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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT
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REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON THE DECLARATION
ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT ON ITS SECOND SESSION

1. The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Declaration on the Human Environment held its second session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 14 January 1972, pursuant to a recommendation adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its third session (A/CONF.48/PC.13, para. 165). The purpose of the session was "to develop further the draft preamble and principles of the declaration". The Preparatory Committee further recommended that this work should be based on, but not confined to, the draft contained in annex I of the report of the Working Group on its first session (A/CONF.48/PC.12), taking into account the views expressed at the third session of the Preparatory Committee and any pertinent discussions and decisions of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly.
2. The second session of the Working Group was opened by the Chairman of the first session, Mr. G. Mirliuolo (Italy). The Working Group decided that the Chairman and Rapporteur (Mr. O. Heyman of Sweden) of the first session would continue in office and that Mr. M. N. Gobba (Fryet) would fill the vacant office of Vice-Chairman. A list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.14.
3. The provisional agenda for the second session, contained in document A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.1, was adopted (see annex I to this report).
4. During the session, a number of delegations submitted working papers and revisions of them, proposing drafts of new and alternative texts for the preamble and fundamental principles of the declaration. A list of references to these working papers is contained in annex II to this report (those bearing symbols A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.3/Rev.4, A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.7/Rev.1 and A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.8/Rev.1 were submitted on the last day of the session and were not circulated to the Working Group during the session). The Working Group discussed in first reading a Secretariat compilation relating the provisions of those working papers, which had been circulated to similar provisions in the draft preamble and principles contained in document A/CONF.48/PC.12. The Working Group

then decided to hold informal consultations and to produce, in the light of the first reading of the Secretariat correlation and other relevant material, draft texts of agreement and principles for consideration by the Working Group in formal session.

5. The Working Group agreed to forward the draft texts prepared during the informal consultations contained in annex III to this report to the Preparatory Committee, with the understanding that they were not final and were to be given further consideration by the Preparatory Committee.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the second session of the Working Group

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Organization of work
4. Further elaboration of the draft Declaration on the Human Environment
5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee

ANNEX II

List of Working Papers submitted to the Intergovernmental Working
Group on the Declaration on the Human Environment (second session)

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.2	Working Paper submitted by the Swedish Delegation to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Declaration on the Human Environment: draft Declaration on the Human Environment.
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.3 and Rev.1 ^{1/}	Working Paper submitted by the Delegations of Brazil, Egypt and Yugoslavia to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Declaration on the Human Environment: draft Declaration on the Human Environment
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.3/Rev.2	Revised Working Paper submitted by the Delegations of Brazil, Egypt and Yugoslavia to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Declaration on the Human Environment: draft Declaration on the Human Environment
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.3/Rev.3	Brazil, Egypt and Yugoslavia: Revised Working Paper: draft Declaration on the Human Environment.
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.3/Rev.4*	Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Yugoslavia and Zambia: Revised Working Paper: draft Declaration on the Human Environment.
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.4	Working Paper: Draft principles for inclusion in the Declaration on the Human Environment submitted by the Delegation of Canada.
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.5	Working Paper submitted by the Netherlands Delegation to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Declaration on the Human Environment: draft Declaration on the Human Environment.

^{1/} Reissued for technical reasons in English only.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.6	Working Paper submitted by the Delegation of India: draft text of Declaration on the Human Environment
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.7	Japan: Working Paper (proposed additional paragraph in the preamble and operative part)
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.7/Rev.1 *	Japan: Revised Working Paper (proposed reformulation of an operative paragraph).
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.8	United States of America: Working Paper: draft preamble for the Declaration on the Human Environment.
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.8/Rev.1 *	United States: revised Working Paper: draft preamble for the Declaration on the Human Environment.
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.9	Australia: Working Paper: draft principles for inclusion in the Declaration on the Human Environment.
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.10	Working Paper submitted by the Delegation of Mexico (proposed additions to fundamental principles).
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.11	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Working Paper (proposed reformulation for principles 1 and 2 in document A/CONF.48/PC.12, Annex I).
A/CONF.48/PC/WG.1(II)/CRP.12	Working Paper submitted by the World Health Organization (WHO): Proposed additions to A/CONF.48/PC.12, Annex I.

* Note: Working Papers designated by asterisks were submitted on the last day of the session and were not circulated in the Working Group during the session.

ANNEX III

Draft texts of a preamble and principles of the
Declaration on the Human Environment

Preamble

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Having met at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, and

Having considered the need for a common outlook and common principles to
inspire and guide the peoples of the world in the preservation and enhancement
of the human environment,

PROCLAIMS

1. Man is both creature and moulder of his environment. His physical needs and capacities are conditioned by age-long evolution in his terrestrial home. But his intellect and his social and moral nature have set him free from time immemorial to transcend and transform wild nature and to build his own society and culture, and thereby create for his progeny a better and more fully human life. Both aspects of man's environment, the natural and the man-made, are essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights - even the right to life itself.
2. Man has constantly to sum up experience and go on discovering, inventing, creating and advancing. In our time he has acquired, through the accelerating advancement of science and technology, the power to transform his surroundings in countless ways and on an unheard of scale. Used wisely, this power can bring to all peoples the benefits of development and the opportunity to enhance the quality of life. Wrongly or heedlessly applied, the same power can do incalculable harm to the human environment. We see around us growing evidence of man-made harm in many regions of the earth: dangerous levels of pollution in water, air, earth and living things; major and undesirable disturbances to the ecological balance of the biosphere; destruction and depletion of irreplaceable resources; and gross deficiencies in the man-made environment of human settlements.
3. In our time also, the growth of population in certain areas, through both migration and unprecedented natural increase, has accelerated to rates which could frustrate all efforts to conquer poverty and under-development and to maintain a decent human environment, whereas other areas have not yet reached population density conducive to economic efficiency and the high productivity that will permit the rapid increase of standards of living.

4. Meanwhile, immense resources continue to be consumed in armaments and armed conflict, wasting and threatening still further the human environment.

5. Thus a point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences. Through ignorance or indifference we can do massive and irreversible harm to the earthly environment on which our life and well-being depend. Conversely, through fuller knowledge and wiser action, we can achieve for ourselves and our posterity a better life in an environment more in keeping with human needs and hopes. What is needed is an enthusiastic but calm state of mind and intense but orderly work. For the purpose of attaining freedom in the world of nature, man must use knowledge to build in collaboration with nature a better environment. To defend and enhance the human environment for present and future generations has become an imperative goal for mankind - a goal to be pursued together with, and in harmony with, the established and fundamental goals of peace and of world-wide economic and social development.

6. To achieve this environmental goal will demand the acceptance of responsibility by citizens and communities and by enterprises and institutions at every level, all sharing equitably in common efforts. Individuals in all walks of life as well as organizations in many fields, by their values and the sum of their actions, will shape the world environment of the future. Local and national governments will bear the greatest burden for large-scale environmental policy and action within their jurisdictions. A growing class of environmental problems, because they are regional or global in extent or because they affect the common international realm, will require extensive co-operation among nations and action by international organizations in the common interest.

Principles

STATES THE COMMON CONVICTION THAT*

1. Man has the fundamental right to adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality which permits a life of dignity and well-being and bears a solemn responsibility to protect and enhance the environment for future generations.

2. The natural resources of the earth, including the air, water, land, flora and fauna, and especially natural ecosystems, must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management, as appropriate.

* Note: The order in which the paragraphs appear below was not discussed and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

3. The capacity of the earth to produce vital renewable resources must be maintained and, wherever practicable, restored or improved.
4. The non-renewable resources of the earth must be employed in such a way as to guard against the danger of their future exhaustion.
5. The discharge of toxic substances, or of other substances in such quantities or concentrations as to exceed the capacity of the environment to render them harmless, must be checked to ensure that serious or irreversible damage is not inflicted upon ecosystems.
6. Economic and social development is essential for ensuring a favourable living and working environment for man and for creating conditions on earth that are necessary for the improvement of the quality of life.
7. Environmental deficiencies generated by the conditions of under-development pose grave problems and can best be remedied by and in the course of development.
8. The environmental policies of all States should enhance and not adversely affect the present or future development potential of developing countries or hamper the attainment of better living conditions for all and appropriate steps should be taken by States and international organizations with a view to reaching agreement on meeting the possible national and international economic consequences resulting from the application of environmental measures.
9. Resources should be made available to preserve and enhance the environment, taking into account the particular requirements of developing countries and any costs which may emanate from their incorporating environmental safeguards into their development planning and the need for making available to them, upon their request, additional international technical and financial assistance for this purpose.
10. Relevant environmental considerations should be integrated with economic and social planning to ensure that development plans are compatible with the need to protect and enhance the environment.
11. Rational planning constitutes an essential tool for reconciling any conflict between the needs of development and the need to protect and enhance the environment.
12. Planning must be applied to human settlements and urbanization with a view to avoiding adverse effects on the environment and obtaining maximum social, economic and environmental benefits.
13. Demographic policies, which are without prejudice to basic human rights and which are deemed appropriate by Governments concerned, should be applied

in those regions, where the rate of population growth or excessive population concentrations are likely to have adverse effects on the environment or development, or where low population density may prevent enhancement of the human environment and impede development.

14. Appropriate national institutions must be entrusted with the task of planning, managing or controlling the environmental resources of States with the view to enhancing environmental quality.

15. Science and technology must be applied to the identification, avoidance and control of environmental risks and the solution of environmental problems, in the furtherance of economic and social development.

16. Education in environmental matters, especially for the younger generations, is essential in order to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in protecting and enhancing the environment.

17. Research and the free exchange and transfer of scientific and other knowledge and experience must be promoted to the fullest extent practicable in order to facilitate the solving of environmental problems taking particularly into account the needs of developing countries.

18. States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

19. States shall co-operate to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation in respect of damage which is caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to the environment of areas beyond their jurisdiction.

20. Relevant information must be supplied by States on activities or developments within their jurisdiction or under their control whenever they believe, or have reason to believe, that such information is needed to avoid the risk or significant adverse effects on the environment in areas beyond their national jurisdiction.

21. Man and his environment must be spared the serious effects of further testing or use in hostilities of weapons, particularly those of mass destruction.

22. Co-operation through international agreements or otherwise is essential to prevent, eliminate or reduce and effectively control adverse environmental effects resulting from activities conducted in all spheres, in such a way that due account is taken of the interests of all States.

23. States shall ensure that international organizations play a co-ordinated, efficient and dynamic role for the protection and enhancement of the environment.
