



Statement by Representative of Malaysia during Informal consultations on the institutional framework of UN's environmental activities – paragraph 169 Of the Summit Outcome Document.

Date: 18 Jan 2007

Mr. Co-Chairs,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

2. The state of the world's environment, by most measures, is in a decline – climate change is intensifying, species are disappearing, fish stocks are dwindling, coral reefs are suffocating, and so on. Clearly, policies and programs are not working so well, at UN level and elsewhere. And, this exercise is indeed timely to address the issue. We are in need of an effective central coordinating mechanism to provide political and conceptual leadership, to assess the state of the global environment and to contemplate methods of avoiding or reducing global environmental risk.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

3. Before answering the 11 questions, my delegation is of the opinion that the exercise to reform the institutional framework of UN's environmental must consider the following points:

- i. The exercise should preserve the intergovernmental nature of the UN;
- ii. The broad objective of the exercise must be to strengthen the ability of the multilateral system to provide solutions for environmental as well as sustainable development problem;
- iii. A strengthened system of environmental international governance should contribute to the realization of the MDGs and not be merely understood as

a cost-cutting exercise but as a way to channel new funds into sustainable development;

- iv. Basic architecture of the UN's environmental bodies were established among others to assist developing countries in achieving sustainable environment development while culminating their full integration into the mainstream of global economy. Therefore developing countries particularly the more vulnerable ones should be assisted in building sound environmental management;
- v. For middle-income countries, UN environmental system should continue to play important role in fostering sound environmental policy that would enable them to further integrate into their economic policy;
- vi. As envisage by developing countries, UN system, including its environment structure should continue o play a facilitative role in promoting south-south cooperation; and
- vii. The improve UN environment system should create efficiencies and effective implementation of the major multilateral environmental agreements.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

- 4. On the cluster of questions, here are our views.

Implementation at the country level

5. For Question 1, my delegation is of the view that to generalize the strengths and weaknesses of the international actors would be quite difficult since each of the international actors has their own strength and weaknesses. For instances, UNDP which has an office in Malaysia is able to provide greater guidance in particular for the formulation of project proposals that requires international funding such as from GEF. The locally recruited officers, due to their better understanding of the country's situation had enabled UNDP to support environmental objectives in the country.

6. As for UNEP, though not physically present in Malaysia, still serves as an integrative and interactive mechanism through which separate efforts by intergovernmental, non-governmental, national and regional bodies in the service of the environment are reinforced.

7. A stronger partnership between UNEP (normative) and UNDP (operational), in our view, would indeed be able to assist members in strengthening the analytical and

technical capacities of their national institutions and hence contributing towards better environmental governance.

8. As for the World Bank, its role and activities relating to environmental governance is quite limited. MEAs on the other hand, through the various workshops, forums and seminars organized under the direction of the COP are able to provide focused areas of support according to the need of the parties. In this regard, the key is the matching of the needs of national institutions and governments with that of the international organizations or community.

9. As for Question 2, we are of the opinion that hands on seminar and workshop regarding scientific knowledge, that serves to provide latest knowledge and practices should be encouraged.

10. With regard to Question 3, Malaysia is of the opinion that a more structured mechanism of information exchange should be put in place. We believe this will improve interactions and reduce duplication of efforts.

11. As for Bali Strategic Plan and Cartagena Protocol referred to in Question 4, we are of the view that there has been very little progress in its implementation. What is required is a more structured and more regular interaction with relevant international organizations pertaining to specific provisions of the Plan and Protocol in order to facilitate their implementation at the national level.

12. As to Question 5, we are of the view that countries can learn from case studies of success and failure experienced by others. Learning from success and failures can also better assist countries in managing disasters and emergencies.

Enhancement of global governance: recommendations for the different actors at the global level

13. There is a need for enhancing global governance on environment matters. But this should be done without creating another layer of bureaucracy. There should be better coordination between UNDP and UNEP, and together with the various MEAs. This could be done through concerted efforts of all environmental and environment-related agencies to exchange and share information and know-how. This will lessen duplication which will lead to more efficiency in the use of resources. Greater transparency and cooperation may reduce wastage.

14. Although a strengthened UNEP may be the answer, it should not be done at the expense of existing MEAs. MEAs have specific mandates and focus provided for by the agreements establishing them. They can be more effective and efficient than enlarged UNEP for instance. A strengthened UNEP (and not necessarily enlarged UNEP) could be a central coordinating mechanism in the UN to provide political and conceptual leadership to assess the state of the global environment and to contemplate methods of avoiding or reducing global environmental risk and working out joint norms. UNEP will

be able to fulfil its role i.e. (1) to oversee the monitoring, assessing and reporting on environment issues, (2) to set agendas for standards and guidelines, (3) to develop institutional capacity to address existing and emerging problems, and (4) to develop new ideas. A proper focus needs to be given to fill gaps and build on UNEP's comparative advantage.

15. On Question 9, my delegation would like to emphasize that UNEP is an 'anchor institution' for the global environment and has the roles as we explain in Paragraph 14. Though they aren't alone in working on global issues, anchors are the glue that holds such efforts together. On that score, UNEP should be further strengthened.

Funding

16. On funding (Question 10), we are of the view that the current funding scheme is too complicated and that the UN must come up with a clear manual regarding the do's and don't on the scheme, as well as practical examples of what the funding schemes look at. Criteria alone are not sufficient since they are subjected to different interpretation at the national level. Further, my delegation is of the view that more regional forums or seminars to further explained the mechanism and modalities of the fund are needed.

Partnerships

17. On the issue of partnerships with civil society, business and science communities (Question 11), we believe such partnership is essential and should be expanded further.

Thank you.

-----XX-----