



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 18 March 2013**

**7530/13**

**ENV 220**  
**DEVGEN 71**  
**ONU 24**  
**RELEX 224**

**NOTE**

---

from: General Secretariat  
to: Delegations

---

Subject: International Meetings and Events  
27th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment  
Forum (GCSS-XII GMEF) (Nairobi, 18-22 February 2013)  
- Information from the Presidency and the Commission

---

Delegations will find attached an information note on the above, submitted jointly by the Presidency and the Commission, to be dealt with under "other business" at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 21 March 2013.

**Outcome of the 27th Session of the  
UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GCSS-XII GMEF)  
(Nairobi, 18-22 February 2013)**

**- Information from the Presidency and the Commission -**

**Introduction**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum took place in Nairobi from 18 to 22 February 2013. This was the first UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum since the Rio+20 Conference where it was decided to strengthen and upgrade UNEP and the first session with universal membership in line with the Rio+20 outcome document – *The Future We Want*.

One of the key outcomes of this meeting was the adoption of a decision on the new institutional arrangements for the enhanced and upgraded UNEP. In particular, the UNEP Governing Council will be replaced by a United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), which will have a High Level Segment that will replace the GMEF. This will allow Ministers to make strategic and politically important decisions which should lead to better political accountability and a stronger funding base for the UNEA.

**Ministerial consultations**

The Ministerial Segment took place over the first three days of the Session during which Ministers discussed a range of issues including the key priority of Institutional Reform of UNEP, Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Economy. Several EU Member States were represented at the minister/secretary of state level. Both the Irish Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan, and the Environment Commissioner, Janez Potočnik, took part in the consultations.

## **The Governing Council**

The Governing Council took thirteen decisions across a range of themes – the upgrading and strengthening of UNEP, some amendments to the Rules of Procedure, International water quality guidelines, IPBES, Coordination across the UN system including the EMG, Oceans, Sustainable consumption and production (SCP), Advancing justice, governance and the rule of law, Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the new Climate Technology Centre and Network, the State of the Environment, Chemicals and waste (including financing) and UNEP’s Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work and Budget.

Further details on the negotiations and outcomes of the meeting are available at

<http://www.unep.org>

## **New Institutional Arrangements**

One of the key outcomes of the 27th session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was a decision on the new institutional arrangements for the strengthened and upgraded UNEP. The main elements of this decision are:

- The replacement of the UNEP Governing Council by the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), which will meet on a biennial basis.
- The replacement of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum by a High Level Segment of the UNEA for the last two days of the biennial meetings, which will take strategic decisions and provide political guidance in relation to environmental issues as well as organising a multi-stakeholder dialogue.
- Inter-sessional work to be carried out by an open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) which will, inter alia, contribute to the preparation of the agenda of the governing body, provide advice on policy matters and prepare decisions and oversee their implementation.

- An intersessional open-ended meeting of the CPR to meet for a 5 day period in even years to contribute to preparing the agenda. This meeting will also include capital based delegates.
- A sub-committee of the CPR to meet annually for 5 days to review the Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work/Budget in a manner coherent with the UN budgetary cycle.
- The establishment of a process to enhance stakeholder participation based on the modalities of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant UN bodies.

---