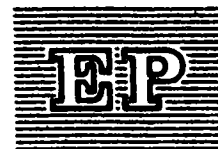




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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME MATTERS

Report of the Executive Director

MATTERS REQUIRING GUIDANCE FROM THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF  
PROGRAMME DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Summary

This document covers programme matters which, in the opinion of the Executive Director, require policy guidance by or the views of the Governing Council, and also reports on the implementation as of 31 December 1984 of decisions which require reporting to the Council at its thirteenth session.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The suggested action by the Governing is contained in the annex to the present document.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The major developments that have taken place during 1984 in the different programme areas are covered in chapter IV of the Annual Report of the Executive Director, 1984 (UNEP/GC.13/2), which complements the present document. In addition, projects that have been approved have been reported on in the Report on New Projects 1984. These documents should be read together in order to obtain a full picture of what has been done in the implementation of the environment programme in 1984.

### DECISION 11/7, PART THREE: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

#### Section A: Environmental education and training in the Asia and the Pacific region

2. In response to the above decision, UNEP convened a senior consultants' meeting in Bangkok, from 18 to 24 August 1984 which produced an outline draft action programme for environmental education and training, incorporating three major components. These were: a framework for environmental education and training in relation to major target groups; strategies for formal and non-formal environmental education; institutional arrangements and priority activities with reference to the primary roles of Governments and non-governmental organizations, United Nations bodies, business and industry and the mass media. The meeting also reviewed 15 thematic papers prepared by experts drawn from various parts of the region as well as country reports which had been received from the majority of the countries of the region. The consolidated draft action plan will be reviewed by Governments and then be discussed at a meeting of Government-nominated experts, non-governmental organizations and members of the academic and scientific community within the region, which is being convened by UNEP in Bangkok in November 1985.

### DECISION 12/12: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

#### Section I: Marine mammals

3. A progress report on the implementation of section I of this decision will be made in an addendum to this report (UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.2).

#### Section II: World Soils Policy

4. A progress report on the implementation of section II of this decision will be made in an addendum to this report (UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.2).

#### Section VIII: Marine pollution

5. The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP)\* continues to be used by UNEP as the main inter-agency mechanism to review global and specific problems of marine pollution.

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\*/ Co-sponsors United Nations, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IMO and IAEA.

6. UNEP reached an agreement with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) for the latter to co-sponsor the Group of Experts on Methods, Standards and Intercalibration (GEMSI) in order to ensure the widest involvement of recognized experts in the formulation and testing of reference methods being applied in UNEP's regional seas programme, as well as in the analysis of methodological problems related to their application.

7. In section VIII, paragraph 2 of the decision, reference is made to the environmental implications of the disposal of radioactive wastes at sea. UNEP co-operated with the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the preparation of a report entitled Radioactivity in the South Pacific (UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 40, 1984). The document was prepared as a technical contribution to ongoing negotiations concerning a convention for the protection and development of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific region and specific protocols concerned with the prevention of pollution by dumping of wastes and co-operation in combating pollution in cases of emergency. The report was also submitted for information to the expert panel on the evaluation of previous and future programmes on the disposal of radioactive wastes at sea convened by IMO at the request of the eighth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter. The Expert Panel held its first meeting at IAEA headquarters, Vienna, from 22 to 25 October 1984.

8. With regard to section VIII, paragraph 3, in which the Executive Director was urged to co-operate with IAEA and other relevant organizations in studies concerning the environmental impact of the disposal of radioactive wastes on the sea-bed as well as in the area of sea-bed mining, UNEP is collaborating with IAEA in the preparation of a proposal for such a study to be carried out under the auspices of GESAMP. The UNEP/IAEA proposal will be submitted to GESAMP for consideration at its fifteenth session to be held in New York, from 25 to 29 March 1985.

DECISION 12/13: TRAINING AND PROMOTION IN THE PLAN OF ACTION  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD SOILS POLICY

9. A progress report on the implementation of this decision will be made in an addendum to this report (UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.2).

DECISION 12/14: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Section I: Protection of the ozone layer

10. In accordance with section I of this decision, the Executive Director convened a fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts for the Elaboration of a Global Framework Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the first part being held in Geneva from 22 to 26 October 1984 and the second part from 21 to 25 January 1985, also in Geneva with financial support from the Governments of Canada, Finland, Norway and the

United States of America. The results of the session, including the text of a revised draft convention and a report from the Working Group on further work on a protocol concerning chlorofluorocarbons, will be reported on in an addendum to the present report (UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.2).

11. Following an invitation from, and with the support of, the Government of Austria, the Executive Director has convened a Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the finalization, adoption and signature of the Global Framework Convention and for the consideration of a draft protocol in the light of the report of the Working Group. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries will be held at the Vienna International Centre from 18 to 22 March 1985, and the results will also be reported to the Governing Council at its forthcoming session.

12. The Working Group was provided with updated scientific information on the state of the ozone layer and the nature and scale of likely modifications thereof, by the Co-ordinating Committee on the Ozone Layer (CCOL) which held its seventh session in Geneva from 15 to 19 October 1984. In response to the request of the Council in paragraph 7 of the decision, CCOL expressed its support for an international programme, to be co-sponsored with WMO, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and other organizations and institutions, for the scientific assessment of current understanding of the physical and chemical processes which control atmospheric ozone and to assess its susceptibility to change due to natural and anthropogenic perturbations. The Co-ordinating Committee considered that the report of the series of workshops, to be organized for the purpose of fulfilling the assessment process, which would include an appraisal of the effects of the chemicals considered as having the potential to modify the ozone layer, identified in annex I to the Convention, would provide the information requested by the Governing Council. It was agreed that the final programme report would be submitted for review to CCOL at its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for January 1986, and that CCOL would prepare an executive summary of the report for submission to the Governing Council at its fourteenth session.

#### Section II: Other topics of the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law

13. In accordance with section II of the decision, under which the Executive Director was requested to continue the work initiated by various ad hoc working groups of experts and expedite the preparation of guidelines and principles elaborated by them, the following activities have been undertaken in 1984 or are scheduled for 1985:

(a) The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Protection of the Marine Environment against Pollution from Land-based Sources held its second session in Geneva from 19 to 24 November 1984 and, following an invitation from the Government of Canada, will hold a third session in Montreal from 11 to 19 April 1985. After the Montreal session the Working Group is expected to submit a completed set of draft guidelines/principles with technical annexes, together with its report, to the Governing Council.

(b) The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes held its second session in Geneva from 3 to 7 December 1984, and reached provisional agreement on all but 5 of 29 draft guidelines and principles. The Executive Director has been requested to transmit the report of the Working Group on the work of its second session (UNEP/WG.111/3) to a related meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to be held at Basel, Switzerland, from 26 to 28 March 1985, with the understanding that the draft guidelines and principles have yet to be completed and that the draft conclusions on transfrontier movements of hazardous wastes with regard to developing countries, contained in annex 1 to the report, are to be discussed in detail at the next session of the Working Group, tentatively scheduled for November 1985.

(c) The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts for the Exchange of Information on Potentially Harmful Chemicals (in particular Pesticides) in International Trade will hold its second session in Rome from 28 January to 1 February 1985. Besides considering a set of revised draft guidelines, the Working Group is to review progress in the implementation of its Provisional Notification Scheme for Banned and Severely Restricted Chemicals, adopted by the Governing Council at its twelfth session and brought into operation by the Executive Director's letter of 11 July 1984 addressed to all Governments.

### Section III: Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law

14. In accordance with section III of the decision, the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law held its first session on environmental impact assessment in Washington, D.C., 26 to 29 June 1984, with the support of the Government of the United States of America. In conformity with the recommendations of the Working Group, the Governing Council's attention is drawn to the report on the work of its Washington session (UNEP/WG.107/3)\* with a request for guidance regarding future session on environmental impact assessment and regarding the composition of the Working Group. It will be recalled that the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law was originally constituted under decision 91 (V) of 25 May 1977, comprising Government-nominated experts selected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and of expressed interest. The previous eight sessions of the Working Group held from 1977 to 1981, which dealt with legal aspects concerning the environment related to off-shore mining and drilling within the limits of national jurisdiction, were attended by Government-nominated experts from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela, and by observers from Austria,

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\*/ Available in the working languages of the Working Group.

Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Tunisia and Zaire and from concerned international organizations. The report of the Group, and of the Ad Hoc Working Groups mentioned in paragraph 13 above, were also brought to the attention of other international bodies and organizations concerned, with a view to continuing close consultation and collaboration in the preparation and further elaboration of global draft guidelines and principles.

Section IV: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

15. The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals has been provisionally established in Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is tentatively scheduled to be held in Bonn, with the support of the Federal Republic of Germany, from 21 to 26 October 1985. One of the tasks of the meeting, as provided for in article VII of the Convention, will be to establish a Scientific Council as well as financial and administrative measures for the implementation of the Convention.

Section V: Information on environmental law

16. In accordance with section V of the decision, the Executive Director transmitted the report on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to the United Nations General Assembly and solicited updated information from Governments on their adherence to and implementation of existing multilateral agreements in this field. The information received is contained in the 1985 edition of the Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment (UNEP/GC/INFORMATION/11/Rev.1) and summarized in a report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.13/10). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/217, the Executive Director is also submitting a further report on progress in the implementation of the principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States and on the conclusions of the study of the legal aspects concerning the environment related to offshore mining and drilling within the limits of national jurisdiction (UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.1).

17. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Environment which was held in Nairobi, from 26 November - 1 December 1984, adopted a series of recommendations for national action on environmental legislation and incentives. It also recommended that UNEP, in co-operation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, should provide Parliaments on a regular basis with information on environmental issues and legislation.

**DECISION 12/15: REFORM OF THE INFORMATION SERVICE**

18. The report on progress in the reform of the Information Service is contained in the Executive Director's annual report, chapter IV, under the heading Public Information, budget subline 3103.

19. With regard to paragraph 8 of the decision, the publishers of Mazingira have been advised that UNEP will discontinue financial support for the magazine at the expiration of the present contract.

#### DECISION 12/16: SUPPORTING MEASURES

##### Section A: Environmental education and training in Africa

20. In this decision, the Governing Council endorsed the recommendations with regard to a proposed programme of action for environmental education and training in Africa (UNEP/GC.12/13, annex) and appealed to the Governments of the region to co-operate with the Executive Director in the formulation of the programme.

21. In response to the above decision, the endorsed recommendations were circulated to all Governments of the African Region in a letter dated 20 July 1984 to which the full draft Programme of Action for Environmental Education and Training in Africa was attached, requesting again comments and indications of support. As only four replies had been received by the deadline of 30 September 1984, a reminder was sent to the Governments on 16 November 1984. Other appeals were sent through the Chairman of the African Group of members of the Governing Council and the Permanent Representatives to UNEP in Nairobi on 2 November and 18 November 1984 respectively. No additional replies had been received by 31 December 1984.

##### Section B: Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean

22. In paragraph 1 of this section the Governments of the countries of the region were recommended to agree as soon as possible on a general programme for an Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean for the purpose of attaining the signature of an instrument on the subject which, duly submitted to UNEP, would guarantee the financing of the Network's programme up to 1987. In this financing, the contributions in local currency and in kind from the countries will constitute the regional counterpart under the project to be submitted to UNEP.

23. In response to the above decision, a questionnaire was sent to the Governments of the region in August 1984, with a request for their views and an indication of their commitments. In addition, consultations were held with several of those Governments, which were requested for inputs for the general Network programme. By 31 December 1984, five replies had been received detailing national programmes on environmental training, giving costs in local currencies and expressing willingness to help in the development of regional environmental training programmes within the Network.

24. In response to paragraph 5 of the decision under which the Executive Director was requested to take the necessary measures for a continuation of budgetary support to the Network within available resources, UNEP has continued its financial support to the maintenance of the 1985 programme of the Co-ordination Unit for the Network within the existing project. It is expected that the Co-ordination Unit will concentrate its efforts on assisting Governments to reach agreement on implementation of this decision. To this

end, an ad hoc expert group meeting is planned for early 1985 to advise on the general programmes for the Network and the regional project referred to in decision 12/16 B. In addition, the Co-ordination Unit will promote preparatory activities for the Regional Seminar on the University and Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean scheduled to be held in October/November 1985 in Colombia.

#### DECISION 12/17: REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

##### Section A: Programme of action on the African environment and African subregional environment groups

25. A progress report on the implementation of section A of this decision will be given in an addendum to this report (UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.2).

##### Section B: Strengthening of the Regional Office for Africa

26. By letter of 21 November 1984 to African Governments, the Executive Director drew attention to paragraph 4 of decision 12/17 B, in which he was requested to make a study on the establishment of subregional offices in the future, considering the offer of Morocco to host the subregional office for North Africa. At the same time, he enquired as to whether other Governments would be willing to provide the necessary premises and equipment for the establishment of a UNEP subregional office for West and Central Africa. As at 31 December no replies had been received.

##### Section C: Regional activities in Asia and the Pacific

27. In response to paragraph 2 of the decision, UNEP has negotiated with the Swedish International Development Authority for the transfer of Skr 850,000 (approximately US\$ 97,000), being the balance remaining in the Trust Fund for Regional Training Workshops on Environmental Management, to a trust fund account to be used for establishing a network of existing laboratories in a number of Asian countries, to monitor, analyse, and assess environmental impacts as well as to assess recycling and reuse of industrial effluents. Initially, the network will focus on the pulp and paper industry. Also the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft of the Federal Republic of Germany, through the co-ordinating and catalytic action of UNEP, provided full funding for a seminar on the role of media in environmental protection. The seminar which was held in Manila in September 1984, was attended by 27 press, radio and television journalists from Asian and Pacific countries. The Press Foundation of Asia and the National Environmental Protection Council of the Philippines also collaborated in this activity.

28. In response to paragraph 3 of the above decision, on 20 July 1984 UNEP communicated to all focal points of the South Asia Seas participating countries its agreement that the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) secretariat should assume responsibility for administering and co-ordinating consultant assistance requested by the Governments to prepare country reports. UNEP also indicated its willingness to provide SACEP with sufficient financial resources to cover the costs of such assistance.



Annex

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council may wish to include the following elements in any decision it may adopt:

A. Environmental law

I. Protection of the ozone layer

[See suggestion in UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.2]

II. Other topics of the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law

(a) Protection of the marine environment against pollution from land-based sources

[See suggestion in UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.3]

(b) Exchange of information on potentially harmful chemicals (in particular pesticides) in international trade

[See suggestion in UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.2]

III. Information on environmental law

(a) International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

[See suggestion in UNEP/GC.13/10]

(b) Register of International Treaties and other Agreements in the Field of Environment

The Council may wish to:

Authorize the Executive Director to transmit the updated Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements [Conventions and Protocols] in the Field of Environment to the General Assembly at its fortieth session in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975.

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IV. Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States

Progress in the use made of the conclusions of the study of the legal aspects concerning the environment related to offshore mining and drilling within the limits of national jurisdiction.

[See suggestion in UNEP/GC.13/9/Add.1]

V. The Council may wish to:

1. Note the progress made in the implementation of decision 12/14 and of the Montevideo Programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law (UNEP/GC.10/5/Add.2, Annex (1981));

2. Request the Executive Director to take all appropriate measures to continue implementation of the Montevideo Programme, and in particular, in accordance with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes, to complete the preparation of guidelines and principles on the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, with a view to their consideration by the Governing Council at its fourteenth session;

3. Authorize the Executive Director to review the composition of the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law so as to ensure the most effective continuation of its work on guidelines and principles for environmental impact assessment, and to take all appropriate measures to complete the work for consideration by the Governing Council at its fourteenth session;

4. Invite the Executive Director, in co-operation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to provide national Parliaments on a regular basis with information on environmental issues and legislation.

B. Environmental education and training in Africa

In view of the few responses and indications of commitment by Governments in the region, the Council may wish to advise the Executive Director on what further efforts and action should be taken in the development of a Programme of Action for Environmental Education and Training in Africa.

C. Marine Pollution

The Council may wish to:

1. Note the progress made in assessing marine pollution problems and in developing methodologies, reference methods and guidelines required for such assessment (see UNEP/GC.13/2);

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2. Recognize the valuable contribution made by GESAMP as the principal United Nations inter-agency mechanism for reviewing scientific aspects of marine pollution;
  3. Urge the Executive Director of UNEP to continue to contribute to the global debate on the environmental implications of the disposal of radioactive and other hazardous wastes at sea;
  4. Note the significant progress made in adopting action plans and regional agreements for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment; (see UNEP/GC.13/2);
  5. Call upon the Executive Director to complete the preparatory phase leading to the adoption of action plans and regional conventions for those regions where such action plans and conventions have yet to be adopted (Eastern African region and South Asian Seas region) and to continue to assist States to implement the adopted action plans and agreements in all other regions;
  6. Urge the Executive Director to make every effort to strengthen interregional co-operation so as to promote an exchange of information and experiences and to contribute to the protection of the global marine environment.
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