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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
ENVIRONMENT

Note by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly regarding
accession by the United Nations to the Convention on Early
Notification of a Nuclear Accident, Vienna, 1986, and to the
Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or
Radiological Emergency, Vienna, 1986*

1. On 26 September 1986, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopted and opened for signature the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, Vienna, 1986, and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, Vienna, 1986. In accordance with article 12, paragraph 5, of the Notification Convention and article 14, paragraph 5, of the Assistance Convention, whose provisions are identical, the Conventions are open for accession by international organizations constituted by sovereign States which have competence in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and application of international agreements in matters covered by the Conventions.
2. There are several United Nations bodies which have competence in such matters. Among them are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO). UNEP, aside from its general concern with environmental matters, had an important role in the establishment of a monitoring network which, as agreed by the Inter-Agency Committee for the Co-ordinated Planning and Implementation of Response to Accidental Releases of Radioactive Substances, is required and will be developed under the auspices of the UNEP Global Environmental Monitoring System, in

* IAEA documents INFCIRC/335 and 336 set out the texts of the two Conventions.

co-operation with other United Nations agencies. UNDRO has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with IAEA which concerns such matters as requests for disaster relief assistance, joint action in the field, missions to disaster areas, exchange of information and financial arrangements which are of direct relevance to the Conventions.

3. It is the view of the Secretary-General that, having regard to the nature and importance of the two Conventions, United Nations accession to them would be useful and appropriate. He thereby seeks the approval of the General Assembly for such action.
