



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

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**Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 21–24 February 2011

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

Introduction

1. The twenty-sixth session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 21 to 24 February 2011. In keeping with section II of Governing Council decision 25/17 and the subsequent decision taken by the Bureau of the Council/Forum at its meeting in September 2010, the twenty-sixth session was held over four days.

I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

2. The session was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 21 February, by a master of ceremonies. Prior to the delivery of opening statements, a group of Kenyan young people performed an award-winning song entitled “Trash is cash” and presented a video promoting the recycling of waste. In addition, a video presentation on the green economy was shown, featuring ministers and Heads of State supporting the concept of the green economy. Remarks were delivered by Mr. Edward Norton, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity

3. Opening statements were then delivered by Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forestry and Environment of the Congo and Acting President of the Governing Council, in place of Mr. Oliver Dulić, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Serbia and President of the Governing Council, who was unable to attend the current session; Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Secretary of the Governing Council, on behalf of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; and Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of Kenya.

4. Mr. Djombo, in his statement, said that the work of the President and Bureau since the twenty-fifth session of the Council/Forum had been challenging as a result of the gathering momentum in environmental affairs. He expressed gratitude to the Council/Forum for its support and commitment to achieving tangible results at a time when the environmental agenda was becoming an important pillar in the quest for sustainable development, and to the Executive Director and UNEP secretariat for their efforts and determination to speak for the environment around the globe. The work of UNEP had demonstrated to Governments, civil society, the academic community, the private sector and grass-roots organizations that it was possible to address environmental degradation and move towards a sustainable, greener future. The economic and environmental challenges also presented new opportunities and the world was looking to UNEP for guidance and direction in responding to them.

III. Adoption of decisions

43. At its 7th plenary meeting, the Council/Forum adopted the following decisions:

Decision No.	Title
26/1	International environmental governance
26/2	World environment situation
26/3	Chemicals and wastes management
26/4	Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
26/5	Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production
26/6	Organizing the third intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
26/7	Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes
26/8	Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility
26/9	Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2012–2013
26/10	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
26/11	Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group
26/12	Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster
26/13	Omnibus decision on reports of the Executive Director
26/14	Global Environment Monitoring System Water Programme
26/15	Strengthening international cooperation on the environmental aspects of emergency response and preparedness
26/16	Promoting South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development
26/17	Provisional agendas, dates and venues for the twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

44. At the time of the adoption of the draft omnibus decision on reports of the Executive Director, one representative expressed the view that the Council/Forum should not adopt decisions the sole purpose of which was to acknowledge the submission of reports by the Executive Director in response to requests from the Council/Forum. Such decisions, he said, were unnecessary and took up valuable time that was needed for the conduct of more urgent business.

IV. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

45. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the session. Representatives of 54 of the 58 member States attended the session and their credentials were found to be in order. The Bureau so reported to the Council/Forum, which approved the Bureau's report at the 7th plenary meeting, on 24 February 2011.

within and beyond the United Nations system, based on the most effective and successful features of the reviewed models of cooperation in other fields;

4. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development to finalize and adopt at its nineteenth session a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, to enhance coordination and coherence in its implementation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme continues to play an active and co-leading role with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production in all its dimensions such as objectives, institutional arrangements and priority programmes;

(b) To offer to take a lead role in the implementation of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production;

(c) To take the necessary measures for the United Nations Environment Programme to play a lead role in the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes;

(d) Directly to support implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes in programme areas where the United Nations Environment Programme has particular expertise;

6. *Encourages* Governments to participate actively in the finalization of a sound and effective 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production during the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the nineteenth session itself, and to support its subsequent implementation to promote a shift to sustainable consumption and production;

7. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity-building through public and private efforts to support the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, once adopted;

8. *Recognizes* that the 10-year framework of programmes could be an important input into the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session in anticipation of the Governing Council's contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

*7th meeting
24 February 2011*

Decision 26/6: Organizing the third intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.XI/7, which pertained to, among other things, the outcomes of the World Ocean Conference held in Manado, Indonesia, in May 2009, and by which it requested the Executive Director to extend United Nations Environment Programme cooperation and engagement with other United Nations agencies to support the implementation of the Manado Ocean Declaration,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 65/150 of 20 December 2010, on the protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development, by which, among other things, the General Assembly urged States, within their national jurisdictions, and competent international organizations, within their mandates, to take all practical steps at all levels to protect coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development,

Recalling the requirement, as stated in paragraph 13 (c) of the Washington Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,¹⁶ periodically to review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

¹⁶ UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/6, annex II.

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Executive Director on the implementation of decision SS.XI/7 on oceans,¹⁷ which includes information on work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme to protect marine and coastal ecosystems, especially through its marine and coastal strategy, the Regional Seas Programme and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;
2. *Invites* Governments and international and regional financial institutions to make coordinated efforts to support developing countries in implementing marine and coastal initiatives, including within the United Nations Environment Programme, at the national, regional and global levels;
3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to consider extending the support of the United Nations Environment Programme to the expert workshop on the role of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts, as proposed in paragraph 77 of decision X/29 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a means of implementing relevant aspects of the present decision and paragraph 2 of decision SS.XI/7;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to proceed with organizing the third session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, working to ensure that participation is as broad as possible, and to that end urges all Governments to be actively involved in the intergovernmental review process and, where possible, to make financial contributions to defray the costs associated with that meeting;
5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to engage the technical expertise and services of an international maritime body such as the International Maritime Organization, noting that the International Maritime Organization's activities with regard to shipping can play a vital role in the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities through its activities in relation to seas and marine protection.

*7th meeting
24 February 2011*

Decision 26/7: Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.XI/8 of 26 February 2010 and the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and wastes agenda,

Recalling also the request in that decision to the Executive Director to continue leading the consultative process and to report on the progress made and the direction of the process,

Recalling further the request in that decision to the Executive Director to launch, in collaboration with relevant partners, initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes through various avenues, including the media and key international opportunities such as intergovernmental meetings and public events at both the national and international levels,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly welcomed the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and expressed support for further efforts through the United Nations Environment Programme to continue such discussions, in cooperation and coordination among the three chemicals and wastes conventions and to support Governments in their efforts to implement, comply with and enforce these multilateral environmental agreements,

Having considered the progress report submitted by the Executive Director on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and, in particular, the information on the third meeting, held in Pretoria, South Africa, on 10 and 11 January 2011,¹⁸

17 UNEP/GC.26/10.

18 UNEP/GC.26/11 and Add.1.