12 May 2008

Review of the Strategic Framework for 2010-2011 of UNEP by the Committee for Programme and Coordination

Sir/Madam,

The UN Secretariat has confirmed that the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) will review the Strategic Framework for 2010-2911 of UNEP on 19 June 2008 in New York. Following discussions in the Committee of Permanent Representatives in February on the role of the CPC, this note is intended to inform the Committee on the role of the CPC and the process of approval by the General Assembly, as well as to solicit your assistance in ensuring that Member States representatives in the CPC are aware of UNEP Governing Council decision SS.X/3, which:

"authorizes the Executive Director to use the Medium-term Strategy 2010-2013 in formulating the Strategic Frameworks and Programmes of Work and Budget for 2010-2011 and for 2012-2013 [...]"

The CPC is the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination. The CPC reviews the programmes of all funds, programmes and other entities within the UN Secretariat as defined in their respective Strategic Frameworks. In reviewing the Strategic Framework, the CPC examines the totality of the Secretary-General's work programme giving particular attention to programme changes arising out of decisions adopted by intergovernmental policy-making organs and conferences or suggested by the Secretary General. A complete description of the role and function of the CPC relating to the Strategic Framework review process is attached, together with the current membership of the CPC.

As UNEP will be meeting with Member States representatives in the CPC, I would be grateful if you could inform the relevant official of your Government handling this matter as well as to transmit to them the information attached to this letter.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Angela Cropper
Deputy Executive Director

TO: THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO UNEP
Annex 1

The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)

The CPC is the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination. The CPC reviews the programmes of all funds, programmes and other entities within the UN Secretariat as defined in their respective Strategic Frameworks constituting the Secretary General’s proposed biennial Programme Plan for the United Nations presented to the General Assembly for its review and approval. Specifically:

- In the off-budget year (e.g. 2008, 2010, etc.), the CPC reviews the Strategic Framework proposal for the forthcoming biennium (e.g. in 2008 reviews the Strategic Framework for 2010-2011); and
- In the budget year (e.g. 2009, 2011, etc.), the CPC reviews revisions, if any to the Strategic Framework that may culminate from the outcomes of the relevant policy-making organs and/or other intergovernmental process (e.g. in 2009 reviews the revisions to the Strategic Framework for 2010-2011, if any)

In reviewing the Strategic Framework, the CPC examines the totality of the Secretary-General’s work programme giving particular attention to programme changes arising out of decisions adopted by intergovernmental policy-making organs and conferences or suggested by the Secretary General. On the basis of its review, the CPC provides guidance and makes recommendations in a number of areas, in particular the following:

- Assesses results achieved from current activities and examines the continuity of the mandated work from one biennium to the next building on the progress so far made;
- Provides guidance on programme design including the formulation of objectives, results, indicators, benchmarks and any other programmatic content by interpreting legislative intent in order to assist in translating legislation into programmes;
- Recommends an order of priorities among United Nations programmes as defined in the Strategic Framework;
- Assesses the effectiveness of coordination with other entities of the Secretariat and the members of the United Nations family; and make recommendations to minimize overlapping and duplication; and to maximize complementarity between work programmes while ensuring consistency with the legislative intent of relevant policy-making organs.

Acting on behalf of the Secretary General and in consultation with the CPC, the UN Controller follows up and ensures that the CPC recommendations are implemented by the relevant entities within the UN Secretariat prior to the submission of the Secretary General’s biennial Programme Plan for approval by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.