

Annex 2

First meeting of the Consultative Group
of Ministers or High-level Representatives
on International Environmental Governance
Belgrade, 27 – 28 June 2009

BELGRADE PROCESS

MOVING FORWARD WITH DEVELOPING A SET OF OPTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

CO-CHAIRS SUMMARY

Summary

This Summary of the co-Chairs sets out the discussions from the First Meeting of the Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level Representatives on International Environmental Governance and the process and the work for future meetings.

1. The First Meeting of the Consultative Group of Ministers or High Level Representatives on International Environmental Governance [hereafter the Consultative Group] convened under Governing Council decision 25/4 was held from 27-28 June 2009 in Belgrade, Serbia.
2. Opening statements were made by the Mayor of the City of Belgrade, the President of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) and the UNEP Executive Director.
3. The consultations were informed by background papers setting out a number of key questions and identifying the core challenges that countries are facing on International Environmental Governance (IEG).
4. The Consultative Group was made up of delegates from 38 countries, including 8 ministers and 2 deputy ministers. The Group elected by acclamation H.E. Ms. Stefania Prestigiacomo Minister for Environment, Land and Sea of Italy and H.E. John Njoroge Michuki, Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources of Kenya to serve as co-Chairs of the meeting.
5. The co-Chairs summary is a reflection of the interactive dialogue that occurred among the ministers and high-level representatives attending the Consultative Group meeting. It reflects the ideas presented and discussed.
6. The Consultative Group will present its final report to the eleventh special session of the GC/GMEF in February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia
7. **Ministers and high-level representatives generally supported the following:**
 - Any reform to IEG should be based on the principle that form should follow function.
 - Consultations on functions will lead to a discussion on forms that could range from incremental changes to other broader institutional reforms.
 - The IEG debate should be addressed in the broader context of environmental sustainability and sustainable development.
 - Developing a set of options for improving IEG should follow from a fresh examination of multiple challenges and emerging opportunities.
 - Incremental changes to IEG can be considered alongside other more fundamental reforms.
 - The work of the Consultative Group should continue to be political in nature.
8. **Other matters discussed during the course of the consultations on IEG included:**

In the context of making incremental changes, clustering and synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) was stressed by many, while others referred to creating new institutions.
9. The political nature of the discussion was highlighted and participation at the highest level was encouraged. It was considered that the Group could provide a political strategy to facilitate progress on the reform of IEG.
10. Some participants highlighted the significance of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit Report on the Management Review of Environmental Governance within the United Nations System.
11. Many participants stressed the importance of strengthening the status and working methods of the GMEF in order to respond to global environmental challenges.

12. Many emphasised the importance of strengthening the science-policy interface, and capacity building in the context of delivering on the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity Building.
 13. The need for new additional and predictable financial resources was stressed by many.
 14. Others stressed that any outcomes intended to strengthen IEG should be based on core principles including the polluter pays principle and common but differentiated responsibility.
 15. Some participants highlighted that the Consultative Group's discussion on IEG should take into account ongoing international processes on governance such as the 5th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen (UNFCCC COP 15), and a possible Rio +20.
 16. Participants discussed the Executive Director's paper that presented the core challenges to the current IEG system as the basis for articulating key functions for the UN system in:
 - Creating a strong, credible and coherent science base
 - Developing a global authoritative and responsive voice for sustainability
 - Achieving coherence within the UN system
 - Securing sufficient, predictable and coherent funding
 - Ensuring a responsive and cohesive approach to meeting country needs
 - Facilitating the transition towards a global green economy
 17. The Consultative Group invited the Executive Director to prepare a paper that draws upon the discussion of the Consultative Group during its first meeting and any subsequent written comments provided by participating governments, proposing a number of potential functions and possible forms to address such functions and to circulate the document for comments electronically to participating governments through the co-Chairs. The Executive Director would, after receiving comments, prepare a final version of the paper in consultation with the co-Chairs to submit to the Second Meeting of the Consultative Group.
 18. Noting the context and the busy period in which the IEG discussions are taking place some participants suggested that consideration be given to recommending to the Eleventh Special Session of the GC/GMEF that the mandate of the Consultative Group be extended beyond the current 2010 mandate, while some others were of a different view.
 19. Participants also considered it appropriate to explore the possibility for the GC/GMEF to put forward to the General Assembly a proposal for UNEP to be involved in the preparatory process for a possible Rio+20 in 2012.
 19. Participants noted the elements of a roadmap attached in Annex I to this co-Chairs Summary and requested the Executive Director to make arrangements for the second meeting of the Group with a high-level officials meeting to be convened immediately before it. The second meeting will take place in late October/early November in Rome, Italy.
 20. Participants expressed their sincere and special thanks to the Government of the Republic of Serbia and H. E. Oliver Dulić, Minister for Environment and Spatial Planning of Serbia and President of the GC/GMEF, for the warm hospitality and impeccable arrangements in hosting the first meeting of the Consultative Group.
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