



THE GROUP OF 77

New York
Office of the Chairman

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29 January 2007

Excellency,

follow-up
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I have the honor to forward herewith the [redacted] of the Group of 77 and China, in continuation of the common position presented by the Group in its statement on 18 January 2007 at the informal consultations of the General Assembly on the institutional framework for the United Nations environmental activities.

18 January 2007

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ambassador Munir Akram
Permanent Representative of
Pakistan to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77

H.E. Mr. Enrique Berruga (Co-Chair)
Permanent Representative of Mexico
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Peter Maurer (Co-Chair)
Permanent Representative of Switzerland
to the United Nations

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**Common position of the Group of 77 and China on the institutional
framework for the UN's environmental activities**
29 January 2007

The Group of 77 and China would like to focus discussions of the institutional framework for environmental activities on the issue of strengthening international environmental governance with the view that strengthened global environmental governance is the first step towards realizing a more effective, efficient, coherent, coordinated and better-performing institutional framework for United Nations environmental activities.

The G-77 and China is participating in these discussions in the hope of securing the implementation of agreements and commitments made in important UN Conferences including the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Millennium Summit, the Rio Conference on Environment and Development (Agenda 21), the Special Session of the Governing Council of UNEP held in Cartagena and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building.

We would also like to see that the implementation of agreed commitments be based on the Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

We believe that the provision of new, additional as well as stable, predictable and adequate financial resources is vital to carry out the task of implementation by environmental entities. The current process should seek to address this critical issue up front and comprehensively.

There is a need to allocate adequate funds for environmental damage caused by natural disasters.

We need to create favorable conditions and a conducive atmosphere at the international level supportive of national activities to protect the environment.

Predictability and adequacy of funds for UNEP should be ensured.

The Global Environmental Facility lacks adequate resources and requires the simplification of its procedures to support the increasing number of project proposals of developing countries as well as to have increased role for UNEP in the GEF process.

The potential of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to provide guidance and coordination taking into account the three pillars of Sustainable Development should be strengthened and fully utilized.

The mandates of various organizations working in the field of environment should also be revised with a view to removing the duplication of work and ensuring coherence.

We would like to underscore the importance of promoting social and environmental corporate responsibility as well as the need for changing the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.

In addressing the issues of environmental activities, we strongly believe that the three pillars of sustainable development should be addressed in a coordinated, integrated and comprehensive manner and that UN environmental activities should not be dealt with in isolation of the economic and social pillars.

While recognizing the expanded activities of partnerships in the context of the implementation of JPOI and their benefit to UN environmental activities, we would like to stress that partnerships are not a substitute for international cooperation and that cooperation with relevant partners should be carried out in accordance with the UN Charter and the Organization's rules of procedure. An effective assessment system should also be set up to guide partnerships in order to ensure their quality and efficacy.

The Group of 77 and China is of the view that this ongoing process should have a clear connection and linkage with the other environmental activities undertaken by the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the multilateral environmental agreements with a view to having greater coherence.

Support participation of civil societies including environmental NGOs from developing countries in the international environmental fora.

Support the national efforts of the developing countries in terms of monitoring, assessment and reporting.

The G77 and China is of the view that the issues relating to operational activities in the field of environment at the country level should be dealt under the system wide coherence process. The responsibility for implementation of environmental commitments lies with all countries, especially developed countries taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The G77 and China notes the divergence of views on how to better address the issues of an institutional framework of the UN environmental activities.