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Update on Rio+20 Follow-up

As at 18 January 2013

Bulletin # 11

1. Update from New York

UNGA adopts resolution to strengthen and upgrade UNEP, and establishes universal membership

On Friday 21 December, the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus the resolution to strengthen and upgrade UNEP and reform its governance structure. The resolution (see attached, symbol 67/213) provides for universal membership and empowers the Governing Council to follow up from its February session on paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document. The adoption of the resolution makes UNEP the first UN programme with universal membership of its governing body. It also provides for the GA to increase the UN regular budget allotment to UNEP.

The GA adopted two other resolutions on 21 December also of direct relevance to UNEP. These are the resolution on Agenda 21 and the follow up on the Rio+20 outcome document, which provides for the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (67/203) and the resolution on the Oil Slick on Lebanese Shores (67/201). The final texts of the resolutions will only be available by mid-March. Further details on the discussions in the GA on the resolutions is available at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/67/resolutions.shtml>

UNGA adopts Resolution on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)

The GA, on 21 December, also adopted a resolution (67/226) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of UN operational activities for development. It represents a significant step in the reform of the UN development system, calling for far-reaching changes in the functioning of the UN development system and introducing significant decisions to advance the coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and relevance of UN operational activities for development.

Agreement on Open Working Group on SDGs

An agreement has been reached on the allocation of the 30 seats in the GA's Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A total of approximately 90 countries will be involved in the OWG with Africa nominating 11 countries, Asia and the Pacific 21 countries, Latin America and the Caribbean 14 countries, Western Europe and Others 15 countries and Eastern Europe nine countries. The GA is expected to adopt a resolution in the coming days which will commence the follow up to one of the key decisions of the Rio+20 conference.

Informal Consultations on the Commission on Sustainable Development

On 15 January, Kazakhstan, as Chair of the 20th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), organized informal consultations to discuss the upcoming CSD session and seek the views of Member States on lessons learned from the Commission.

Fiji assumes chairmanship of G77 and China

Fiji has succeeded Algeria as the chair of G77 and China at UN Headquarters in New York. At a ceremony attended by Fiji's Prime Minister JV Bainimarama, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, General Assembly President Vuk Jeremić, and G77 members, the Fijian leader said the Rio +20 follow-up processes would be one of the main priorities of the group in 2013. It would pay special attention to ensuring a fair representation of developing countries in the international fora and to the effective and full implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes. These included enforcing effective institutional frameworks for sustainable development at all levels and providing the adequate means for developing countries to implement those outcomes. The Secretary-General said he would count on the Group's engagement and leadership on issues pertaining to his five-year action agenda, which he outlined in 2012. These are: sustainable development; preventing conflicts and disasters, human rights abuses and development setbacks; building a safer, more secure world; supporting nations in transition; and empowering women and young people.

2. Other News

UN briefs Member States on national and global thematic consultations on post-2015 development agenda

The United Nations has briefed UN member states on the status of the consultations currently underway across the world as part of preparations of the post-2015 development agenda. The briefing, by UNDP and UN-Women, focused on national and global thematic consultations. A total of 66 national consultations are either ongoing or planned, and will use different means and formats, from town hall meetings to social media. Two key objectives of these national consultations are to increase the future legitimacy of the post-2015 development agenda, through wide public awareness; and to engage marginal, minority and disadvantaged groups. The goal is also to carry out national consultations in at least 100 countries. Eleven global thematic consultations are also underway. The 11 themes, including environmental sustainability, are being carried out through various media and formats, such as the internet and workshops. The UN Development Group (UNDG), which selected the themes, is

ensuring that the consultations are coordinated and coherent, promoting civil society and citizenry engagement, as well as creating public awareness and knowledge. Information on the consultations is available at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/>

UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Technical Support Team to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) held its first meeting on 9 January. The Technical Support Team will support the newly formed Open Working Group on SDGs through analytical inputs as well as through outreach and engagement with civil society and the scientific community.

The Working Group on the Global Partnership for Development has finished its first round of work with the submission of the final drafts of nine think pieces. The Working Group is in the process of developing a synthesis report that will be ready for publication in mid-February which will feed into the meeting of the High-Level Panel in Bali in March that will focus on global partnerships.

The Working Group on Monitoring and Indicators has established sub-groups to develop think pieces. The first meeting of the Working Group itself will be held in late January.

Third meeting of the High Level Panel

The third meeting of the High-Level Panel will take place between 30 January and 2 February in Monrovia. The meeting will be organized around the central theme of 'National Building Blocks for Sustained Prosperity', with a particular focus on economic transformation. The meeting will seek, among other priorities to: discuss the elements of an outline for the Panel report and criteria for prioritizing the post-2015 agenda; identify the drivers of economic transformation that need due consideration in a future global framework; share evidence and consultation findings from various constituencies with members of the High-Level Panel; take stock of the emerging post-2015 agenda based on the discussions at New York and London and other Panel member contributions, so that Monrovia builds on this groundwork; and identify issues to be discussed at the fourth HLP meeting in Bali in March. UNEP is currently finalising its input to the Monrovia meeting. Further details on the meeting can be found at <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/Post2015HLP>

The 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP)

One of the main concrete and operational outcomes of the Rio+20 conference is the adoption of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). UNEP has been requested to serve as the 10YFP Secretariat, and to establish and administer a Trust Fund to support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The 10YFP adopted text calls for collaboration “with all relevant UN Bodies, [...]

through an inter-agency coordination group, and with regional entities and commissions so that there is strong coordination” (paragraph 4.a.ii). UNEP has this week invited agencies to nominate representatives in the 10YFP Inter-agency Coordination Group. A terms of reference (ToR) for the Coordination Group is being developed in close consultation with current partners from UN agencies involved in SCP activities.

The 10YFP also invites governments “to designate sustainable consumption and production focal points for engagement with the 10YFP, with a view to ensuring contact and coordination with the board and the secretariat” (paragraph 4.d). As a follow up to the Rio+20 decision, the UN GA adopted resolution 67/203 of 21 December, 2012, which designated the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as the *ad interim* Member State body to receive reports from the board and secretariat. The GA also established a 10-member board – with two members from each of the five UN regional groups - to be nominated by 31 January 2013. The GA also invited Member States and other stakeholders to designate focal points for SCP, and UNEP has written to Member States in this regard. The designation of national focal points will enhance coordination and cooperation in each country with different ministries and stakeholders, as well as among countries. The designated person will be the focal point for exchanges with the secretariat and the board of the 10YFP, and will facilitate communication, nationally and internationally, including by participating in meetings, supporting work and activities of the 10YFP programmes. The focal point could also, submit national proposals to the Trust Fund, as appropriate, and disseminate relevant information to national counterparts and stakeholders, as well as to other relevant partners, including at the international level.

In addition, having the designated national focal points will allow UNEP, as the 10YFP Secretariat, to keep the countries informed about the activities under the 10YFP, and request their timely feedback, participation and engagement as necessary.