



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



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**Twenty-second session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 3-7 February 2003
Items 4 (e) and 6 of the provisional agenda[?]

**Policy issues: International environmental governance
Outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable
Development**

**IMPLEMENTING THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

**General Assembly resolution 57/251 on the report of the Governing Council of the
United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session**

1. In follow-up to Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 on international environmental governance, the Plan of Implementation¹ of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in its paragraph 140 (d), stressed that the international community should fully implement the outcomes of the decision on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its seventh special session and should invite the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session to consider the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
2. The General Assembly, in its consideration of the report of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum,² held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 13 to 15 February 2002, adopted resolution 57/251 of 20 December 2002. The resolution is annexed to the present document (as contained in the report of the Second Committee to the General Assembly, A/57/532/Add.7, para.10, draft resolution I).

? UNEP/GC.22/1.

3. The resolution recalls that the General Assembly was invited by the World Summit for Sustainable Development, in the Plan of Implementation, to consider the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of UNEP. The resolution further states that, in order for the General Assembly to consider the issue before making a decision, a thorough analysis by Member States and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system was required. The General Assembly therefore invited comments to be provided to the United Nations Secretariat, on the legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of UNEP, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report incorporating those views to the General Assembly for its consideration before its sixtieth session.

4. As a first step in this consultative process, document UNEP/GC.22/INF/36 entitled "Issue paper concerning the question of universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme" is before the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its present session as a background document. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/251, the Executive Director will undertake the consultative process called for in the resolution and Governments may therefore wish to endorse such a course of action.

5. Resolution 57/251 also reiterated the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and in that regard, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, underlined the need to consider adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of UNEP in the context of the United Nations regular budget. Furthermore, the resolution also requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery in an effective manner of the necessary services to UNEP and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi.

6. Given that resolution 57/251 echoes the requirement for adequate, stable and predictable financial resources called for in the Nairobi Declaration of 7 February 1997, as well as recent General Assembly resolutions notably 55/200 of 20 December 2000 and 56/193 of 21 December 2001, all of which recognized the need for enhanced United Nations regular budget support, Governments may wish to request the Executive Director to convey to the Secretary-General the need to provide additional resources from the United Nations regular budget, which will alleviate the current pressures on the Environment Fund in so far as administrative and management costs are concerned, and will partly meet the criteria of stability and predictability envisaged by the Nairobi Declaration. Such a request would be of relevance only to the United Nations regular budget, since an improvement in the financing of the Environment Fund, which will remain voluntary in nature, is currently being addressed through the pilot phase of the indicative scale of contributions.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

7. The Governing Council may wish to consider adopting a decision along the following lines:

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 contained in Governing Council decision 19/1 and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration contained in Governing Council decision SS.VI/1,

Also recalling General Assembly resolutions 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 56/193 of 21 December 2001 and in particular 57/251 of 20 December 2002,

1. Notes the initiation of a process of consultation through which Member States, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant bodies of the United Nations system are invited to submit their comments on the important but complex issue of establishing universal

membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications;

2. Requests the Executive Director to undertake the above process of consultation in an expeditious manner, for which the Executive Director shall:

(a) Invite Governments to submit written comments on the subject by 31 October 2003;

(b) Submit a report incorporating those comments from Governments to the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2004, for its consideration;

3. Reiterates the need for stable, adequate and predictable funding of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard commends attempts, through the pilot phase of the indicative scale of contributions, to improve the situation as it relates to the Environment Fund;

4. Notes with concern that the present level of funding from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme continues to be insufficient to provide for the core functions of the Programme, as stipulated in section II, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XVII);

5. Requests the Executive Director to enter into discussions with the Secretary-General in order to ensure that all administrative and management costs of the United Nations Environment Programme are borne by the United Nations regular budget;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

¹ *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), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/57/25).*

Annex

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 57/251 OF 20 DECEMBER 2002

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment
Programme on its seventh special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Also recalling its resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 56/193 of 21 December 2001 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session, a/

Taking into account the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, b/

Recalling that in the Plan of Implementation the General Assembly was invited to consider, at its fifty-seventh session, the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Underlining the unique role of the General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental decision-making body of the United Nations, in giving consideration to the issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme and, therefore, the need for a thorough analysis by Member States and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enable the General Assembly to fully consider all its implications, including legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, before making a decision,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session, and the decisions contained therein;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance for its report as adopted by the Governing Council at its seventh special session;
3. *Recalls* the decision made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to fully implement the outcomes of decision 1 on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session;
4. *Invites* Member States, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to submit to the Secretariat their comments on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the

Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report incorporating those views to the General Assembly for its consideration before its sixtieth session;

5. *Reiterates* its desire to be informed on the work of the Environment Management Group;
6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21 ^{c/} at all levels, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development;-
7. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;
8. *Also requests* the 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 of necessary services to the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi in an effective manner.

^{a/} *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/57/25).*

^{b/} *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), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

^{c/} *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.
