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

**Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 18–22 February 2013
Agenda item 5*

**Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of
United Nations summits and major intergovernmental
meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council**

**Draft decision prepared by the working group on institutional
arrangements and rules of procedure**

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out a draft decision on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, submitted by the co-chairs of the working group on institutional arrangements and rules of procedure. It is presented as submitted, without formal editing.

* UNEP/GC.27/1.

Annex

Implementation of paragraph 88 of the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the outcome document, “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) held between 20-22 June, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil that invited the General Assembly to adopt, at its sixty-seventh session a resolution strengthening and upgrading UNEP, as outlined in paragraph 88 sub-paragraphs (a-h) of the outcome document and further recalling resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Recognizing General Assembly Resolution 67/213 on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and convening of the first universal session of the governing body of the UNEP,

1. *Recommends* to the United Nations General Assembly that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, an inter-governmental body established pursuant to Article 22 of the United Nations Charter, be renamed as the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;
2. *Reaffirms* the commitment to strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;
3. *Decides* that the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme will convene its sessions in Nairobi on a biennial basis, starting in 2014, and it will carry out its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) and all other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP, the 2000 Malmo Ministerial Declaration, the 2010 Nusa Dua Declaration, and paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 67/213;
4. *Decides* to discontinue the Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
5. *Decides* that each session of the governing body of United Nations Environment Programme will conclude with a two-day high level segment as an integral part of the governing body of United Nations Environment Programme, which will take strategic decisions and provide political guidance and will perform *inter alia* the following functions:
 - (a) Setting the global environmental agenda;
 - (b) Providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges;
 - (c) Undertaking policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences;
 - (d) Setting the strategic guidance on the future direction of the United Nations Environment Programme;
 - (e) Organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue;
 - (f) Fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resources mobilization;
6. *Decides* that the Bureau of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme shall be composed of 10 members to reflect the universality of the governing body, in accordance with equitable geographical distribution, and will assist the governing body and perform the functions as set out in the rules of procedure of the governing body;
7. *Decides* that the governing body will ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and will explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, *inter alia* by:

- (a) Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission of Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;
- (b) Establishing by 2014 mechanisms and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice;
- (c) Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision making process;
8. *Decides* that the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme will promote a strong science policy interface by reviewing the state of the environment, by building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including through an enhanced Summary for Policy Makers of the Global Environment Outlook, and in this regard, requests the Executive Director to identify critical gaps and present a report, with recommendations, to the governing body;
9. *Decides* that an open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will be the subsidiary inter-sessional body of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme and, in addition to its mandate and in open and transparent manner, will perform the following functions:
- (a) Contribute to preparation of the agenda of its governing body;
- (b) Provide advice to its governing body on policy matters;
- (c) Prepare decisions for adoption by its governing body and oversee their implementation;
- (d) Convene thematic and/or programmatic debates
- (e) Promote effective ways and means to facilitate participation of the non-resident members of the Committee, particularly from developing countries
- (f) Perform any other functions delegated to it by its governing body;
10. *Decides* to convene an open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, while ensuring support to developing countries representatives, to enable the participation of capital-based delegates as well as stakeholders for a period of five days in an even year to contribute to preparation of the agenda of its governing body, and to provide advice to its governing body on policy matters;
11. *Decides* to establish a sub-committee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives that will meet annually for a period of 5 days to review, with the support of the secretariat, the Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work/Budget, in a manner coherent with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations, to be endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and for the governing body's approval, and to oversee their implementation and accountability by the Secretariat;
12. *Decides* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives will consider the frequency, schedule and programmatic focus of its meetings to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness and will improve upon its working methods;
13. *Commits* to progressively consolidate its headquarter functions in Nairobi and in this context requests the Executive Director to present a report to the governing body at its next session and to include recommendations in the Programme of Work for the period 2016-2017 to be acted upon and implemented in a timely manner;
14. *Decides* to strengthen UNEP's regional presence in order to assist countries in the implementation of their national environmental programmes, policies and plans and in this regard requests the Executive Director to increase UNEP's participation in UN Country Teams;
15. *Stresses* the importance of the regional ministerial environment forums for which the United Nations Environment Programme serves as the secretariats, and invites these forums to contribute, as appropriate, to the work of the governing body of UNEP;
16. *Decides* to consider additional measures to strengthen UNEP's voice and ability to fulfill its coordination mandate on environmental matters, and in this regard, *invites* the Secretary-General to take necessary steps to enhance UNEP's role in key United Nations coordination bodies;
17. *Decides* to enhance transparency and openness in its work and in this regard request the Executive Director to establish a written access-to-information policy;

18. *Invites* the Executive Director to continue improving the timeliness and responsiveness to the needs and requests by the member states, and recalls the relevant provisions of paragraph 13 of its decision 19/32;

19. *Stresses* the need by no later than 2016 to implement the provisions of paragraph 88 (b) of the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and *requests* the Executive Director to report thereon;

20. *Decides* to implement paragraph 88 (f) of the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and in this context, request the Executive Director to enhance the operationalization of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity- building;

21. *Invites* the General Assembly to adopt a resolution to change the designation of the Governing Council along the lines of the text contained in annex to this decision.

Annex to decision on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document: Draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly

Change of the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972 concerning institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation, by which the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme was established,

Also recalling its resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012 on the Report on the Governing Council of United Nations Environmental Programme on its Twelfth Special Session and on the Implementation of Section IV.C “Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development” of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of Governing Council decision xxx of 22 February 2013, by which the Governing Council recommends to the General Assembly to change its designation to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, it being understood that this change of the designation in no way changes, nor will change, the present mandate, aims and purposes of the United Nations Environment Programme or the role and functions of its governing body;

2. *Decides* to change the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.
