

## **SS.XI/1: International environmental governance**

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 25/4 of 20 February 2009, in which it decided to establish a consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives, which was requested to conclude its work and present a set of options for improving international environmental governance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at the current session, with a view to providing inputs to the General Assembly,

*Expressing* thanks to the Governments of Serbia and Italy for hosting the meetings of the consultative group in Belgrade and Rome, respectively, and gratitude to the Minister of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy and the Minister of Environment and Mineral Resources of Kenya for co-chairing the consultative group and appreciation to the Executive Director for serving as adviser to the group,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the result of the process requested in the above-mentioned decision;

2. *Takes note* of the set of options for improving international environmental governance identified by the consultative group;<sup>1</sup>

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to identify, in full consultation with all Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the incremental changes in the set of options, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, that can be immediately implemented during the biennium 2010–2011 and those to be integrated into the development of the programme of work for the period 2012–2013, and to present a report on the matter to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session;

4. *Invites* the President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as an input to the continuing process of improving international environmental governance;

5. *Decides* to establish a regionally representative, consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives, inviting each United Nations region to propose between four and six Governments to participate, while remaining open to participation by other interested Governments, and in this regard requests the Executive Director to seek additional extrabudgetary resources to facilitate the further participation of representatives of developing countries in addition to the nominated regional representatives;

6. *Also decides* that the group will have two co-chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, and requests the Executive Director to participate as an adviser to the group, which will also comprise high-level representatives of relevant United Nations agencies, designated through the Environment Management Group;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the Environment Management Group, to invite the United Nations system to provide input to the group, including by assessing gaps, needs and considerations related to how the system is currently achieving the identified objectives and functions for international environmental governance;

8. *Decides* that the group will consider the broader reform of the international environmental governance system, building on the set of options but remaining open to new ideas;

9. *Invites* the consultative group, through the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat, to seek relevant inputs from civil society groups from each region in the process of further strengthening international environmental governance;

10. *Decides* that the group will conclude its work in a timely fashion and present a final report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session in anticipation of the Council's contribution in time for the second meeting of the open-ended preparatory committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to seek extrabudgetary resources to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries in the group's meetings;

12. *Requests* countries in a position to do so to provide financial support for the participation of representatives of developing countries.