to 15 February 2002, after which its input will be provided to the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which is scheduled to take place in New York from 25 March to 5 April 2002.

16. The report of the Executive Director on international environmental governance (UNEP/IGM/12) is intended to remain the basis for discussion. As agreed at the first meeting of the Group on 18 April 2001, it will become a "living document" and is expected to undergo a process of refinement and reorientation following each meeting, reflecting issues raised in the Group and the consensus as it emerges. The report will be updated for the third meeting of the Group, in accordance with the views expressed at the second meeting, taking into account the documents and reports tabled at that meeting. In addition to an updated report, at its third meeting the Group will also be provided with a proposal from the Chair outlining possible areas of consensus in the Group and policy orientations around which agreement could emerge. The Group may decide to focus its further consultations on this proposal with a view to finalizing a consensus document for presentation at the seventh special session of the Governing Council/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL Environment Forum.

### Questions Raised on International Environmental Governance*

**Note by the Executive Director**

1. The establishment of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum with universal participation at the ministerial level has resulted in a renewed focus for high-level environmental policy discussion.
2. Is there a need to further strengthen the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and enhance its relationship with other intergovernmental environmental forums to assist in developing policy coherence?
3. The fragmentation of the institutional structure for environmental decision-making and the loss of policy coherence and missed opportunities for synergistic cooperation have been identified as major problems.
   - Is there a need to develop a clustering approach to multilateral environmental agreements?
   - Should such a clustering approach take place at the functional or the issue level?
   - What would need to be done to develop the necessary authority and linkages to pursue such an approach?
4. There is general consensus on the need for inter-agency coordination and an authoritative role for the Environmental Management Group.
   - Is there a need to further strengthen, define and provide authority to the role of the Environmental Management Group?
   - How could that be achieved?
   - If a clustering approach to multilateral environmental agreements is agreed, could the Group be the instrument to achieve that?
5. There is general agreement that the need for increased and stable financing for the international environmental agenda is required.
   - Is there a need to establish a system of assessed contributions to the Environmental Fund of UNEP?
   - What should be the relationship between UNEP as the principal environmental policy body and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as the principal environmental financing body?
   - What would be required to translate the positive sentiments expressed by Governments into real financial contributions?
6. The question of the status and authority of UNEP has been underscored.
   - Is it a realistic and effective approach for UNEP to become a specialized agency of the United Nations?
   - Are there other ways to strengthen UNEP's authority?
   - What should be the relationship between UNEP and other entities dealing with the environment?
7. There is a clear consensus on the need to strengthen the Nairobi headquarters as the location of UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat), as underlined in General Assembly resolution 53/242.
   - Is there a need to develop a clustering approach to multilateral environmental agreements?
   - How could that be achieved?
   - If a clustering approach to multilateral environmental agreements is agreed, could the Group be the instrument to achieve that?
8. There is a consensus that international environmental governance should be addressed in the context of sustainable development.
   - Is there a need to strengthen UNEP's work in the area of capacity-building and technology transfer?
   - What should be the relationship between different environmental activities in capacity-building and technology transfer?
   - Is there a need for increased cooperation between UNEP and operational bodies of the United Nations?

See also page 194.

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*UNEP/IGM/12

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See also page 194.