

PRELIMINARY PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

19 September 2012

1. Introduction

1. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 26/17 II, the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be held in Nairobi from 18 to 22 February 2013.
2. The provisional agenda of GC27, as adopted by GC26, is provided in **Annex I**. List of members of the Governing Council is provided in **Annex II**.
3. The notification by the Executive Director to GC27 will be sent in due course. It has been a practice that the notifications to Governing Council sessions have been sent to all Governments, regardless of their membership of the Council.
4. The current GC Bureau will complete its term of office at the outset of GC27 when a new Bureau is elected for two-year term (2013-2014). The President for GC27 will be elected from the African Group. The geographical composition of the Bureau is provided in **Annex III**. Chairs of the Nairobi-based regional groups were requested for completing the process of nomination of candidates by 14 December 2012. In a subsequent request on 17 September, the deadline for receiving the nominations has been advanced to 01 December 2012 in order to facilitate early consultations among the nominated members and to provide them with appropriate briefings on the ongoing process at the United Nations General Assembly in New York regarding the strengthening and upgrade of UNEP.
5. It is to be noted that positions of two vice presidents of the bureau from Eastern European Region and GRULAC region became vacant following changes of ministers of Environment of Romania and Uruguay. The chairs of these two regions have been intimated of this situation on 17 September 2012.
6. The Committee of Permanent Representatives will discuss the status of preparations for GC27 at the **120th meeting** scheduled for **26 September 2012**. The CPR will again discuss the status of preparations for GC27 at the **121st meeting** scheduled for **13 December 2012**, following a series of Subcommittee meetings scheduled for November 2012 to consider advance copy of the working documents. Another series of Subcommittee meetings will be held early 2013 to prepare draft decisions for submission to GC27.

2. Programme of the session

7. GC27 will be preceded by pre-session events, including 14th Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum.

8. GC27 will be preceded by informal consultations by the Executive Director with the regional groups, to be held on Sunday, 17 February, 4 p.m.
9. At the opening plenary meeting the Council will elect its officers for a new two-year-term (2013-2014).
10. The plenary may wish to establish sessional committees as required, e.g.:
 - ✦ Committee of the Whole;
 - ✦ Drafting Group;
 - ✦ Friends of the President to prepare a President's summary.

3. Ministerial consultations

11. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242, the Governing Council constitutes the annual ministerial-level global environmental forum.
12. The Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) met on 14 September 2102 and discussed various aspects of GC27. Keeping in view the importance of the post Rio environmental agenda and UNEP's role in it, the theme of GMEF may cover issues such as green economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) etc. On the structure of GC/GMEF, the Bureau considered reducing the duration of the GC from five to four days (Monday to Thursday). It is to be noted that the 26th session of the Governing Council (GC26- Nairobi 2010) was also held for duration of four days. The ministerial segment of GMEF will run from Monday to Wednesday with a mix of plenary meetings and interactive Round Tables discussions. These ideas will be further developed in consultation with the CPR.

4. Draft decisions

13. It is envisaged that the secretariat will submit draft decisions on the following subject areas:
 1. Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes
 2. World environment situation;
 3. Chemicals and waste management;
 4. Sustainable consumption and production;
 5. Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster
 6. Medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017
 7. Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2014-2015;
 8. Trust funds and earmarked contributions

5. Documentation

14. Pursuant to mandate given by decisions adopted by past GC sessions, it is envisaged that the following documents are submitted to GC27:

- **UNEP/GC.27/1** and **Add.1** Provisional agenda and annotations

- **UNEP/GC.27/2** Policy statement of the Executive Director
- **UNEP/GC.27/3** World environment situation, progress report in implementation of assessment initiative; Development of the UNEP-Live platform [**suggested action included**];
- **UNEP/GC.27/4** Progress report on chemicals and waste management; lead and cadmium, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; mercury and waste management including electrical electronic waste; The updated report entitled "Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport," [**suggested action included**];
- **UNEP/GC.27/5** Progress report on sustainable consumption and production [**suggested action included**];
- **UNEP/GC.27/6** Cooperation and coordination between UNEP and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements;
- **UNEP/GC.27/7** Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes [**suggested action included**];
- **UNEP/GC.27/8** Outcome on the consultative process for enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster [**suggested action included**];
- **UNEP/GC.27/9** Medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 [**suggested action included**];
- **UNEP/GC.27/10** Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2014-2015 [**suggested action included**];
- **UNEP/GC.27/11** Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions [**suggested action included**];
- **UNEP/GC.27/12** Progress reports on:
 - (i) Global Environment Monitoring System Water Programme;
 - (ii) International cooperation on the environmental aspects of emergency response and preparedness;
 - (iii) Contribution of UNEP to promoting South-South cooperation;
 - (iv) Coordination across the United Nations system including the Environment Management Group;
 - (v) Midterm progress report on the implementation of the long-term strategy on the engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues;
- **UNEP/GC.27/13** Background papers for the ministerial consultations;
- **UNEP/GC.27/INF/1** Documents being submitted to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-seventh session
- **UNEP/GC.27/INF/2** UNEP Yearbook: Note by the Executive Director
- **UNEP/GC.26/INF/3** Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme and measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208
- **UNEP/GC.26/INF/4** Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme
- **UNEP/GC.26/INF/5** Statements and recommendations from major groups and stakeholders to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-seventh session

- **UNEP/GC.26/INF/6** Status of the Environment Fund and other sources of funding of the United Nations Environment Programme
- **UNEP/GC.27/INF/6/Add.1** Report on the progress made in respect of each of the subprogrammes and their relevant expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations;
- **UNEP/GC.27/INF/7** Report of the Board of Auditors on the audit of the accounts of the Environment Fund for the biennium ended 31 December 2011: Note by the Executive Director
- **UNEP/GC.27/INF/8** Changes in the status of ratification of and accession to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment: Note by the Executive Director
- **UNEP/GC.27/INF/9** Corporate memorandums of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other bodies of the United Nations system: Note by the Executive Director;
- Additional information documents suggested on:
 - (i) Eye on Earth progress report;
 - (ii) Global Chemicals Outlook;
 - (iii) Responsible resource management for sustainable world (findings from the International Resources Panel);
 - (iv) Joint report by the Executive Directors of UNEP and UN-Habitat.

15. A series of 5 meetings of CPR Subcommittees is scheduled to consider the advance copy of the working documents, beginning on 15 November 2012.

6. Greening Governing Council and paper-smart meeting

16. As per current practice, all meetings of the Governing Council will be held in a paper smart format. All pre-session and in-session documents will be uploaded on a dedicated portal, from which delegates will download relevant documents using laptops.

17. Other Greening measures will also be in place for meetings and events during GC27.

7. Side events and special events

18. Side events will be organized on subjects that are related to the theme of the GMEF.

19. Some governments/regional groups may wish to organize special events.

Annex I: Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
 - (a) State of the environment;
 - (b) Emerging policy issues;
 - (c) International environmental governance;
 - (d) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters;
 - (e) Coordination and cooperation with major groups;
 - (f) Environment and development.
5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.
6. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters.
7. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
 - (a) Thirteenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
 - (b) Twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the session.

Annex II: Members of the Governing Council

A. Breakdown by alphabetical order (indicating terms of office)

Albania **	Lesotho *
Antigua and Barbuda *	Liberia **
Argentina *	Malaysia *
Australia *	Mauritania *
Bangladesh **	Mauritius **
Belgium *	Mexico **
Brazil *	Mozambique *
Canada *	Netherlands **
Central African Republic *	Nigeria **
Chile **	Norway **
China *	Pakistan *
Colombia **	Poland **
Congo **	Republic of Korea *
Cuba **	Romania *
Czech Republic *	Russian Federation *
Ecuador **	Saudi Arabia **
Egypt **	Senegal **
Fiji **	Spain **
France *	Sudan **
Gabon *	Switzerland *
Georgia **	Thailand **
Germany *	Togo **
India **	Trinidad and Tobago *
Indonesia *	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **
Iran (Islamic Republic of) **	United Republic of Tanzania *
Israel **	United States of America *
Italy **	Uruguay *
Japan *	Zambia *
Kenya *	

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2013.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2015.

Note: one position from the Asia-Pacific region remains vacant.

B. Breakdown by geographical groups (indicating terms of office)**African group**

Central African Republic *

Congo **

Egypt **

Gabon *

Kenya *

Lesotho *

Liberia **

Mauritania *

Mauritius **

Mozambique *

Nigeria **

Senegal **

Sudan **

United Republic of Tanzania *

Togo **

Zambia *

Asia-Pacific group

Bangladesh **

China *

Fiji **

India **

Indonesia *

Iran (Islamic Republic of) **

Japan *

Malaysia *

Pakistan *

Republic of Korea *

Saudi Arabia **

Thailand **

Eastern European group

Albania **

Czech Republic *

Georgia **

Poland **

Romania *

Russian Federation *

* Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2013.

** Members whose terms expire on 31 December 2015.

Note: one position from the Asia-Pacific region remains vacant.

Latin American group

Antigua and Barbuda *

Argentina *

Brazil *

Chile **

Colombia **

Cuba **

Ecuador **

Mexico **

Trinidad and Tobago *

Uruguay *

Western European and others group

Australia *

Belgium *

Canada *

France *

Germany *

Israel **

Italy **

Netherlands **

Norway **

Spain **

Switzerland *

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **

United States of America *

Annex III: Geographical composition of the Bureau

YEAR	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
African Group	Pres Nigeria	VP Kenya	VP Algeria	VP Burundi	Rapp Uganda	Pres Uganda/ Tanzania	VP Burkina Faso	VP South Africa	VP Algeria Congo	Rapp Mozambi que	Pres
Asian Group	VP Philippines	Pres Pakistan	VP India	Rapp Iran	VP Indonesia	VP ROK	Pres Indonesia	VP Pakistan	Rapp Indonesia	VP Indonesia	VP
Eastern European Group	Rapp Poland	VP Romania	VP Russian Federation	Pres Slovakia	VP Poland	Rapp Czech Republic	VP Romania	VP Czech Republic	Pres Serbia	VP Hungary Romania	Rapp
Latin American and Caribbean Group	VP Venezuela	Rapp Chile	Pres Venezuela	VP Mexico	VP Cuba	VP Colombia	Rapp Bahamas	Pres Costa Rica	VP Mexico	VP Uruguay	VP
Western European and Others Group	VP Denmark	VP United kingdom	Rapp Canada	VP Nether- lands	Pres Canada	VP Nether- lands	VP Switzerlan d	Rapp Austria	VP USA	Pres Spain	VP

Pres: President
 VP: Vice-President
 Rapp: Rapporteur