Flow of financial information

On 25 February [dec. 23/4], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, in conjunction with the executive secretaries of conventions for which UNEP was the trustee, to explore possibilities for further improving the financial information flows to ensure that accurate, up-to-date information was available to convention secretariats at all times, and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereon.

Strengthening UNEP’s financing

The Executive Director, in a note on strengthening UNEP financing [UNEP/GC.23/INF/12], reported on measures taken in that regard, including implementation of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions pilot phase, which began in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1048] and was extended to 2004-2005 [YUN 2000, p.1049]; efforts to mobilize supplementary and earmarked funds; development of cooperation mechanisms, such as the partnership agreement; and efforts to secure increased contributions from the UN regular budget as an important element in the financing of UNEP core activities.

On 25 February [dec. 23/1], the Governing Council reaffirmed its support for the provision of adequate, stable and predictable financing of UNEP as a prerequisite for strengthening its capacity and functions, as well as effective coordination of the environmental component of sustainable development. It encouraged Governments to move towards contributions to the Environment Fund in preference to contributions to earmarked trust funds; development of cooperation mechanisms, such as the partnership agreement; and efforts to secure increased contributions from the UN regular budget as an important element in the financing of UNEP core activities.

General Assembly action

The General Assembly, in resolution 60/189 of 22 December (see p. 1133), welcomed the progress made in strengthening UNEP’s role and financial situation, including the significant broadening of its donor base and the increase in total contributions to the Environment Fund.

Environmental and equity considerations in procurement practices

On 25 February [dec. 23/8], the Governing Council invited Governments to share with UNEP their experiences, lessons learned and best practices related to environmental and equity considerations in procurement practices. It requested the Executive Director to prepare a compilation report on environmental and equity considerations regarding current UNEP procurement practices and an assessment of their performance, for the Council’s consideration in 2007. He was also asked to report on the implementation of the Council’s 1995 decision on environmental standards within the UN system [YUN 1995, p. 1089].

Extension of term of office of Executive Director

In a November note [A/60/553], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of Mr. Klaus Töpfer’s decision not to seek a further term as UNEP’s Executive Director, and his proposal to extend Mr. Töpfer’s appointment, which was to end on 31 January 2006, for two months, to allow time to identify a suitable successor and ensure continuity in the work of UNEP and its Governing Council.

By decision 60/409 of 23 November, the Assembly extended Mr. Töpfer’s term of office until the end of March 2006.

International conventions and mechanisms

In a January note [UNEP/GC.23/INF/8], the Executive Director provided information on the status of new and existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, covering the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2004.

MEAs

On 25 February [dec. 23/1, sec. V], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, in accordance with its 2002 decision on international environmental governance [YUN 2002, p. 1033], to continue to focus on improving coordination among, synergy between and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), taking into account the autonomous decision-