of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to convey the President's summary to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations for submission to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, as the contribution of the ministers of environment assembled at the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

1. The Summit has assumed critical significance in reinvigorating action for the central challenge – to us all as a global community – of achieving the goals of the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. If those goals are to be achieved in a sustainable manner, recognition that environmental sustainability underpins their achievement must be at the heart of further efforts of the international community. This should be facilitated by increased cooperation between the United Nations system and international financial institutions. The strengthening of UNEP and further development of international environmental governance is a particularly important requirement in setting in place strong institutional arrangements capable of ensuring that environmental sustainability considerations can be mainstreamed.

A. Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger – environment and poverty

2. We fundamentally depend on natural ecosystems and services provided by watersheds and aquifers, coastal and marine ecosystems, mountains, forests, soils and the atmosphere. These resources and services continue to be threatened as our current patterns of consumption and production undermine the sustainability of the resource base upon which we depend.

3. Extreme poverty, degradation of natural resources and global environmental change combine in a vicious downward spiral that can undermine all development efforts and heighten potential threats of conflict and insecurity at all levels, including increased vulnerability in small island developing States. Investment in environmental and natural resource sustainability has been proved to yield very high returns in the long term. Political decision-making circles, however, have continued to give disproportionate priority to investments with short-term returns, without recognizing that such investments may not contribute to breaking out of the cycle of extreme poverty and environmental degradation in the long term.

4. The failure to operationalize the link between environmental sustainability and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 1, is evident in current poverty reduction strategies, national development plans and sub-national and sectoral development plans and policies in developing countries. Political pressures lead to the prioritization of investment with short-term and sectoral orientations in situations of extreme poverty. The severely constrained fiscal space in which many developing countries operate can also prevent the integration of environmental sustainability considerations into such plans and strategies.

5. In addition, investment-related information, particularly on financial and economic costs and benefits, remains extremely limited, thus further constraining environment-related investment.

6. The aspirations of the international community embodied in the Millennium Declaration and other summits over recent years, and endorsed by heads of State and Government, can only be met through a vastly increased effort. The international community should develop a costed, targeted and financed investment plan, and must revitalize commitment to improved governance and the rule of law.

1. Recommendations for countries and the international community

7. The summit should endorse the systematic integration of environmental sustainability considerations into all national poverty reduction strategies, United Nations development assistance frameworks and national development plans, taking into account the World Summit on Sustainable Development target for the development of national sustainable development strategies.

8. Further efforts should be made to provide the economic rationale for investment in environmental sustainability. An analytical framework that integrates environmental costs and benefits, and also the cost of inaction in decision-making, should be developed for this purpose.

9. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building should be financed and implemented to meet its objective of substantially increasing the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to monitor and assess environmental trends.

10. Substantially increasing the financial base of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is critically important and should be seriously considered.

11. The debilitating burden of debt experienced by developing countries must be eliminated or substantially alleviated to allow countries to invest in programmes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in an environmentally sustainable manner, particularly in least developed countries, poor mountainous countries and heavily indebted poor countries. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum notes with encouragement current efforts by the international community in this regard.

12. Innovative financial mechanisms such as the International Finance Facility, carbon off-setting, emissions trading, international taxation and the potential of debt-for-nature swaps should be further explored.
13. Developed countries must step up efforts towards meeting the target of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for official development assistance, to make available the necessary finance to scale up Millennium Development Goal-related investment.
14. The implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other related development goals, including those contained in the Mauritius Plan of Action, should be expedited on the basis of a clear and prioritized plan with a corresponding set of actions, programmes and investments at all levels and with clear responsibilities for all actors and indicators for monitoring, to strengthen its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
15. Involvement of the poor, particularly the rural poor, women and youth in the development of environmentally sound strategies for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at the local and community levels, should be ensured, as a central component of the success of such strategies.
16. Innovative mechanisms, including micro-finance, equitable tax incentives and the involvement of civil society should be further explored to enhance local ownership and commitment to such strategies. Partnerships with the private sector and other actors and civil society should be further pursued, building on experience gained since the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
17. Trade and aid measures should be mutually supportive. Urgent measures should be taken to remove barriers to trade and agricultural subsidies in developed countries that have a negative impact on developing countries commodity exports. Measures to reduce trade barriers constitute a mutual responsibility. Such measures, combined with efforts to raise agricultural productivity in developing countries, will contribute to relieve pressure on natural resources.
18. International financial institutions and development cooperation agencies should integrate principles of environmental sustainability into their policies and programmes. Environmental considerations should also be factored into foreign direct investment and trade policies as drivers of development.
19. The scientific and financial base of UNEP should be strengthened to meet the challenge of integrating environmental sustainability into development policies.

2. Recommendations for UNEP

20. The environment and poverty initiative of UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should be a key mechanism for assisting developing countries fully to integrate environmental sustainability into poverty reduction and development strategies. The initiative will require long-term commitment and adequate financing. The coordination role of UNEP in the United Nations system, as well as its participation in the United Nations Development Group, should be strengthened.
21. The memorandum of understanding between UNEP and UNDP should be implemented as a matter of priority and the capacity of UNEP to support and provide technical advice to Governments at the national level should be enhanced.
22. UNEP should enhance its cooperation with international financial institutions, and also with specialized agencies and programmes in the United Nations system.

B. Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability in relation to water, sanitation and human settlements

23. Increased investment in environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and human settlements programmes has multiple dividends benefiting women, the poor and the environment.
24. Water is perhaps the most fundamental of all environmental resources and key to the viability and long-term sustainability of the world's ecosystems. Ecosystem health is critical to the quantity and quality of water supply. Human activities, such as environmentally damaging infrastructure development, modification of river flows, deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, over-fishing, introduction of alien invasive species and release of pollutants, can upset this delicate balance.

25. Several threats to overall ecosystem health, and consequently to the ability of ecosystems to provide the services upon which human life depends, are particularly relevant to water resources. The illegal transboundary movement of toxic materials and chemicals and hazardous waste also threatens ecosystems and human health.

26. The link between environmentally sustainable water management and poverty reduction is critical, and must be prioritized to ensure that appropriate action is taken. The United Nations system-wide World Water Development Report highlighted the continued deterioration in freshwater resources, as well as the links between water and achievement of the internationally agreed goals of the Millennium Declaration.

27. The costs of environmentally unsustainable water use through pollution and excess water withdrawals are insufficiently recognized and quantified and are often very high – water that has been clean and usable for generations has been rendered unfit for human consumption in a few short years, causing illnesses and death from water-borne diseases. Millions die every year from water-borne diseases, which in some countries account for a high proportion of total illnesses. Environmentally unsustainable water use has a disproportionate impact on women and children, whose needs must be accorded the highest priority.

1. Recommendations for countries and the international community

28. Countries should ensure the broader cross-sectoral attendance of ministers at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in view of the environment-and-development linkages among water, sanitation and human settlements. The identification of clear follow-up responsibilities could facilitate implementation of the outcomes of the Commission's thirteenth session.

29. It is vital to achieve environmentally sustainable water use, and the application of integrated water resources management (IWRM), including ecosystem approaches, is the appropriate process for that purpose.

30. The costs of environmentally unsustainable water use must be quantified.

31. Environmental valuation of ecosystem goods and services should become a core component of water-management strategies.

32. While increased investment in infrastructure at the national level is vital, there should be a clear recognition of the need for more affordable, smaller-scale and environmentally sustainable infrastructure that targets the needs of the poor as the highest priority. Governments, donors and international financial institutions should ensure that adequate investment is available to mitigate the negative environmental consequences of large infrastructure development.

33. The vulnerability of slum-dwellers should be reduced through promoting land-use planning policies aimed at environmental sustainability and risk reduction. Improved sanitation should be of high priority, employing small-scale solutions in urban areas and the exchange of best practices.

34. Ecosystem approaches increase the availability of clean water and should be an integral part of actions to supply the poor with clean water and adequate sanitation.

35. Countries should encourage the development of water supply and access at all levels that meet the needs of the poorest, including water vendors and community-based management.

36. The international community should meet its commitment to increase the flow of financial resources. Improved water institutional mechanisms and governance are important in mobilizing funds but substantive increases in donor assistance are also required and must be complemented by capacity-building at all levels.

2. Recommendations for UNEP

37. UNEP should increase its support for the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation target of integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, including through capacity-building and with partners such as UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), other United Nations agencies and the Global Water Partnership.

38. Progress in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the marine and freshwater biodiversity targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation should be monitored by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, as mandated by the Convention on Biological Diversity and regularly reported to relevant intergovernmental bodies.

39. UNEP should also provide support for the establishment of regional ministerial bodies on water, such as the African Ministers' Council on Water.
40. UNEP should work with UNDP and through the United Nations Development Group to ensure that environmentally sustainable water use is integrated into poverty reduction strategies and national development plans.
41. UNEP should focus more on drawing together different voices and partners.
42. UNEP should be more active in international forums, such as the Economic and Social Council and the international financial institutions, in an endeavour to drive home the vital contribution of environmental sustainability in meeting water and other targets.

C. Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women – gender and environment

43. Sustainable development is not possible without the empowerment of women and gender equality. This means that gender equality is not only a question of social justice, but is also instrumental to and a precondition of economic empowerment, environmental management and sustainable development.
44. Women are those most affected by environmental degradation, such as chemical contamination and indoor air pollution. They are also most vulnerable to natural disasters. Women are also among the poorest of the poor but nonetheless are strong drivers of change.
45. To address this situation will require concerted action by all those involved, building on initiatives such as Women as the Voice of the Environment (WAVE) and the Network of Women Ministers for the Environment.

1. Recommendations for countries and the international community

46. Gender equality should be mainstreamed at all levels in strategies, policies, and programmes, including in poverty reduction strategies.
47. Women and girls should be empowered through education and capacity-building, not just in environment but in all fields. Elimination of illiteracy, adult basic education and education in the areas of health, preventive medicine and sanitation are essential. Maximum use should be made of mentorship and indigenous knowledge. Gender equality and environment should be included in school curricula for women and men alike.
48. Barriers to the education of women and girls, for example the lack of sanitation in schools, should be identified and removed.
49. Women should be equally represented and fully involved in environmental decision-making at all levels. They should be involved from the outset of the planning process and have full access to environmental information. Women should be equally represented in leadership positions from grass-roots to national and international levels in all sectors, including environment. Men should be actively involved in the empowerment of women.
50. Barriers to women's participation and leadership should be identified and removed.
51. Governments and the international community should focus on the priority international commitments that affect women, notably, chemicals, heavy metals, water, sanitation and human settlements.
52. Women should enjoy equal access to economic activities, market opportunities, land tenure and natural resources.
53. Governments and international organizations should strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women.

2. Recommendation for UNEP

54. UNEP, in collaboration with UNESCO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and other United Nations bodies and with national Governments, should play a stronger role in the field of gender and environment in, among other areas, education, participation and assessment.

Annex III

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos Gamba (Colombia)

Introduction

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 21 February 2005, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council decided to establish a Committee of the Whole to consider the following agenda items: 4 (Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment); 7 (International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance); 8 (Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters); 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters); 10 (a) (Provisional agenda, date and place of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum); and 10 (b) (Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum). The Committee also considered draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP and proposed for adoption by the Council/Forum, which were contained in document UNEP/GC.23/L.1, as well as draft decisions proposed during the current session.
2. The Committee of the Whole held nine meetings from 21 February to 25 February 2005, and was chaired by Mr. Beat Nobs (Switzerland) in accordance with the decision of the Council/Forum taken at its 1st plenary meeting. The Committee of the Whole elected Mr. Carlos Gamba (Colombia) to serve as Rapporteur of its meetings.
3. The Committee agreed to establish a working group on the UNEP programme of work and budget, under the chairmanship of Mr. Frederic Renard (Belgium), and a working group to consider the omnibus draft decision on chemicals management contained in document UNEP/GC.23/L.1, to be chaired by Ms. Viveka Bohn (Sweden).

I. General statements from the 1st plenary meeting

4. Prior to commencing its work on the agenda items entrusted to it, the Committee heard general statements from the representatives of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union, its 25 member States, Bulgaria and Romania, and the representative of Cuba, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, who had been prevented by time constraints from making them during the opening plenary meeting.
5. The representative of the Netherlands noted the auspicious timing of the current session. Because it came shortly after the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and the recent issuance of a report by the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and another report by the Millennium Project on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals; and shortly before the upcoming review by the United Nations General Assembly of the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the thirteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, it gave the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum the opportunity to contribute to those important meetings. He also drew attention to the recent Asian tsunami, expressing the European Union's sympathy for those affected and its active engagement in recovery efforts. In the interest of focusing work during the current session where it would do the most good, he noted the following issues, to which the Community attached particular importance:
 - (a) Key role of environmental sustainability in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including the need to identify elements crucial to further progress in the achievement of the goals, as well as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation targets;
 - (b) Strengthening of international environmental governance with UNEP in the role of promoting environment for development, including the need to consider all the elements outlined in the

report of the open-ended intergovernmental group of ministers adopted by the Council/Forum at its eighth special session, to develop a work plan with clear priorities, to establish a sound and predictable financial base for UNEP, to strengthen the scientific base of UNEP and to establish an effective and more authoritative decision-making process;

(c) Need for strong commitments on hazardous chemicals, including the strategic approach to international chemicals management, which should be adopted in early 2006, focused international action on mercury and its compounds and other heavy metals, and action on threats and challenges posed by the global nitrogen cycle;

(d) Adding value to fostering integrated water resources management at the basin level, including the ecosystem-based approach, in respect of which the Community saw a key role for UNEP and was eager to share its own experiences as embodied in the European Union's Water Framework Directive and Water Initiative;

(e) Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, which the Union considered a first but crucial step toward international environmental governance, and in respect of which there was a need for implementation and tangible support.

6. The representative of Cuba also noted that the current session came at a time when the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals was under review. He observed that, while some progress had been made, many developing countries, particularly in Africa, were lagging behind, in the light of which the Group called for global cooperation to address poverty as a priority and for improvement in the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology. He stressed the Group's concern over decreasing official development assistance and increasing conditionalities, as well as the need for increased market access and a durable solution to the international debt crisis. The Group called for the Council/Forum to adopt the Bali Strategic Plan, which it considered a matter of high priority, as its implementation, which would require additional financial resources, was key to the ability of developing countries to achieve their sustainable development objectives.

7. Pointing out that the Plan included South-South cooperation, he reported that the Group was preparing two international meetings on that subject, in which he hoped UNEP would play an important role. He expressed the Group's support for UNEP and emphasized the need to strengthen both its financial footing and scientific base, while ensuring full participation, efficiency and transparency. He noted that, in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami and following the recent international meeting on small island developing States held in Mauritius, the Group supported a decision on strengthening environmental emergency response and called on the international community to renew its commitment to supporting disaster recovery and early warning systems. He also stressed the importance of implementing the Mauritius Strategy to the achievement by small island developing States of the goals of the Barbados Programme of Action; called for implementation of the strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM) and the implementation of existing chemicals-related conventions, in particular those relating to illegal traffic in hazardous substances; and urged that the Council/Forum use the current session to elaborate and send a clear signal to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session.

II. Statement on the outcome of the roundtable dialogue on advancing the Millennium Development Goals through the rule of law

8. Following the statements by the representatives of the Netherlands and Cuba, Mr. Guy Canivet, First President of the French Court of Cassation, gave a presentation on the outcome of a round-table dialogue on advancing the Millennium Development Goals through the rule of law, which took place on 16 and 17 February 2005 in Nairobi in advance of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. A summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the roundtable dialogue is contained in document UNEP/GC.23/INF.32.

III. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment (agenda item 4)

9. The Committee took up agenda item 4 at its 1st meeting, on 21 February. In considering the item, the Committee had before it the following documents: State of the environment and contribution

of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/3); State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Chemicals management: Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.1); State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Responses to environmental emergencies: Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.2); State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III): Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.3); State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Multilateral environmental agreements: Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.4); State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme: Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5 and Rev.1, Rev.1/Add.1 and Rev.1/Add.2); State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Outcome of the International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the role of the United Nations Environment Programme: Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.6 and Rev.1); State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Meeting substantive environmental challenges in the African, Asian and Pacific, European, Latin American and Caribbean, North American, and West Asian regions: Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.7); *Global Environment Outlook Year Book 2004/5*: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/2); Status of the implementation of Governing Council decisions adopted at its twenty-second session and its eighth special session: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/5); Changes to the status of ratification of/accession to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/8); Implementation of the Montevideo Programme III for the period 2000–2005: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/10); The 3R concept and waste prevention: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/11); Environmental statistics: Status and challenges: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/15); Outcomes of the Global Hilltops-2-Oceans Partnership Conference: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/17); Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/18); Views submitted by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on the progress made on a mercury programme: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/19); Implementing Governing Council decision 22/1 IV on post-conflict environmental assessment: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/20); Environment and Security: A global agenda for UNEP: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/21); Environment and cultural diversity: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/23); Key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/25); Progress report on regional seas conventions and action plans and the activities of UNEP related to marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/26); Tsunami early-warning system in the Indian Ocean: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/29); Environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/30); Draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.23/L.1).

A. UNEP water policy and strategy

10. Mr. Halifa Drammeh, Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, presented an update of the UNEP water policy and strategy, drawing the attention of representatives to document UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5.

11. He said that the water policy and strategy had initially been adopted by the Governing Council through its decision 21/11 of 9 February 2001, and laid particular importance on freshwater, coastal and marine issues. Following Governing Council decision 22/2 of 7 February 2003, a revision and update of the policy and strategy had been undertaken. Certain key policy issues were identified during that process, including the need for promoting integrated water resource management based on an ecosystem approach; the need for riparian countries to harmonize water resource strategies; and the need for sustainable development of water resources.

12. He then summarized the eight components of the revised and updated UNEP water policy and strategy, namely: assessing global water resources; regional seas; coral reefs; the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; environmentally sound management of freshwater; cross-cutting issues; institutional arrangements, coordination, partnerships and mobilizing action; and monitoring and evaluating the policy and strategy.

13. In the ensuing debate on the issue, statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United States of America and League of Arab States.

14. One representative expressed concern that the document under discussion (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5) and the draft decision contained emerging concepts and new thinking that might extend beyond the targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration. He asked whether the financial and technical implications of those goals could be clarified before adoption of the decision, or whether it might be preferable to focus on what had already been decided before setting new targets. He also questioned the need for the establishment of a high-level advisory board for water-related issues, given that a similar body had already been created by the Secretary General of the United Nations the previous year.

15. In response, the representative of the secretariat gave assurances that it was the intention of UNEP to focus on existing issues. He added that it was clear that the work programme of UNEP and the Environment Fund would be the main sources of funding for implementation. UNEP did not have the resources, however, to implement all parts of the strategy, and significant support would come from countries in a position to provide additional resources. Concerning the second point, he noted that the previous water policy and strategy had requested the establishment of such an advisory board, but it had not thus far been established, as the request had been addressed through other arrangements. The option was still available as a future course of action, however.

16. Two representatives welcomed the UNEP water policy and strategy but suggested that it did not adequately deal with the protection of water-related ecosystems, which should be seen as long-term assets for poverty reduction. Other representatives expressed their support for those comments.

17. Another representative pointed out that arid and semi-arid countries needed to increase artificial production of water resources, and suggested that consideration be given to water recycling, retreating sewage and desalination.

18. One representative expressed the belief that the UNEP water policy and strategy was sound and should not be opened up for extensive discussion, although he had some suggestions on the language of the decision that he would make to the drafting group, and would encourage efforts to strengthen the Regional Seas Programme.

19. Another representative stressed the impact of climate change on water resources, for example the drainage of permafrost water to the oceans as a result of global warming, noting that climate change could have an especially severe impact in countries with large populations in relatively small areas due to the economic implications of transporting water to those populations.

20. One representative said that many developing countries supported the concept of integrated water resources management but needed technical and financial assistance to implement programmes. Another representative mentioned the need for closer integration of sanitation and water issues in development programmes.

21. The representative of a non-governmental organization said that many water projects were currently inadequately implemented and did not achieve their stated aims in the long run. A more integrated approach was needed, with more cooperation among projects and with State agencies, more coordination at the regional level and increased provision for data exchange.

22. The representative of China, noting his country's sincere hope that countries would enhance cooperation under the guidance of UNEP on activities aimed at preventing land-based pollution of the marine environment, announced that the Government of China had decided to host, in 2006, the second intergovernmental meeting on the review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution.

23. Following the debate, the Chair noted that the draft decision on the issue would be taken up by the drafting group.

B. Chemicals management

24. The issue of chemicals management was introduced by Mr. John Buccini, acting Director of UNEP Chemicals, who drew the attention of the meeting to a report of the Executive Director on chemicals management (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.1) and a compilation of draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.23L.1). The report of the Executive Director, he pointed out, dealt mainly with the development of SAICM and the extension of the UNEP programme on mercury.
25. The proposed programme of work for 2006–2007 would continue the programme at 2004–2005 levels, although adoption of the decisions would have considerable budgetary implications, depending on which options were included.
26. The main issues on which decisions needed to be made were cooperation between UNEP, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations; the potentially complex issue of SAICM; lead in gasoline; and the mercury programme. He pointed out that the last issue had attracted strong interest: seven regional workshops had been held to date, and there had been proposals to broaden the scope of the topic to include other heavy metals such as lead and cadmium.
27. In the ensuing debate on the issue, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Cuba, Iceland, India, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.
28. Most of the debate focused on mercury. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization, argued that, owing to the serious environmental and health effects of mercury, including its potential for long range transport, immediate action was needed to start the process of establishing a legally binding instrument on mercury, which was the best long-term solution. One such representative pointed to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants as an example of a successful binding instrument, and one that could generate sustainable financing for developing countries. It was also suggested that global assessments should be undertaken on lead and cadmium.
29. Several others stated that the problems posed by mercury were too pressing to await adoption of a legally binding instrument. Short term, focused voluntary actions were needed, therefore, including partnerships building on existing bilateral and multilateral relationships, technology transfer and capacity-building. Another representative stressed that to be effective, partnerships required clearly defined targets, and that they should not preclude action on a legally binding instrument. Proponents of such an instrument made the contrary point: that work on a binding agreement need not preclude immediate and effective action such as partnerships.
30. Several others said that it was premature to consider adoption of a legally binding instrument before finalization of the SAICM process, arguing that only once SAICM was complete could it be known what sort of instrument would be required to deal with mercury and other heavy metals. They stressed that there were already in existence initiatives by individual countries that could be adapted to other countries until such time as SAICM was completed and work could be undertaken on a mercury programme that would take into account the final SAICM.
31. The representative of a regional group of countries said that developing countries strongly supported international chemicals management, but stressed that all proposed decisions on the subject should include provisions on technology transfer, capacity-building and sustainable funding. The group was also of the view that work on any specific chemical should await completion of SAICM, and that any effort to restrict the use of a given chemical should take into account the need for alternatives.
32. Another representative, supporting the views of the regional grouping, highlighted the need for a survey of mercury uses and products in order to identify the magnitude of the problem, and recommended as an immediate step the dissemination of best practices, including through demonstrations in countries where artisanal mining took place.
33. Several representatives praised the establishment and work of the UNEP mercury programme, and the representative of the United States of America reported that her country was prepared to contribute over \$1 million to support the programme and the partnership approach with the aim of achieving rapid results.

34. On the subject of SAICM, all who spoke expressed their support for its completion in 2006 following the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in Vienna in September 2005.

35. Following the debate, the working group entrusted with considering the draft decision on chemicals issues contained in document UNEP/GC.23/L.1 was asked to commence its work.

C. Divisional activities

36. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on 22 February, the directors of the Divisions of Early Warning and Assessment, Environmental Policy Implementation, Environmental Conventions, Policy Development and Law and Regional Cooperation gave brief presentations outlining past and proposed activities of their divisions, following which the floor was opened for general debate on the issue.

37. During the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Senegal, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and United States of America.

38. One representative questioned the need for UNEP to have a role in disaster reduction and development of early-warning systems, given the existence of the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, based in Geneva. The representative of the secretariat replied that UNEP was in touch with a number of organizations within the United Nations regarding the establishment of an inter-agency process for developing an early-warning system, and firm details would be available at a future date. Another representative expressed support for UNEP involvement in establishing an early-warning system, noting that his country had donated \$60 million for tsunami relief through bilateral channels and \$20 million through multilateral channels (especially United Nations agencies), in addition to \$50 million from civil society.

39. One representative sought information on the status of the implementation of the global earth observation system (GEOS), and the role developing countries had played in its development. The representative of the secretariat replied that UNEP was working with UNESCO and others involved in the Indian Ocean region, and that the role of UNEP was one of public awareness and coordination rather than the provision of hardware. As regards those countries involved in the development of GEOS, the space-based technology had weighted involvement towards developed countries, but he foresaw increasing involvement of developing countries as primary users and beneficiaries of the technology, which UNEP would promote.

40. Another representative said that there were areas where the UNEP response to natural disasters had been lacking, for example in the instance of drought in the Sahel, and averred that UNEP should play a greater role in strengthening the capacity of countries to deal with such disasters.

41. The representative of Japan expressed the willingness of the Government of Japan to assist environmental recovery in post-conflict situations, and to that end Japan had contributed \$11 million to provision of technologies for wetland management in the Mesopotamian marshlands of Iraq, and \$4.7 million to capacity-building within the newly established Iraqi Ministry of the Environment.

42. One representative enquired as to the action being taken by UNEP in areas where conflict had caused environmental damage, such as the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan. The representative of the secretariat assured the representative of UNEP involvement in such zones, noting that UNEP had prepared a desk study on the environmental effects of conflict in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and had assisted in building the capacity of the Palestinian Authority to address environmental challenges. A similar study in Iraq was in use by a number of agencies and Governments in their response to the situation in that country. UNEP was ready to respond in Sudan and Somalia when requested.

43. The representative of Iraq, on behalf of the Iraqi Government and people, especially those living in Mesopotamia, expressed gratitude to UNEP and donor countries, particularly Italy and Japan, for their contributions to environmental recovery in the country.

44. One representative spoke of the relevance of synergies between multilateral environmental agreements in post-conflict environmental restoration.

D. Draft decisions

45. The Chair pointed out that consensus had not yet been reached by the Committee on draft decision 1 contained in document UNEP/GC.23/L.1, on keeping the world environment situation under review, because of disagreement over paragraph 6 (b), in the light of which the decision would go to the drafting group.

46. Following its consideration by the drafting group, the Committee, at its 6th meeting, on 23 February, approved for recommendation to the Council/Forum the draft decision on keeping the world environmental situation under review (UNEP/GC.23/L.1, decision 1), as orally amended.

47. At the Committee's 3rd meeting, on 22 February, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, presented a conference room paper containing a draft decision on strengthening environmental response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, which the Committee agreed should be considered by the drafting group.

48. Also at its 3rd meeting, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum draft decision 4 in document UNEP/GC.23/L.1, on small island developing States.

49. Following its consideration by the drafting group, the Committee, at its 7th meeting, on 24 February, approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the draft decision on strengthening environmental emergency response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, on the basis of the draft contained in the relevant conference room paper.

50. Due to the press of time, the Committee was unable to take up the draft decision on the UNEP water policy and strategy after its consideration by the drafting group. The draft decision was accordingly transmitted directly to the Council/Forum for consideration and possible adoption during its final plenary session.

51. At its 9th meeting, on 25 February, the Committee heard a brief report from the Chair of the working group on the draft decision on chemicals, who reported that the group had agreed the decision in its entirety. The Committee also heard a brief report from the acting Director of UNEP Chemicals, who outlined the terms of the draft decision. Following those reports, the Committee approved the draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum, on the basis of the draft contained in the relevant conference room paper, as orally revised to effect minor editorial changes.

IV. International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance (agenda item 7)

52. The Committee took up the item at its 3rd meeting, on 22 February. In considering the item, the Committee had before it the following documents: International environmental governance: Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/6); International environmental governance: Report of the Executive Director: Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1); Changes to the status of ratification of/accession to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/8); and Strengthening of the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme: Note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.23/INF/12).

53. The item was introduced by Mr. Masahuru Nagai, UNEP Division of Policy Development and Law, who noted that, since the Governing Council had met in Jeju in March 2004, the Executive Director had undertaken further actions concerning all the components of Governing Council decision SS.VII/I on international environmental governance, adopted in Cartagena in February 2002, in the light of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as well as subsequent relevant General Assembly resolutions and Governing Council decisions.

54. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Gambia, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Nigeria, Russian Federation, Switzerland and United States of America and League of Arab States.

55. Most of the representatives who took the floor expressed the commitment of their countries or groupings to strengthening international environmental governance and reiterated that they supported the role of UNEP as the best institution for promoting environment for development. In that context, they welcomed the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and were eager to see it implemented as soon as possible. It was also noted that the realization of the Plan was essential for the balance of all the elements of international environmental governance. Some argued that the successful implementation of the Plan would require the allocation of additional financial resources to ensure full funding instead of reliance on voluntary contributions, but others said that a sound financial footing could be obtained on the basis of voluntary contributions.

56. It was pointed out that close attention should be paid to the financial base of the programme, and emphasized that the current structure of UNEP should be retained. One representative noted with satisfaction that some progress had been realized in strengthening the financial base of UNEP. Several representatives said that the financing of UNEP should be voluntary, and one stated her view that the voluntary indicative scale of contributions had been a good idea. There were, however, differing views on whether there was a need to continue with it. Some representatives said that their countries were against continuation of the scale, while others expressed regret that there was no new indicative scale for 2006–2007. The representative of one country said that the scale should continue and be reviewed constantly, and expressed the view that the 2006–2007 indicative scale could not be the same as the 2004–2005 indicative scale. Some suggested that the scale should develop towards the United Nations scale of assessment; accordingly, countries contributing less to the Environment Fund than their share of the United Nations scale of assessment should be invited to increase their contributions significantly, while those contributing more than their share of the United Nations scale of assessment should be encouraged to retain their contributions at existing levels.

57. It was generally agreed that there was a need to strengthen the scientific base of UNEP. In strengthening the scientific base, however, there was a need to ensure that the new structure did not unduly increase the reporting burden on developing countries.

58. A number of countries expressed support for greater cooperation and the promotion of synergies among multilateral environmental agreements. One representative noted, however, that UNEP should not play a directional role, and should allow the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements to make decisions independently.

59. Several representatives expressed the view that the question of universal membership of the UNEP Governing Council was a complex issue, and stressed that it was one on which there was no consensus. The secretariat was urged to continue to gather views on the issue so that a decision could be taken on it by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

60. Following the debate on the item, Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, reported on efforts to improve synergies between the Basel Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements, highlighting a number of joint activities with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

61. Following debate on the issue, the Committee agreed to send the draft decision on international environmental governance to the drafting group for its consideration. Owing to time constraints, the Committee was unable to take up the draft decision after its consideration by the drafting group. The draft decision was accordingly transmitted directly to the Council/Forum for consideration and possible adoption during its final plenary session.

V. Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters (agenda item 8)

62. The Committee took up the item at its 4th meeting, on 23 February. In considering the item, the Committee had before it the following documents: Report of the Executive Director on international environmental governance (UNEP/GC.23/6); Report of the Executive Director on cooperation and

coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters (UNEP/GC.23/7); Note by the Executive Director on memorandums of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.23/INF/13); Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme on cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.23/INF/22).

63. The item was introduced by Ms. Monika Linn, Secretary of the Environmental Management Group (EMG), who stressed the necessity for cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in order for UNEP to fulfil its mandate. EMG had been established in 1999 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the purpose of enhancing United Nations system-wide inter-agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements. EMG had considered a number of issues, including harmonization of biodiversity-related reporting, environmental aspects of water, sanitation and human settlement, environmental capacity-building and capacity-building for chemicals management. A summary of the work of EMG is contained in document UNEP/GC.23/7.

64. During the discussion on the item, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) and United States of America.

65. The representative of the Netherlands drew the attention of the Committee to a proposed European Union amendment of paragraph 16 of draft decision 5 in document UNEP/GC.23/L.1 (Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance), which pertained to the location of the secretariat of the Environmental Management Group.

66. Also under the item, representatives of the International Maritime Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Illegal Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, the Stockholm Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Basel Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Ozone Secretariat delivered brief presentations on their organizations' activities in cooperation and coordination with UNEP and other entities of the United Nations system, and the positive outcomes of such activities.

VI. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (agenda item 9)

67. The Committee took up agenda item 9 at its 1st session, on the afternoon of Monday, 21 February. In considering the item, the Committee had before it the following documents: The Environment Fund budgets: report of the Executive Director on the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2006–2007 (UNEP/GC.23/8); note by the Executive Director on the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed biennial programme and support budget of UNEP for 2006–2007 (UNEP/GC.23/8/Add.1); report of the Executive Director on administrative and other budgetary matters (UNEP/GC.23/9); note by the Executive Director on the status of the Environment Fund and other sources of funding of UNEP, fourth quarter 2004 (UNEP/GC.23/INF/6); note by the Executive Director on the report of the Board of Auditors on the audit of the accounts of the fund of UNEP for the biennium ended 31 December 2003 (UNEP/GC.23/INF/7); note by the Executive Director on synopses of activities in the regions (UNEP/GC.23/INF/9); note by the Executive Director on activities of UNEP as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (UNEP/GC.23/INF/24).

68. The item was introduced by Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, who guided the Committee through the main source document, UNEP/GC.23/8, in his summary of the key features of the UNEP 2006–2007 programme and budget. He pointed out that, in the preparation of the budget, the UNEP secretariat had worked very closely with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as requested by the Governing Council at its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions, in order to harmonize the programme narratives of the budget fascicle with the UNEP strategic framework for 2006–2007. The sections on overall orientation, objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and strategy in the programme budget document were therefore to be the same as those in the UNEP strategic framework for 2006–2007.

69. No agreement had been reached, however, on the field projects output (b) of the expected accomplishment item (c) of subprogramme 6 (Environmental conventions), and that section had accordingly been put in square brackets so the Committee could give it due consideration in the course of its discussions.
70. He then introduced the main components of the programme budget document. With regard to the financial framework, the total amount of resources available for 2006–2007 was projected at \$290.9 million. The estimated resources required for the proposed UNEP programme of work for the period was \$271.4 million, 90.4 per cent of which was projected to be expended on programme activities, with the remainder on management and administration. The Environment Fund income projection was stressed as a crucial factor in the expenditure budget. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), however, had expressed concern in its report that a 17 per cent increase in projected income of the Environment Fund might not be warranted, and had noted that, if the projected Environment Fund contributions for 2006–2007 were not realized, the budget would need to be adjusted accordingly.
71. The programme of work was budgeted at a total amount of \$122 million, of which \$7.4 million (6.4 per cent) pertained to cost adjustments. As in previous bienniums, the programme of work would be implemented through seven subprogrammes: environmental assessment and early warning; policy development and law; policy implementation; technology, industry and economics; regional cooperation and representation; environmental conventions; and communications and public information.
72. Each of the subprogrammes was intended to offer a broad range of capacity-building and technology support services and activities reflecting the needs expressed by Governments over the years. Those activities and services covered many of the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues identified in the Bali Strategic Plan, and the programme of work therefore provided the most appropriate vehicle for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.
73. The report of ACABQ on the proposed UNEP budget was very positive and commended the progress made in results-based presentation, although there was room for further streamlining of the budget. The secretariat would be guided by that recommendation in the preparation of the 2008–2009 programme budget. The ACABQ report also covered such issues as the enlargement of the UNEP donor base, the increase in Environment Fund posts, management of trust funds and earmarked contributions and the loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve to the United Nations Secretariat.
74. General debate on the item followed Mr. Kakakhel's presentations, during which statements were made by the representatives of Cuba (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Nigeria, Philippines and Switzerland.
75. The representative of one regional economic integration organization supported the most pertinent aspects of the programme of work and budget and called for the Bali Strategic Plan to be implemented as soon as possible. The representative of a group of developing countries noted that considerable progress had been made with regard to the budget. He underlined the necessity of having adequate resources for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan and said that his group wanted to know what additional resources would be required for the Plan's implementation, and also observed that it was important to distinguish between earmarked and non-earmarked funding.
76. The representative of one African country expressed concern that sub-Saharan Africa was lagging behind in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. He expressed gratitude to UNEP for its support to the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), which had done a great deal for the improvement of freshwater resources in Africa. His views were supported by the representative of another African country, who called on the international community to give financial support to the African Water Facility and the AMCOW trust fund that had been established under the auspices of UNEP. He said that, although integrated water resources management was a very good idea, it could not be achieved without the ecosystem approach.
77. One representative said that his country supported the indicative style of mobilization of resources for the execution of the programme, and noted that it would be useful to give a breakdown of the financing of the Bali Strategic Plan.
78. A representative of the Global Civil Society Forum expressed gratitude to UNEP for having allowed non-governmental organizations to comment on its work programme and budget. He noted, however, that there was a need for the work programme and budget to be written in a language that

could be easily understood by civil society so that it could make timely and appropriate comments. He called for the inclusion in the work programme of gender as a cross-cutting issue.

Draft decisions

79. At the Committee's 3rd session, on 22 February, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft decision on sustainable procurement (UNEP/GC.23/L.1, decision 9), saying that UNEP should take the lead in the area of sustainable procurement by integrating environmental considerations into its everyday activities, thereby increasing market demand for sustainable products and reducing wastage in its operations. A number of developing country representatives expressed concern that the decision, if adopted, might result in discrimination against their countries with respect to UNEP procurement. Following debate and informal consultation, the Committee, at its 9th meeting, on 25 February, approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum a revised draft decision on the issue, as contained in document UNEP/GC.23/CW/L2/Add.2.

80. At the Committee's 9th meeting, on 25 February, the chair of the working group on the UNEP work programme and budget for the 2006–2007 biennium reported that the group had successfully negotiated a comprehensive agreement on a draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. He reported that the draft decision contained no brackets and the negotiations had been such that all parties understood the implications of it; he therefore expected that no further negotiations would be necessary and that the Council/Forum could adopt it without significant amendment. The Chair of the Committee reported that given the press of time and the inclusive and extensive work that had been undertaken by the working group, the draft decision would not be further considered by the Committee, but would instead be transmitted directly to the Council/Forum for consideration and possible adoption that afternoon at the Council/Forum's final plenary session.

VII. Provisional agenda, date and place of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 10)

81. The Committee took up the item at its 4th meeting, on 23 February.

82. At its 9th meeting, on 25 February, the committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum a draft decision on the agenda, date and place of the Council/Forum's ninth special session and its twenty-fourth regular session, on the basis of the draft contained in the relevant conference room paper, as orally amended. The draft decision provided that the former session would be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 7 to 9 February 2006, and that the latter would be held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2007.

VIII. Consideration of other draft decisions for possible adoption by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

83. In accordance with its mandate, the Committee considered draft decisions that had been prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives for possible adoption by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which were contained in document UNEP/GC.23/L.1. The Committee also considered draft decisions proposed during the session. The consideration and adoption of those decisions pertaining to agenda items 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are discussed in the sections of the present report pertaining to those items. The Committee also considered draft decisions not presented under those agenda items. The Committee's treatment of those decisions is discussed in the present section.

84. At its 3rd meeting, on 22 February, the Committee took up a draft decision, under agenda items 5 and 6, on gender equality and the environment, which was proposed by Cape Verde, Colombia, Romania and Sweden, and co-sponsored by Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland and Uganda. The Committee agreed that the draft decision would be considered by the drafting group.

85. Following its consideration by the drafting group, the Committee, at its 9th meeting, on 25 February, approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the draft decision on

gender equality and the environment, on the basis of the draft contained in the relevant conference room paper.

86. At its 7th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee took up a draft decision on poverty and the environment proposed by Cuba on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

87. During discussion of the draft, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, China, Canada, Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Norway, Russian Federation and United States of America and League of Arab States.

88. One representative, while fully supporting the spirit of the draft decision, expressed major reservations about its timing, suggesting that it would be preferable for draft decisions to be circulated some weeks in advance to allow time for Governments and others to formulate studied responses, particularly in the case of proposals containing language not previously agreed. Several other representatives supported those comments, suggesting that the procedures relating to draft decisions might need to be reconsidered.

89. The representatives of several countries said that the importance of the issue addressed by the decision, which they said reflected a new philosophy in dealing with the environment, overrode any procedural reservations. They also suggested that the draft decision dealt with an issue that had been considered in detail in a number of recent forums, and was therefore unlikely to contain any new ideas that could not be dealt with by the Committee. The issue of poverty and the environment was a central theme of the current meeting, and it behove the Committee to make decisions on such matters.

90. The secretariat was asked to clarify the stipulated procedure for tabling draft decisions, and accordingly read rule 43 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council. Several representatives suggested that the rules governing the timing of submission of proposals should be reviewed.

91. At its 9th meeting, on 25 February, the Committee approved for consideration and possible adoption by the Council/Forum the decision proposed by the Group of 77 and China, on the basis of the draft contained in the relevant conference room paper. Several of the representatives who had expressed reservations about the timing of the draft decision's submission explained that, because of the decision's importance, they had made extraordinary efforts to bring it quickly to the attention of officials, including in capitals, without whose approval they could not have agreed to its adoption. They reiterated their concerns, however, about the timing of the draft's submission and the submission of proposals at future sessions of the Council/Forum.

IX. Presentation by Morocco on solid waste management

92. At the Committee's 4th meeting, on 23 February, the representative of Morocco, speaking on behalf of the League of Arab States, described a plan for strengthening capacity and promoting technology transfer in the field of solid waste management in Arab countries, which had been approved by a meeting of environment ministers of Arab countries. It was hoped that the plan would made possible significant improvements in the area of municipal solid waste management, and UNEP was asked to support it. The secretariat expressed the willingness of UNEP to assist in whatever way it could. It was agreed that Morocco, with the assistance of the secretariat, would prepare a draft decision on the issue for consideration by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at a future session.

X. Adoption of the report

93. At its 9th meeting, on 25 February, the Committee adopted the present report on the basis of the drafts contained in documents UNEP/GC.23/CW/L1, Add.1 and Add.2, as orally amended, on the understanding that the report would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

XI. Closure of the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole

94. The 9th and final meeting of the Committee of the Whole was declared closed at 1.10 p.m. on Friday, 25 February 2005.

Annex IV

List of documents before the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session

Symbol	Title
UNEP/GC.23/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.23/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.23/2	Policy statement of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Overview: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.1	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Chemicals management: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.2	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Responses to environmental emergencies: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.3	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III): Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.4	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant water-related activities: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant water-related activities: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1/Add.1	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Revised updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for 2005–2007: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1/Add.2	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Progress report on the water-related activities of the United Nations Environment Programme: Report of the Executive Director

Symbol	Title
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.6	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Outcome of the international meeting for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the role of the United Nations Environment Programme: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.6/Rev.1	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Outcome of the international meeting for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the role of the United Nations Environment Programme: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.7	State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges: Meeting substantive environmental challenges in the African, Asian and Pacific, European, Latin America and Caribbean, North American, and West Asian regions: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/4	Outcome of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/5	Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/6	International environmental governance: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1	International environmental governance: Note by the Executive Director: Addendum: Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and corrigendum
UNEP/GC.23/7	Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters: Work of the Environmental Management Group: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/8 and Corr.1	Environment Fund budgets: proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2006-2007: Report of the Executive Director, and corrigendum
UNEP/GC.23/8/Add.1	Environment Fund budgets: proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2006-2007; Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme in addressing substantive environmental challenges: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/9	Administrative and other budgetary matters: Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/10	Background paper for the ministerial-level consultations: implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration: Discussion paper presented by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/1	State of preparedness of documents for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/1/Rev.1	Updated list of documents for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum
UNEP/GC.23/INF/2	Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme: Global Environment Outlook Year Book 2004/5: Note by the Executive Director

Symbol	Title
UNEP/GC.23/INF/3	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifth-ninth session calling for action by or of relevance to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/4	Report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/5	Status of the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-second session and its eighth special session: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/6	Status of the Environment Fund and other sources of funding of the United Nations Environment Programme: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/7	Report of the Board of Auditors on the audit of the accounts of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 2003: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/8	Status of conventions and protocols in the field of the environment: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/9	Synopses of activities in the regions: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/10	Implementation of the Montevideo Programme III for the period 2000-2005: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/11	Reduce, reuse and recycle concept (the "3Rs") and life-cycle economy: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/12	Strengthening of the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/13	Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/14*	Implementation of the long-term strategy on the engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/15	Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme: Environmental statistics: Status and challenges: an assessment of joint United Nations Statistics Division/United Nations Environment Programme data collection: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/16	Global civil society statement to the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/16/Add.1	African regional civil society statement to the sixth Global Civil Society Forum and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/16/Add.2	Asia and the Pacific regional civil society statement to the sixth Global Civil Society Forum and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/16/Add.3	European and Central Asian regional civil society statement to the sixth Global Civil Society Forum and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Note by the Executive Director

Symbol	Title
UNEP/GC.23/INF/16/Add.4	Latin American and the Caribbean regional civil society statement to the sixth Global Civil Society Forum and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/16/Add.5	North American regional civil society statement to the sixth Global Civil Society Forum and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/16/Add.6	West Asian regional civil society statement to the sixth Global Civil Society Forum and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/17	Outcome of the Global Hilltops-2-Oceans Partnership Conference: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/18	Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/19	Views submitted by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on the progress made on a mercury programme: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/20	Implementation of Governing Council decision 22/1 IV on post-conflict environmental assessment: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/21	Environment and security: A global agenda for UNEP: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/21/Add.1	Environment and Security: Addendum: Report of the Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/22	Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
UNEP/GC.23/INF/23	Environment and cultural diversity: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/24	Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/25	Key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/26*	Progress report on regional seas conventions and action plans and the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme related to marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/27	Statement by the TUNZA Youth Advisory Council to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/28	Implementation of the long-term strategy on sport and the environment: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/29	Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Note by the Executive Director

Symbol	Title
UNEP/GC.23/INF/30	Environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.23/INF/31	List of participants
UNEP/GC.23/INF/32	Conclusions and recommendations of the roundtable dialogue on advancing the Millennium Development Goals through the rule of law.
