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PROGRAMME MATTERS

PROGRAMME MATTERS REQUIRING GUIDANCE FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Addendum

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

This document covers additional programme matters which, in the opinion of the Executive Director, require policy guidance by or the views of the Governing Council.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

Suggested action by the Governing Council appears in annexes I and II.

I. DECISION 13/18, SECTION I - PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER

1. In accordance with the above decision, the Executive Director of UNEP convened an Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts for the Preparation of a Protocol on Chlorofluorocarbons to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Group) to continue the development of a protocol that addresses both short-term and long-term strategies for the equitable control of the global production, emissions and use of fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons. The Vienna Group has held three sessions (Geneva, from 1 to 5 December 1986; Vienna, from 23 to 27 February 1987; and Geneva, from 27 to 30 April 1987).
2. The Vienna Group decided at its third session that at the kind invitation of the Government of Canada, a Diplomatic Conference to adopt a protocol on the control of chlorofluorocarbons would be held in Montreal from 14 to 16 September 1987, and would be preceded by a preliminary session to deal with outstanding matters from 8 to 11 September 1987.
3. It was also decided that further negotiations on control measures were needed and that those negotiations would be held in Brussels from 29 to 30 June 1987 under the chairmanship of the Executive Director. A legal drafting group will meet in The Hague from 6 to 8 July 1987, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Netherlands, to deal with outstanding legal and institutional matters and to prepare the seventh revised draft protocol on chlorofluorocarbons for submission to the Montreal meeting in September.
4. A scientific working group convened by the Vienna Group emphasized at the third session that substances other than fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons had also the potential to modify the ozone layer, in that both the total column content and the vertical, latitudinal and seasonal distribution of atmospheric ozone respond to the total chlorine and total bromine loadings of the stratosphere.
5. To ensure that the ozone layer is effectively protected, it may be necessary to develop a protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer for the control of substances additional to those referred to in decision 13/18, Section I. Of particular concern in this regard are the bromine-containing chemicals, Halons, not all of which are fully halogenated but which are calculated to have a higher ozone depleting potential than the class of substances referred to in decision 13/18, Section I.
6. Accordingly, the Governing Council may wish to expand the range of substances which may be considered for control under protocols to the Vienna Convention, and to take action as suggested in annex I to the present document.

II. ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMON ZAMBEZI RIVER SYSTEM

7. In accordance with the Action Plan for the Human Environment, the Mar del Plata Action Plan on Water Development and Administration, the recommendations of the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law and UNEP Governing Council decision 11/7, part five, UNEP, in co-operation with other United Nations agencies, has launched a comprehensive new programme on the environmentally sound management of inland water (EMINWA) to assist Governments in the integration of environmental concerns into the management of water resources. Following requests from the Governments of the Zambezi river basin countries to develop regional co-operation and to promote sustainable development, it has been decided that as the first step in the implementation of this programme UNEP should concentrate on the common Zambezi river system.

8. Accordingly, UNEP, in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system and donor agencies, has assisted the Governments of the Zambezi river basin countries, in developing and launching an Action Plan for the Environmental Management of the Common Zambezi River System (ZACPLAN) as the first step in its comprehensive EMINWA programme. The framework of ZACPLAN has also been included in the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its first session, which was held in Cairo in December 1985.

9. In light of the EMINWA programme, a Working Group of Experts on the Zambezi River System was established in 1985. It included experts from Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the United Nations Council for Namibia. Representatives from Angola were invited to participate but were unable to do so. Representatives of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Food Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the International Lake Environment Committee also took part in the work. The first meeting of the Working Group was held in Nairobi in April 1985 and was followed by two other meetings, in March 1986, in Lusaka, Zambia, and in January 1987 in Gaborone, Botswana.

10. An Action Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management of the Common Zambezi River System (ZACPLAN) was prepared and on 28 May 1987 in Harare at the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries on the Environmental Management of the Common Zambezi River System the plenipotentiaries of the Republic of Botswana, the People's Republic of Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe signed the Agreement on the Action Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management of the Common Zambezi River System, which entered into force on the same day. The Agreement remains open for accession by the People's Republic of Angola, Malawi and Namibia which is represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

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11. Accordingly, the Governing Council may wish to take action as suggested in Annex II hereto.

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Annex I

PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER

The Governing Council may wish to:

(a) Express satisfaction with the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts for the Preparation of a Protocol on Chlorofluorocarbons to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Group) and with the decision on the future programme of work leading to the adoption of a protocol on the control of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC).

(b) Note that current scientific information indicates that substances other than fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons, such as the bromine-containing chemicals, Halons, have a high ozone-depletion potential and if released into the atmosphere in significant quantities, could damage the ozone layer.

(c) Request the Executive Director to inform the Vienna Group that it should consider the full range of potential ozone depleting substances in determining what chemicals might be controlled under the protocol even if such substances are not fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons, bearing in mind that whether or not a substance should be considered for regulation would depend on its ozone depleting potential and its current concentration in, and rate of release to, the atmosphere.

(d) Reiterate the request of the Vienna Group to the Executive Director that UNEP arrange expeditiously for improved calculations of ozone depletion potential of substances considered to pose a threat to the ozone layer and quantify the ozone depletion potential values of alternative CFC formulations for judging their acceptability; and also request UNEP to arrange for the quantification of the greenhouse-warming potential of the substances and alternative CFC formulations referred to above.

(e) Appeal to Governments to provide the necessary financial resources to allow representatives from developing countries to participate in activities leading to the adoption of the protocol on chlorofluorocarbons.

(f) Call upon Governments and international organizations concerned to participate fully in these activities.

(g) Further request the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its fifteenth session on the status of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Protocol(s).

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Annex II

THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT
OF THE COMMON ZAMBEZI RIVER SYSTEM
(ZACPLAN)

The Governing Council may wish to:

(a) Note with satisfaction the signature and entry into force of the Agreement on the Action Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management of the Common Zambezi River System;

(b) Request the Executive Director of UNEP to start immediate consultations with Governments of the Zambezi basin countries, the Executive Secretary of SADCC, organizations of the United Nations system and donor agencies regarding the implementation of the Zambezi Action Plan and the raising of external finances to ensure that implementation of the Plan starts before the end of 1987.
