

UNEP – *environment for development*

25th Regular Session of the GC/GMEF

Nairobi, February, 2009

Proposed Format and Outcomes – *working draft*

Themes for Ministerial Consultations.

The Focus of the Ministerial Consultations distributed to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 8 September, 2008 includes two Themes:

Globalization and the Environment

'Global Crises: National Chaos?'

'Globalization and the Environment – *'Global Crises: National Chaos?'* will be the principal topic of the 25th Session of the GC/GMEF. It will provide the world's environment ministers with the opportunity to address in a comprehensive manner how:

- to meet multiple environmental and development challenges at the country level, and to capture the opportunities that might arise; and
- national and international environmental governance, including financing mechanisms, could better support such endeavours.

International Environmental Governance and United Nations Reform

'IEG: Help or Hindrance?'

International Environmental Governance and United Nations Reform *'IEG: Help or Hindrance?'* will be the second topic of the 25th Regular Session of the GC/GMEF. It will provide the world's environment ministers with the opportunity to:

- Obtain a comprehensive update on all of the recent IEG developments.
- Reflect upon existing agreed global environmental goals, and the current response to meeting these goals.
- Address IEG in the context of responding to the needs and priorities of countries.
- Consider the various discussions, processes and IEG options that are being addressed.

Organization of Ministerial Consultations.

The Themes for the Ministerial Consultations are interrelated and will be dealt with collectively – enabling environmental governance issues to be addressed in the context of real life challenges and opportunities that are being confronted both at global and country level.

The Consultations will include a series of panel sessions and roundtables, providing the opportunity for the world's environment ministers to explore and discuss current challenges through the lens of environmental sustainability, and offer ideas on how such challenges and opportunities can be addressed at global and country level.

There are a number of events and processes to take place over the coming 12 months¹ such as:

- 63rd General Assembly of the UN;
- World Economic Forum and World Business Summit on Climate Change;
- 5th World Water Forum;
- 17th Session of the CSD;
- 15th COP of the UNFCCC and 5th MOP of the Kyoto Protocol;
- the 10-year framework of programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production – being developed under the Marrakech Process; and
- Preparations within the UN and through informal processes for a possible Rio+20 meeting.

The Presidents' Summary will speak to the UN system, to governments, the business community, and civil society to highlight the central role of environmental sustainability in finding lasting solutions, including economic solutions, to the current crises.

Format for Ministerial Consultations.

The Ministerial Consultations will be divided into a series of five sessions, including opening and synthesis sessions, supported by three moderated round table sessions each comprised of three roundtables.

The **opening session** will be a scene setting session where ministers will be provided a comprehensive update on the challenges and opportunities and the international response, to the food, energy, water and financial crises, in the context of a changing climate, and the governance dimension of each. This session will serve as a platform upon which informed debate and dialogue can follow based upon a common understanding of the current situation.

The **three plenary sessions** will explore the issues in more detail, with each session structured through a:

- Keynote presentation to stimulate new thinking on challenges and opportunities.
- Moderated panel session to expand upon and further explore the ideas emerging from the keynote presentation.²
- Open feedback session from the plenary.
- Response from the Panel to the open feedback session.

The **roundtables** will address the issues raised during the related plenary session but in more detail. They will include a panel of speakers from government, the UN, the private sector and civil society, who will make brief interventions to stimulate an interactive session that will be expected to draw more concrete conclusions from the plenary

¹ Since the Themes were distributed, the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness has been held, September, 2008. Forthcoming events to be convened prior to the GC/GMEF include: the Ramsar Convention COP 10, October-November 2008, and the Review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, November 2008.

² Through a professional moderator, with a panel representing a range of different interests and perspectives.

discussion. Each roundtable will be moderated in order to assist the sessions reach tangible conclusions, which should include possible messages for inclusion in the President's Summary to be relayed to the UN system, to governments, the business community, and civil society. Rapporteurs from each roundtable will convene at the end of each day to synthesise messages coming from their respective roundtables.

The **synthesis session** will be a brief interactive session that draws upon the outcomes from all of the discussions. It will review what messages could be sent by the world's environment ministers through the President's Summary to the UN system, to governments, the business community, and civil society on the topics under discussion.

Opportunities to utilize video conferencing will be explored to see if sessions can be opened up to a wider audience.

The Ministerial Consultation (MC) sessions will be:

MC Opening session: Monday 16 February 3.00-6.30. **Plenary:** 'The nature and scale of current environment and development challenges and opportunities, and the international response.'

MC Session 1: Tuesday 17 February 9.00-1.00 (including coffee break): **Plenary:** Moving towards a 'green economy'.

Roundtable: 17 February 3.00-5.00: 'What are the elements of a 'green economy' and what are the political challenges in making the transition?' How can the transition to a 'green economy' be carried forward and by whom? How will the transition to a 'green economy' help countries to meet multiple environment and development challenges?

5.15-6.00: Rapporteurs meeting.

MC Session 2: Wednesday 18 February 9.00-1.00 (including coffee break): **Plenary:** 'Country responses to challenges and opportunities.'³

Roundtable: 18 February 3.00-5.00: How coherent have country level responses been, and have such responses been helped or hindered by international responses? How different are the approaches taken by developed and developing countries? How are donors and recipients responding? What needs to be done to achieve greater coherence and by whom?

5.15-6.00: Rapporteurs meeting.

MC Session 3: Thursday 19 February 9.00-1.00 (including coffee break): **Plenary:** 'The role of governance in responding to challenges and capturing opportunities'.

Roundtable: 19 February 3.00-5.00. 'Are current governance arrangements up to the challenge? Is the global environmental architecture helping or hindering country level responses? Are new financial mechanisms further fracturing the IEG landscape? What changes are needed to move towards global environmental governance that is able to respond to current and future challenges and opportunities at the country level? How will we get there?

5.15-6.00: Rapporteurs meeting.

³ Developed and developing country perspectives, and donor and recipient country perspectives.

MC Synthesis session: Thursday 20 February 6.00-7.00. **Plenary:** 'A message from the world's environment ministers to the UN system, to governments, the business community, and civil society through the President's Summary.'

Specific outcomes.

- An understanding of the interventions that will be necessary to create a 'green economy' and insights into how the shift towards a 'green economy' can result in countries meeting multiple environmental and development challenges, and capturing opportunities.
- Examples of how governments in developed and developing countries have organised themselves to meet multiple environmental and development challenges, and to capture opportunities, and how the international response to such challenges has helped or hindered these endeavours.
- An insight into how donors and recipients are responding to the need for greater coherence in responding to multiple environmental and development challenges and to capturing opportunities.
- An appreciation of the broad range of agreed global environmental goals, of the fragmented response to meeting them, and of the impact that such fragmentation has on meeting multiple environmental and development challenges, and to capturing opportunities at the country level.
- An understanding of different perspectives on the importance of governance at global and country levels to meeting multiple environmental and development challenges, and to capturing opportunities, and how Rio+20 may advance the global agenda.
- Through the President's Summary, a message from the world's environment ministers to the UN system, to governments, the business community, and civil society, of the central importance of environmental sustainability, and the need to move towards a 'green economy', in meeting multiple environmental and development challenges and capturing opportunities.

Background papers

A series of brief background papers will be prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate Ministerial Consultations and to provide a source of ideas for possible messages to be included within the President's Summary.

In relation to Theme I, the UNEP Secretariat will draw upon available materials to generate a brief scene setting background paper, including by drawing from the following sources:

- High-level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy.
- ECOSOC High-level segment of 2008 Thematic Discussion, including on mainstreaming the gender perspective into policies and programmes.
- G8 Meeting in Japan ('G8 Leaders Statement on Global Food Security').

- CBD COP 9.
- UN High-level Event on the MDGs.
- UN Private Sector Forum.
- Chief Executive's High-level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis: Comprehensive Framework for Action.
- Ramsar Convention COP 10.
- IPBES meeting outcomes.
- The Marrakesh Process – elements of the draft 10 year framework of programmes on SCP most relevant to food production, energy and water use.
- The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD).
- World Bank 'World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development.'
- Preparations for CSD 17 on Agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa.
- UNDP 'Environment and Energy for Sustainable Development' and World Bank 'Environmental Sustainability' evaluations, and 'One UN' pilot evaluations.

In relation to Theme II, there will be three papers covering:

- Recent IEG developments: this paper will summarise all recent developments *including* those occurring within the: United Nations General Assembly, the World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat and through various informal consultative processes, and will reference how the gender perspective has been reflected.
- Global environmental goals: this paper will provide a compilation of the most important existing internationally agreed environmental objectives, goals, and targets.
- Responses to meeting global environmental goals: this paper will provide a factual record of the demands on States in meeting internationally agreed environmental objectives, goals, and targets, and the outputs of selected MEAs over the period of 15 years from 1992-2007.

Participants.

In addition to the GC/GMEF participants, it is proposed to invite:

- selected Ministers of agriculture/climate change/energy/finance/water/gender;
- heads of UN and other intergovernmental organizations dealing with agriculture, climate change, food, energy and water issues;
- UN Resident Coordinators;
- CEOs from the private sector;
- heads of financing mechanisms and private foundations;
- leaders of trade unions and civil society; and
- experienced international civil servants and public sector officials dealing with agriculture/climate change/food/energy/water/gender issues and other high profile individuals as appropriate.