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ISSUES IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF ACTIVITY OF ESCAP: REPORTS OF
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETINGS
HELD SINCE THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION,
AND SELECTED ISSUES

(Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda)

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE
ENVIRONMENT IN ASIA

CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| I. Organization of the session | 1 |
| II. Consideration of the various issues and the report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials | 5 |
| III. Declaration and Framework for Action Plans for the Management of the Asian Environment | 10 |
| IV. Other matters | 10 |

Annex

| | |
|---|----|
| Declaration and Framework for Action Plans for the Management of the Asian Environment, 1985 | 11 |
|---|----|

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment in Asia was convened at Bangkok on 11 and 12 February 1985.

Attendance

2. The Conference was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP): Australia, Bangladesh, China, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam and Hong Kong.

3. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, a representative of Egypt attended the Conference.

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Centre of Transnational Corporations (UNCTC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Health Organization (WHO). The secretariat of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin was also represented.

5. The Conference was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Productivity Organization (APO) and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). The following non-governmental organizations were represented: in category I, the International Council of Women (ICW), International Organization of Consumer's Unions (IOCU), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS); and in category II, Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC).

Opening addresses

6. In his inaugural address, His Excellency General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister of Thailand, welcomed the participants and expressed the hope that the Conference would result in further inputs to boost national operational programmes on the management of the environment.

7. Referring to the need for environment protection, he noted the achievements realized with regard to public consciousness and concern for urgent environmental action, despite human and technical resource constraints. The establishment of a national environmental agency in Thailand had been an important development. Governments of the region were faced with one of their hardest challenges in dealing with problems of environmental protection as they had to strike a due and proper balance between the demand for resources for economic and social development on the one hand and the urgent need to arrest the trend of environmental depletion and decline on the other.

8. Having shown appreciation of national efforts to deal with environmental problems and issues, he observed that no country could afford to overlook the importance of international co-operation. He welcomed the convening of the Conference as a milestone in the context of broad regional co-operative ventures. He opined that among the issues that deserved the attention of the Conference was the need for organizing the background data accumulated on environmental resources and values. In that regard, he underlined the supportive role of ESCAP in establishing an efficient environmental data bank storage and retrieval system.

9. In his keynote address "Towards a sustainable environment", the Honourable R. Premadasa, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, called the attention of participants to the obligations of the Conference to nurture the environmental patrimony in order to ensure the welfare of the present as well as future generations. The causes of existing environmental problems included population growth, widespread poverty and the concomitant increased demand on the environmental resources to fulfil basic human needs and to sustain necessary growth. He called upon the Conference to accept as an alternative the challenge of perceiving and advancing environmentalism within the framework of traditional values and verities in order to achieve realistic national growth.

10. He suggested an alternative development model based on sustainability, self-reliance and community participation. The model would have the potential of providing prosperity with maximum equity. To illustrate the suggestion, he cited the various attempts made in Sri Lanka to evolve a new development strategy, including the Village Reawakening Movement and the Ten Million Trees Programmes.

11. He proposed that the Conference endorse the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in recognition of the need to improve a fundamental requirement of the people.

12. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP, in his statement, expressed gratitude to His Excellency General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister of Thailand, and the Honourable R. Premadasa, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for their addresses to the Conference. He also expressed appreciation of the large and eminent representation to the Conference which indicated the importance attached by Governments to environmental problems and issues and recognition of the crucial role of sound environmental management in the development processes. The Conference had, therefore, the potential to become a major milestone in the annals of the Commission.

13. The Executive Secretary briefly described the three stages of environmental perception during the past two decades, namely, the doomsday scenario, the ranking of pollution-control measures and resource conservation after the urgent requirement to satisfy basic human needs and eradicate poverty, and the concept of development and environment as two sides of the same coin. The new phase of the environmental movement concerned development with environmental enhancement in which environment was a crucial interacting agent with population, resources and development. The new thinking laid emphasis on need-based resource use, endogenous impulses, national and local self-reliance, and structural transformation to strengthen development and environmental efforts.

14. In its contribution to the effort made all over the world during the past decade to formulate methodological, functional and organizational concepts based on the complex interrelationship between population, resources, environment and development, the secretariat had prepared a report on the state of the environment in Asia and the Pacific with the theme, "Development with environmental enhancement". Enhancement of the environment was a fundamental part of efforts to alleviate some of the more visible economic and social problems besetting many countries in the region, including improving the lot of the poor.

15. In referring to the staggering population expansion since 1960 and its projection to the year 2000, he warned that, unless the environmental impacts were checked, the region's capability to maintain the productivity of natural resources, assimilate wastes and combat diseases would continue inevitably to decline. Desertification, with its effects on the people and various activities leading to the spread of desert conditions, were singled out as reflecting a worrisome trend towards resource degradation.

16. Having reviewed the various environmental problems and issues existing in the region, the Executive Secretary presented the shape of a development strategy based on need-orientation, endogenous development impulses, self-reliance,

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change in consumption patterns, reduction of income disparities, and recycling and re-use of waste products. Two basic requirements were seen as necessary: anticipatory and preventive action, and a national authority at the highest level to articulate and implement environmental policy.

17. Finally, reiterating the conviction that the Conference would be an important landmark on the road to environmentally sound economic and social development in the region, the Executive Secretary gave the assurance that ESCAP, in co-operation with other United Nations organizations and particularly with UNEP, would support efforts to implement any regional strategy and action plan adopted during the Conference.

Election of officers

18. The Conference elected H.E. Mr. Damrong Lathapiphat (Thailand) as Chairman; and H.E. Datuk Amar Stephen K.T. Yong (Malaysia), H.E. Mr. Ahmad Mattar (Singapore), H.E. Mr. Daniel Sande (Solomon Islands), H.E. Mr. Vir Sen (India), H.E. Mr. Emil Salim (Indonesia), H.E. Mr. Koki Chuma (Japan), H.E. Mr. Doo-Ho Rhee (Republic of Korea), and H.E. Mr. B. Runov (USSR) as Vice-Chairmen. The Conference also elected Mr. Hussain Ahmed (Bangladesh) as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the agenda

19. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Consideration of the issues and the report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials:
 - (a) State of the environment in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Implementation of the Asian plan of action for the human environment and the relevant resolutions of the Commission;
 - (c) Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning national resources;
 - (d) Draft declaration and action plan for the management of the Asian environment.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.

II. CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS ISSUES AND THE REPORT OF
THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

(Item 4 of the agenda)

20. In his introductory statement, the Chairman of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials congratulated the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and his staff on presenting a set of comprehensive documents, in particular the report on the state of environment in Asia and the Pacific (ECU/MCEA/PM/4 and Corr.1), for the consideration of the senior officials. The report was considered a valuable analysis of the environmental conditions and trends and the environmental policies, strategies and programmes in various countries in the region, and it would serve as a useful reference.

21. The Meeting had made a number of suggestions and comments, and recommended that the report should be updated from time to time so that it could be a significant contribution to the global report on the environment published by UNEP. Countries should take the initiative when dealing with co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources, with support, sponsorship and other forms of assistance coming from the regional level. There should be enhanced co-ordination and co-operation between ESCAP and other international organizations, in particular UNEP, in order to ensure more efficient use of limited resources.

22. With regard to the draft declaration and framework for action plans for the management of the Asian environment contained in document ECU/MCEA/PM/1, a number of suggestions were made and subsequently incorporated which deserved the special consideration and attention of the Conference. He expressed the hope that the Conference would consider the report and adopt the declaration and framework for action plans to set the stage for effective protection and management of the environment in the region.

23. While considering the report on the state of the environment in Asia and the Pacific, the Conference commended the secretariat on preparing such a comprehensive document on the environmental situation, and provided glimpses of the trends as well as emerging patterns in the region. The report would serve as a ready guide for intercountry comparisons and as a reference and would be of value to the Governments, non-governmental organizations and media in promoting environmental awareness. It served as an important avenue for sharing information and expertise and as such it should be revised and updated periodically.

/24. Many

24. Many representatives made presentations on the state of the environment in their respective countries. Environmental conditions had been deteriorating and urgent measures were called for to reverse the trends of environmental degradation.

25. The Conference recognized the need for better understanding of the relationship between population, resources, environment and development, for which it was necessary to emphasize a renewed commitment to eco-development - the strategy into which environmental concerns had been fully integrated with population, resources and development. The integration of environmental concerns into the development process was necessary for promoting sustainable development. As poverty was the greatest polluter, it was necessary to implement programmes of poverty eradication on a priority basis while dealing with environmental issues.

26. The implementation of concrete environmental measures had been handicapped owing to competing policy priorities. Development of institutions, legislation, guidelines and programmes did not constitute the full array of measures by which to tackle the entire gamut of environmental problems. It was necessary to adopt a preventive approach for effective environmental management rather than remedial or curative measures which were often time-consuming and costly. In some cases curative measures were not even able completely to mitigate the environmental problems. Anticipatory policies supplemented with advance and forward-planning measures should be adopted. The deterioration of water quality was due to a lack of sewerage and sanitation facilities and indiscriminate siting of industries, while that of air quality was due to improper industrial development and extensive use of motor vehicles and the pollution resulting from noise, toxic and hazardous chemicals, and improper waste disposal. Special attention should be given to greater vigilance over such problems.

27. The Conference noted with concern that several environmentally harmful operations and chemicals banned in industrialized countries had been transferred to the developing countries. Effective restrictive measures were necessary to bring the situation under control.

28. One of the basic prerequisites for better environmental well-being was the improvement of shelter. The programmes undertaken under the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless promoted by the United Nations system were recommended for implementation. The urban environment was under stress due to unplanned development and migration from rural to urban areas. In order to deal with the problem, the Conference emphasized the need for better urban planning and management, including enhancement of infrastructural facilities.

29. The recovery and recycling of waste materials contributed significantly to environmental protection. Programmes initiated by several countries in that regard were noted.

30. The implementation of environmental protection measures was handicapped owing to a shortage of competent personnel, adequate laboratory equipment and material. Programmes of manpower development and improvement in infrastructural facilities should be given priority attention by the concerned countries. It was necessary to strengthen the development of environmental institutions and legislation, environmental education and training, programmes of public participation, and the development of environmental technology. The Conference called upon donor countries and international agencies to extend support to national efforts.

31. Primary responsibility for management of the environment as it concerned the use of natural resources rested with the countries concerned. Without such national efforts, co-operative endeavour would not be successful.

32. Common environmental problems, wherever feasible, should be handled co-operatively. At the current stage of co-operative activities, a smaller association of countries forming a subregional group or bilateral arrangements could more readily come to co-operative terms and could be more viable. It would be useful to strengthen consultations for identifying those problems of common interest among countries which required concentrated and co-operative efforts so as to bring them within the framework of the existing subregional arrangements. In matters where there were commonalities of interest between different subregions, efforts should be made to promote co-operative linkages which would assist in the sharing of information and technology.

33. Subregionalization was a step towards the development of regional co-operative programmes which would result ultimately in the consolidation of environmental efforts by the countries of Asia. Regional co-operation should be promoted on the basis of commonality of interest and with initiatives taken by the countries themselves with the possible catalytic support of regional organizations as deemed appropriate by the countries concerned.

34. The Conference stressed the need to promote further co-operation and co-ordination between ESCAP and other international agencies, particularly UNEP, to ensure more efficient utilization of limited resources and to avoid duplication of efforts. There was a need for clearly delineating the functions of ESCAP and

UNEP; the emphasis of ESCAP's efforts should primarily be on the integration of environmental considerations into the programme of work of the Commission in various sectoral areas.

35. A suggestion was made that ESCAP and the UNEP Regional Office should jointly undertake to consolidate their efforts and to clarify the purview of their efforts and activities. That clarification should be clearly reflected in the respective mandates of the two agencies. The outcome of such a joint undertaking should be communicated to the Governments of the ESCAP members and associate members and a report should be submitted to the Governing Council of UNEP at its thirteenth session. Another suggestion was made that, since the matter had not been raised in any of the documents under consideration, it should be discussed at the appropriate legislative bodies of those organizations.

36. ESCAP could play the leading role in the exchange of information and technology, and the provision of technical assistance and advisory services in the planning and implementation of projects at the request of the countries. A suggestion was made that ESCAP should develop joint programmes with interested countries in the preparation of manuals/guidelines on economic-cum-environmental regional planning, environmental impact assessment, the environmental planning and management of forest resources, and in establishing and maintaining comprehensive data bank storage and retrieval systems appropriate for use in the region. It was also suggested that ESCAP should prepare the terms of reference of the projects, including collaborative arrangements with the countries, seek appropriate financing arrangements, and play a meaningful role in co-ordinating and disseminating the end-product;

37. One delegation suggested that ESCAP, in consultation with other international agencies, should assist in the study, training, planning and implementation of environmental projects. Despite a decision of the Commission at its fortieth session for undertaking the feasibility study on the establishment of a regional mangrove research institute, no action had been taken so far. Accordingly, the delegation urged ESCAP to identify a funding source and implement the activity as soon as possible.

38. The Conference considered the report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials and generally endorsed the general recommendations presented therein. However, a suggestion was made that mention should be made in paragraph 36 of the report of the concern of the least developed and land-locked countries in Asia in addition to the concern expressed by the Pacific island countries for the insufficient integration of environmental considerations into the development process.

/39. Several

39. Several delegations indicated that one of the most important global socio-political problems was the problem of effective and sound environmental protection involving the rational use of natural resources and the promotion of adequate, scientifically sound interaction between human civilization and the biosphere. One of the most serious obstacles to solution of that problem was the arms race. The arms race not only led to wasteful and thoughtless exploitation of scarce natural resources but also destroyed the crucial ecological balance. The resources spent on armaments should be utilized for promoting the development of the developing countries and revitalizing and restructuring the world economy. If urgent remedial measures were not taken, environmental quality was likely to deteriorate further. Some other delegations stated that in their opinion ESCAP was not the appropriate forum in which to discuss that matter.

40. One delegation expressed its reservation on paragraph 64 of document ECU/MCEA/PM/4 on the state of the environment in Asia and the Pacific, volume one, and related sections in volume two of the report. It pointed out that ESCAP was not the appropriate forum in which to discuss military questions, and that the facts cited in that paragraph and in the other related documents were scientifically disputable.

41. The representative of UNEP commended the Executive Secretary of ESCAP on organizing the Conference. He drew attention to session of a special character of the Governing Council of UNEP held in 1982 which had identified comprehensively the emerging environmental trends and problems and had recommended priority action. As environmental problems had global, regional, subregional and national significance, problem-solving needed to be formulated accordingly. He described briefly the activities undertaken by UNEP in the region. On the question of co-ordination of environmental activities within the United Nations system, he described the different modalities being followed, including the System-wide Medium Term Environment Programme for 1984-1989, the approach of the Designated Officials on Environment Matters, and joint thematic meetings. With regard to co-ordination between UNEP regional offices and the environmental co-ordination units of regional commissions, the Governing Council of UNEP at its tenth session had already approved the respective terms of references. The representative reaffirmed UNEP support for and collaboration with countries and subregional organizations in the region in the resolution of environmental problems.

42. Representatives of WHO, ILO, ADB, LRCS, IPPF and CHEC described environmental programmes and activities implemented by their respective organizations and offered the co-operation of those organizations with all other agencies concerned.

III. DECLARATION AND FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION PLANS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ASIAN ENVIRONMENT, 1985

43. The Conference considered the draft declaration and the framework for action plans for the management of the Asian environment, 1985 as adopted by the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials and suggested certain amendments. As regards the framework for action plans, the Conference suggested that human settlement was an important area of environmental concern. Accordingly, an additional component on human settlement and the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless should be included in the framework. The Declaration and the Framework for Action Plans on the Management of Asian Environment, 1985, as amended were adopted and annexed to the report. One delegation observed that references to the decisions taken in non-United Nations bodies should not be included in the Declaration. Other delegations said that references to such decisions in the Declaration were in order.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

44. The representative of Indonesia informed the Conference of the objectives and membership of the World Commission on Environment and Development and indicated that leading personalities from China, India, Indonesia and Japan had been included as members of the Commission. He mentioned that the next meeting of the World Commission was scheduled to be held from 26 to 29 March 1985 at Jakarta and was being hosted by the Indonesian Government.

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Annex

DECLARATION AND FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION PLANS FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF THE ASIAN ENVIRONMENT, 1985

The Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment in Asia,

Recalling the goals and principles proclaimed in the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, the Nairobi Declaration adopted at the session of a special character of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the decisions relating to the Asian region adopted by the Governing Council at various sessions, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade as contained in the annex to resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980 of the United Nations General Assembly,

Recalling also the Declaration of Environmental Policies and Procedures relating to Economic Development signed by multilateral agencies on 1 February 1980 in New York,

Recalling further the recommendations made by the Meeting of Representatives of Countries and Intergovernmental Bodies Active in the Field of the Human Environment in the ECAFE Region held at Bangkok from 2 to 5 October 1973,

Taking into consideration the progress made in implementing resolutions 125 (XXVIII) of 25 March 1972 and 131 (XXIX) of 21 April 1973 of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and resolutions 202 (XXXVI) of 27 March 1980 and 224 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling further the deliberations of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-aligned Countries held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983,

Welcoming the efforts made by the countries of the region in the establishment of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, the ASEAN Expert Group on Environment and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme to deal with their respective subregional environmental problems and needs,

Noting with satisfaction the Colombo Declaration on South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme of 25 February 1981, the Manila Declaration on the ASEAN Environment of 30 April 1981, and the Bangkok Declaration on the ASEAN Environment of 29 November 1984 and the policy guidelines laid down therein,

/Noting

Noting with satisfaction the significant initiatives taken by the countries in the region and by the Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations agencies for the integration of environmental concerns into the development process and for mitigating the effects of environmental problems,

Noting with appreciation the active interest shown by donor countries and international financing institutions, agencies and bodies in environmental programmes and the support that they extend for them,

Recognizing that a healthy environment is a fundamental human right and that its protection and improvement is a solemn responsibility laid on all people,

Welcoming the report on the state of the environment in Asia and the Pacific as presented by the Executive Secretary of the Commission,

Realizing that there had been a marked deterioration in the quality of the environment during the last decade as a result of desertification, worsened by drought and floods but mainly caused by the misuse and overuse of fragile lands through overcropping and overgrazing, of deforestation, of waterlogging and salinization of cultivable land, of pollution of the atmosphere and of inland and oceanic waters, and of the degradation of the natural and cultural heritage, thereby reducing the productivity of land and water resources, endangering public health and increasing social distress, that poverty had continued to force people to exploit the resources of the environment excessively, that uncontrolled urban growth and industrialization could exacerbate environmental problems or create them as had been the case with the disposal of toxic waste and with acid rain, that unplanned, wasteful and thoughtless exploitation of scarce natural resources had continued which had led to the destruction of the crucial ecological balance, that structural maladjustments in international trade and the international economic system had contributed to the degradation of the quality of the environment, that programmes aimed at ecologically sound development of developing countries and at the revitalization and the restructuring of the world economy should be promoted, that the quality of the environment was likely to deteriorate further if urgent remedial measures were not taken, that although significant progress had been made during the last decade in understanding the complexity of environmental issues and in increasing public awareness of them much remained to be accomplished,

/that

that there had to be a considerable increase in environmental monitoring and assessment, research, education, training and information activities, that environmental problems were intricately connected with the level of development and socio-economic conditions of the people, that there was an intimate and complex relationship among environment, development, population and resources, that a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and integrated approach emphasizing such a relationship would lead to environmentally sound and sustainable socio-economic development, and that many environmental problems transcended national boundaries and should, wherever appropriate, be resolved through consultation among and co-operative efforts by the countries concerned,

1. Recognizes the urgent necessity to intensify efforts to protect and improve the quality of the environment and the equally urgent necessity to enhance regional co-operation in the constant review and evaluation of environmental conditions and is assisting members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to evolve environmentally sound development strategies;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to revise the report on the state of the environment in Asia and the Pacific in the light of comments made by countries and periodically to update the report;
3. Calls upon those United Nations bodies, international, regional and subregional organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with environmental matters, international funding agencies within and outside the United Nations system, and donor countries to give active support to the development and implementation of action-oriented programmes and projects identified in national action plans on the environment;
4. Endorses the Framework for Action Plans for the Management of the Asian Environment, 1985;
5. Declares that necessary action should be taken to prepare and implement national action plans for the protection and management of the environment taking into full account that Framework.

/Appendix

AppendixFRAMEWORK FOR ACTION PLANS FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF THE ASIAN ENVIRONMENT, 1985

INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm in 1972 was a historic and powerful event that had inspired the individual States and the international community to launch vigorous efforts to protect, preserve and improve the human environment. In the Asian region particularly, where a very large population lived in poverty that endangered the environment for its survival, wise management of diminishing natural resources was crucial for improving the quality of life. Models of development that would concurrently promote environmental quality were urgently needed. In view of those considerations, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), in its resolution 131 (XXIX), had requested the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps to evolve a programme of action in that field, identifying projects for implementation in the short as well as long term, bearing in mind the need for programmes and projects to keep in view the development requirements of the developing countries of Asia. The Meeting of Representatives of Countries and Intergovernmental Bodies Active in the Field of Human Environment, which had been convened at Bangkok from 2 to 5 October 1973 to consider the draft Asian plan of action for the human environment, did not actually endorse that draft but made several recommendations for the protection and management of the human environment for implementation on a priority basis.

2. Since then, as a result of the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, advanced research and studies and the promotion of public awareness, the scientific understanding of environmental processes had increased, perceptions about those issues had further evolved and environmental priorities had been modified. However, the draft plan of action and recommendations made therein were more a general framework of action in the area of economic and social development than a specific plan of action for the protection and enhancement of the environment. Therefore it had become evident that a framework for action plans for the management of the Asian environment should be evolved in the light of the experiences and developments of the past decade.

I. OBJECTIVES

3. The overall objective of the Framework is to strengthen efforts to conserve and improve the quality of the environment, and to prevent and arrest environmental degradation so as to ensure public health protection and the sustained availability of resources to meet the requirements of the present generation and for the continued progress and well-being of all successive generations. These considerations must be inextricably woven into the very process of development in order to achieve the desired goals. These objectives must, therefore, form an integral part of broad national and regional programmes for promoting social and economic progress.

4. The Framework is intended to provide general guidance for developing environmental programmes. Particular schemes will need to be developed in the form of operational programmes to be prepared by the countries and by subregional and regional organizations if necessary, in consultation with international and regional agencies both within and outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations, and implemented with their support.

5. The specific objectives of the Framework are:

(a) To encourage and assist the development and implementation of operational programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels;

(b) To stimulate interregional and intraregional co-operation with a view to promoting environmentally-sound development;

(c) To improve national, subregional and regional capabilities, infrastructure, legal and institutional frameworks and supporting measures for implementing the operational programmes effectively and efficiently.

II. PRINCIPLES

6. The environmental processes and physical and biotic components of the environment have intimate and multidimensional cross linkages affecting a broad spectrum of activities. Ideally, all environmental management actions should be implemented together, but an all-embracing approach is not always practical. It is often beneficial and convenient to limit the problem areas to be addressed in space and time.

7. Environmental problems are not generally prone to quick solutions. Continuous monitoring and assessment and long-term planning and management are required at all levels to deal with such problems effectively. Technical solutions to be adopted must be appropriate to the social, cultural, legal, institutional and ecological milieu of the country concerned. The main focus should be on immediate adoption and application of knowledge in the implementation of urgent corrective measures. Science and technology would need to be promoted to evolve appropriate and cost-effective solutions. Recycling and use of wastes should be encouraged.
8. Programme implementation would be carried out by Governments through national institutions, if necessary with the support of bilateral, subregional, regional and international bodies. A programme would be undertaken in a comprehensive, co-ordinated and effective manner which would include building up local and national scientific, technological and administrative facilities and capabilities.
9. At the national level, local experience, knowledge and expertise should be utilized to the maximum extent possible. Expertise within the region should be utilized for programme implementing as far as possible. Outside experts should be invited only when regional expertise is not available.
10. Regional co-operation complements national action, and is useful in dealing with transnational environmental problems. When problems are similar or common in nature, countries should co-operate and co-ordinate their efforts to work out and implement cost-effective solutions. Co-operation and co-ordination between subregions should be encouraged and promoted. Exchanges of information and experience should also be promoted with subregional and regional programmes outside the region.
11. The guiding principles of the 1972 Stockholm Conference were further complemented by those adopted at the session of a special character of the Governing Council of UNEP in 1982. These provide valuable guidelines when drawing up appropriate schemes.

12. Notwithstanding increased awareness, and activities in the implementation of environmental programmes, there is an urgent need to take stock of the situation and identify areas for further attention. This should be the starting point for any action plan. It is recognized that the countries affected by environmental degradation are at different stages with respect to their appreciation of the problems and in their ability to cope with them. Depending on the kind of action already taken and the national capability, they will follow a certain sequence of exercises for dealing with their problems. The sequence of steps that would make up an action plan and operational programmes may be as follows:

- (a) Defining the magnitude and impact of the problem by:
 - (i) Strengthening or designating an institution for assessment and monitoring;
 - (ii) Determining the criteria for identifying and assessing the nature and type of environmental degradation and its causes;
 - (iii) Assessing problems on the basis of the criteria and techniques adopted;
- (b) Assessing available technologies for dealing with problems, their appropriateness in a given situation and future requirements;
- (c) Formulating and implementing research and action-oriented programmes to prevent, control or abate environmental degradation, and designating specific institutions to implement and co-ordinate such programmes;
- (d) Establishing a system of monitoring, assessment and evaluation of the impact of these programmes;
- (e) Drawing up measures to support national, ~~subregional~~ and regional efforts through:
 - (i) Improvement of programmes on environmental education, training and awareness;
 - (ii) Wider dissemination of public information and ensuring public participation;
 - (iii) Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks and making sure that their concomitant financial requirements are met.

13. It would be useful to harmonize methodologies, analytical techniques and procedures in order to facilitate comparability of data and development of regional compatibility.

III. COMPONENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK

14. The objectives enumerated above can be achieved by devising effective approaches and methodologies of integrating environmental considerations into the development planning process and by promoting the rational use of natural resources to ensure sustained economic and social development. The components of the action plan in this area would include:

- (a) Promoting environmentally sound elements in all sectors of national planning and development;
- (b) Encouraging the elaboration and implementation of national resource conservation strategies as a part of socio-economic development plans;
- (c) Promoting environmentally sound patterns of development in accordance with the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;
- (d) Developing, promoting and strengthening methodologies, procedures and institutional arrangements for the effective assessment of the environmental impact of specific development projects;
- (e) Collecting and compiling reliable national and regional environmental statistics in order to make a full assessment of the impact of development projects on the environment, to evaluate trends in environmental quality and to prepare periodic reports on the state of the environment;
- (f) Promoting and improving techniques for undertaking cost-benefit and cost-effective analyses in order to demonstrate the economic value of environmental protection measures and to direct resources to the resolution of the most serious environmental problems;
- (g) Promoting resource and environmental accounting systems to assess the impact of developmental activities at the macro level;
- (h) Promoting case studies on interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development;
- (i) Promoting the incorporation of transboundary environmental considerations so as to ensure environmentally-sound decision-making;
- (j) Promoting the effectiveness of fiscal policy alternatives/ economic measures for environmental protection and improvement;
- (k) Promoting horizontal transfer of eco-technology.

15. Within the overall framework for the promotion of environmentally sound development, the report on the state of the environment has identified several areas of concern for priority consideration, including management of terrestrial ecosystems, protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems, planning and management of the urban environment, protection of health, promotion of environmental awareness, and strengthening of institutional and legislative frameworks for environmental management.

16. Human dimensions of the environment merit increased attention. These dimensions should be included in the assessment of problems related to soils affecting the peasants, of problems affecting the oceans and seas pertinent to fisherfolk, of problems of industrial development having an impact on workers, and of problems affecting other areas.

A. Management of terrestrial ecosystems

17. The intention is so to manage the environment as to maintain the life-support system, conserve living resources and protect representative natural ecosystems. In the main, attention is directed to: (a) conservation of forest ecosystems and wildlife; (b) conservation of soil, water and air quality; (c) management of arid and semi-arid lands; and (d) management of montane ecosystems.

1. Conservation of forest ecosystems and wildlife

18. Projects concerned with forests and with wildlife conservation should include:

- (a) Promoting the management of forests on sustained-yield principles;
- (b) Implementing projects aimed at the conservation and regeneration of forests;
- (c) Finding adaptable and appropriate species for different water, soil and climatic conditions for the regeneration of forests and plantations;
- (d) Promoting the more efficient utilization of forest resources through improving production, processing and marketing techniques and through research and development for this purpose;
- (e) Reforestation of marginal and derelict lands by suitable plant species and appropriate technology practices;
- (f) Promoting surveys and inventories of forest resources;
- (g) Promoting studies on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of deforestation;

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(h) Involving tribal and rural populations in the management of forests and protected areas;

(i) Promoting social forestry projects;

(j) Promoting better fuel-efficient systems;

(k) Encouraging the establishment of a network of protected areas, including biosphere reserves, to cover all biogeographical regions and ensuring the monitoring of environmental parameters and the management of these protected areas on scientific lines;

(l) Promoting the rehabilitation and restoration of endangered and threatened species;

(m) Promoting the rehabilitation of degraded habitats to their natural state as far as possible;

(n) Promoting the development of research and monitoring facilities for the scientific understanding of wildlife populations and habitats;

(o) Promoting programmes for the large-scale breeding of commercial species;

(p) Regulating international trade in wild flora and fauna;

(q) Promoting regional consultation and the development of regional programmes on wildlife protection and management.

2. Soil water and air quality conservation

19. In order to conserve soil, the following components are needed:

(a) Encouraging the adoption of national soil charters and national soil- and land-use policies;

(b) Promoting the surveying of land forms, and monitoring and assessing land conditions and capabilities;

(c) Encouraging the formulation of programmes and implementation of projects aimed at controlling soil erosion and at maintaining soil productivity;

(d) Promoting programmes for the restoration of lands degraded by waterlogging, salinization and alkalinization and by improper agricultural practices;

(e) Establishing enforceable guidelines and priorities related to land use and allocation;

(f) Establishing and implementing programmes to regulate and control the disposal of solid wastes (particularly their hazardous components) and municipal refuse.

20. The components of a water quality conservation programme might be:

- (a) Conducting surveys of available and potential sources of water;
- (b) Assessing the demands on water resources and classifying them for various uses, e.g., domestic, industrial, agricultural and recreational;
- (c) Establishing and enforcing water quality standards to prevent, control and abate pollution, and encouraging the establishment of wastewater treatment plants;
- (d) Promoting schemes aimed at the conservation of water resources.

21. At the macro level, conservation of soil and water requires integrated watershed management and development so as to promote stable hydrological systems.

22. The components of programmes to enhance and preserve healthy air quality should include:

- (a) Conducting surveys of existing and potential sources of air pollution;
- (b) Measuring current air quality levels in areas of concern, e.g., residential, commercial and industrial, in both urban and rural settings;
- (c) Establishing and enforcing air quality standards to prevent, control and abate pollution, and encouraging the use of air pollution control equipment and other preventive measures;
- (d) Promoting schemes aimed at the protection and judicious use of clean air resources.

3. Management of arid and semi-arid lands

23. In the management of arid and semi-arid lands, in addition to activities undertaken for the conservation of soil and water quality, measures should be taken for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, including:

- (a) Establishment or designation of a governmental authority to combat desertification;
- (b) Preparing a national plan of action against desertification within the scope of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
- (c) Assessing desertification problems at country and provincial or sub-provincial levels.
- (d) Establishing national priorities for action against desertification and implementing action in accordance with national plans to combat desertification;

/(e)

(e) Integrating desertification control programmes into national development plans;

(f) Encouraging people's participation in desertification control activities;

(g) Promoting the application of existing scientific and technical knowledge in conjunction with indigenous practices;

(h) Integrating socio-economic considerations into the formulation and implementation of desertification control activities.

4. Management of montane ecosystems

24. For the management of montane ecosystems, the following components should be taken into consideration:

(a) Surveying and making inventories of the natural resources of mountain ecosystems;

(b) Promoting projects for the integrated development of mountain resources;

(c) Promoting environmentally sound management of watershed areas;

(d) Promoting case studies for assessing the impact of upstream activities on downstream resources;

(e) Promoting energy conservation devices and the use of new and renewable sources of energy;

(f) Promoting afforestation and/or social forestry schemes in ecologically vulnerable areas;

(g) Formulating and implementing schemes for soil and water conservation on steep slopes and in critical watersheds;

(h) Implementing case studies on the interrelationship between population, resources, environment and development;

(i) Promoting the protection of the montane environment from all kinds of pollution.

B. Protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems

25. The marine environment and related ecosystems can be conserved by prevention and control of pollution, and by the wise exploitation of their resources. Prevention and control of land-based sources of pollution may be achieved through a series of efforts, including:

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- (a) Surveying of point and non-point sources of marine pollution;
- (b) Establishing appropriate monitoring stations and procedures;
- (c) Developing and enforcing environmental standards to ensure water quality;
- (d) Applying adequate anti-pollution measures, including provision for marine outfalls;
- (e) Pursuing programmes under the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990).

26. Prevention and control of oil pollution should have the following components:

- (a) Surveying and making inventories of all sources of oil pollution;
- (b) Monitoring of oil pollution and assessment of its impact on the coastal and marine environments;
- (c) Developing and applying methods for reducing and preventing oil pollution;
- (d) Developing national and regional oil spill contingency plans;
- (e) Observing subregional, regional and international treaties and conventions on marine pollution;
- (f) Establishing regional advisory services in support of national activities.

27. Measures for conservation of marine and coastal resources, including corals, mangroves and fisheries, might include:

- (a) Surveying and making inventories of the state of marine and coastal resources, and developing marine atlases;
- (b) Developing and applying methodologies for monitoring, assessing, and conserving such resources;
- (c) Carrying out studies on the effect of pollutants and other destructive factors on specialized ecosystems such as mangroves and corals;
- (d) Establishing marine protected areas/reserves/parks and their management on scientific lines;
- (e) Developing and implementing integrated environmental management plans for coastal area development;
- (f) Developing programmes of training and education to strengthen national capabilities.

28. International co-operation among those concerned should be enhanced through intraregional and interregional interaction such as:

- (a) Developing and implementing regional programmes for South Asian seas;
- (b) Strengthening the regional programme for East Asian seas;
- (c) Establishing linkages with adjacent regional seas programmes;
- (d) Promoting co-operation with international agencies concerned with the protection of marine environments and related ecosystems with a view to developing and implementing appropriate projects with their financial and technical support.

C. Protection of environmental health

29. One of the principal reasons for undertaking environmental protection activities is to safeguard the public from various pollutants which affect health directly or through accumulation in the food chain. Human waste remains a major source of environmental pollution besides waste from industrial and other activities. Thus, health protection and promotion can be achieved through various programmes, including the following:

- (a) Implementation of community sanitation programmes concurrently with the provision of safe drinking water supplies, especially for the large number of underserved people in rural and urban fringe areas;
- (b) Undertaking health education programmes for ensuring that the water and sanitation facilities provided to communities are properly maintained and used;
- (c) Giving importance to environmental health considerations in planning and implementing urban and rural development projects and programmes;
- (d) Protecting workers, consumers and the general public from the increasing variety and magnitude of health hazards of a chemical or physical nature.

D. Planning and management of the urban environment

30. The objective is to ensure that the environment in both new and existing urban areas is free from health hazards and major nuisances caused by pollution and to achieve a pleasant environment for all who live and work in the urban areas of the region.

31. A plan should include:

(a) A framework for new urban development which takes into account environmental factors at every level and every stage of the development process such as:

- (i) An overall strategic land-use and transport plan;
- (ii) Outline zoning and development plans;
- (iii) Detailed layout plans and bye-laws for their enforcement;

(b) A strategic programme at the local level for dealing with environmental problems in existing urban areas which meets as far as possible the standards and guidelines adopted for new developments referred to in (c) below;

(c) The formal adoption of a set of planning standards and guidelines relating to environmental matters, for use by all who are concerned with urban planning and management. These standards and guidelines should cover:

- (i) The prevention of air pollution from stationary and mobile sources;
 - (ii) The prevention of water pollution and the provision of wastewater treatment facilities;
 - (iii) The collection, storage, transport, treatment and disposal of municipal wastes as well as of toxic, hazardous and difficult wastes;
 - (iv) Planning and design against excessive noise;
 - (v) Urban landscaping;
 - (vi) Safeguards in relation to the location of installations that pose a major potential hazard;
- (d) A long-term strategy and shorter-term project plans for:
- (i) The provision of sewerage, sewage treatment and effluent disposal facilities;
 - (ii) The collection, transport and disposal of municipal wastes, of toxic and hazardous wastes and of difficult wastes such as the sludges produced by water and wastewater treatment facilities;

(e) Administrative or legislative arrangements for ensuring the implementation of the provisions referred to in (c) and (d) above;

(f) The formal adoption of a set of environmental quality objectives for air, water, noise and open space;

(g) The establishment of a comprehensive monitoring programme for air quality, noise, water quality and wastes to provide a basis for policy development and a check on the effectiveness of new policies;

(h) The development of physical and mathematical models for specific urban areas for air quality, water quality and noise, as well as waste collection and disposal, so that the implications for the environment of major new developments can be predicted and alternative plans for their mitigation investigated;

(i) Arrangements for the exchange among the big cities in the region of experts, experience and information on environmental matters;

(j) Arrangements for the publication of annual reports on the state of the urban environment.

E. Human settlements and the International Year
of Shelter for the Homeless

32. In its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 1987 the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. It stated that the objective of activities before and during the year would be to provide shelter for and to improve the neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged by 1987, particularly in the developing countries, according to national priorities, and to demonstrate by the year 2000 ways and means of improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged. To achieve those goals, distinctive and innovative efforts will be required, which will include, inter alia, a commitment by Member States to obtaining practical results in improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of at least some of the poor before the International Year itself. Suggestions for national action on the International Year, therefore, include:

(a) Establishment of a national focus point for activities for the Year;

(b) Identification of national International Year projects that demonstrate ways and means, by augmenting the efforts of the poor, of improving their shelter and neighbourhoods;

(c) Sharing the findings and experience of projects for the Year with other countries, as necessary;

(d) Drawing attention to the fundamental role of shelter in national development and in promoting national stability;

(e) Implementation of national shelter strategies as a fundamental and integral part of total national action and efforts for the protection and management of the environment;

(f) Giving priority to human settlement aspects in all environmental programmes.

F. Protection of natural and cultural heritages

33. The protection, enhancement and improvement of the various components of the environment are among the fundamental conditions for the harmonious development of tourism. All natural and cultural features contribute to humanity's heritage. The rational management of tourism can contribute to a large extent to protecting and developing the physical environment and the cultural heritage, as well as to improving the quality of life. An action plan for the rational management of tourism might include:

(a) Identification of significant natural features and cultural resources in order to allow them to play a suitable role in tourism development. An inventory of such resources is a prerequisite for a meaningful planning effort;

(b) Classification of natural and cultural resources on the basis of their uniqueness and their potential for tourist development. The classification scheme at a minimum should designate areas for preservation, limited human use and full human use;

(c) Development of management plans for sustainable tourism development. New tourism developments should conform to a definite plan. Account should be taken of development in neighbouring areas so as to provide co-ordinated protection of natural surroundings. The location of communications and transport infrastructure and the distribution of areas for building and recreational plant should be undertaken so as to avoid traffic problems, air pollution and noise congestion. The architecture of tourist facilities should ensure harmony with natural surroundings and vegetation. The pollution of water and beaches is recognized as a serious threat to main tourist areas and so specific measures should be taken to limit or prevent its effects. Finally, monitoring of the environmental impact of tourism development should be undertaken by measuring of carrying capacity;

(d) Requests to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Tourism Organization (WTO), to establish, in accordance with their respective statutory aims, programmes of action designed to ensure a balance between development and movements of people, and to protect the environment the components of which constitute the common heritage of mankind.

G. Promotion of environmental awareness

34. Environmental awareness is an essential element in achieving success in dealing with environmental programmes. It not only enhances public understanding and appreciation and ensures greater public participation but also refines perspectives and perceptions for sound decision-making. The contents of an action plan should include environmental education, training, information and awareness. Areas on which environmental education and training should concentrate could be:

(a) Identifying environmental education and training needs in environment assessment, management and problem solving, surveying existing facilities and estimating future requirements of the region;

(b) Increased training of specialists in various disciplines in environmental activities to build a cadre of environmental managers;

(c) Integrating an environmental component into the training of decision makers, planners, resource managers, field-level functionaries, technicians and skilled workers;

(d) Promoting formal education on environment by developing specialized curricula and courses and/or by integrating environmental concerns into existing textbooks at all levels of education;

(e) Promoting studies in the development of the most appropriate forms of communication and means of sensitizing people on environmental matters of concern to them;

(f) Promoting non-formal education in order to develop environmental consciousness among people at large.

35. The main foci of activities in relation to environmental information and awareness should be:

(a) Promoting public awareness through radio, television, films, documentaries, newspapers and media campaigns;

(b) Publishing books, journals, newsletters, state-of-the-art reports, etc., and widely disseminating them to the mass media, scientific audiences and the general public;

/(c)

(c) Organizing essay, poster, painting and slogan contests on major environmental issues and trends;

(d) Utilizing the services of community and opinion leaders such as religious leaders, politicians and actors for the promotion of environmental awareness;

(e) Promoting the exchange of information and experience on crucial and emerging environmental issues by holding meetings, workshops, seminars and symposia of specialists and practitioners;

(f) Providing increased support and encouragement to non-governmental organizations, citizens' groups and youth organizations for carrying out environmentally related activities, and evolving a methodology for obtaining feedback from them on public perceptions of environmental issues;

(g) Encouraging popular and communal participation in resolving environmental problems.

H. Institutional and legislative framework for environmental management

36. There is a wide diversity of approaches in the region to institutional and legislative frameworks for environmental management at different stages of development. It is recognized that legislative and institutional structures, without which effective implementation of operational programmes and environmental legislation cannot be ensured, should be compatible with social, economic and cultural traditions. A model environmental institution or legislation cannot, therefore, be designed.

37. Suggestions for action on institutional aspects include:

(a) A central agency (department/division/section/advisory board/committee) should be designated and provided with sufficient authority to co-ordinate and promote environmental programmes and to integrate an environmental dimension into development projects. It should work closely with other environmentally relevant departments and agencies and provide support and guidance to local bodies for effective implementation of programmes. A specific department or agency should be designated to develop and implement particular programmes;

(b) Specialized committees should be set up for different subject areas (desertification, marine environment, etc.) to review constantly the problems and trends, and levels of programme implementation and future options;

(c) Environmental units should be set up in the concerned ministries to deal with environmental programmes;

(d) Adequate scientific, technical, legal and administrative support, in terms of manpower, equipment and other infrastructural resources, should be provided to the implementing agencies to carry out environmental programmes;

(e) Institutions for training in environmental planning and management should be set up or strengthened;

(f) Managers and workers sensitive to environmental factors should be placed in areas critical to environmental protection to enable them to incorporate an environmental dimension into the planning and management of activities;

(g) Co-operation among national non-governmental organizations for dealing with environmental issues should be strengthened;

(h) Exchange of information and experience between the subregional environmental programmes should be promoted;

(i) Subregional and regional co-operation among non-governmental organizations should be promoted.

38. Suggestions for action on legal aspects of environmental management include:

(a) Each Government should formulate and declare its environmental policy, and incorporate it into the legislative and planning framework to ensure its enforcement;

(b) Sectoral policies should be harmonized with national environmental policies;

(c) Environmental legislation should be surveyed and reviewed to identify lacunae. New legislation should be enacted in areas of priority environmental concern and existing laws should be amended and updated to ensure their effective implementation;

(d) Courses on environmental law should be developed in university curricula;

(e) Manuals should be prepared for elaborating methods by which citizens and field officers might co-operate with agencies responsible for enforcing legislation in their efforts to prevent environmental degradation;

(f) Law enforcement for the conservation of nature and natural resources should be strengthened by:

- (i) The introduction and wider application of the strict liability principle for determining the criminal responsibility of conservation law violators;
- (ii) The greater use of administrative procedures in lieu of judicial ones in legal proceedings against conservation law violators, taking into account the necessity of shifting the burden of proof in criminal proceedings of this nature;
- (iii) The recognition of a citizen suit as a matter of legal right for appropriate remedies against the destruction of natural assets.

39. Suggestions for international co-operation through international treaties and conventions include:

- (a) Ratification of appropriate international, regional and subregional treaties and conventions on the environment should be considered;
- (b) Domestic laws and regulations should be harmonized with the provisions of ratified international treaties and conventions;
- (c) Governments should be assisted in identifying their obligations under international and regional treaties and conventions which they have ratified;
- (d) International, regional, subregional and bilateral co-operation in the development of environmental laws and institutions should be promoted.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLANS

40. A number of actions at the national, subregional and regional levels should be taken immediately. At the national level, Governments may wish to consider the following:

- (a) Designation of an agency/focal point to co-ordinate implementation of an action plan;
- (b) Preparation of operational programmes. Governments may prepare national plans of action comprising activities which are specific, realistic and have clearly identified priorities. The activities should be implemented co-operatively by the relevant departments and agencies and, wherever appropriate, with other countries in the region. They should be implemented with adequate technical and financial support. Specific agencies or departments may be designated to implement individual activities;

/(c)

(c) Determination of the priorities of the various programme activities: Governments may allocate priority among the activities by adopting criteria as follows:

- (i) Is the activity of significant national concern?
- (ii) Will the activity lead to alleviation of poverty and promote development?
- (iii) Will the activity contribute to specific outputs within a limited time frame?
- (iv) Will the activity promote regional and subregional co-operation?
- (v) Will the activity promote community participation, increase public environmental awareness, positively affect the social environment and, above all, consider the human dimensions of the environmental activity?

(d) Delineation of activities to be taken up:

- (i) Nationally;
- (ii) With the assistance of bilateral and multilateral sources;
- (iii) Within the framework of regional and subregional co-operation;
- (iv) Only with external assistance;
- (v) Implementation of national activities by the designated departments/agencies under the overall co-ordination of the agency/focal point identified in paragraph 38(a);

(e) Approaching bilateral donors, regional and multilateral agencies for financial and technical assistance for implementing the operational programmes.

41. At the regional level, ESCAP in collaboration with UNEP and other relevant intergovernmental, subregional and non-governmental organizations, in consultation with the countries concerned, should consult the action plans and prepare relevant regional and subregional operational programmes and endeavour to seek funds for implementing them. In this regard, there is need for ESCAP and UNEP to clarify the purview, scope and range of efforts and activities of the UNEP Regional Office and of ESCAP respectively in the management of the environment in the ESCAP region. In this context, the Conference reaffirmed the terms of reference for UNEP regional offices and

the environmental co-ordination units of the regional commissions, as approved at the tenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP in 1982, in order to establish the most effective patterns of co-operation and co-ordination between them. Such patterns must be reflected in their respective mandates and terms of reference as endorsed by ESCAP and UNEP. This clarification should be completed in time for a report to be submitted to the Governments through the Commission at its forty-first session and subsequently to the Governing Council of UNEP at its thirteenth session.

42. The implementation of an action plan and operation programmes will require the active participation of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. They should be requested to (a) elaborate methodologies; (b) co-ordinate and support specific programmes, and scientific and technological research; (c) facilitate exchange of information; and (d) provide financial and technical support in their respective fields of competence for the implementation of operational programmes.

43. The participation of international and regional organizations outside the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations (such as the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, ASEAN Expert Group on Environment and the Asian Development Bank) and non-governmental organizations will be essential for the successful implementation of action plans and the operational programmes. They may be requested to increase resources necessary for financing technical co-operation programmes, research projects and institution building and for implementing national, subregional and regional programmes.

44. Since the operational programmes are to be implemented by the Governments through their national institutions with international and regional support, there is a need for co-ordination of national, subregional, regional and international efforts.

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