



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Ref: EO/SGB/JA/TO

24 November 2011

Notification by the Executive Director

Twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

(Nairobi, 20–22 February 2012)

1. The twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be held in Nairobi from 20 to 22 February 2012, pursuant to Governing Council decision 26/17 of 24 February 2011. The session will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 20 February, and will be preceded by an informal consultation between regional groups at 6 p.m. on Sunday, 19 February 2012, at the headquarters of UNEP in Nairobi.
2. The provisional agenda (UNEP/GCSS.XII/1), as adopted by the Council/Forum at its twenty-sixth session, and subsequently amended and approved by the Bureau, is being circulated as annex I to the present notification.
3. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, on the report of the Secretary-General on the environment and human settlements, the Governing Council constitutes the annual ministerial-level global environmental forum in which participants gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. The ministerial consultations during the twelfth special session will focus on emerging policy issues under the overall theme of “The environmental agenda in the changing world: from Stockholm (1972) to Rio (2012)”.
4. The Council/Forum will also consider reports submitted by the Executive Director on various issues as requested by decisions of the Council adopted at previous sessions. In addition, the Council/Forum will take up any other issues that may be raised by its members.
5. It is recommended that, at its twelfth special session, the Council/Forum should conduct its work primarily in plenary meetings and hold its interactive ministerial-level dialogues through a blend of plenary meetings and ministerial round tables. The Council/Forum may decide to establish sessional committees, including a committee of the whole, to take up programmatic, administrative and budgetary matters.
6. Delegates' attention is drawn to the thirteenth Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, an event to be held prior to the twelfth special session, on Saturday and Sunday, 18 and 19 February 2012, at the same venue.
7. A list of Governing Council member States for the period 2012–2015 is provided in annex II to the present notification. Under rule 16 of the rules of procedure, an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as the delegations may require, shall represent each member of the Council. Since the Council/Forum is expected to discuss matters considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, and in view of the role of the Committee as a subsidiary organ of the Council/Forum, Governments may wish to consider including their permanent representatives to UNEP in their delegations.
8. Governing Council members are accordingly requested to submit to the Executive Director, by 9 January 2012, the names of their representatives, alternate representatives and advisers who will participate in the twelfth special session. Eligible States not members of the Governing Council wishing to participate in the work under rule 67 of the rules of procedure are also requested to communicate the names of their representatives to the Executive Director by 9 January 2012.
9. Relevant information for the twelfth special session will become available on the UNEP website from 1 December 2011, and may be accessed by selecting “twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum” at the following address: www.unep.org/GC/GCSS-XII.

Executive Office

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10. Various measures are being taken to make the twelfth special session as climate-neutral and environment-friendly as possible. These include the offsetting of greenhouse-gas emissions caused by participants' travel to and stay in Nairobi for participants sponsored by UNEP, a reduction in the number of hard copies of all documents, and communication campaigns. Electronic copies of all pre-session and in-session documents will be made available in conference rooms through dedicated portals. To make the best use of this service, delegates are encouraged to bring laptop computers to the session. With regard to the distribution of documents prior to the session, delegations will receive one copy each of all pre-session documents, and delegates are encouraged to visit the relevant website and download any further copies required. All participants are invited to consider offsetting the greenhouse-gas emissions caused by their travel to and stay in Nairobi.

11. Registration of participants will take place between noon on Friday, 17 February 2012, and noon on Wednesday, 22 February.

12. In accordance with rules 16 and 17 of the rules of procedure, members are requested to submit the credentials of their representatives, alternate representatives and advisers who will constitute the delegations of their countries. The credentials of representatives, which should be issued by a Head of State or Government, or by a minister for foreign affairs, should be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting of the session of the Council/Forum.

13. Information for participants regarding hotel accommodation, medical requirements and visa regulations, together with registration forms, will be provided on the UNEP website.

14. All communications concerning the twelfth special session should be addressed to:

Secretary of the Governing Council
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552-00100
Nairobi, Kenya

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Annex I

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work.
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Emerging policy issues: environment and development.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.
7. Closure of the session.

Annex II

Members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2012–2015

A. Breakdown by alphabetical order (indicating terms of office)

Albania **	Lesotho *
Antigua and Barbuda *	Liberia **
Argentina *	Malaysia *
Australia *	Mauritania *
Bangladesh **	Mauritius **
Belgium *	Mexico **
Brazil *	Mozambique *
Canada *	Netherlands **
Central African Republic *	Nigeria **
Chile **	Norway **
China *	Pakistan *
Colombia **	Poland **
Congo **	Republic of Korea *
Cuba **	Romania *
Czech Republic *	Russian Federation *
Ecuador **	Saudi Arabia **
Egypt **	Senegal **
France *	Spain **
Gabon *	Sudan **
Georgia **	Switzerland *
Germany *	Thailand **
India **	Togo **
Indonesia *	Trinidad and Tobago *
Iran (Islamic Republic of) **	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **
Israel **	United Republic of Tanzania *
Italy **	United States of America *
Japan *	Uruguay *
Kenya *	Zambia *

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2013.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2015.

B. Breakdown by geographical groups (indicating terms of office)

African group

Central African Republic *

Congo **

Egypt **

Gabon *

Kenya *

Lesotho *

Liberia **

Mauritania *

Mauritius **

Mozambique *

Nigeria **

Senegal **

Sudan **

Togo **

United Republic of Tanzania *

Zambia *

Asia-Pacific group

Bangladesh **

China *

India **

Indonesia *

Iran (Islamic Republic of) **

Japan *

Malaysia *

Pakistan *

Republic of Korea *

Saudi Arabia **

Thailand **

Eastern European group

Albania **

Czech Republic *

Georgia **

Poland **

Romania *

Russian Federation *

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2013.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2015.

Latin American group

Antigua and Barbuda *

Argentina *

Brazil *

Chile **

Colombia **

Cuba **

Ecuador **

Mexico **

Trinidad and Tobago *

Uruguay *

Western European and others group

Australia *

Belgium *

Canada *

France *

Germany *

Israel **

Italy **

Netherlands **

Norway **

Spain **

Switzerland *

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **

United States of America *