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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME  
AND COORDINATION  
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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

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Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Evaluation

In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment

1. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, held on 15 and 16 May 1995, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment, transmitted to it under cover of a note by the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1995/3).

Discussion

2. Several delegations noted that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was in session simultaneously with the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), considering the policy and operational functions of the Programme, and stressed that the report before CPC should be examined by the Governing Council of UNEP.

3. In the course of the debate, delegations noted that the Secretary-General was in agreement with the recommendations in the report and made observations on the following recommendations:

Recommendations 1, 2 and 3. Delegations supported the broad goals of these recommendations, which are for UNEP to: (a) reinforce its catalytic role; (b) enhance its environmental coordinating activities within the United Nations system; and (c) facilitate its capacity to address emerging environmental issues. Several delegations recommended that UNEP should strengthen its support to the Commission on Sustainable Development and its secretariat. Other delegations also considered that UNEP should concentrate on the environmental aspects of sustainable development.

Recommendations 4 to 9. Several delegations commented that UNEP should continue and enhance its role as the environmental conscience of the world through its assessment and Earthwatch coordinating activities by providing credible scientific information on the state of the environment. The need to develop the capacity of developing countries to assess the environment was stressed. Several delegations noted the need to coordinate the development of agreed environmental indicators with the Commission on Sustainable Development and other organizations working on the subject. Delegations agreed that the title of recommendation 9 should read: "An internationally agreed set of indicators".

Recommendations 10 to 13. Several delegations stressed the importance of environmental law. They also noted the need to coordinate and provide adequate managerial support to the secretariats of the conventions.

Recommendations 14 and 15. Several delegations supported UNEP's role in capacity-building and welcomed the efforts to strengthen the cooperation and coordination between UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in this field. Some delegations emphasized that this role, in particular, was of special importance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Several delegations considered that UNEP's regional offices could play a useful role in helping developing countries to strengthen their capacity to implement Agenda 21. Some delegations stressed that the role of UNEP in providing information on sustainable development should be concentrated on environmental aspects of such development and that such information should be prepared upon the request of Governments. Delegations agreed that the implementation of the proposals of recommendation 15 should be carried out in close consultation with Governments and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992.

Recommendation 16. A number of delegations commented on the need for new and additional resources for the training of personnel in developing countries; they felt that UNEP expertise could be drawn upon more extensively. One delegation considered that additional resources would be required for the implementation of environmental programmes or recommendations; such resources were frequently not available to those countries.

Recommendations 17 to 19. Some delegations commented on the need for UNEP to target its information activities towards specific audiences.

Recommendation 20. Delegations stressed that the current location of UNEP headquarters should be maintained and that there was a need to improve communication facilities at UNEP headquarters. Several delegations commented on the need to strengthen the UNEP regional presence, without weakening its

headquarters. Some delegations expressed support for the outposting of certain headquarters units to regional offices as recommended.

Recommendation 21. Delegations commented on the need for UNEP to work more closely with non-governmental organizations. Some delegations observed that this should not entail creating new organizational structures.

Recommendation 22. Many delegations agreed that there was a need for a more effective fund-raising strategy, utilizing existing financial mechanisms.

Recommendation 23. This recommendation was widely supported. One delegation commented that the proposed report by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on UNEP management could provide a useful background for the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21 scheduled for 1997.

#### Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee expressed appreciation for the quality and comprehensive nature of the report.

5. The Committee was in general agreement with the main thrust of the report, which was to refocus UNEP activities by strengthening its partnership with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system, with due regard to its role as a global environment programme. Subject to the different views expressed by the delegations during the discussion, and subject to the subsequent views of the Governing Council of UNEP, the Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

6. The report on the study to be carried out by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the effects of the reorganization of UNEP, proposed in recommendation 23, should be submitted to CPC for its consideration at its thirty-seventh session in 1997.

7. The Committee decided that the report, together with the conclusions and recommendations of CPC thereon, should be transmitted to the Governing Council of the Environment Programme at its eighteenth session for consideration and appropriate action.

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