from resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in 2009 that called for action by, or were of relevance to, UNEP.

**Administrative and budgetary matters**

**Budget execution**

A February note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.XI/INF/4] contained information on the execution of the UNEP 2008–2009 biennial budget. Provisional resources for the biennium, including from the UN regular budget, the Environment Fund, trust funds, earmarked contributions and trust fund support, amounted to $570.5 million, including a balance, as at 1 January 2008, of $108.5 million. Total claims on resources were estimated at $406.3 million. The provisional year-end balance of funds as at 31 December 2009 was $159.2 million. Financial reserves stood at $22.5 million.

**Trust funds**

The Executive Director submitted a report on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions [UNEP/GC.26/14/Rev.2]. As at 30 November, there were 90 active UNEP-administered trust funds. For the 2008–2009 biennium, actual expenditure amounted to $704.1 million, of which $119.3 million related to funds directly supporting the UNEP programme of work, $175.6 million to conventions, protocols and regional seas programmes, and $409.2 million to special accounts and trust funds. For the 2010–2011 biennium, total estimated expenditures of $747 million included $162.2 million for trust funds directly supporting the UNEP programme of work, $175.6 million for trust funds for conventions, protocols and regional seas, and $409.2 million for special accounts and trust funds. The projected expenditure for the 2012–2013 biennium amounted to $777.4 million, of which $157 million related to trust funds directly supporting the UNEP programme of work, $186.3 million to conventions and regional seas programmes and $434.1 million to special accounts and trust funds. Total earmarked expenditure was $99.8 million for the 2008–2009 biennium, an increase of $26.6 million over the previous biennium. Expenditures in terms of earmarked contributions for the 2010–2011 and 2012–2013 biennia in support of the UNEP programme of work were estimated at $66 million and $104 million, respectively.

**Board of Auditors report**

A note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.26/INF/7] contained the report of the Board of Auditors and the financial report and audited financial statements of UNEP for the biennium ended 31 December 2009 [A/65/5/Add.6]. The report showed total income of $733 million and expenditure of $682.7 million, an increase of 26.7 per cent, and 26 per cent, respectively, over the previous biennium. The excess of income over expenditure was $50.3 million. As at 31 December 2009, unpaid pledges to the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was $183.9 million, or 72 per cent of the 2008–2009 pledges of $254.5 million. More than $117 million of unpaid pledges were more than five years old. The Board recommended that UNEP formulate an accountability policy for the treatment of long-outstanding pledges. End-of-service and post-retirement liabilities amounted to $58.1 million. No decision had been made regarding the funding of the organization’s employee obligations.

The Board made recommendations related to, among other issues, implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards; the preparation of financial statements; travel claims; accounting treatment of education grants; end-of-service and post-retirement benefits; and accounting treatment for projects implemented by external partners.

**Election of Executive Director**

In April [A/64/749], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of his intention to nominate Achim Steiner for re-election as Executive Director of UNEP. The Assembly, by decision 64/420 of 22 April, re-elected Mr. Steiner as Executive Director for a four-year term of office beginning on 15 June 2010 and ending on 14 June 2014.

**Global Environment Facility**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) united 182 member Governments, in partnership with international institutions, NGOs and the private sector, to address environmental issues. It provided grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The GEF partnership comprised 10 agencies: UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. GEF served as the financial mechanism for the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 683], the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [ibid., p. 681], the 1994 United Na-