

## **2/18. Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats**

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Recalling* Governing Council decisions 26/9, SS.XII/1 and SS.XII/3 and 27/13 as well as its own resolution 1/12, in which the Executive Director was requested to produce reports on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats,

*Acknowledging* that since the United Nations Environment Programme and each of the multilateral environmental agreements have their own legally independent governance structures, decision-making bodies and procedures, it is beneficial for governments to ensure that their policy-making on, and implementation of, relevant resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly and decisions of multilateral environmental agreements are mutually supportive,

*Noting* that specific provisions contained in each multilateral environmental agreement stipulate the key functions, prerogatives and responsibilities of the relevant governing bodies and secretariats for the operationalization of the agreements,

*Noting also* that when the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements decide to request that the Executive Director provide their secretariats, they accept that the multilateral environmental agreements' secretariats will become subject to the administrative and financial regulations and rules of the United Nations as applied to the United Nations Environment Programme and as supplemented by the multilateral environmental agreements' own financial rules,

*Recalling* that when the Executive Director has been entrusted with providing the secretariat for a multilateral environmental agreement, the Executive Director also requires the approval of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish appropriate arrangements for carrying out secretariat functions and to establish or extend the trust funds of those multilateral environmental agreements,

*Noting with appreciation* that the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides or will provide the secretariat for numerous multilateral environmental agreements listed in the annex to the present resolution (hereinafter referred to as the "UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements"),

*Recalling* its resolution 1/16, which notes that agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme carries out the functions of the secretariat must be based on the principle of cost recovery when it comes to administrative costs, in line with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations,

*Noting* the Executive Director's report on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements<sup>1</sup> and the work of the task team, which was based on close cooperation between the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements and the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing its recommendations,

*Welcoming* the steps taken by the Executive Director to improve the effectiveness of administrative arrangements, delivery of service, and the mutual supportiveness of programmes of work between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides a secretariat, including taking steps to implement the recommendations of the task team,

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/E.A.2/11.

## A

### **Institutional framework and accountability**

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, such as a memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director and the conferences of the parties or other relevant governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, for their consideration;
2. *Encourages* the Executive Director, in establishing the delegations of authority to the heads of the multilateral environment agreement secretariats, to maintain the flexibility required on a case-by-case basis, including to reflect the size of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats;

## B

### **Administrative and financial framework**

3. *Invites* the governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements to bring to the attention of the Executive Director any administrative or financial challenges they face as a result of the practical implementation of their memorandums of understanding;
4. *Also invites* the governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements to share among themselves good practices in respect of their budget and human resources management;
5. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to waive programme support costs on voluntary contributions for participation costs when arranging participation is done by administrative staff financed by the programme support costs on the operating budget;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare information for the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements on the implications of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards for their operational budgets;

## C

### **Mutual supportiveness of programmes of work**

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, when invited to do so by the governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to foster mutually supportive programmes of work between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and make available relevant scientific information important to their work;

## D

### **Future steps**

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts in these matters in an open and transparent manner, and to report on progress made to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.

## **Annex**

### **List of multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides the secretariat or where decisions to that effect are in place**

#### **Agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides the secretariat**

1. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

2. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its associated agreements
3. Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols
4. Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
5. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
6. Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa
7. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
8. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
9. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its protocols
10. Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and its protocols
11. Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention) and its protocols
12. Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention) and its protocols
13. Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

**Agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides the interim secretariat and the United Nations Environment Assembly has accepted that it should provide the permanent secretariat**

14. Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)

**Agreements that specify that the United Nations Environment Programme should provide the secretariat upon entry into force**

15. Minamata Convention on Mercury