NOTIFICATION

Report of the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly
Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am very pleased to inform you that the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, in adopting its resolution on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, decided to note United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.XI/4, the Busan outcome; the decision X/11 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and the decision adopted by the Programme and External Relations Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contained in the Executive Board document 185 EX/43, and to request the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order to fully operationalize the Platform, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the Platform at the earliest opportunity.

The General Assembly also called on international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to support the full and effective participation of representatives from developing countries in the plenary meeting.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaf
Executive Secretary

Attachment

To: CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 (g)

Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session

Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe Empole (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 29th and 33rd meetings, on 18 November and 1 December 2010. An account of the Committee’s consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.29 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.43 and A/C.2/65/L.71

2. At the 29th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh session” (A/C.2/65/L.43), which read:

“The General Assembly,


* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/65/436 and Add.1-9.
“Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

“Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

“Taking into account Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (‘Johannesburg Plan of Implementation’),

“Reaffirming that States have sovereign rights over their own biological recourses,

“Reaffirming also the commitment of Member States to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority which sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 1997,

“Reiterating that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

“Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building for developing countries, and recognizing the need to accelerate its implementation including through the provision of additional financial resources for that purpose,

“Noting with appreciation the progress achieved during the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury, held in Stockholm in 2010, and encouraging further efforts towards a successful conclusion of the negotiations,

“Recognizing the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority attached to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing to address issues relating to chemicals and wastes,

1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session and the decisions contained therein;

2. Welcomes the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010 as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and calls for the active and effective participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparatory process for the Conference;

coherent and effective international environmental governance and, in this context, invites Member States to ratify relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

“4. Calls for an increased and strengthened financial resources base for the United Nations Environment Programme to enable it to efficiently and effectively perform its mandate, in particular with respect to the implementation of all three environmental conventions adopted in Rio de Janeiro;

“5. Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements to enhance cooperation and coordination on issues relating to the three chemical conventions and to support Governments in their efforts to implement, comply with and enforce these multilateral environmental agreements, and in this regard welcomes the outcome of the Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on 22 and 23 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia, welcomes the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, and supports further efforts through the United Nations Environment Programme to continue these discussions;

“6. Notes the revised administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Environment Programme, signed in Nagoya, Japan, on 26 October 2010, and invites the Executive Director of the Programme to extend to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity services and facilities similar to those provided to the two other environmental conventions adopted in Rio de Janeiro by the United Nations, in particular on issues related to programme support costs;

“7. Stresses the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, particularly through its Quick Start Programme, and welcomes the progress achieved during the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury;

“8. Recognizes the important role played by the regional centres, in particular with regard to the implementation of international commitments and in the area of technology transfer, and in this regard emphasizes the need for a sustainable financing mechanism for those centres so as to promote effective implementation of the commitments set out in the chemical conventions in developing countries at the regional and subregional levels;

“9. Recalls United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SSXI/1 of 26 February 2010, by which the Council noted the set of options for improving international environmental governance identified by the consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives, invited the President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as an input to the continued process of improving international environmental governance, and decided that the group would present its final report to the Council in time for the contribution of the Council to the second meeting of the preparatory committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
“10. Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme and the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to promote and strengthen synergies and cooperative efforts aimed at speeding up the fulfilment of their respective objectives, goals and programmes of work, in particular with regard to poverty eradication;

“11. Underlines the need to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and invites relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities, and calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan;

“12. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan, and notes the invitation to all other relevant organizations to mainstream the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities;

“13. Recognizes that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation and that it is a valuable and essential component of international cooperation in implementing capacity-building and technical support programmes to achieve national and international environmental goals;


“15. Reiterates the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and, in this regard, notes that the fifth Global Environment Outlook and its related summary for policymakers is currently under preparation;

“16. Emphasizes the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of sustainable development and to enhance cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the continued active participation of the Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group;

“17. Expresses concern about the gradual loss of capacities, flexibility and human and financial resources of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and strongly reiterates the need to reinforce the role of these offices in assisting countries in mainstreaming their
environmental priorities and maintaining the strategic presence of the Programme at the national and regional levels as part of the continued efforts of the Programme in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work;

“18. Notes the cooperation of the Environment Management Group, including by working with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies, in enhancing, inter alia, cooperation in programming environmental activities in the United Nations system in the areas of biodiversity and land degradation, including by supporting the implementation of the strategic plans of the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the post-2010 biodiversity targets;

“19. Takes into account the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth session, in which the Conference of the Parties recommended the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and, in this regard, requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements of the platform, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to consider modalities and arrangements to fully operationalize the platform at the earliest opportunity;

“20. Reiterates the need for improved conservation of coastal and marine resources and integrated coastal management, and urges the international community to continue and enhance its support for small island developing States to strengthen their implementation of integrated coastal zone management strategies and their scientific research capacity;

“21. Requests the Secretary-General to present progress reports to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, indicating clearly the ongoing activities and results, including the allocated budgets, that fall within the framework of the Plan for developing countries;

“22. Welcomes the efforts made so far by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to the devastating impact of the earthquake of 12 January 2010 on the people, economy and environment of Haiti, and, in that regard, urges the Programme, in coordination with the United Nations country team, to continue to perform its key role in ensuring that environmental considerations are mainstreamed into the overall humanitarian relief and recovery programme;
“23. Also welcomes the increased contributions to the Environment Fund, and reiterates its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Fund;

“24. 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), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

“25. Also reiterates the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the 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 Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;


3. At its 33rd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session” (A/C.2/65/L.71), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.43.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.71 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the 33rd meeting, the Vice-Chair orally corrected the following paragraphs of the draft resolution:

(a) In operative paragraph 8, after the words “as an input to the continuing process of improving international environmental governance”, the words “and as a contribution to the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development” were deleted and, at the end of the paragraph, the words “in anticipation of the contribution of the Governing Council” were added;

(b) In operative paragraph 9, the words “and takes note of the ongoing work” were replaced by the words “to support the ongoing work”;

(c) In operative paragraph 17, the words “the Programme and External Relations Commission” were replaced with the words “the Executive Board”.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of France and Mexico with regard to corrections to the French and Spanish texts, respectively, of the draft resolution.

7. Also at its 33rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.71, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.43 was withdrawn by its sponsors.
III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:


The General Assembly,


Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome, 1

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome, 2

Taking into account Agenda 21 3 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), 4

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 5 and its principles,

Reaffirming also its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme 6 of 1997 and in the Nusa Dua Declaration 7 of 26 February 2010,

Noting the role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in the organization of the three ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on a science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

______________________________________________________________________
1 See resolution 60/1.
2 See resolution 65/1.
Reiterating that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building\(^8\) for developing countries,

Recognizing the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority attached 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,

1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session\(^9\) and the decisions contained therein;\(^10\)

2. Welcomes the Nusa Dua Declaration\(^7\) of 26 February 2010 as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and calls for the active and effective participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparatory process for the Conference;

3. Recognizes that the ratification and implementation of relevant multilateral environment agreements contribute to more effective international environmental governance and better protection and management of the global environment, and, in this context, invites Member States to ratify and implement relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

4. Welcomes the outcome of the Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, held on 22 and 23 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia, also welcomes the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and supports further efforts through the United Nations Environment Programme to continue these discussions, and in this regard, encourages cooperation and coordination among the three chemical and waste conventions and to support Governments in their efforts to implement, comply with and enforce these multilateral environmental agreements;

5. Stresses the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,\(^11\) particularly through its Quick Start Programme;

6. Notes with appreciation the progress achieved during the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury,\(^12\) held in Stockholm from 7 to 11 June 2010, and encourages further efforts towards a successful conclusion to the negotiations, and invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to ensure full support to the negotiation process with the goal of completing the instrument prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum with the aim of agreeing on a legally binding instrument.

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\(^{10}\) Ibid., annex I.
\(^{11}\) See the report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I-III.
\(^{12}\) See UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/21.
instrument on mercury, to include provisions, among others, to reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury and to specify arrangements for capacity-building and technical and financial assistance, recognizing that the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement some legal obligations effectively under a legally binding instrument is dependent on the availability of capacity-building and technical and adequate financial assistance;

7. Recognizes the important role played by the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, particularly in the implementation of the international commitments and in the area of technology transfer, and, in this regard, encourages Member States and other stakeholders to promote the full and coordinated use of the regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of assistance for the implementation of the three conventions;

8. Recalls United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.XI/1 of 26 February 2010 on international environmental governance, takes note of the set of options for improving international environmental governance identified by the consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives and the invitation to the President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as an input to the continuing process of improving international environmental governance, and also takes note of the ongoing work of the consultative group of ministers that will present its final report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session in anticipation of the contribution of the Governing Council;

9. Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to support the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats of the three conventions adopted in Rio de Janeiro and the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of the three conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of all these instruments;

10. Underlines the need to further advance and accelerate the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, invites relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities, and calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan;

11. Recognizes that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and in this regard requests the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-
South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan;


13. Reiterates the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and, in this regard, notes that the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and its related summary for policymakers is currently under development, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

14. Emphasizes the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and to enhance cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the continued active participation of the Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group, as well as in the United Nations exercises at the country level, including United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and “Delivering as One” programmes for those countries implementing this initiative;

15. Reiterates the instrumental role of regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in assisting countries in mainstreaming their environmental priorities and maintaining the strategic presence of the Programme at the national and regional levels as part of the continued efforts of the Programme in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work, and calls for increased support to strengthen the human, financial and programmatic capacities of all regional offices;

16. Notes the cooperation of the Environment Management Group, including by working with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies, in enhancing, inter alia, cooperation in programming environmental activities in the United Nations system in the areas of biodiversity and land degradation, including by supporting the implementation of the strategic plans of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,\textsuperscript{14} and the Convention on Biological Diversity,\textsuperscript{15} including the post-2010 biodiversity targets;

17. Also notes United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.XI/4,\textsuperscript{10} the Busan outcome,\textsuperscript{16} the decision adopted by the Conference of

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.
\textsuperscript{16} A/65/383, annex.
the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, in October 2010,\textsuperscript{17} and the decision adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contained in document 185 EX/43, and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order to fully operationalize the platform, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform at the earliest opportunity;

18. \textit{Calls upon} international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to support the full and effective participation of representatives from developing countries in the plenary meeting;

19. \textit{Welcomes} the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme aimed at strengthening the protection and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems and further mainstreaming the United Nations Environment Programme marine and coastal strategy in line with the United Nations Millennium Declaration\textsuperscript{18} and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;\textsuperscript{19}

20. \textit{Welcomes} the efforts to date by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to the devastating impact of the earthquake of 12 January 2010 on the people, economy and environment of Haiti, and, in this regard, urges the United Nations Environment Programme, in coordination with the United Nations country team, to continue to perform its key role in ensuring that environmental considerations are mainstreamed into the overall humanitarian relief and recovery programme;

21. \textit{Also welcomes} the increased contributions to the Environment Fund, and reiterates its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Fund;

22. \textit{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), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

23. \textit{Also reiterates} the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary

\textsuperscript{17} See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/L.25.
\textsuperscript{18} See resolution 55/2.
\textsuperscript{19} 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 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;