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INTRODUCTORY REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The present document is intended to draw together some of the major issues before the Governing Council at its eighth session as they relate to the functioning of UNEP, and place these issues in the context of major developments in the United Nations.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The period since the seventh session of the Governing Council has seen a greatly increased pace of activity in regard to international economic and social matters. Two major international conferences have been held: on Science and Technology and on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy are coming into focus, as are those for the Conference on Least Developed Countries. The Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy has held a number of sessions, and is scheduled to meet three times before the special session of the General Assembly in August-September 1980. Agreement has been reached in the General Assembly on a global round of negotiations under its auspices to follow the special session. A major concern of UNEP is to relate effectively to these developments.

2. In the process of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, recommendations by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), subsequently

accepted by the General Assembly, have brought about a coincidence in the starting date and duration of the next United Nations medium-term plan with those of the major members of the United Nations system which use medium-term planning. This decision will have a positive effect on, and influence the development of, the system-wide medium-term environment programme. While CPC is expected to resume consideration of the medium-term planning process in the United Nations at its twentieth session, in May-June 1980, it is already clear that its recommendations, aimed at integrating the process of planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation, and facilitating intergovernmental review of United Nations activities, will have implications for UNEP.

3. The report by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) to the Governing Council this year is particularly significant, as it highlights difficulties in the process of co-ordination and co-operation managed by UNEP, but at the same time points the way for heightened co-operation in taking account of environmental considerations in the current discussions on the new strategy and on development issues in general, as well as in formulating the system-wide medium-term environment programme in a concerted manner.

II. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

A. The new international development strategy

4. In its decision 7/1 of 3 May 1979 on programme policy and implementation, the Governing Council at its seventh session welcomed the intention of the Executive Director to address the Preparatory Committee for the Strategy, and requested him in his address to reflect the views expressed by the Governing Council. The Executive Director addressed the second session of the Preparatory Committee, held in June 1979. In his address he made suggestions regarding the preamble, goals and objectives, policy measures and review and appraisal of the strategy. The written statement and the oral presentation made by the Executive Director can be made available to members of the Governing Council on request.

5. The Governing Council in its policy decision had also requested that the contributions of the organizations of the United Nations system to the framing of the strategy should take environmental considerations fully into account. In its report to the Governing Council, ACC has expressed the view that UNEP should take a leading role in presenting the views of the United Nations system to the Preparatory Committee to ensure that environmental considerations are taken fully into account. A number of studies are expected to provide a long-term horizon, in many cases to the year 2000, for the activities of the organizations, and these are expected to influence the contributions of the organizations to the framing of the strategy. Environmental considerations are being taken fully into account in such studies.

6. At the September 1979 session of the Preparatory Committee for the Strategy, some progress was achieved in regard to the drafting of a preamble for the strategy. Certain provisions, including some which refer to environmental concerns, were left in square brackets showing that further negotiations were expected. Further sessions of the Preparatory Committee are scheduled for January/February, April and May/June 1980, and the special session of the General Assembly to adopt the strategy is scheduled to be held from 25 August to 5 September 1980.

7. At the time of preparation of this document, the final version of the General Assembly resolutions relating to UNEP, to the new international development strategy, and to the global round of negotiations were just being approved. These and the comments of the Executive Director thereon will thus be reflected in Addendum 2 to the present report.

B. The interrelationships between resources, environment, population and development

8. In his introductory report to the Governing Council at its seventh session (UNEP/GC.7/3), the Executive Director informed the Council of action under way within the United Nations pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, which had requested a programme of studies aimed at increasing understanding of these interrelationships.

9. At its second regular session in 1979, the Economic and Social Council considered a report of the Secretary-General on the interrelationships, 1/ prepared on the basis of interagency consultations in which UNEP participated. Copies of the report will be available at the Governing Council session. The Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1979/49 of 1 August 1979, took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General; urged member Governments as well as the United Nations bodies concerned to make full use of the available knowledge concerning such interrelationships in all their development activities; requested that, as part of the research activities within the organizations of the system, multidisciplinary studies should be undertaken and requested the Secretary-General to report on the results of these activities on a system-wide basis; and decided that, in the preparation of the report to be submitted to the Council at its second regular session in 1981, account should be taken inter alia of the views of the relevant executive bodies of agencies and programmes. The views of the Governing Council at its present session would therefore be germane to the preparation of the Secretary-General's report, and at its ninth session the Council should transmit its comments on the report to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX) and Council resolution 1979/49.

10. At the invitation of the Government of Sweden, a United Nations Symposium on Interrelations among Resources, Environment, Population and Development was held at Stockholm from 6 to 10 August 1979.

1/ E/1979/75.

The Symposium was co-chaired by the Foreign Minister of Sweden and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, and the participants, eminent persons from within and outside the United Nations system, included a number of present and former executive heads of organizations of the system. The Symposium was prepared by a steering group in which UNEP participated, and the Executive Director participated in the Symposium itself. The statement adopted at the Symposium has been distributed as a General Assembly document (A/C.2/34/5, annex), and copies will be available at the Governing Council session. It highlights the realization that development problems need to be tackled in an interrelated manner so as to yield realistic policy conclusions for action, and elaborates on the nature of the issues by focussing on such areas as carrying capacity, human development, disparities and lifestyles, and resource use. The General Assembly decision noting the statement will be reflected in Addendum 2 to the report.

11. In its report to the Governing Council, ACC welcomes the symposium statement as a most useful basis for further work, and states that the symposium confirmed the need to use the environmental approach in major programmes for development. ACC considers that UNEP's role in regard to work on interrelationships is fundamental to its mandate and should be actively pursued, both within UNEP itself and through its contribution to system-wide efforts such as those required by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. ACC agreed that it should be kept informed of progress and on areas where further action will be required.

12. The Executive Director considers that the study of interrelationships and the generation of proposals for action which would produce beneficial results in the overall systemic context at the national, regional and global levels is emerging as a major issue in the work of UNEP and indeed in the United Nations system, capable ultimately of influencing the over-all priorities of the system in the economic and social fields. He has convened a high level group of experts to advise him on the role which UNEP should assume, in its own activities and in contributing to system-wide efforts. This group met in January 1980, and the further views of the Executive Director will be presented to the Council in Addendum 3 to the present report.

C. Major United Nations conferences

13. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (Vienna, 20-31 August 1979) adopted a programme of action containing some 100 recommendations designed to maximize the capacity of all countries to develop and use science and technology as a tool for improving the well-being and quality of life of all peoples. A large number of recommendations contained in the programme of action and the report of the Conference Working Group carry implications for UNEP.

14. At the time of preparation of the introductory report, the General Assembly had just adopted a resolution on the report of the Conference. This will be further reported in Addendum 2 to the present document.

15. UNEP actively participated in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (Rome, 12-20 July 1979). The final declaration of the Conference firmly stated that agrarian reform and rural development are important objectives in the elimination of the large-scale poverty so widespread in developing countries. The UNEP statement, delivered by the Executive Director, once more emphasized the necessity to adopt development strategies in which environmental considerations are prominently featured, and in particular, always to work towards sustainable developments by conserving the natural resource base from which human beings are sustained.

16. Among the tasks assigned by the Conference to the United Nations system, UNEP is specifically requested, in co-operation with FAO and other organizations of the United Nations, "to make timely reviews and evaluations of the environmental impact of rural development programmes, projects and technology and incorporate considerations of ecological balance and environmental preservation in their design. (Recommendation XII (A) (iv)).

17. The Conference stressed the need for organizations of the United Nations system to have adequate resources to enable them to carry out the heavy responsibilities placed upon them by the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference and invited the governing bodies of the United Nations and other specialized agencies to consider favourably the possibility of providing the necessary resources for complementary action to be implemented under their own authority within their specialized competence and also to work fully together with FAO in the elaboration and preparation of joint programmes and activities.

18. The High Level Meeting on Environmental Matters, held in Geneva in November 1979, under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), which was addressed by the Executive Director, adopted the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, a resolution on the same subject, and a declaration on low and non-waste technology and re-utilization and recycling of wastes. UNEP will co-operate with ECE regarding the follow-up and implementation of these important agreements.

19. At the time of preparing this document, the General Assembly had just concluded its consideration of the preparations for the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and for the Conference on Least Developed Countries. UNEP's position on these Conferences will be reflected in Addendum 2 to the present report.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

20. The Executive Director is reporting on the progress made in the implementation of the various decisions of the Governing Council at the seventh session in his report on programme implementation and its addendum (document UNEP/GC.8/5 and Add. 1) and in his report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNEP/GC.8/6).

21. The Executive Director believes that Governments should also be alerted to the difficulties encountered in implementing decisions taken at the seventh session. To implement these decisions, seven major expert meetings had to be organized within a period of less than a year, on assessment, climate, soil policy, tropical forests, cost-benefit analysis, INFOTERRA, and the Advisory Board of the Centre for Training and Education in Environmental Sciences for Spanish speaking countries. Furthermore, as a result of recent and past decisions of the Governing Council, UNEP has also organized, inter alia, two meetings of the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law, the second meeting of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, the third meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee on the Ozone Layer, meetings on the State of the Environment reports 1980 and 1982, a meeting on environmental impacts of renewable sources of energy, five meetings, in co-operation with the regional commissions, on alternative patterns of development and lifestyles, and meetings on cost/benefit analysis and evaluation of environmental protection measures. These, together with participation in several other meetings directly related to the implementation of the programme organized by other members of the United Nations system, in addition to the regular meetings of the Interagency Working Group on Earthwatch, the designated officials for environmental matters, the Interagency Working Group on Desertification, ACC, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the United Nations conferences, present a heavy strain on the manpower resources of the organization. The Executive Director requests the Governing Council to take these difficulties into consideration when preparing its decisions at its eighth session.

IV. UNEP's GOALS FOR 1982

22. The list of goals for 1982 proposed by the Executive Director in his introductory statement to the Council at its fifth session (UNEP/GC/L.48) was approved by Governing Council decision 82 (V), section VI, paragraphs 1 and 2. The Executive Director requested the views of Governments on his plans to achieve the goals in a letter of 2 December 1977, to which a number of Governments replied with constructive comments. At present, programmes to achieve the goals are in various stages of development and implementation. In the light of an analysis of progress towards each goal the Executive Director is proposing in the programme document (UNEP/GC.8/5), specific revisions, changes or deletions of parts or all of one or the other of the goals for 1982. The Executive Director wishes to invite the Governing Council to give serious consideration to these proposals and is seeking concrete advice by the Governing Council with respect to them.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION 7/2 ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

23. Governing Council decision 7/2 of 13 May 1979, recalling General Assembly resolution 33/110 of 18 December 1978 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, requested the Executive Director to ensure an adequate assessment of the environmental conditions of the Palestinian people in the implementation of that resolution and to report on the implementation of the decision to the Council at its eighth session. This section of the introductory report by the Executive Director is in compliance with the above request.

24. To implement Governing Council decision 7/2 the Executive Director, after consultation with the Secretary-General, requested the Governments of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the Palestine Liberation Organization, to provide him with relevant information on the environmental conditions of the Palestinian people. Information was also provided by ECWA, UNRWA and the UNDP offices in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic on the basis of the information provided, the Executive Director prepared a report and submitted it to the Secretary-General. This material was reproduced in extenso as annex I to a report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/34/536) which was considered by the General Assembly under agenda item 65, "Human settlements". Copies of the Secretary-General's report will be available at the Governing Council session.

25. The General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General and felt it was comprehensive but not analytical. It adopted by vote a resolution, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"2. Requests, therefore, the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a comprehensive and analytical report on the social and economic impact of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories;

"3. Also request, the Secretary-General, in preparing the above-mentioned report, to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people;

"4. Urges all States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the preparation of the report."

26. The Executive Director will co-operate fully with the Secretary-General, upon his request, in providing further information that could be needed regarding what falls within UNEP's mandate.

VI. STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTS

A. Topics for 1981

27. In order to sharpen the focus on the emerging issues dealt with in the annual state of the environment reports, the Executive Director has decided to structure these reports from now on in the following manner:

- (a) Some published facts and figures: which show the magnitude of the problem;
- (b) The problem: indicating the nature of the problem addressed; emerging, longstanding but neglected, old but difficult to handle, etc.;
- (c) Major actions taken or planned;
- (d) Concluding remarks putting into focus major trends of action that need to be taken.

28. The Executive Director consulted the Senior Scientific Advisory Board on the 1982 state of the environment report, "Ten years after Stockholm", at a meeting in Geneva on 21-23 November 1979, on the content of the state of the environment report 1981. The Board agreed to recommend the following topics:

- (a) Environmental economics:
 - (i) Cost/benefit evaluation of environmental protection measures;
 - (ii) Redeployment of production capacities on environmental grounds;
- (b) Ground water;
- (c) Toxic chemicals in the human food chain;
- (d) Acid rain;
- (e) Post-harvest food losses.

29. The topics for the 1981 report were also the subject of intensive discussions at the intersessional informal consultations with Governments held in December 1979. In addition to the five topics recommended by the Executive Director, three additional topics were put forward:

- (a) Environmental planning in relation to rural development, with specific

reference to rural water supply and waste disposal; (b) Environmental effects of intensive agricultural practices, such as irrigation, use of chemicals and mechanization; and (c) Low and non-waste technologies.

For each topic a range of views was expressed as to scope and content, and suggestions were made for additions, such as for implications of disarmament to be added to environmental economics along with the original sub-topics. Various criteria were suggested to guide the selection of topics for state of the environment reports, as well as their treatment in terms of conciseness and the need for a manageable scope. No topic emerged without criticism and suggestions for revamping or combination with other topics. There was considerable difference of opinion as to the general relevance of several topics, and many expressions of need to concentrate on problems of concern to all were voiced. Several suggested consolidations were put forward and the one point of general agreement seemed to be that no more than three topics should emerge from the process.

30. The Executive Director recommends that three or at most four of the following five subjects be selected by the Governing Council. The Governing Council may however wish to consider, while selecting topics for the 1981 State of the environment report, the three additional subjects suggested at the informal consultations and mentioned in paragraph 29 above.

1. Environmental economics

(a) Cost Benefit evaluation of environment protection measures

31. It has become increasingly clear that during the 1980s the social management of economic and ecological concerns will be a major policy issue. When the private costs of an activity do not reflect the full social costs, there is, in effect, a misallocation of resources; market prices are distorted, both production and consumption decisions are inefficient and social welfare is less than its potential. It is thus necessary to evaluate the costs and benefits of environmental protection measures as a prime aid to judgemental decision making. Both the scope and the methodology of such analyses, including the complex problem of specification of environmental impact, requires determination with authority and precision.

(b) Redeployment of production capacities on environmental grounds

32. An equally important debate is likely to focus on the possible redeployment of productive capacities on environmental grounds - its advantages and disadvantages, the inherent complexities and interlinkages involved, and the long-term implications of the process in the context of transfer of technology, environmentally sound management, global trade and production options, and so forth.

2. Use and management of renewable resources: ground water

33. A major part of the fresh-water resources available to the world is made up of ground water. In 1976, for example, the proportion of ground water to total drinking water was 98 per cent in Denmark, 93 per cent in Italy, 71 per cent in Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany, 70 per cent in Luxembourg, 64 per cent in the Netherlands, 50 per cent in France and 31 per cent in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The trend (estimated up to the year 2000) shows an increase of the exploitation of ground water. Furthermore, extraction of ground water has given rise to many environmental problems, notably salt water intrusion in coastal areas. From the water quality point of view, several human activities also lead to ground-water pollution, contaminating vast and invaluable ground water resources. These include accidental spills, animal feedlots, application of pesticides and fertilizers, disposal wells, drainage wells and sumps, highway salting, holding ponds and lagoons, septic tanks, storage and transmission leakage, mining and disposal of waste effluents and sludges, etc. It is proposed to highlight the present and coming problems of ground-water quantity and quality and to stress the necessity of rational management of ground water.

3. Toxic chemicals and human food chains

34. It is the total quantity of a pollutant that a man receives that matters. Food and drinking water are important routes by which many pollutants reach people - and for many substances (e.g. lead, cadmium, mercury, organochlorines, pesticides) they are the most important pathway. Some substances added to food as preservatives, colouring agents or flavouring have recently been suspected of causing cancer. The extent to which various hazardous substances reach man via food chains would be reviewed, and the significance of this pathway in proportion to others assessed. Finally, major actions taken to reduce the risk of these hazards through better food storage, wiser use of agricultural chemicals and preservatives, more satisfactory food processing, and better understanding of risk would be very briefly reviewed, and the priorities for further action presented for consideration by the Governing Council.

4. International transfer of pollutants: acid rain

35. International concern with the mechanisms and effects of transport of pollutants from one place to another is growing. Its importance is illustrated by the phenomenon of acid rain. Increases in the acidity of precipitation have been recognized for some time as affecting the health of the environment in regions of Western Europe and Eastern North America. Aquatic ecosystems and forest stands are said to be altered in various ways, but the processes by which contaminants are generated, transported, and may affect target organisms are not well understood. It would be helpful to review the magnitude of the problem, the present state of knowledge and the options open to Governments in outlining suitable measures as a part of a broader strategy for managing human impact on the great cycles of nutrients in the world environment.

5. Post-harvest food losses

36. A substantial number of the world's inhabitants are underfed. Malnutrition aggravates the impact of a large number of environmental diseases and toxic substances. The vital step towards alleviating this situation is to increase food production. An important element in such efforts is to reduce the food losses that occur along the "pipe-line" between harvest and consumption. Such losses represent a significant depletion of resources and energy. The magnitude of the problem, major developments to deal with it and essential lines of action that have to be pursued will be reviewed.

B. State of the environment report 1982

37. In document UNEP/GC.7/3, the Executive Director reported on the preparation of the first comprehensive report entitled "The state of the environment: Ten years after Stockholm", which will aim at analysing the changes that have taken place in the human environment over the decade, and evaluating the first ten years in which mankind has consciously and co-operatively attempted the rational management of a small planet. In that report, the Executive Director also informed the Council of the establishment of a Senior Scientific Advisory Board to advise him on the approach, project plan and its implementation.

38. In order to supplement the technical information base for the study and to ensure wider coverage and participation, a letter has been sent to all Governments requesting them to provide UNEP with copies of any national state of environment reports and/or reports on specific case studies (with positive or negative environmental consequences) which could be referred to as examples in the analysis. So far, 32 countries out of 159 (i.e. 20 per cent) have replied; 20 of them sent information.

39. At the third meeting of the Senior Scientific Advisory Board, held in November 1979, a new timetable for the implementation of the project has been drawn up as a result of consultations between the Board and the Executive Director, and is reproduced in the attached chart.

VII. TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

40. The proposals of the Executive Director in regard to the 1982 session of the Governing Council are presented in Addendum I to the present document.

VIII. STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FUND

41. Contributions pledged to the Environment Fund have continued to grow in 1979, and by 31 December of that year a total of \$32.35 million were pledged. This is \$2.79 million more than the total pledges for 1978 of \$29.56 million. However, this trend does not seem to prevail for the biennium 1980-1981, as the projections show an estimate of \$31.73 million for each year. Present estimates for the medium-term

period 1978-1981 indicate a total of about \$125.4 million, as compared with \$122.1 million reported to the Governing Council at its seventh session, but still about \$24.6 million short of the \$150 million target.

42. In 1979, payments were received later than in previous year, despite appeals from the Council and the Executive Director's follow-up of these appeals by correspondence with individual donors. With only \$12 million, i.e. 43 per cent of the convertible currency pledges, received by the end of June 1979, the implementation of the programme had to be slowed down in order to ensure liquidity at all times. As a result, only \$34 million out of the allocation of \$36.15 million was committed for 1979, against an appropriation of \$42.8 million (excluding \$1 million for Fund programme reserve). The Fund had to have regard to the risk that, had the full appropriation been committed, resources available might have become insufficient to meet expenditures in the second half of the year. The estimated level of expenditure for 1979 is \$28 million, of which \$25 million are in convertible currency and \$3 million in non-convertible currency.

43. The Executive Director will have to maintain a similar cautious approach until there are indications that contributions will be received earlier in the year in 1980-1981. The minimum Fund cash carry-over must, therefore, be increased to not less than \$5 million in convertible currency. As the Executive Director allocated only \$36.15 million out of the appropriations of \$42.8 million (excluding Fund programme reserve) approved by the Council for 1979, the Council is requested to adjust the appropriations for 1980-1981 upward by \$6.65 million from \$61.2 million to \$67.85 million for Fund programme activities, so that the approved programme for 1980-1981 and activities delayed from 1979 may be implemented. As shown in the Executive Director's report on the management of the fund (UNEP/GC.8/7), resources will be available to support commitments at this level.

44. The contributions in non-convertible currencies have accumulated during recent years, and the cash balance of the Fund in these currencies rose to about \$16 million equivalent by end of December 1979. However, in 1979 an estimated \$3.5 million equivalent of non-convertible currencies (including \$0.5 million under programme and programme support costs spent) were compared with approximately \$1 million in the previous year. In 1980-1981 it is expected that commitments and expenditures in non-convertible currencies will exceed contributions received in these currencies.

45. As requested by the Governing Council in decision 7/3 of 3 May 1979, the Executive Director has carried out, in collaboration with the agencies and organizations concerned, a review of all projects in existence for four or more years, and mutual agreement has been reached on plans for phasing out support to them. In some cases, however, the need to continue the activity was recognized, and the projects will be supported until their objectives are reached.

46. In addition to the Kuwait Action Plan Trust Fund which was established in November 1978, two trust funds have been established since the seventh session of the Governing Council, namely the Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, established on 24 July 1979, and the Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, established on 5 July 1979. The status of contributions to and commitments against each of these Trust Funds is given in document UNEP/GC.8/7.

IX. STAFFING POLICY AND OPTIMUM PROPORTION OF PROGRAMME AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT COSTS TO THE FUND PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

47. By decision 7/14 F, paragraph 11, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to present a long-term staffing policy to the Council at its eighth session. The views of the Executive Director are contained in document UNEP/GC.8/8, section 1.

48. The question of the level of programme and programme support costs in relation to the level of Fund programme activities was considered by the Council at previous sessions, and it was generally recognized that these costs could not be regarded solely as an overhead element on the Fund programme.

49. When the matter was raised at the Council's seventh session, the Executive Director requested Governments to assist him with any studies that they might make on this matter, and although he has not received any such studies so far, he has prepared a document in which he has separated out of the programme and programme support costs those elements that are related to Fund-supported activities from those that are not. The analysis shows that the ratio of programme and programme support costs directly related to Fund programme activities is around 20 per cent of their cost, and the Executive Director considers this to be an acceptable proportion for UNEP.

X. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

50. The Governing Council may wish to consider including its response to the issues raised in this report in the major policy-guidance decision which it adopts annually at the recommendation of its Bureau after consultation with the Chairmen of the regional groups. This decision is, according to practice, normally based upon deliberations in the plenary on items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda.

51. With respect to the topics mentioned present document and its addenda the Governing Council may wish to:

(a) Decide on the topics for inclusion in the 1981 state of the environment report and note the progress in the preparation of the 1982 state of the environment report;

(b) Take note of the steps taken by the Executive Director in implementation of decision 7/2 regarding environmental conditions of the Palestinian people and take note of the relevant resolution of the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

(c) Take note also of the status of the Fund of UNEP;

(d) Decide on the recommendation of the Executive Director with regard to the tenth session of the Governing Council;

(e) Express its views regarding the recommendations of the Executive Director concerning the subject of interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development;

(f) Take note of the intentions of the Executive Director regarding the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are of relevance to UNEP.

TIME-TABLE FOR PREPARATION OF 1982 SOE REPORT

ACTIONS	1979	1980	1981	1982
	O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D
1. Draft background papers ready	October -	March		
2. Send papers for review by SSAB and referees, UNEP, United Nations bodies	January -	April		
3. Consolidation of comments and circulation to SSAB members		May/June		
4. Fourth meeting of SSAB, followed by meeting Editorial Board (Geneva)		7-11 July		
5. Editorial Board preparing first consolidated technical text		July - October		
6. Send consolidated draft for comments to United Nations bodies, SSAB, UNEP, Governments, NGOs		November/December	12-15 January	
7. Fifth meeting of SSAB (Geneva)			End of January	
8. Circulation of draft to workshop members			16-30 March	
9. Meeting of workshop (Nairobi)			April/May	
10. Preparation of second draft (Editorial Board)			April	
11. Start draft popular version			June	
12. Review of second technical draft SSAB, UNEP			6-10 July	
13. Sixth meeting of SSAB (Geneva)			July/August	
14. Preparation of final technical text			September - December	
15. Report of Executive Director to Governing Council			October	
16. Send technical text for publishing			October/November	
17. Review popular text by SSAB members and UNEP			14-18 December	
18. Seventh meeting SSAB (Geneva)			January	
19. Finalize popular text			1 February	
20. Send popular text for publishing				