

SELECTED DOCUMENTS

United Nations

Management Review of Environmental Governance – Recommendations* –

1. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly for its consideration through the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental, a clear understanding on the division of labour among development agencies, UNEP and the MEAs, outlining their respective areas and types of normative and operational capacity-building activities for environmental protection and sustainable development.
2. The General Assembly should consider adding a system-wide policy orientation for environmental protection and sustainable development of the United Nations system in the United Nations Strategic Framework for the biennium programme plan; and in the event of this decision, should request the Secretary-General to prepare such a system-wide orientation for its approval through the Chief Executives Board.
3. The General Assembly should also decide to authorize the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to adopt the Medium-Term Strategy of UNEP as a system-wide instrument constituting an integral part of the United Nations Strategic Framework.
4. The Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Executive Director of UNEP, should propose to the General Assembly – through UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum – modalities by which Member States can better formulate and manage MEAs without creating an independent convention secretariat.
5. The General Assembly should provide the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum with adequate support through activating its own regular review and evaluate, on a regular basis, the implementation of all MEAs administered within the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring coordination and coherence between them in accordance with decision SS.VII/1 and keep the Assembly informed of progress made.
6. The Secretary-General – on the basis of a proposal of the Executive Director of UNEP and consultations with MEA secretariats – should submit to the General Assembly, for its consideration and approval, guidelines on the establishment of national and, where appropriate, regional platforms on environmental protection and sustainable development policies which can integrate the implementation of MEAs into the CCA and UNDAF processes.
7. The Secretary-General as Chairman of the Chief Executive Board should encourage the executive heads of the organisations and the MEAs:
 - (a) To develop a joint system-wide planning framework for the management and coordination of environmental activities, drawing on the results-based management framework endorsed by General Assembly resolution 60/257, and to this end,
 - (b) To draw up an indicative-planning document serving for joint programming of their activities in the environment sphere.
8. The Secretary-General should undertake, in consultation with the MEAs and relevant United Nations system organisations, a review of the adequacy and effectiveness of funding environmental activities focusing on the concept of incremental costs and submit a report thereon to the General Assembly through the relevant inter-governmental bodies.
9. The General Assembly, upon receipt of the above Secretary-General's report and the views on it of the intergovernmental bodies concerned, should redefine the concept of incremental cost funding applicable to the existing financial mechanisms.
10. The Secretary-General, on the basis of a proposal of the Executive-Director of UNEP and consultation with the UNEP-administered MEA secretariats, should:
 - (a) Develop and/or review the delegation of authority, division of roles and responsibilities of the entities providing administrative, financial and human resource management services to the Conferences of Parties, and;
 - (b) Draw up a clear service level agreement defining the level and type of services to be delivered by the United Nations offices in Nairobi and Geneva to MEA secretariats.
11. The Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Executive Director of UNEP and in consultation with the MEA secretariats, should undertake a review of UNEP and UNON practices concerning the recruitment of staff for MEA secretariats, and propose steps to improve the staffing situation and geographical distribution of staff.
12. The Secretary-General should:
 - (a) Increase transparency in the use of the programme-support cost resources on an actual cost basis and in the services delivered to MEAs administered by the United Nations and UNEP, and to this end ensure that programme-support costs charged for such services are budgeted and applied against actual expenditures incurred.
 - (b) Instruct the United Nations Controller to undertake consultations with United Nations entities that deliver administrative services to the Conferences of the Parties and on the basis thereof submit to the General Assembly for its adoption proposals for setting up a common budget for administrative support services provided to MEAs and inform each CoP on the administrative and budgetary implications arising from this arrangement.

* See also page 130, "Management Review of Environmental Governance Within the United Nations System", JIU/REP/2008/3.