

OUTREACH



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MONDAY 21ST

UK G8 AND EUROPEAN UNION PRIORITIES

By Margaret Beckett UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



There is no doubt that climate change is a reality. Globally, the ten hottest years on record have occurred since 1991, and latest scientific predictions are that global temperatures will rise by between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Celsius over the next century. Recent UK research has strengthened the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2001 conclusion that "there

is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities".

Arctic summer and autumn sea ice has thinned by as much as 40 per cent in recent decades, while the European heatwave in 2003 led to 26,000 deaths and £8bn in direct costs.

In the UK, temperature records were also broken in 2003 as we passed the 100 Fahrenheit mark. We have also seen the recent devastation in recent weeks that flooding can cause across the country.

Claims for storms and flood damages in the UK have doubled to more than £6bn over the period 1998-2003, compared to the previous five years. So inaction on climate change carries substantial cost.

Climate change is a global problem that affects every nation. This year will provide some key opportunities to reinvigorate urgently needed international action to combat climate change. The Kyoto Protocol, which comes into force later this month (Feb 16), will for the first time impose internationally binding restrictions on the emission of greenhouse gases. It is triggering a new trend in industrialised countries, forcing a shift toward more renewable energies, greater energy efficiency and more energy saving.

The Protocol has received huge support internationally, with the backing of 132 countries to date, accounting for 61.6 per cent of developed countries carbon dioxide emissions from 1990.

Ratification is a very welcome step, and it was also agreed at last December's Conference of the Parties in Buenos Aires that an informal seminar should be held later this year to discuss how we can continue to develop effective and appropriate responses to climate change. Climate change will feature heavily in our G8 and EU Presidencies this year. The G8 can provide a forum for constructive dialogue and the agreement of practical cooperation and action on an issue of huge importance. And the UK will look to develop medium and long-term strategies in its EU Presidency. The Prime Minister in September set out three broad aims for our G8 Presidency on climate change – to create a solid foundation on the science to highlight the scale and urgency of the problem; to secure agreement on the development of the science and technology and to engage with non-G8 countries that have growing energy needs to identify ways of meeting those needs sustainably.

The Science Stabilisation conference, which is taking place at the renowned Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, Exeter, as this goes to press, is due to take stock of the scientific and technical issues that have developed since the IPCC's 2001 report. We need to see if there is broad agreement on what are real danger points for a changing climate.

So, the conference will begin a serious debate to understand how much different levels of climate change will affect the world as a whole, specific regions and particular sectors of society. It will also examine how far change is likely to occur and more significantly how can we avoid the worst effects of climate change. It will not just be limited to predictive science, but will also look at how to tackle climate change.

In March, the UK will host a roundtable in London of Energy and Environment Ministers from around 20 countries with significant energy needs. This will consider the challenge of achieving a

URGENT
CSD 2006 National Guidelines for Energy, Atmosphere, Climate Change-Reports need to be in by June 1st 2005
See Page 5

URGENT
National Sustainable Development Strategies need to be in by February 4th 2005
See Page 5

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(Viene de la página 1)

sustainable and secure energy future for all in a lower carbon world between now and 2050.

As a follow-up to the Evian Action Plan on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, the UK will also be organising a workshop on Innovation and Research into Energy in May in Oxford.

The G8 accounts for more than 65 per cent of global GDP and 47 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions. The G8 are the engine behind technological development and account for the lion's share of scientific effort globally. However, G8 emissions are currently projected to be some 15 per cent above their Kyoto targets in 2010. G8 outcomes that reinforce the urgency of the problem, the economic cost of inaction and demonstrate the will to take more ambitious action to cut emissions and promote innovation would therefore be a significant achievement.

The UK will also be working to engage non-G8 governments, particularly of the largest developing economies, in finding solutions that support aspirations for economic development, poverty eradication and climate protection.

Joint statements have already been agreed with both China and India on climate change and we are inviting a number of developing countries to the Ministerial Energy and Environment Roundtable in March.

Within the EU, the UK will be at the forefront of aiming to get ambitious but achievable medium and long-term strategies on climate change agreed, as well as working towards making progress on the incorporation of aviation into the second phase of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, that begins in 2008.

The first phase of the EU ETS, which began last month, will cover around 46 per cent of UK carbon dioxide emissions and will be a central plank of the UK's future emissions reduction policies.

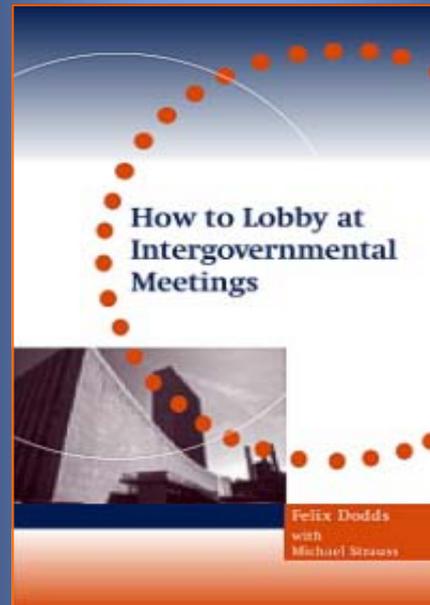
With the UK having set a goal of reducing carbon emissions by 60 per cent from 1990 levels by about 2050, more needs to be done domestically, and we are currently consulting on this through the Climate Change Review consultation, that ends in March.

Energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy needs to be improved drastically along with an increase in the share of renewable energies in our energy systems. This requires promoting innovation, the diffusion of the current best available technologies and working towards low carbon technological breakthroughs such as electricity storage, carbon sequestration or hydrogen power.

Action on climate change – far from costing the earth – can also have real economic benefits. Resource productivity gains are significant and achievable in both the short and medium term.

For example, the UK Climate Change Levy and Agreements provide evidence that industry can realise such gains at low cost, given the right incentive structure. Action taken in the UK has resulted in greenhouse gas emissions falling by some 14 per cent between 1990 and 2003 while the UK economy grew by 31 per cent.

Climate change cannot be viewed as a far-off, nebulous, future inconvenience. It is an issue that affects us all today, and something that will increasingly affect future generations unless we act decisively now.



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KOBE, the ENVIRONMENT and DISASTER RESPONSE

Beyond the horrific loss of human life, the earthquake and resulting tsunami of 26 December 2004 had enormous impacts on Indonesia's coastal environment, causing damage and loss to natural habitats and important ecosystem functions. The findings of a recent report, of which UNEP was a major contributor, have strong implications for outcomes of KOBE and future work in mitigating disasters. Commenting on the report, Klaus Toepfer, UNEP's Executive Director, said, "These latest findings from just one of the affected countries show that there have been significant consequences for the environment and for the livelihoods of local people as a result of the tsunami. They underline how the environment can be both a victim and both a buffer against vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters."

Held just a month after the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster claimed up to 230,000 lives, the World Conference on Disaster Reduction took place in Kobe, Japan, concluding with adoption by 168 delegates, of the "Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005—2015." The frameworks aim to reduce the risks facing millions of people who are exposed to natural disasters by strengthening the capacity of disaster-prone countries to address risk and invest heavily in disaster preparedness. Included in discussions was the central role of a healthy environment in long-term disaster risk reduction.



The conference also adopted a declaration recommending, among other things, that a "culture of disaster prevention and resilience" must be fostered at all levels" and recognizing the relationship between disaster reduction, sustainable development and poverty reduction. These non-binding documents will serve as a "blue print" to guide nations and individuals to build disaster-resilient communities. Building on the commitments forged in Yokohama, Japan ten years ago, the renewed plan calls on the international community to pursue an integrated multi-hazard approach for sustainable development to reduce the incidents and severity of disasters.

Partnerships launched in Kobe will call for United Nations agencies involved in disaster reduction to work closely with civil society and governments to create major initiatives to mitigate the effects of natural hazards on vulnerable populations. Special thematic segments were also held under the aegis of the conference at which time subjects such as good governance, environmental management and education, among other things, were raised.

An International Early Warning Programme was launched to improve resilience to all types of natural hazards including droughts, wildland fires, floods, typhoons, hurricanes, landslides, volcanic eruption and tsunamis. This UN initiative will include wider information flow and

emphasize the importance of people-centered early warning systems and community education about disaster preparedness.

In response to last month's tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean, a special session was held at the World Conference where delegates pledged their support to create a regional tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation. The new warning system will draw from the experience of the Pacific Ocean tsunami early warning systems making use of the existing coordination mechanism of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

An international flood initiative was also launched to better prepare communities living in areas affected by this type of natural hazard. This plan will be coordinated at the training and research center in Tsukuba, Japan, and will look at flood risk mitigation integrating not only operational aspects but also social implications.

The creation of an open Alliance to support Earthquake Risk Reduction and Earthquake Megacities Initiative was also announced which will bring together municipality officials from "megacities" around the world to develop city disaster management plans. A partnership of government, UN agencies and specialized academic institutions also resulted from discussions here. "A Coalition on Education" led by UNESCO will take the lead to incorporate disaster reduction education into school programmes and to make school buildings safer.

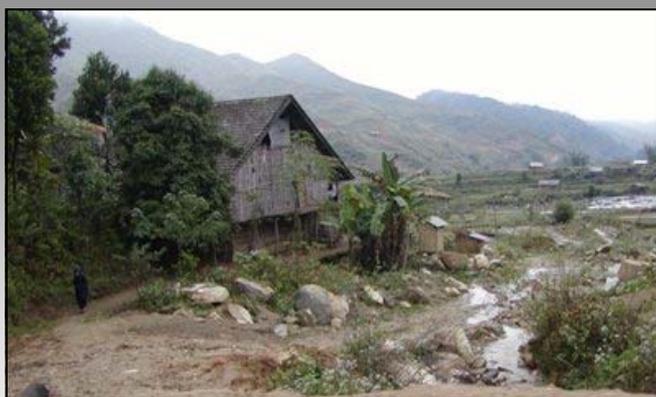
Beyond the early warning systems, disaster reduction and intervention strategies must outline ways to incorporate and protect the environment in local initiatives. The recent tsunami report also noted the importance of properly managing the collection, processing and disposal of the huge amount of debris and waste caused by the tsunami. If not properly managed, wastes may pose a risk to human health as well as ecological functions. Local environmental management capacity – buildings, equipment, staff and records – have also been significantly affected by the disaster, and the report stresses the importance of early re-establishment of solid waste management and other essential services.

"The central role of the environment in disaster reduction, whether in early warning systems, or as a factor in reducing risk and vulnerability has been intensively discussed and



integrated into the plan of action coming out of Kobe. There is now wide acceptance that environmental degradation and depletion of natural buffers increases risks for, and impacts from, natural and man-made disasters," Toepfer said. "Now we need action, targets and a firm timetable of implementation."

CG-23/GMEF AND THE MDGS



E.M.Hyland



MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.

Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Indicators:

9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education
10. Ratio of literate women to men ages 15- to 24
11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament



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MDG GOALS AND INDICATORS

In focusing on implementation of the internationally agreed upon Millennium Development Goals, the GC-23/GMEF aims to focus particularly on Goals 1, 3 and 7.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.

Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Indicators:

1. Proportion of population living below \$1 (PPP) per day
 - 1a. Poverty headcount ratio (percentage of population below the national poverty line)*
2. Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)
3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
4. Prevalence of underweight in children (under five years of age)
5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

*Proposed as additional MDG indicator, but not yet adopted

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and program and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Target 11: Have achieved, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

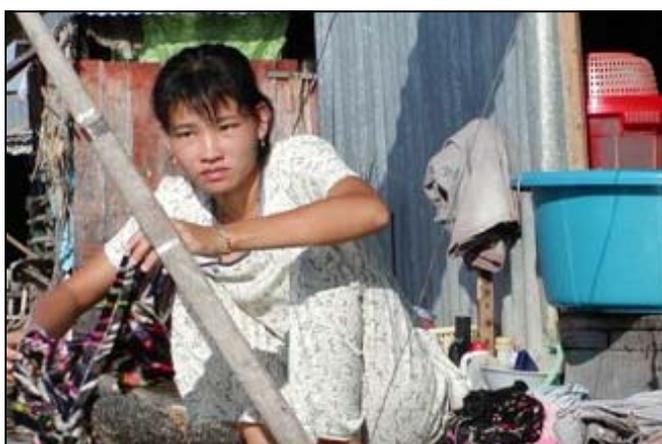
Indicators:

25. Proportion of land area covered by forest
26. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area
27. Energy use (kilograms of oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)
28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (ODP tons)
29. Proportion of population using solid fuels*
30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural
31. Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural
32. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure

UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 21 to 25 February 2005. The session/forum will conduct its work in plenary meetings in the form of ministerial consultations devoted to discussions at the ministerial or equivalent level on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration within the context of gender and environment, and policy issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements. International environmental governance will also form part of the ministerial discussions.

The meetings will address the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration, with particular emphasis on Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) within the context of environment, Goal 3 (promote gender equality and empower women) within the context of gender and the environment, and Goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability) together with policy issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements.



E.M.Hyland

There will be three pre-session events, namely the Tunza Global Youth Retreat, which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16 to 18 February 2005; the Sixth Global Civil Society Forum, which will be held in Nairobi, on 19 and 20 February 2005; and the Global Intergovernmental and Multi stakeholder Consultation on Global Environment Outlook-4, which will be held in Nairobi on 19 and 20 February 2005.

The 6th Global Civil Society Forum on 19-20 February 2005, prior to the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) from 21 to 25 February 2005, more than 100 civil society representatives from all around the world will attend the 6th GCSF. Participants will discuss the main topics at stake during the GC/GMEF, including UNEP's programme of work and the Millennium Development Goals, and

present their views to the Ministers in the plenary during the GC. UNEP has also facilitated the establishment of an African Civil Society Host Committee that drives the agenda of the African and 6th GCSF, ensuring ownership of the process. On 18 February, the Committee will organize an African civil society forum to finalize the preparation of the 6th GCSF and to formalize the African engagement towards UNEP.

On 3 December 2004, UNEP organized a Global Drafting Meeting where two civil society representatives from each of the six regions agreed on a Global Civil Society Statement. We are reprinting extracts here in Network from the statement on international environmental governance

Civil Society discussed the complexity of the IEG process and clearly favored strengthening UNEP in Nairobi as the lead UN agency responsible for all environmental programmes and activities within the UN system. The achievement of progressive decisions on environmental and sustainable development issues sometimes requires more political will than is available to all governments. Therefore, governments must be willing to resort to majority voting when consensus cannot be reached on important issues. The statement goes on to say: "any reforms to the present environmental governance structure should enhance coordination and coherence, and must not increase fragmentation or duplication. Better cooperation and coordination should be established between different UN agencies, programmes, and multilateral environmental agreements." Addressing the upcoming WTO meeting in Hong Kong the statement reinforces the viewpoint held also by many of the Environment Ministries attending the UNEP GCC that "WTO rulings and processes must be compatible with sustainable development and that the WTO should never be allowed to have the final say in matters relating to perceived conflicts between trade and the environment".

Civil Society Organizations also urged UNEP to consistently promote and fully operationalise the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration at all levels in order to ensure public participation, access to



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WAVE Initiative

The Women as the Voice for the Environment (WAVE) assembly, which met in October in Nairobi, called for poor women's groups to be singled out for special funding for water, sanitation and poverty alleviation schemes. Finance for ecosystem management projects, covering such likely areas as wetlands, forests and mangrove swamps, should also be focused on poor women's groups, delegates agreed. Over 140 women from 60 countries including environment ministers from Iran, Kenya, South Africa, Swaziland and Sweden have attended the Nairobi WAVE conference.

Carbon sink projects, including forestry and grassland schemes designed to soak up emissions of global warming gases, should be promoted between women in developed countries and women in developing countries under the community carbon fund of the World Bank. Waste awareness campaigns, involving poor women's groups in cities and local authorities, are urgently needed. These should be backed up with pilot sustainable rubbish disposal projects in the Central Asia/Eastern Europe region, Africa, Latin America and either the United States, Canada or Europe. These are some of the conclusions and recommendations from the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Global Women's Assembly on Environment in Nairobi, Kenya, which was held in cooperation with the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO).

The assembly's aim is to put women's issues at the centre of the global environmental effort to deliver the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development's Plan of Implementation. The WAVE delegates will deliver their manifesto and recommendations, including project ideas, to governments attending UNEP's Governing Council in February 2005. A separate declaration by the Network of Women Ministers for the Environment, chaired by Lena Sommestad of Sweden and Rejoice Madubafhasi of South Africa, has been drafted and will also be presented at the 2005 Governing Council meeting where gender equality and empowerment will be a key theme.

Srilatha Batliwala, chair of the board of directors of WEDO, said: "This process has been about re-focusing the attention of governments on the urgency of restoring women as critical allies and agents of environmental regeneration not as victims. I hope governments, at UNEP's Governing Council, take our recommendations and proposals extremely seriously and take them forward into the five year review of the Millennium Development Goals and the Beijing plus 10 conference."

Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-4)

The Global Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation on GEO-4, part of the process outlined in preparing GEO-4, is taking place in Nairobi, 19-20 February 2005, just prior to

the GC-23/GMEF. The proposed objective of GEO-4 is to provide, for 2007 a global comprehensive, reliable and scientifically credible, policy-relevant, and legitimate up-to-date assessment of, and outlook for, the interaction between environment and society. More specifically it will:

- i) prepare an overview assessment of the state, trends and emerging issues of the major environmental challenges seen from a global perspective, in a manner which clearly reflects their sub-global characteristics *inter alia* by assessing: human driving forces and pressures on the environment; primary and secondary environmental impacts of such pressures; the consequence of environmental change on ecosystem services and human well-being; and the effectiveness of policy responses;
- ii) assess the interlinkages between the major environmental challenges and their consequences for policy and technology responses and trade-offs;
- iii) assessing selected major crosscutting issues relating to how environment can contribute to the major development goals and targets and how environmental degradation can impede progress towards those targets with a focus on vulnerable groups and locations;
- iv) develop a set of plausible short term (up to year 2015) and medium term (up to year 2050) scenarios of major different societal pathways and their consequences for the interaction between environment and society at the global level with regional examples; and
- v) assess the state of knowledge regarding the effectiveness of different approaches to overarching environmental policies, in particular: green accounting; mainstreaming environmental concerns into the plans and policies of social and economic sectors; and enforcement of and compliance with multilateral environmental agreements.

WATER

FACTS ABOUT WATER AND HEALTH

88% of diarrhoeal disease is attributed to unsafe water supply, inadequate sanitation and hygiene.

1.8 million people die every year from diarrhoeal diseases (including cholera); 90% are children under 5, mostly in developing countries.

Hygiene interventions including hygiene education and promotion of hand washing can reduce diarrhoeal cases by up to 45%.

1.3 million people die of malaria each year, 90% of whom are children under 5.

There are 396 million cases of malaria every year; most of the disease burden is in Africa south of the Sahara. Malaria costs Africa more than US\$12 million annually and slows economic growth in African countries by 1.3% a year.

Trachoma is strongly related to lack of face-washing, often due to absence of nearby sources of safe water. 500 million people are at risk from trachoma, 146 million are threatened by blindness and 6 million people are visually impaired from this disease.

In Bangladesh, between 28 and 35 million people consume drinking water with elevated levels of arsenic. Over 26 million people in China suffer from dental fluorosis due to elevated fluoride in their drinking water.

sion of improved water services

4. There should be capacity building programmes for local decision makers; training around financial administration, revenue generation and accountability
5. There should be in place political technical and legal mechanisms to hold states, the private sector and international financial institutions accountable
6. There should be multistakeholder framework with equal partners for local communities, business, and NGOs.
7. Donor agencies should support innovative models between local and international private sector, local and international NGOs and local government
8. Businesses should take a responsible approach to their impact on water throughout the life cycle of their products and services and share their understanding of these impacts with local decision makers; major water users should develop water management plans with the input of appropriate stakeholders
9. Governments should combat corruption, and provide credit support through grants, loans and guarantees; government should streamline the process of releasing ODA



Photo from www.un-ngls.org

“Water is essential to our health, our spiritual needs, our

MAJOR GROUPS PRIORITIES FOR ACTION PAPERS

comfort, our livelihoods, and our ecosystems. Yet everywhere water quality is declining, and the water stress on humanity and our ecosystems increases. More and more people live in very fragile environments. The reality of floods and droughts touches increasing numbers and many live with scarcity. We are convinced that we can act, and we must. “
Bonn Keys (December 2001)

At a meeting in London of UK stakeholders to review the Secretary General's Reports Andy Wales, from Seven Trent on water in preparation for the CSD highlighted the recommendation made by major groups in *Priorities for Action* papers for CSD PrepComs in Feb 2005. The papers he says bring forward various points of convergence among major stakeholder groups. Following are some of the recommendation extracted from these papers;

1. The value of water and sanitation should be linked to economic and social development, including education. Water should be integrated into national poverty reduction strategies
2. National data collection and long term monitoring networks should be strengthened.
3. Land tenure issues need to be tackled to enable provi-

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Date	Event and Location
Monday 21 February	<p>14:00-14:30 Launch of the photo exhibition on biodiversity; <u>Theme</u>: Biodiversity; <u>Structure</u>: Presentations followed by launch of the exhibition; Organized by the Government of Germany, Lower Concourse</p> <p>18:15—19:15 China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Conference; <u>Theme</u>: Promotion of environmental cooperation and training programmes between African countries and China; <u>Structure</u>: Conference; Organized by Government of China/ Chinese Follow-up Committee of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation /UNEP. Conference Room 1</p> <p>19:00– 20:30 Reception hosted by the President of the GC and UNEP's Executive Director, Organized by UNEP/UNON, Fountain Area</p>
Tuesday 22 February	19:30—21:00 Reception hosted by the Government of Kenya. Location TBA
Wednesday 23 February	<p>13:00-15:00 Capacity Building Workshop on "How to Lobby at MEAs." Organized by Stakeholder Forum, UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, Earth Media and Centro de Estudios Ambientales. Room T-105. (Space is limited, see Felix Dodds).</p> <p>19:00-20:30 Special Event on Agriculture, Biodiversity and Eradication of Poverty and Hunger; <u>Theme</u>: Biodiversity provides a range of services to agriculture. Many policy questions surround the linkages between agriculture, biodiversity and the eradication of poverty and hunger, including genetic technologies, trade, and farmer's rights. How may issues be resolved while ensuring biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing?; <u>Structure</u>: High-level panel discussion followed by signing ceremony of a MoU between UNEP and IUCN, Organized by UNEP/IUCN/FAO; Conference Room 1</p> <p>20:30—22:00. Ministerial Working Dinner. <u>Theme</u>: Agriculture, Biodiversity and Eradication of Poverty and Hunger; <u>Structure</u>: Served dinner with invited speakers and interventions between courses. Organized by UNEP, Location TBA</p>
Thursday 24 February	09:00-19:00 The African Business and Sustainable Development Roundtable; <u>Theme</u> : Energy and water services provision in Africa with a focus on technology and finance; <u>Structure</u> : Roundtable discussions with ministers of environment, energy, trade and industry from Africa and OECD countries, business leaders and representatives of international organizations; Organized by International Chamber of Commerce / World Business Council for Sustainable Development / World Energy Council / UNEP, Conference Room 4
Saturday 26 February	GC-23/GMEF Field Trip

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