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2ND CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON WASTE MANAGEMENT AND LUANCHING OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE MANAGEMENT (GPWM)

Background

To support the implementation of various international agreements and decisions including Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and targets especially on environment¹, UNEP Governing Council Decision 25/8 on Waste Management², the Bali Declaration on “Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihoods.” by the 9th Conference of Parties (COP) of Basel Convention³, UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) 18 and 19 on waste⁴, and others, UNEP started the consultations to form a global platform on waste management and first major consultation meeting was held in Geneva on 30 November - 1 December 2009 in cooperation with the Secretariat of Basel Convention.

The main outcomes of 1st consultation meeting was 1) UNEP-IETC to lead the establishment of the GPWM; 2) Nomination of the focal points during the initial phase of the GPWM and development of activities on the information platform; 3) IETC to disseminate GPWM through presentations in relevant forums and 4) Scale up of the GPWM through a consultation workshop to be held in 2010⁵.

Based on the “next steps” agreed during the consultation meeting, UNEP started further consultations, organized side events and made presentations. There was enormous feedback during these consultations.

For this purpose, IETC organized side and special events on GPWM in Bali, Indonesia on 25 February 2010 at the UNEP Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GMEF) and in Geneva at the Open Ended Working Group, (OEWG). The special event in Bali was organised in clear recognition of the importance of effective partnership and south-south cooperation with the aim to: 1) introduce discussions on waste management; and global and regional action on waste management and 2) discuss a need for partnership for waste management, particularly global partnership, including south-south cooperation.

Presentations on the Global Platform on Waste Management were also held at 3R conferences in Tokyo and Bangkok, and at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) conference in New York.

During these discussions, one suggestion, which came out strongly, was to avoid duplication of efforts and it seems the original idea of launching a Global Platform would be duplicating some of the efforts of other initiatives and programmes. Hence, the idea of umbrella partnership was evolved to provide the coordinating mechanism to the current initiatives and programmes and to fill the gaps by supporting additional activities. This led to modify the original platform with few actors onboard doing the activities and develop a Global Partnership on Waste Management to promote holistic approach, coordination, and efficiency and efficacy of resources by avoiding duplication of

¹ See: <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm#goal7>

² <http://www.unep.org/gc/gc25/Docs/Proceedings-English.pdf> (pages 25-26)

³ <http://cop9.basel.int/cop9theme.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.unep.org/health-env/pdfs/libreville-declaration-eng.pdf>

⁵ Report of 1st Consultation Meeting is available at <http://www.unep.or.jp/Ietc/SPC/news-nov10.asp>

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activities. The partners would continue to carry out their activities as lead members of respective focal areas and they will get benefit of each other's actions, activities and knowledge.

The major suggestion was to develop a global partnership to coordinate the current efforts by various international and national partners, to avoid the duplication of work, to create an information platform to fill the information gaps, and to provide partners with an equal opportunity to work on different challenges in the context of waste management.

To follow up on the decisions taken at the 1st Consultation Meeting, and as part of the scaling up of the GPWM, UNEP-DTIE-IETC organised the 2nd Consultation Meeting on Waste in Osaka, Japan on 18-19 November 2010. The workshop was co-organized by the Global Environment Centre Foundation (GEC), a supporting organization of UNEP-IETC, with the objective of finalizing the framework of the GPWM including the implementation strategy, and launching the GPWM.

Representatives from donor countries (1), developing countries and countries with economies in transition (13), as well as international organisations (5) and academia (2) from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America took part in the consultation meeting.

2nd Consultation Meeting - Summary

The Osaka meeting was attended by governments (from Asia, Africa and South and Latin America), international organizations, and civil society (private sector associations and academia). The participants discussed the progress made since the 1st Consultation Meeting and were happy to see the UNEP has carried out most of the steps which were agreed during this 1st Consultation Meeting, including formulation and launching of Information Platform on Waste Management (http://www.unep.or.jp/Ietc/GPWM/info_platform.html). UNEP, in line with GC Decision 25/8, has also continued to carry out various projects on integrated solid waste management, converting waste plastics into a resource, converting waste agricultural biomass into a resource, E-waste management, waste and climate change, and capacity building at national and regional level with training materials and guidelines.

The participants/partners reviewed and discussed the document on Framework and Operational Guidelines for GPWM at length. The participants provided para-wise comments. The document was revised at the end of day 1 and again it was reviewed and discussed on the 2nd day of the meeting.⁶

The participants/partners also suggested that this Global Partnership should be dynamic to capture the needs of all the potential partners and stakeholders in coming years. This way, there will also be room for learning by doing, so the activities of the GPWM will continue, and based on the learning, modifications will be made accordingly.

After 2 days of extensive deliberations, the GPWM was launched on 19 November 2010. Some of the partners indicated their areas of interest to lead and agreed that Government of India and Government of Ethiopia may be requested to act as Co-Chairs of GPWM for first year.

Proceedings of Day One

Opening remarks were provided by Ms. Khalida Bouzar, Deputy Director UNEP-DTIE and welcome remarks were made by Mr. Shinsaku Azuma, Director General of Environment Bureau, Osaka City Government. They both highlighted the problem of the increasing amounts and diversity of waste and the need for its sound management, as well as the need for coordinated efforts for

⁶ The participants/partners requested to send the revised document for further comments. They have provided their post-meeting comments and comments from other potential partners were also received. The latest version of the document is available at <http://www.unep.or.jp/Ietc/SPC/news-nov10.asp>

efficient implementation of initiatives. Thereafter, the participants introduced themselves. Indonesia and Lesotho were elected to co-chair the meeting and the agenda was adopted.

The first presentation highlighted the progress made on the “next steps” agreed during the 1st consultation meeting. The second presentation introduced the Information Platform on Waste Management. The presentation briefly highlighted its structure, the type of information provided and how the information would be gathered. Currently, it is populated with all the information based on the IETC projects. The Information Platform was highly welcomed by the participants who made several suggestions such as an online open forum for interactive discussions, integration of other databases such as the one from ISWA, and fill the information gaps through dedicated information collection efforts.

Thereafter, a presentation on the framework and operational guidelines was made to introduce the document on “Framework and Operational Guidelines of the Global Partnership on Waste Management.” The chairs opened the floor for the discussions and the participants raised general questions during the first session. The participants discussed the change of name of the Global Platform to Partnership and developed a general consensus on this change. It was emphasized by the participants that there is an immediate need for a holistic approach for waste management and the focus of the GPWM towards it.

In the afternoon the discussions were based on the structure of the Global Partnership. A plenary discussion on the main document of the GPWM was held and each specific component was reviewed, amended and agreed. Main focus was given to the following topics:

- The integrated solid waste management approach should incorporate the 3R principles and encourage toxic free material cycles.
- Focal Areas: the proposed thematic and functional areas were reviewed, new ones were added and others were merged. It was proposed that a comprehensive list should be developed from which the partners can choose any focal area(s) to lead. From this list few of the focal areas were shortlisted as potential priority areas to be implemented through the first year of the GPWM.
- North-South cooperation, in addition to South-South cooperation, should be incorporated within the objective that promotes the enhancement of cooperation.

The plenary discussion on the operational guidelines of the framework suggested a new section on expected outputs, changes within the organizational structure and the need for a logo for the partnership. Discussions were centred in the roles and responsibilities of each actor, resource mobilisation within the partnership and within the sub-focal areas and the need of financial performance reporting within the monitoring and evaluation. Some of the key discussions were as follows:

- A section on expected outcomes from the GPWM was included to reinforce what is to be achieved through the GPWM
- The organisational structure of the GPWM included “observers” as well within the partnership. Stakeholders can apply for this status as observers and the secretariat will assist the co-chairs to decide on their participation and their role.
- The roles and responsibilities of the members from different entities, due to their different nature, will be based on their capacity. The Advisory Board will have the capacity to decide on membership issues and on amendments in the operational guidelines upon submitted requests. Co-chairs may represent GPWM in international activities and they will advise the Secretariat on observer’s request.

- The activities for fund-raising should be planned at Global Partnership level. Global and regional resource mobilization should be for global and regional activities such as annual meetings, workshops etc. The sub-focal areas should raise funds for their activities.

Proceedings of Day Two

The amended framework incorporating the comments from the previous day was circulated among the participants for further discussions and feedback. A line by line review was undertaken and the participants were invited to suggest further amendments and/or to express their conformity. Most of the changes in the document during the second day were basically re-phrasing some of the lines in the text. Main discussions and amendments related to the content of the document were as follows:

- Shortlisted thematic focal areas were selected by lead members for their implementation during next year.
- The roles of the observers, their responsibilities and the process to approve their participation were decided. Accordingly other operational guidelines were also amended.
- Proposals for any amendment to the operational guidelines will be circulated to all members for their further feedback.

Additionally, the following actions were agreed:

- To send letters to lead members (organizations/governments) of the proposed focal areas to confirm their role as lead members of respective focal areas.
- To promote GPWM to gather support, especially from donors.
- To report to the UNEP GC 26th session to get their support.
- To start preparing work plans - overall by the Secretariat and focal area work plans by respective lead member(s).
- To organize Advisory Board Meeting (and meeting of all members, if resources are available) to discuss the work plans and implementation strategy.

Two Co-chairs of GPWM were elected for its first year and the participants were in accord with India and Ethiopia as the Co-Chairs of the GPWM. It was agreed that letters for co-chairs would be sent to Government of Ethiopia and Government of India.

Once the framework was finalised, with the consensus of all the participants, the Global Partnership on Waste Management was launched.

The 2nd consultation meeting was successfully concluded and it was agreed that the revised draft of the document on “Framework and Operational Guidelines” as well as the list of participants would be circulated and the document would also be shared with their institutions/other potential partners. During early 2011, the letters will be sent to the lead members of the respective focal areas to seek their confirmation. The letters will also be sent to Government of Ethiopia and Government of India to request them to be Co-chair of GPWM for first year (April 2011 – March 2012).