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**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

Twelfth special session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum
Nairobi, 20–22 February 2012

**Ministerial statement on the United Nations Environment
Programme at 40**

Submission by the President

The annex to the present note sets out a ministerial statement on the United Nations Environment Programme at 40. It is presented as submitted by the President, without formal editing.

Annex

UNEP 40th Anniversary Ministerial Statement, Kenya, February 2012

1. We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Ministerial Environment Forum, met in Nairobi, Kenya, from 20 to 22 February 2012, for the twelfth special session of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1972.
2. We congratulate the United Nations Environment Programme on its successes and effective undertakings as well as the progress that has been achieved in the past 40 years, including the establishment of important multilateral environmental agreements, the development of environmental laws and policy, the findings of key scientific assessments and the stronger awareness at all level of the environmental issues.
3. We recall our commitment to strengthening the role of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the UN system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as set out in the Nairobi Declaration of 1997.
4. We recognize that we depend on natural systems and resources for our existence and are concerned about the continued environmental degradation. Despite the successes of UNEP we are still deeply concerned about the continued environmental degradation which is a threat to the natural systems and resources on which we depend upon.
5. We recognize the Global Environment Outlook's Summary for Policy Makers as an important synthesis of scientific information on environment for policy and decision makers about freshwater, biodiversity, climate change, land, chemicals and wastes, energy and oceans and seas.
6. Therefore we will continue to strengthen our actions to reverse the environmental degradation, to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development and to contribute to the conservation of the essential natural resources and ecosystems on which our economies and societies depend.
7. We welcome the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 (Rio+20) as a unique opportunity to address the economic, social, and environmental challenges in the context of sustainable development and commit to making Rio+20 a success.