

The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development: **Environmental Governance, Paragraph 88 and the Strengthening of UNEP**

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Environmental governance and the Rio+20 outcome



- The assessment is 'globally positive'
- Majority of outcomes are beyond just a narrow environmental perspective, with a strong social dimension in place
- Reinforcement of existing work streams linking environment and development (Green economy, SCP, RE, SE4ALL)
- Creation of new work streams (strengthening UNEP, Beyond GDP, CSR)
- SDG's provide a unique chance for better integration of environment into development

Paragraph 88 of “The Future We Want”



Para 88:

We are committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. We reaffirm resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 which established UNEP and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP and the 2000 Malmö Ministerial Declaration. In this regard, we invite the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading UNEP in the following manner:

Rio Declaration Principle 10 in the outcome document



Para. 99: *"We encourage action at regional, national, sub-national, and local levels to promote access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate."*

Opens the door for the negotiation of regional conventions on Principle 10

General Assembly Resolution 67/213



Para 4. Decides:

- (a) To strengthen and upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme in the manner set out in subparagraphs (a) to (h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012;
- (b) To establish universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and mandates it, as from its first universal session to be held in Nairobi in February 2013, using its applicable rules of procedure and applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly, pending the adoption of its new rules of procedure, to expeditiously initiate the implementation of the provisions contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document in their entirety, make a recommendation on its designation to reflect its universal character and decide on future arrangements for the Global Ministerial Environment Forum;”

UNEP Governing Council Decision 27/2



Para 4. *The Governing Council,*

Welcoming the outcome document, “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held between 20-22 June, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil that invited the General Assembly to adopt, at its sixty-seventh session a resolution strengthening and upgrading UNEP, as outlined in paragraph 88 sub-paragraphs (a-h) of the outcome document and further recalling resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, *Reaffirming* the need to strengthen international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as coordination within the United Nations system, *Recognizing* General Assembly Resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012 on, *inter alia*, the implementation of section IV.C, entitled “Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development”, of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and under which the first universal session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme is held,

Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability



- UNEP-convened World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability during Rio+20 last June
- UNEP was requested to lead the United Nations system in supporting national Governments in the development and implementation of environmental rule of law including boosting information disclosure, environmental auditing and independent dispute resolution.
- Establishment of the *International Advisory Council for the Advancement of Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability*

Environmental Sustainability in the SDGs and Post-2015



- Poverty eradication cannot be achieved if environmental thresholds are crossed and ecosystems services and natural capital are lost.
- Open Working Group on SDGs will submit a proposal for SDGs to the 68th session of the General Assembly
- In parallel various strands of work concerned with the UN development agenda beyond 2015, including work of the UN Development group at national, regional and global thematic consultations, including environmental sustainability.
- One of the greatest challenges in developing SDGs will be to incorporate all the dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way – environmental, social, and economic. Each of these dimensions requires careful thinking and analysis about the role they will play in SDGs.

Environmental Governance conclusions



Democracy, good governance and the rule of law are essential for sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger