Decision
Environmental Situation in the Occupied Territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its Decisions 20/2 and 21/16 on the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;

Taking note of the report presented by the Executive Director (UNEP/GCSS.VII/4/Add.3);

Conscious of the need to respond to the Decisions of the Governing Council comprehensively;

Gravely concerned over the continuing deterioration and destruction of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;

Encouraged by the recent invitation extended to the Executive Director by the two concerned parties to visit the region;

1) Requests the Executive Director to visit the area as soon as possible with a view to establish a framework and modalities of the study requested by the Governing Council in Decisions 20/2 and 21/16

2) Requests the Executive Director to designate a team of UNEP experts to prepare a desk study outlining the state of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to identify major areas of environmental damage requiring urgent attention;

3) Also requests the Executive Director to undertake field studies, as deemed necessary, with the objective of proposing remedial measures to improve the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and by implementing existing agreements for improving the environment in the area;

4) Urges the Executive Director to take all necessary steps, on an urgent basis, to:

   a) Coordinate the activities of UNEP in the area, including the implementation of this decision;

   b) Follow up the findings and recommendations of the UNEP study and assist the Palestinian Ministry of Environmental Affairs in its efforts to address the urgent environmental needs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;

5) Invites all the parties concerned to cooperate with the Executive Director in the implementation of this Decision;

6) Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of this decision to the Governing Council at its 22nd Regular Session.