



G-77/IFCC-XI/8

**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL FOLLOW-UP  
AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (IFCC-XI)  
Havana, Cuba, 21-23 March 2005**

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY UNEP:**

- Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building
- Contribution to the summit meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77  
NEW YORK**



**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

Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

**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**

**International environmental governance**

**Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and  
Capacity-building**

**Note by the Executive Director**

The Executive Director has the honour to transmit to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in the annex to the present note, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, 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.

\* UNEP/GC.23/1.

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## Annex

### **Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The need for environment-related technology support and capacity-building in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition was recognized in General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, as well as in Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
2. Decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concerning the strengthening of international environmental governance recognized, among other components, the urgent need to develop a strategic plan for the provision of technology support and capacity-building to developing countries as well as to countries with economies in transition. This plan has been developed pursuant to decision SS.VII/1 to meet that urgent need.

#### **II. Objectives**

3. The objectives of the plan are:
  - (a) To strengthen the capacity of Governments of developing countries as well as of countries with economies in transition, at all levels:
    - (i) To implement programmatic goals set by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in parallel to the response by UNEP to requests by Governments for targeted capacity-building within the mandate of UNEP;
    - (ii) To participate fully in the development of coherent international environmental policy;
    - (iii) To comply with international agreements and implement their obligations at the national level;
    - (iv) To achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives, as well as environment-related internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and international agreements, thus enhancing the environmental sustainability of their countries' development;
    - (v) To use and sustain the capacity or technology obtained through training or other capacity-building efforts after such efforts have been completed;
    - (vi) To develop national research, monitoring and assessment capacity to support national institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends and in establishing infrastructure for scientific development and environmental management, in order to ensure sustainability of capacity-building efforts;
  - (b) To provide systematic, targeted, long and short-term measures for technology support and capacity-building, taking into account international agreements and based on national or regional priorities and needs;
  - (c) To provide a framework for capacity-building to ensure the effective participation of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in negotiations concerning multilateral environmental agreements;
  - (d) To endeavour to ensure that principles of transparency and accountability built on a participatory approach and with full national ownership are integrated in all activities;
  - (e) 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;

- (f) To enable collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and provide a basis for a comprehensive approach to developing partnerships, including public-private partnerships;
- (g) To emphasize the identification and dissemination of best practices and the fostering of entrepreneurship and partnerships;
- (h) To enhance delivery by UNEP of technology support and capacity-building, within its mandate, to developing countries as well as to countries with economies in transition based on best practices from both within and outside UNEP, including by mainstreaming technology support and capacity-building throughout UNEP activities;
- (i) To strengthen cooperation among UNEP, multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, taking into account their autonomous decision-making processes, and other bodies engaged in environmental capacity-building. These include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in particular, and also bilateral donors, other United Nations bodies, regional or multilateral organizations, international financial institutions, civil society, including the private sector, universities and other relevant stakeholders;
- (j) To promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and support of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, especially for developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition.

### III. Strategic considerations

4. The plan is intended as an intergovernmentally agreed approach to strengthen technology support and capacity-building in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, including by reinforcing the role of UNEP for this purpose, building on areas where it has demonstrated comparative advantage and expertise. The plan should take into account activities undertaken across the United Nations system as a whole, including by multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, as well as by international financial institutions and relevant partners at the regional and subregional levels. It should also take into account activities and programmes being undertaken by other partners, including bilateral programmes, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. The plan should support improved inter-agency coordination and cooperation based on transparent and reliable information and reporting consistent with established frameworks and with a special focus on the role that UNEP should play in enhancing an effective response to identified needs. In this regard, the plan:

Provides the basis for UNEP to play a more substantial role in the United Nations Development Group framework. To that end, cooperation between UNEP and UNDP should be enhanced in line with the memorandum of understanding between them, including at the country level;

Provides a coherent platform for internal coordination and exchange of information within UNEP, and also for enhanced coordination between UNEP and other United Nations agencies, as well as other relevant partners;

Provides a coherent approach to strengthening national and regional institutions responsible for environmental management, promoting implementation of environmental programmes and plans and enhancing their contribution to national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies;

Promotes the integration of environmental initiatives and programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels and supports the development, enhancement and implementation of regional and subregional environmental strategies and action plans;

Provides an effective strategy for strengthening technology support and cooperation by supporting the creation of an enabling environment for innovation and transfer through the enhancement of international cooperation conducive to innovation and the development, transfer and dissemination of technologies, with the protection of intellectual property rights, involving all relevant partners, including the private sector. Emphasis should be given to identifying and disseminating best practices and fostering entrepreneurship and partnerships;

Promotes efficiency and effectiveness in using financial and human resources through better coordination and coherence, more effective implementation at all levels and the promotion of an integrated approach to allow optimal use of resources.

5. Furthermore, as part of the basic approach of the plan:

- (a) Efforts should build on existing capacities;

- (b) Activities under the plan must have national ownership to ensure that built capacities are sustained;
  - (c) Capacity-building programmes must be tailored to individual countries based on a bottom-up needs -assessment process;
  - (d) Work must be coordinated, linked with efforts already in progress and integrated with other sustainable development initiatives using existing coordinating mechanisms, such as the Environmental Management Group, the United Nations Development Group and the resident coordinator system;
  - (e) Work should not duplicate that promoted and undertaken by other organizations and programmes.
6. A significant role should be given to institutional arrangements at the regional level and regional institutions in implementing and reviewing the plan.

## IV. Implementation

7. The plan builds upon the objectives identified in paragraph 3, above.
8. Specific objectives, strategies and activities are identified through a bottom-up approach in order to reflect the actual needs of countries and regions. The relevant elements should be identified on the basis of inputs from Governments and a review of priorities emerging from regional ministerial forums. The views of relevant organizations and stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, should be considered. National ownership is essential and offers the possibility of tailoring capacity-building and technology support programmes to specific needs as identified in each country's environmental priorities.
9. Regional UNEP offices should be strengthened to facilitate effective support for the implementation of the plan at its national, subregional and regional levels.

### A. National level

10. Given the specific circumstances of the different countries concerned, each country should be encouraged to identify its own needs in capacity-building and technology support in order to meet its environmental priorities. As identified in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, entitled "Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building", environmentally sound technologies and corresponding capacity-building needs encompass a broad range of issues, from which each country might identify elements suitable to its needs in achieving environmental objectives of sustainable development. The multilateral system should assist national Governments to develop practical arrangements, taking into account national and, where applicable, GEF -UNDP self assessments geared towards transforming the needs of each country into a set of strategic priorities and the means to respond to them. Close cooperation between UNEP, UNDP, GEF and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements is important in effectively meeting this challenge.
11. The plan will assist in developing the UNEP response to national-level needs for capacity-building on issues of relevance to its mandate. UNEP activities should complement measures implemented by GEF. There will be coordination with UNDP capacity-building activities, as outlined in Capacity 2015, the new capacity development initiative launched by UNDP. Collaboration on sectoral issues with relevant specialized agencies in the United Nations system, and also with civil society organizations, knowledge-based institutions and the private sector, should also be enhanced.

### B. Regional level

12. The plan will be consistent with regional and subregional strategies defined by regional and subregional bodies, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) and the "Environment for Europe" process, and will support the implementation of those priority activities identified at the regional and subregional levels.
13. The plan responds to the regional dimensions emphasized in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It could thus take into account the experience gained in assisting Governments to prepare and finalize the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD, ILAC and the programme of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) and support their implementation through capacity-building. This approach is based on the following modalities:

- (a) Support for the implementation of global and regional environmental conventions and other legal instruments;
- (b) Training and enhancement of existing centres of excellence;
- (c) Promotion and support of South-South cooperation;
- (d) Exchanges of best practices and lessons learned;
- (e) Development of partnerships;
- (f) Information for decision -making;
- (g) Promotion of technology support;
- (h) Support for cleaner production centres.

14. The plan accords special attention to strengthening the support given to regional ministerial environmental forums to enable them to play a role in the implementation and review of the plan and identification of emerging needs. In this regard, regional ministerial forums or similar bodies are encouraged to identify regional priorities to be considered by the Governing Council and taken into account by UNEP.

15. The existing regional ministerial environmental bodies, their subsidiary bodies and other relevant entities are encouraged to consider the plan, make policy recommendations and identify priorities on a regular basis. They are also encouraged to recommend strategic approaches to the implementation of the respective components of the plan in their regions.

### **C. Global level**

16. The international environmental governance mandate conferred by the Governing Council at its seventh special session in Cartagena refers to the need to implement the plan through enhanced coordination with other United Nations bodies, in particular UNDP. The memorandum of understanding between UNEP and UNDP will enhance joint capacity-building activities with a view to the development of a strategic plan, taking into account the need to develop clear operational modalities that avoid duplication and the respective competencies of the two organizations.

17. The plan is complementary to and coordinated with activities and programmes being undertaken across the United Nations system as a whole, including the work programmes of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, taking into account their autonomous decision-making processes, in particular through United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks and in close cooperation with UNDP, through United Nations resident coordinators at the country level. The plan is based on existing intergovernmental decisions, including guidance by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and is to be further elaborated in line with national or regional needs and priorities, including those identified at various intergovernmental forums already held at the regional and global levels.

18. UNEP should play a more proactive role so that its technology support and capacity-building activities are more widely disseminated in the United Nations system and mainstreamed in country-specific initiatives undertaken at the field level.

19. UNEP should develop and keep updated a database giving access to information on major existing technology support and capacity-building activities, such as those undertaken by UNEP, with links to the programmes of relevant partners. This activity should perform a clearing-house function. The database should be cost-effective, drawing on experience, and linked with existing databases. It should be designed for the exchange of practical information and should ensure improved transparency while preventing duplication.

### **D. Indicative list of main areas of technology support and capacity-building activities**

20. The following is an indicative list of cross-cutting issues and thematic areas that the plan should address:

- (a) Cross-cutting issues:
  - (i) Strengthening of national and regional environmental or environment-related institutions (government institutions, judiciary, enforcement);
  - (ii) Development of national environmental law;

- (iii) Strengthening of cooperation with civil society and the private sector;
  - (iv) Assistance for facilitating compliance with and enforcement of obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and implementation of environmental commitments;
  - (v) Preparation, integration and implementation of environmental aspects of national sustainable development plans;
  - (vi) Poverty and environment, including the implementation of poverty reduction strategy programmes;
  - (vii) Development of national research, monitoring and assessment capacity, including training in assessment and early warning;
  - (viii) Support to national and regional institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends;
  - (ix) Access to scientific and technological information, including information on state-of-the-art technologies;
  - (x) Facilitating access to and support for environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how;
  - (xi) Education and awareness raising, including networking among universities with programmes of excellence in the field of the environment;
  - (xii) Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns, including support for cleaner production centres;
  - (xiii) Development of gender mainstreaming strategies in environmental policies;
- (b) Thematic areas:
- (i) Biological diversity, including biosafety and the issue of invasive species;
  - (ii) Climate change;
  - (iii) Desertification, drought and land degradation;
  - (iv) Freshwater resources;
  - (v) Conservation of wetlands;
  - (vi) Oceans and seas and coastal areas, including regional seas and the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities;
  - (vii) Chemicals;
  - (viii) Waste management;
  - (ix) Pollution;
  - (x) Health and environment;
  - (xi) Trade and environment;
  - (xii) Renewable energy;
  - (xiii) Transboundary conservation and sustainable management of natural resources when agreed by the countries concerned;
  - (xiv) Environmental emergency preparedness and response;
  - (xv) Taxonomy;
  - (xvi) Forests;
  - (xvii) Post-conflict assessment;
  - (xviii) Sanitation;
  - (xix) Food security and environment.

## **E. South-South cooperation**

21. The plan underscores the importance of South-South cooperation and stresses the need to intensify efforts directed towards institutional capacity-building, including through the exchange of expertise, experiences, information and documentation between the institutions of the South in order to develop human resources and strengthen the institutions of the South, and places emphasis on the important role for economic and social development played by scientific knowledge and technology, which have a major influence on the way in which the earth's resources are used and shared among its inhabitants.

## **F. Information for decision-making: the role of science, monitoring and assessment**

22. The plan supports the implementation of the relevant outcomes of the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of UNEP, held in Nairobi on 14 and 15 January 2004 (as described in document UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.4), which specify a number of important capacity-building needs. These include the need to strengthen national capacities for data collection, research, analysis, monitoring and integrated environmental assessment; developing institutional capacities, staff training and support for appropriate and adaptable technologies and methodologies; support for assessments of environmental issues of regional and subregional importance and for the assessment and early warning of emerging environmental issues; support for scientific exchanges and for the establishment of environmental and inter-disciplinary information networks; and promotion of coherent partnership approaches.

23. UNEP should help reinforce the capacities of national Governments to collect and analyse environmental data for use in decision-making and for participation in broader assessment processes, including, among others, the Global Environment Outlook.

## **G. Reporting, monitoring and evaluation**

24. The plan provides for reporting on its implementation to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Such reporting should be undertaken in accordance with the process set out in paragraph 29 below, and should include the following:

(a) Assessment by recipient Governments on the results of assistance or training received: this should be used for improving the effectiveness of assistance, and should not be used as a precondition for the provision of such assistance;

(b) Reporting by the UNEP secretariat on the number of requests, monitoring of outcomes and measurable and qualitative results, and an assessment report on the status of financing of the plan.

25. Each Government that is a recipient of UNEP capacity-building and technology support efforts should endeavour to use effectively the capacity or technology acquired through training or other capacity-building efforts and to sustain the capacity or technology after such efforts have been completed. Recipient Governments are encouraged to report on the results of capacity-building or technology support received. This would include evaluation of programmes and staff trained by UNEP.

## **V. Coordination mechanisms**

26. UNEP should work to achieve improved and enhanced communication, cooperation, coordination and synergies with other United Nations organizations, international financial institutions, regional development banks, multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, civil society and relevant stakeholders, in order to ensure optimum use of limited financial and human resources, strengthen regional and country level activities and provide a platform for multilateral approaches and consistency in technology transfer, with the protection of intellectual property rights; taking into consideration the respective mandates and autonomous decision-making authority of all concerned entities and using existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms. All agencies in the United Nations system are encouraged to take the plan into account while planning their own technology support and capacity-building efforts.

27. Since, under the current functional and organizational set-up of UNEP, its capacity-building activities take place within the work programmes of separate UNEP divisions, there is a need to put in place a comprehensive database, accessible to all countries and regularly updated, of technology support and capacity-building activities with references and links to relevant United Nations agencies and



multilateral environmental agreements, which should reflect, and be further developed in line with, the plan.

28. Implementation of the plan should be guided by national and regional capacity-building priorities, and action plans where applicable, which will also require support from regional mechanisms, building on existing institutions, both at the intergovernmental level and secretariat levels.

## **A. Intergovernmental level**

### **1. Global follow-up arrangements**

29. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will regularly review and provide policy guidance for the plan, acting pursuant to its mandate to review the global environment and to promote international cooperation. The intergovernmental process at the global level will be as follows:

(a) At each session, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should follow up and review, and provide guidance on, the plan, and at each regular session, it should allocate the necessary resources for the implementation of the plan;

(b) Intersessionally, the Committee of Permanent Representatives should follow up, monitor and review the implementation and effectiveness of the plan;

(c) The Executive Director should prepare annual reports on progress in the plan's implementation, including the mobilization of resources, the identification of regional and national needs and priorities, and assessment of the response to the requests received;

(d) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should provide oversight and direction to the capacity-building and technology support work at UNEP;

(e) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should receive, review and discuss reports on the capacity-building and technology support efforts at UNEP, reflecting resulting priorities in its decisions and in the UNEP programme of work and budget.

### **2. Regional level**

30. At the regional level, both regional and subregional forums will play an important role. The existing regional ministerial environmental bodies, their subsidiary bodies and other relevant entities are encouraged regularly to consider the implementation of the plan, make policy recommendations and identify priorities. They will also recommend strategic approaches to the implementation of the respective components of the plan in their region.

## **B. Secretariat level**

31. UNEP will provide secretariat services for the implementation of the plan, including in-house coordination, and undertake the following:

(a) The secretariat should regularly inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the implementation of the plan;

(b) Within UNEP, the overall responsibility for the implementation of the plan should rest with the Executive Director, who should ensure its mainstreaming throughout the organization, while avoiding the creation of any additional or new bureaucratic layers. The Executive Director should establish a dedicated focal point at UNEP headquarters to facilitate in-house coordination among the divisions and regional offices, all of which should determine entry points and a transparent process for receiving, tracking and distributing requests for technology support and capacity-building. The Executive Director should entrust each division and regional office with the task of identifying a focal point for the plan, with functional responsibility and for oversight of the specific division's capacity-building activities;

(c) The Executive Director should ensure that the division responsible for regional coordination is sufficiently strengthened and that the UNEP network of regional offices can effectively assist regional and subregional environmental forums in facilitating the processing, implementing, reviewing of and reporting on requests for technology support and capacity-building. Efforts to promote inter-agency collaboration and coordination should be enhanced in this context;

(d) A comprehensive, user-friendly, regularly updated database on capacity-building and technology support activities should be established by UNEP, with references and links to other relevant agencies and multilateral environmental agreements. The database should be made available and accessible to all countries, in electronic and printed formats, and should reflect and be further developed in line with the plan;

(e) The scientific and technical capacity of UNEP should be strengthened and developed to enable an enhanced delivery of technological advice and assistance related, in particular, to environmentally sound technologies and know-how;

(f) UNEP should designate decentralized entry points and use transparent measures to receive, circulate and process requests for capacity-building and technological assistance based on existing best available practices;

(g) A bottom-up, country-driven approach that is responsive to Governments and to regional or subregional intergovernmental forums, and also to other United Nations bodies, while maintaining the flexibility of UNEP to evaluate and respond to requests, should be followed. Country ownership is crucial if Governments are to maintain and support the capacity that is built;

(h) The Executive Director should establish a cross-cutting and transparent system to monitor the capacity building and technology support portfolio of UNEP and to identify and annually report on incoming requests, existing gaps and analysis of successes, weaknesses and lessons learned. The portfolio should be clearly identified in the biennial programme of work and budget. In this regard, each division should indicate in its biennial programme of work and budget its technical support and capacity-building activities and their associated costs;

(i) UNEP should seek out and establish public-private partnerships as a complement to intergovernmental commitments in implementing capacity-building and technology support programmes.

32. In reporting to the Governing Council on the implementation of the plan, UNEP should assess the availability of requisite technical and financial resources, as well as the effectiveness and sustainability of capacity-building efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels.

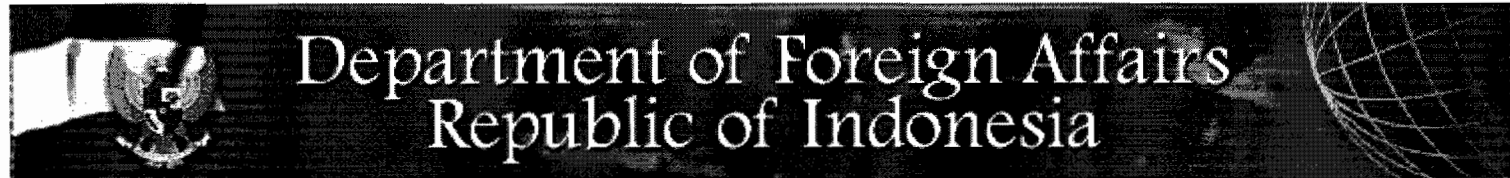
## **VI. Financial mechanisms**

33. With reference to decision SS.VII/1, the plan should be implemented through a combination of voluntary financial mechanisms and options that would provide additional resources. The financial mechanisms should be transparent, accountable and consistent with the financial rules of the Environment Fund. Funding should be stable, adequate and predictable.

34. In order to reflect the mainstreaming of technology support and capacity-building within UNEP, the Governing Council should use the Environment Fund for these activities, taking into account the evolving nature of funding requirements, including at the regional level. Resources allocated for these activities should be predictable and support other programme elements. United Nations Member States should consider increasing their contributions to the Environment Fund. In this regard they could consider various voluntary mechanisms, as envisaged in decision SS.VII/1.

35. As called for by decision SS.VII/1, a strategic partnership between UNEP and GEF will be developed and submitted for adoption by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the GEF Council. This partnership would contribute to furthering the goals of the plan.

36. Implementation of the plan will also depend on the mobilization of resources from other sources, including public-private partnerships. These partnerships should complement and not replace intergovernmental commitments.



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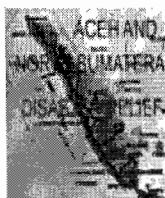
**No. 77/PR/XII/2004**

**The Signing of Letter of Intent for Cooperation  
 Between  
 the Government of the Republic of Indonesia (NAM CSSTC) and  
 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
 Bali, 3 December 2004**

On Friday, 3 December 2004, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and UNEP have signed an agreement, in the form of Letter of Intent (LoI), to cooperate in the field of environment aiming for sustainable development. The signing took place during "high-level open-ended inter-governmental working group on an inter-governmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity building" conducted at Hotel Intercontinental Jimbaran Bali, on 2-4 December 2004.



The Letter of Intent was signed by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and NAM CSSTC, and by the Executive Director of UNEP, H.E. Mr. Klaus Töpfer on behalf of UNEP.



The two parties agreed to cooperate in undertaking activities to facilitate South-South cooperation for accelerating integration of the environment component into sustainable development in developing countries.

Such cooperation will focus on capacity building and common needs and critical issues in the field of environment as identified by developing countries, especially the implementation of relevant components of the intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity building to be adopted at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme in February 2005, and may include, but not limited to, the following activities such as seminar and exchange of experiences, technical assistance and training and dissemination and exchange of information. Specific modalities of the above-mentioned cooperation will be set out in such arrangements as may be agreed between the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC), located in Jakarta, Indonesia, is an effective and vital means to assist developing countries in enhancing and accelerating their national development. It was established during the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Cartagena, Colombia, in October 1995, and during the last four years has been undertaking activities that include exchange of experts, exchange of technical information and facilities, workshops and seminars, networking establishments, trainings, and apprenticeships. Such activities are conducted in cooperation with other parties

and various national and international institutions. NAM CSSTC is managed by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and jointly financed by Indonesia and the Government of Brunei Darussalam.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a principal body established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 in the field of environment. During the last three decades, UNEP has been undertaking activities related to capacities building and technology support for countries to meet various environmental challenges and to achieve environmental goals for sustainable development.

Bali, 3 December 2004

Printable Version

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**LETTER OF INTENT**  
**BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND**  
**THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**  
**CONCERNING COOPERATION TO FACILITATE SOUTH-SOUTH**  
**COOPERATION ON CAPACITY-BUILDING IN THE FIELD OF THE**  
**ENVIRONMENT AIMING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

1. The Government of the Republic of Indonesia, through the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation under its auspices and the United Nations Environment Programme will cooperate to undertake activities to facilitate South-South cooperation for accelerating integration of the environment component into sustainable development in developing countries.

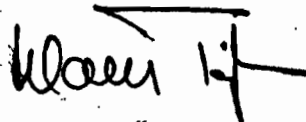
2. Such cooperation will focus on capacity building and common needs and critical issues in the field of the environment as identified by developing countries, especially the implementation of relevant components of the intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity building to be adopted at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme in February 2005, and may include, but not limited to, the following activities:

- (a) Seminar and exchange of experiences;
- (b) Technical assistance and training;
- (c) Dissemination and exchange of information.

3. Specific modalities of the above-mentioned cooperation will be set out in such arrangements as may be agreed between the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Signed at Bali, Indonesia, on 3 December 2004

For the United Nations  
Environment Programme



**KLAUS TÖPFER**  
Executive Director  
United Nations  
Environment Programme

For the Government  
of the Republic of Indonesia



**SUDJADNAN PARNOHADINIGRAT**  
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Environment Programme**

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**Twenty-third session of the Governing Council/  
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Nairobi, 21–25 February 2005  
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**

**President's summary of the discussions by ministers and heads of  
delegations 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;

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(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.

## **President's summary of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegations 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**

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, 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**

- 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.
- 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.



- 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.
- Substantially increasing the financial base of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is critically important and should be seriously considered.
- 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 and heavily indebted poor countries. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum notes with encouragement current efforts by the international community in this regard.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.

- 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**

7. Increased investment in environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and human settlements programmes has multiple dividends benefiting women, the poor and the environment.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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**

- 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.
- 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.
- The costs of environmentally unsustainable water use must be quantified.
- Environmental valuation of ecosystem goods and services should become a core component of water-management strategies.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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**

- 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.
- 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.
- UNEP should also provide support for the establishment of regional ministerial bodies on water, such as the African Ministers' Council on Water.
- 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.
- UNEP should focus more on drawing together different voices and partners.
- 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**

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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**

- Gender equality should be mainstreamed at all levels in strategies, policies, and programmes, including in poverty reduction strategies.
- 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.
- Barriers to the education of women and girls, for example the lack of sanitation in schools, should be identified and removed.
- 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.

- Barriers to women's participation and leadership should be identified and removed.
- Governments and the international community should focus on the priority international commitments that affect women, notably, chemicals, heavy metals, water, sanitation and human settlements.
- Women should enjoy equal access to economic activities, market opportunities, land tenure and natural resources.
- 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**

- 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.