

# Rio+20: From Outcome to Implementation



The First Universal Session of the  
Governing Council/  
Global Ministerial Environment Forum  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Nairobi, 18-22 February 2013

## Debriefing

Thursday 28 February 2013

International Environment House 2

**GENEVA  
ENVIRONMENT  
NETWORK**

# AGENDA

14.15 Coffee & Tea

**14:30 Welcome and introduction**

Jan DUSIK, acting Director and Regional Representative, UNEP

**14:35 Outcomes of the First Universal Session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum**

Achim STEINER, Executive Director, UNEP

Jan DUSIK, acting Director and Regional Representative, UNEP

Steven STONE, Head, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP

Tim KASTEN, Head, Chemicals Branch, UNEP

Barbara RUIS, Legal Officer, UNEP

15:40 Question-and-answer session

16:30 End

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# PRE-SESSION EVENTS

- **Tunza International Youth Conference**, 10 - 14 February
- **14th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-14)**, 16-17 February
- **High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law and the Environment**, 17 February
- **Forum on Gender and the Environment -Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for Environment and UNEP**, 17 February



# OTHER EVENTS

- **Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) Cocktail Reception**, 19 February
- **UNEP Reception and Dinner** (think.eat.save campaign), 19 February
- **Sustainable Innovations Expo**, 20 - 22 February
- **The UNEP Marathon**, 24 February



# SIDE-EVENTS

- **Rapid Change in the Arctic**, 18 February
- **UNEP's role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and SDGs and 10YFP SCP**, 18 February
- **Building the Ecological Foundation of Food Security**, 20 February
- **Climate and Clean Air Coalition to reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC)**, 20 February
- **Social Dialogue for Green and Decent Jobs. Sustain Labor**, 20 February
- **Strengthening the human rights and environment nexus for sustainable development**, 21 February
- **Presentation of Road Map on the process of establishment of an instrument on the application of Principle 10 in LAC**, 21 February
- **Africa priority flagship programmes in follow-up to Rio+20 outcomes**, 22 February

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# NUMBERS

- Over 1300 participants
- 147 countries represented, including 80 ministers
- Other representatives from: UN agencies, international organizations, academia, NGOs, business and industry, and women and youth organizations



# GMEF

- On **Rio+20 From Outcome to Implementation, and the implementation of paragraph 88 of “The Future We Want”**, ministers recognized the need to advance towards a participatory and effective UNEP focused on implementation. Ministers stressed the importance of focusing on deepening impact and ensuring better processes and systems.
- On **green economy** in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, ministers urged overcoming the perception that economic growth can only come at the expense of the environment, and vice versa.
- On **environmental challenges within sustainable development and UNEP’s contribution to the SDG process and promoting SCP**, ministers recognized the opportunity to integrate the post-2015 development agenda with the yet to be developed SDGs.



# 13 DECISIONS ADOPTED (1)

1. State of the Environment
2. Sustainable consumption and production (SCP)
3. Chemicals and wastes management and enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster
4. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
5. Oceans
6. International Water Quality Guidelines for Ecosystems
7. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction





# 13 DECISIONS ADOPTED (2)

8. Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)
9. Environment and development: justice, governance and law for environment sustainability
10. Coordination and cooperation within the UN system on environmental matters
11. Follow-up and implementation of UN summit outcomes
12. Budget and Programme of Work for the biennium 2014-2015
13. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the next session of the GC of the UNEP



# DECISION ON CHEMICALS

- The omnibus decision on chemicals and wastes management (UNEP/GC.27/L.4) contains sections on:
  - lead and cadmium,
  - mercury,
  - implementation of SAICM,
  - waste management,
  - enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals cluster,
  - financing for chemicals and wastes.
- The decision invites all stakeholders to support the sound management of chemicals and wastes as an important contribution to building a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and recognizes the significance of the Global Chemicals Outlook findings.

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# DECISION ON GREEN ECONOMY (1)

- In the decision on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (UNEP/GC.27/CW/L.2/Add.3), the GC, *inter alia*:
  - takes note with appreciation of those countries that have endeavored to promote the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication based on their countries' own circumstances and priorities, such as the idea of ecological civilization, natural capital accounting, payment for ecosystem services, low-carbon economy and resource efficiency;
  - acknowledges that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools member states can use in order to achieve sustainable development, and takes note of the approach of living-well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth;

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# DECISION ON GREEN ECONOMY (2)

- requests UNEP’s Executive Director, within the programme’s existing mandate and available resources, to collect such initiatives, endeavors, practices and experiences on different approaches, visions, models and tools, including green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to disseminate them and facilitate information sharing among countries so as to support their sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts; and
- invites states to implement green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication taking into account section 3 of “The Future We Want” (green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication).

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# DECISION ON UN SUMMIT OUTCOMES (1)

The GC welcomed the Rio+20 outcome and reaffirms the need to strengthen international environmental governance and coordination within the UN system and, *inter alia*, decided:

- to recommend to the UN General Assembly that the GC be renamed “**United Nations Environment Assembly**” of UNEP;
- that **UNEP’s governing body will convene its sessions in Nairobi on a biennial basis**, starting in 2014;
- to discontinue the GMEF;
- that each session of UNEP’s governing body will conclude with a **two-day high-level segment that will take strategic decisions and perform several key functions**, including: setting the global environmental agenda; providing policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging issues; **guiding the future direction of UNEP**; and organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue.

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# DECISION ON UN SUMMIT OUTCOMES (2)

- that the governing body “will ensure” **active stakeholder participation and explore new mechanisms to promote effective civil society engagement in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies**, *inter alia* by: developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the rules of procedure and considers the inclusive modalities of the CSD and other relevant UN bodies; and enhancing by 2014 “working methods and processes” for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision-making process;
- that **the governing body will promote a “strong science-policy interface”** by reviewing the state of the environment and building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, and requests the Executive Director to “identify critical gaps and present a report, with recommendations, to the governing body”;



# DECISION ON UN SUMMIT OUTCOMES (3)

- that an **open-ended CPR** will be the **subsidiary intersessional body of UNEP's governing body** and, in addition to its mandate, will, *inter alia*: contribute to preparation of the agenda of the governing body; prepare decisions for adoption by its governing body and oversee their implementation; and promote “effective ways and means” to facilitate participation of the non-resident members of the CPR, “particularly from developing countries;”
- to **establish a sub-committee of the CPR** to hold five-day meetings every year to review the medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget and to oversee their implementation and accountability by the Secretariat;

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# DECISION ON UN SUMMIT OUTCOMES (4)

- to commit “**progressively consolidate its headquarters functions in Nairobi**” and requests the Executive Director to present a report and make recommendations on this issue to the governing body at its next session; and
- to **strengthen UNEP’s regional presence** in order to assist countries in the implementation of their national environmental programmes, policies and plans and requests the Executive Director to increase UNEP’s participation in UN Country Teams.

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