

Nairobi 20 February 2009

EU Presidency statement

*Mr. President, Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Executive Director of the UNEP,*

The Czech Republic has the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

We are convinced that the twenty fifth session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be an important milestone in the history of the UNEP and of international environmental community.

We met here in Nairobi, environmental capital city of the Earth, in time when the world is confronted with the first impacts of global economic and financial crisis. The GMEF discussed this phenomena when trying to prove that **green economy** could be the way out of the crises, when promoting sustainable economic growth, competitiveness and social stability as well as international solidarity and mutually beneficial cooperation. The President's Summary is proving it.

The European Union highly appreciates the Governing Council / GMEF sessions that were conducted in the **spirit of constructive dialogue** under the able and wise leadership of the President of the Bureau, H.E. Mr. Oliver Dulič, Minister of the Environment of Physical Planning of the Republic of Serbia, and of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Jukka Uusokainen.

The sessions resulted in adopting landmark **decision on chemicals management and in particular on starting international negotiation process on new legally binding instrument on mercury**. The EU considers this results as a significant step forward to the broader sound chemicals management that is a rather big challenge for international community.

The EU is aware of that **governance issues** are of major concerns not only for intergovernmental relations but also to non-governmental civil society. We are glad that the current negotiations in Nairobi inter allia culminated in approval of decision on steering up discussion on

strengthening international environmental governance. **Decision to establish a Group of Ministers and of high level representatives** could move the IEG to the highest political “levels” and to possibly make break through also in other UN headquarters than Nairobi.

The EU considers as crucial also the issue of more synergetic and holistic approach to scientific assessment and policy recommendations in the area of biodiversity and ecosystems. **The decision on the continuation of the process on establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services** offers huge opportunities to bring closer scientific community in order to deliver better science based on options for future international environmental cooperation.

The EU as a major resources contributor to the UNEP activities is satisfied with the **adoption of the Biennial programme of the Work and Budget**. We the EU member states underline our commitment to continue to be reliable partner when delivering the UNEP mission and we are eager to see the outcomes of result based management of the UNEP.

Dear colleagues,

We are meeting regularly in Africa, to experience the progress achieved in Kenya. We all understand the challenges that African continent is facing. We, the EU member states recognize the role of Africa as environmental creditor of the world. Therefore we are pleased that we agreed on the **decision “Support to Africa in environmental management and protection”**.

The EU is of the opinion that we spent time in Nairobi in a most effective way when reaching consensus on many decisions. We thank our negotiations partners for constructive approach, we express our gratitude to the Secretariat of the UNEP for an outstanding support, we are grateful to the UN services including interpreters.

Finally, as it was the first Presidency of the Czech Republic to the European Union I would like to express my deep appreciation to our colleagues of all EU member states in particular to those who were leading the negotiations on behalf of the EU, residing both within the EU or in Nairobi. Thank you all.

I thank the Government and the people of the Republic of Kenya for their hospitality.

I wish to all of you nice weekend in Kenya or safe journey to your home. Safari njema na tutatonana.