



**Administrative Committee
on Coordination**

ACC/1995/3
19 June 1995

ENGLISH ONLY

REPORT OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT ON ITS FIFTH SESSION

(New York, 1 to 3 February 1995)

CONTENTS

| | <u>Paragraphs</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| INTRODUCTION | 1 | 3 |
| I. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION | 2 - 10 | 3 |
| A. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of ACC; the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly; and other intergovernmental bodies | 2 - 6 | 3 |
| B. ACC statement to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme | 7 | 4 |
| C. Proposed agenda, date and venue for the sixth session of the Committee | 8 | 4 |
| D. Dates and venue for the sixteenth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources | 9 | 4 |
| E. Dates and venue for the third session of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas | 10 | 5 |
| II. WORK OF IACSD | 11 - 44 | 5 |
| A. Preparations for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development | 11 - 18 | 5 |
| B. Progress in coordination within the United Nations system and preparation of joint initiatives to implement Agenda 21 | 19 - 27 | 7 |
| C. Support for Agenda 21 coordination and planning activities at the national level | 28 - 33 | 9 |

CONTENTS (continued)

| | <u>Paragraphs</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| D. Review of IACSD (second phase) | 34 - 38 | 10 |
| E. Other matters | 39 - 44 | 11 |
| 1. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on its fifteenth session | 39 - 40 | 11 |
| 2. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its second session | 41 | 12 |
| 3. Dates and venue and provisional agenda for the sixth session of IACSD | 42 | 13 |
| 4. Financial reporting by the United Nations system on the implementation of Agenda 21 | 43 | 13 |
| 5. Participation of the Global Environment Facility in the work of IACSD | 44 | 13 |
| <u>Annexes</u> | | |
| I. Agenda | | 14 |
| II. List of participants | | 16 |
| III. List of documents | | 18 |
| IV. ACC draft statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development . | | 19 |
| V. ACC draft statement to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme 1995 | | 21 |
| VI. Agenda and organization of work during the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development | | 27 |

INTRODUCTION

1. The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) held its fifth session at United Nations Headquarters, from 1 to 3 February 1995. The agenda for the session, as adopted by the Committee, is contained in annex I; the list of participants is contained in annex II; and the list of documents is contained in annex III to the present report.

I. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

A. Follow-up to the outcome of the meetings of ACC; the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly; and other intergovernmental bodies

1. ACC

ACC statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development

2. The attention of ACC is brought to annex IV of the present report, which contains the draft of the above-mentioned statement for consideration and approval.

2. General Assembly

3. IACSD agreed on inter-agency arrangements aimed at ensuring effective and coordinated follow-up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It was agreed that IACSD would be the main mechanism for ensuring inter-agency coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. 1/

4. It was agreed that in areas in which there was thematic correspondence between Agenda 21 2/ and the Programme of Action, the dimensions covering small island developing States would be incorporated in a distinct and identifiable manner into the work programmes of existing task managers. In areas of the Programme of Action not covered by Agenda 21, IACSD would appoint additional task managers/focal points, taking into account the proposals contained in paragraphs 23-27 below, and/or offers made during the meeting.

3. ECOSOC

5. The Committee agreed that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development should convene an ad hoc meeting to consider issues raised in the Agreed Conclusions of the Council in its deliberations on the coordination of the policies and activities of United Nations agencies and other

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bodies related to science and technology for development and in the background paper prepared by the Secretariat (ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.3). The composition of the ad hoc meeting should include agency representatives of IACSD, and the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ), as well as the agencies' designated focal points for science and technology. The Ad Hoc Committee should take into account the discussions in CCPOQ on the subject, addressing, in particular, such questions as: (a) the respective roles of IACSD and CCPOQ on matters related to science and technology for development; (b) the relationship between the Vienna Programme of Action, Agenda 21 and other relevant programmes for science and technology; (c) concrete proposals for specific follow-up actions to the Council conclusions, including designated lead agencies for each. The outcome of this ad hoc meeting would be reported to the present session of IACSD, while a progress report on the implementation of the agreed conclusions would be submitted to the Council in 1995.

4. Other intergovernmental bodies

6. In connection with the recommendation of the Committee on Natural Resources to the Council that the latter should decide, at its organizational session in 1995, that the issue of coordination and integration of water- and land-related activities would be considered at the coordination segment of the Council, IACSD felt that the attention of the Council should be drawn to the fact that there were a number of other activities currently under way which would not allow for an adequate and timely preparation.

B. ACC statement to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

7. The attention of ACC is brought to annex V of the presents report, which contains a draft of the above-mentioned statement for consideration and approval.

C. Proposed agenda, date and venue for the sixth session of the Committee

8. The Committee was informed that the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) had advised that it could not accommodate the proposed session of IACSD in June. The Committee then agreed, tentatively, on the dates of 5 to 7 July at the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, in advance of the consideration of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Economic and Social Council.

D. Dates and venue for the sixteenth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources

9. IACSD approved the proposed venue for the sixteenth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources at the headquarters of the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) in New York. However, it agreed to new dates for the meeting, which will be 27 to 29 September 1995.

E. Dates and venue for the third session of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas

10. IACSD approved the proposed dates and venue for the third and fourth sessions of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas: on 28-30 August 1995, hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC) at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris; and on 8 to 12 January 1996 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

II. WORK OF IACSD

A. Preparations for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

11. The Committee was informed that the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development had agreed on the agendas and organization of work for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its ad hoc inter-sessional working groups on sectoral issues and on finance (annex VI). IACSD agreed that suggested high-level panels and other arrangements envisaged during the session could provide an important opportunity for greater involvement in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development of ministers and national policy makers dealing with finance, development planning and cooperation, as well as sectors, such as forestry, agriculture and employment. In this context the participants recalled the conclusion of the fourth session of IACSD, endorsed by ACC, regarding the need for promoting a greater balance between environment and development in the work of the Commission. The participants felt that proposed arrangements for the next session of the Commission represented an encouraging step in that direction. It was stressed that once the Commission became a forum for direct interaction of ministers and high-level officials responsible for environment and finance, as well as for relevant social and development sectors, its capacity for providing policy guidance to countries and sectoral governing bodies in the United Nations system on sustainable development issues would be enhanced. Concern was, however, expressed that the timing of various events during the session would not allow all relevant ministers to participate in all of them.

12. The Committee agreed on the need for active participation of the United Nations system in the preparations for and the proceedings of the forthcoming session of the Commission in accordance with arrangements agreed at the third session of IACSD and at the ad hoc meetings of the task managers, held in October and November of 1995.

13. Reports prepared for the third session of the Commission and its Ad hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues were introduced by the following bodies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as task manager for Agenda 21 chapters 10 (Integrated approach to the

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planning and management of land resources), 11 (Combating deforestation), 13 (Sustainable mountain development) and 14 (Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development); and UNEP as task manager for chapters 12 (Combating desertification and drought) and 15 (Conservation of biological diversity).

14. The meeting was informed that the Bureau of the Commission and its members expressed their appreciation to the task managers and the secretariat of the Commission for early circulation of advance copies of the Secretary-General's reports on those issues.

15. The following bodies briefed the meeting on the status of preparations of their reports for the Commission, which had entered a final stage: the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, as a task manager for chapters 3 (Combating poverty), 4 (Changing consumption patterns), 8 (Integration of environment and development in decision-making), 33 (Financial resources and mechanisms), 34 (Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity building), 40 (Information for decision-making) (together with UNEP), and 23-32 (The role of major groups); UNCTAD as task manager for "Trade, environment and sustainable development"; UNFPA as task manager for chapter 5 (Demographic dynamics and sustainability); UNIDO as task manager for chapter 16 (Environmentally sound management of biotechnology); and UNESCO as task manager for chapter 35 (Science for sustainable development).

16. The task managers also briefed the Committee regarding various meetings and initiatives organized by countries and international organizations which are expected to provide substantive inputs to the reports and/or the session of the Commission.

17. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the task managers for their work, which had been carried out in close cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system, related to the preparation of reports for the Commission. At the same time concern was expressed regarding the insufficient amount of information received from Governments and major groups on their activities and practical experiences related to Agenda 21 and sustainable development. The Committee agreed on the need to review, after the Commission's third session the current reporting arrangements and modalities for agency preparation with a view to both streamlining the present process and facilitating the work of the Commission.

18. The participants noted that the fiftieth session of the General Assembly was expected to decide on the scope and format of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly which would carry out an overall review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and agreed on the need for active inter-agency collaboration in the preparations for this important event. It was emphasized that the special session would be both retrospective and prospective, and that it should provide an opportunity for the integration into the process of the implementation of Agenda 21 of the outcomes of other major international events such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and HABITAT II.

B. Progress in coordination within the United Nations system and preparation of joint initiatives to implement Agenda 21

1. Progress report on the Global Water Assessment Task Force

19. The Committee had for its consideration a progress report concerning the work carried out with regard to the comprehensive assessment of the freshwater resources of the world pursuant to the decision taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session (CRP.4). The report outlined the work carried out at the first meeting of a Steering Committee composed of a core of organizations members of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources and representatives of the Stockholm Environment Institute. The meeting was held at FAO headquarters, Rome, on 1 and 2 December. A second meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled to be held, also at FAO headquarters from 15 to 17 February 1995. This second meeting is expected to produce a concrete programme of work with a clear delineation of responsibilities and financial requirements.

20. The members of IACSD noted that the initiative of the Commission on Sustainable Development had the benefit of bringing together the efforts of the organizations of the United Nations system and of Sweden in assessing the state of freshwater resources. However, they expressed their concern at the fact that, contrary to expectations derived from the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development, no additional resources were being made available to the organizations of the United Nations system involved in the assessment, in spite of the additional serious strain in their resources. It was agreed that efforts needed to be made in order to secure the involvement and assistance of other Governments, as foreseen by the Commission on Sustainable Development. It was also agreed that the question would be brought to the Commission's attention at its third session in reporting on the implementation of decisions from its second session drawing particular attention to the need for resources for support of joint initiatives.

2. Consultative mechanism for information exchange systems for environmentally sound technologies

21. IACSD members welcomed in principle the initiative of establishing a consultative mechanism, and expressed interest in participating in its further elaboration. It was noted that as a first step, UNEP would undertake, in cooperation with other agencies, a survey of information systems and other sources of information related to environmentally sound technologies as a basis for launching the consultative mechanism (CRP.5). It was felt that IACSD should await the outcome of this survey and follow-up consultations with concerned agencies before fully endorsing the consultative mechanism as an ongoing institutional arrangement. It was agreed that the private sector and non-governmental organizations should be included in the consultative process at an early stage because of the useful information they could provide.

3. System-wide coordination in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

22. The Committee demonstrated a great interest in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and underscored the importance for the United Nations system to coordinate effectively its implementation (CRP.6).

23. It was agreed that in areas in which there was thematic correspondence between Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action, the dimensions of the Programme would be incorporated in a distinct and identifiable manner into the work programmes of the existing task managers. In areas of the Programme of Action not covered by Agenda 21, IACSD would appoint additional task managers/focal points, taking into account the following proposals and/or offers made during the meeting:

Programme areas

(a) Natural and environmental disasters (Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; World Meteorological Organization (WMO))

(b) Telecommunications (International Telecommunications Union (ITU))

(c) Sea transport (International Maritime Organization (IMO); UNCTAD)

(d) Air transport (to be identified)

(e) Tourism (to be identified)

(f) Energy (Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat; UNDP)

(g) Regional and subregional coordination (regional commissions; UNDP)

24. It was agreed that based on the discussion within IACSD, and after further consultations on the matter, the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development would prepare a proposal for the allocation of task manager responsibilities and circulate it to members of the Committee.

25. It was also agreed that IACSD should carry out the coordination of the implementation of the Action Programme in a distinct and identifiable manner under a separate agenda item. It was agreed that allotment of time devoted specifically to issues of the small island countries during IACSD sessions would be determined by the workload and the number of documents to be discussed.

26. It was agreed further that for purposes of an integrated approach to those issues, as well as in support of the preparation of monitoring reports to be submitted to intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly, it would be preferable to establish an ad hoc group of focal points doing substantive work on such issues rather than

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an ad hoc group of task managers. The Department would assume responsibility for the overall coordination of this work, as well as for coordination of requests for information from the small island countries in question.

27. It was underscored that in view of the central role assigned to the United Nations regional commissions by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and to the General Assembly in the coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action at the regional and subregional levels, their active participation in the work of IACSD would be of extreme importance. Furthermore, since finance would play a significant role in the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, it would be of utmost importance to ensure the active participation of international financial institutions in the relevant work of IACSD.

C. Support for Agenda 21 coordination and planning activities at the national level

28. The discussions focused on the issues paper (CRP.7) prepared by UNDP drawing, inter alia, on the work of other organizations, in particular the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the World Bank, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Resources Institute (WRI). The Committee underscored the importance of actions aimed at supporting national coordination and planning activities related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and achieving sustainable development. In that context the Committee agreed on the need to rationalize the requests for elaboration of national strategies and plans regarding environment and sustainable development. A sustainable development strategy should provide an appropriate framework in which sectoral plans could be accommodated. It was noted, however, that bearing in mind specific national conditions and priorities, elaboration of a single model for coordination of such activities would not be appropriate. It was also proposed to focus attention on countries that could serve as "pilots" for a coordinated strategy development exercise.

29. It was stressed that capacity building was closely linked to the issue of sustainable development planning and was essential for optimal strategy formulation. Consultations conducted by UNDP, as task manager on capacity building, could therefore provide a forum for continued discussion of the strategy issue. UNDP suggested that those consultations might take place when a convenient time could be found in connection with other planned meetings.

30. Regarding the "best practices" approach suggested in the issues paper, it was felt that it should not be seen as a prescription of how a sustainable development strategy must look, but rather be considered as a set of lessons from experience and elements that could be taken into account in the elaboration of strategies - focusing on process and relationships - supplemented by a common approach on the part of agencies, both multilateral and bilateral, which assisted Governments in strategy formulation. That could provide a framework for collaboration and coordination and would give Governments an indication of what they might ask of and expect from the United Nations system.

31. Furthermore, the importance of coordinating United Nations system work with that of the Working Party on Development Assistance and Environment of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) was underscored. Organizing a joint one-day seminar convened before the meeting of the Working Party in October 1995 on the issue of national sustainable development plans could be considered.

32. It was agreed that UNDP would take the initiative to convene a meeting of an open-ended task force to continue discussion outlined in the issues paper, taking into account the discussion of IACSD. The task force would address the issue of national strategies and of reporting requirements. In preparing for that meeting, UNDP would conduct bilateral consultations with parties concerned. It was also felt that avenues should be explored for bringing in national planners and experts into the process.

33. The issue of streamlining reporting will be on the agenda of the next meeting of IACSD. In this connection, the Committee agreed that the secretariats of the UNCED-related conventions should be invited to participate in the discussion on streamlining of national reporting.

D. Review of IACSD (second phase)

34. The discussion focused on the paper prepared by the Department (CRP.8). It was felt that the paper grasped all the main issues related to the functioning of IACSD, and it presented an excellent starting-point for a more in-depth review of the Committee. It was agreed that the Department would incorporate into a second draft the specific proposals made during the current session of the Committee, the evaluation of relevant results of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as written comments to be received before 15 May 1995. The revised draft would be available for consideration and approval during the sixth session of IACSD to meet the time-frame determined by ACC.

35. It was agreed that further work on IACSD review should take into account the following considerations made during the discussion in the Committee:

(a) The need to clarify the coordinating mandate of IACSD, in relation to the coordination mandates of intergovernmental and inter-agency bodies dealing with the topics related to Agenda 21. That had to be done on the basis of an "added value" approach and take into account the need to minimize the consequences of overlaps in existing coordination mandates;

(b) The need to ensure greater balance in the coordination at global, regional and field levels on the basis of optimal use of all existing coordinating mechanisms available, including regional commissions and the system of United Nations resident coordinators;

(c) The need to involve more fully financial institutions and other relevant non-United Nations bodies that had an important role to play in regional and/or global action;

(d) The need to ensure a greater balance in IACSD work in support of ACC and requirements of the United Nations system, and the Commission on Sustainable Development. Particular needs of specific "clients" of IACSD's work needed to be clarified;

(e) The need to promote "problem driven" and forward-looking approaches in determining specific issues requiring in-depth attention by IACSD;

(f) The need to ensure continuity of day-to-day inter-agency coordination requirements, including through full use of various informal arrangements and development of informal contacts among the organizations concerned.

36. In the meanwhile, it was agreed that the concept of a task manager, as it had evolved over the past two years, had proved to be an effective mechanism in meeting the demands related to the functioning of IACSD and the Commission, and needed to be strengthened and expressed more clearly. The focus in the activities of the task managers should shift from coordination of reporting towards strategy development and promotion and coordination of joint action.

37. In that context, it was felt that in the future, task managers should pursue the coordination of Agenda 21 system-wide activities, while the IACSD itself, as a rule, should focus on specific problems identified by the task managers on an "as a need may arise" basis. This would allow the Committee to devote more time to conceptual and policy-oriented aspects of coordination in the field of sustainable development, and thus perform its functions more effectively.

38. In particular, greater reliance on the task managers would allow the Committee to promote a more thematic approach to coordination through focusing on concrete themes, (mutually agreed in advance to ensure in-depth preparations), and elaborate action-oriented recommendations on main policy and coordination issues. In that context it was agreed to include, starting from the next session of the Committee an agenda item on "Discussion of policy and coordination in a specific thematic area". At the sixth session of the Committee such an area would be "Sustainable development indicators"; and during the seventh session, "National strategies for sustainable development".

E. Other matters

1. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on its fifteenth session

39. The representative of the World Bank, in his capacity as Chairman of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, introduced the report of the Subcommittee on its fifteenth session, which had been held at World Bank headquarters from 21 to 23 September 1994 (CRP.11). He drew the attention of the Committee to the relationship being forged between the Subcommittee and the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with regard to the scope of operational policies, priorities and strategies concerning international waters. He also drew attention to the work being carried out concerning the global assessment of freshwater resources in response to the decision taken by the Commission on

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Sustainable Development at its second session as well as the work carried out in development of guidelines for the formulation of water resources strategies. With regard to coordination, he pointed to the concern expressed by the members of the Subcommittee over the limited resources available to the secretariat.

40. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the fact that GEF had endeavoured to avail itself of the expertise within the organizations of the United Nations system of organizations through the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources in the case of international waters and of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, and expressed the hope that GEF would continue to use existing mechanisms with the United Nations system. The Committee took note of the initiative taken by the International Water Resources Association, together with the city of Montreal towards the organization of the World Water Council. Such a Council would involve the organizations of the United Nations system as well as other multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organizations. It would not duplicate the role of the Subcommittee on Water Resources. It was agreed that IACSD would remain informed through the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources of developments concerning this World Water Council.

2. Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its second session

41. The representative of IMO, in his capacity as a member of the Subcommittee, introduced the report of the Subcommittee at its second session, which was held at WMO headquarters in Geneva from 23-27 January 1995 (CRP.12). He drew the attention of the Committee to the four recommendations in the report for the decision of the IACSD (para. 1 of the Subcommittee's report). In this connection, the Committee:

(a) Approved the dates and venue of the third session of the Subcommittee (28-30 August 1995 at UNESCO Headquarters (IOC) Paris);

(b) Approved the dates and venue of the fourth session of the Subcommittee (8-12 January 1996 at United Nations Headquarters in New York);

(c) Endorsed the proposal of the Subcommittee that it would undertake to ensure that the sustainable development of small island developing States related to oceans and coastal areas, would be adequately reflected in the report under chapter 17;

(d) Appreciated the need for greater communication between the Subcommittee and the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and indicated that it could be achieved soon particularly during the period of preparation of the report on chapter 17, scheduled to be submitted to the Commission in 1996.

3. Dates and venue and provisional agenda for the sixth session of IACSD

42. The Committee was informed that the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) had advised that the proposed meeting of IACSD in June could not be accommodated in Geneva. The Committee then agreed, tentatively, on the dates of 5 to 7 July at WHO headquarters in Geneva, in advance of the consideration of the report of the Commission by the Economic and Social Council.

4. Financial reporting by the United Nations system on the implementation of Agenda 21

43. IACSD considered the issue of financial reporting by the United Nations system on the implementation of Agenda 21 (item 9 (d) of the agenda). It had before it a paper prepared by the Secretariat (CRP.13/Rev.1). IACSD took note of the fact that the guidelines issued to the members of ACC for the preparation of the exercise for the 1994-1995 reporting period requested a breakdown of expenditures by source of funding (regular budgetary and extrabudgetary) by sector and subsector of the ACC classification system. IACSD requested the Secretariat to prepare a report for its seventh session limited to joint programming activities, taking into account the replies received in connection with the preparation of the ACC report on programmes and resources for 1994/1995. It also requested the World Bank, IMF and GEF to consider participating in the ACC financial reporting exercise.

5. Participation of the Global Environment Facility in the work of IACSD

44. Following a discussion on the usefulness of the involvement of the GEF secretariat in the work of the Committee, the Committee requested its Chairman to explore with the secretariat of GEF their participation in a discussion on strategy coordination in relation to GEF during the seventh session.

Notes

1/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum).

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and timetable.
2. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of:
 - (a) ACC;
 - (b) Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;
 - (c) Other intergovernmental bodies: relevant decisions in the context of reporting requirements and implications for IACSD and the Commission on Sustainable Development.
3. Review of preparations for the 1995 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development:
 - (a) Progress reports by the task managers concerned;
 - (b) United Nations system inputs to the inter-sessional working group meetings;
 - (c) Other preparations for the 1995 session of the Commission.
4. Review of progress in United Nations system coordination and preparation of joint initiatives to implement Agenda 21:
 - (a) Progress report on the Global Water Assessment Task Force;
 - (b) Consultative mechanism for information exchange systems for environmentally sound technologies;
 - (c) System-wide coordination in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
5. Support for Agenda 21 coordination and planning activities at the national level:
 - (a) Harmonization of requests for elaboration of national environment/sustainable development strategies/plans.
6. Review of the IACSD: Phase II.
7. ACC report to the eighteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council (May 1995).
8. ACC statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

9. Other matters:

- (a) Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources;
- (b) Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas;
- (c) Dates and venue and provisional agenda for the sixth session of IACSD;
- (d) Financial reporting by the United Nations system on the implementation of Agenda 21;
- (e) Participation of the Global Environment Facility in the work of IACSD.

10. Adoption of the report.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: N. Desai (United Nations)

Secretary: C. Hackett (United Nations)

United Nations, its entities and programmes

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| Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development | J. Waller-Hunter L. Hyttinen K. Ruffing L. Flanders D. Oodit A. Rogers A. Vasilyev |
| Department for Development Support and Management Services | M. Brewster J. Burke V. Moskalenko K. Szekiolda |
| United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) | M. Hildebrand |
| Regional commissions (New York Office) | H. Schmidt |
| United Nations Conference on Trade and Development | G. Kell J. Cuddy |
| United Nations Environment Programme | F. Schlingemann F. Cardy H. Zedan A. Dahl |
| United Nations Children's Fund | D. Bajracharya M. Glasgow Jingjing Qian |
| United Nations Development Programme | L. Gomez-Echeverri K. Jorgensen B. Garcia |
| United Nations Population Fund | T. Jensen A. Macdonald |
| Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | W. Watanabe |
| United Nations International Drug Control Programme | S. Bryant |

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World Food Programme

M. Hyder
H. Clavijo

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization

L. R. Kohler

Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations

L. Botero
F. Weibgen

United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

G. Glaser

World Health Organization

K. Kreisel
M. Ueda

World Bank

G. Le Moigne
A. Steer
C. Boucher

International Monetary Fund

V. P. Gandhi
H. Shugarman

World Meteorological Organization

S. Chacowry

International Maritime Organization

J. Wonham

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

A. Tcheknavorian-
Asenbauer

* * *

International Atomic Energy Agency

M. S. Opelz

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.1 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.2 | Timetable |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.3 | Agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordination of policies and activities of United Nations agencies and other bodies related to science and technology for development (Background paper prepared by the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.4 | Progress reports on global water assessment task force (Background paper prepared by the Department) |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.5 | Consultative mechanism for information exchange systems for environmentally sound technologies (Background note prepared by the Department) |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.6 | System-wide coordination in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Note prepared by the Department) |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.7 | Support for Agenda 21 coordination and planning activities at the national level (Issues paper prepared by UNDP and the Department) |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.8 | Review of the IACSD: Phase II (Background paper prepared by the Department) |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.9 | ACC report to the eighteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council (May 1995) |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.10 | ACC statement to IACSD (Draft statement prepared by the Department) |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.11 | Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources (fifteenth session), Washington, D.C., 21-23 September 1994 |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.12 | Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas (second session), Geneva, 23-27 January 1995 |
| ACC/IACSD/V/1995/CRP.13/ Rev.1 | Financial reporting by the United Nations system on the implementation of Agenda 21 |

Annex IV

ACC DRAFT STATEMENT TO THE COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) reaffirms its commitment and support to Agenda 21 and to the Commission on Sustainable Development. ACC notes with appreciation the contribution made to the UNCED follow-up process by the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD). It especially welcomes the recent efforts of IACSD, in accordance with the conclusions of ACC at its second regular session of 1994, to move from a reporting stage to a more operational and action-oriented approach in the response of the United Nations system to the implementation of Agenda 21.

2. ACC further welcomes the progress made by IACSD in formulating and developing specific proposals for joint programmes and initiatives within the framework of Agenda 21. Specifically, following on a decision taken at the fourth session of IACSD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in cooperation with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, organized a Round Table on Technology Transfer, Cooperation and Capacity Building from 6-8 February 1995, with the objective of gaining donor country support for inter-agency and inter-sectoral strategies for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. Representatives of developing countries, donor Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated. A forerunner of this initiative is the National Cleaner Production Centres Programme, recently launched by UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme, which is presently being introduced in seven developing countries.

3. Another successful joint effort is the World Climate Programme. Led by WMO, UNEP, UNESCO and its IOC, FAO, the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and other relevant organizations are preparing an integrated proposal to Governments for additional funding for the Programme. In addition, in response to chapter 19 of Agenda 21, an Inter-organizational Programme on the Sound Management of Chemicals is being established, with the participation of WHO, UNEP, ILO, FAO, UNIDO and OECD. The agreed-upon memorandum of understanding is currently being circulated for signature. ACC urges all countries, in particular donor countries, to actively support these joint initiatives which can go far in mobilizing the resources necessary to implement Agenda 21.

4. Additional instances of coordination and joint action by the United Nations system in the area of sustainable development, discussed by IACSD at its fifth session (1-3 February 1995), include a Global Water Assessment Task Force, a consultative mechanism for information exchange on environmentally sound technologies and system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries. Furthermore, the system has joined efforts in the development of a core set of indicators for sustainable development.

5. ACC would like to echo concerns raised by various intergovernmental bodies that the UNCED follow-up process needs to better address the development dimension of Agenda 21. There is also concern that the process might be concentrating excessively on meetings and reporting instead of concrete achievements at the national level.

6. Regarding the substantive aspects of the work of the United Nations system in the Commission on Sustainable Development, ACC fully supports the participation of task managers in the Commission itself and its ad hoc working groups and in the inter-sessional activities of the Commission, which is beneficial to both United Nations organizations and Governments. It is expected that new initiatives will strengthen working arrangements among United Nations organizations, donor and recipient Governments and lead to additional financial support for the implementation of Agenda 21.

7. The agencies and programmes of the United Nations system recognize the importance of focusing on the formulation of sustainable development strategies at the national level in support of country-driven processes. They have, therefore, joined efforts to analyse how sectoral strategies related to the mandates of specific agencies can best relate to and support the overall sustainable development strategies recommended in Agenda 21. These efforts will give direction to the assistance provided by the United Nations system to Governments in support of national goals and priorities.

8. Areas currently under consideration in IACSD include the possible streamlining of reporting requirements. ACC welcomes initiatives aimed at:

(a) Streamlining of reporting by Governments to the United Nations system, including in relation to conventions and treaties;

(b) Streamlining of reports to the various governing bodies related to the implementation of Agenda 21 or to sustainable development issues at large.

ACC is of the opinion that the Commission has an important role to play in this field, as the current arrangements seem to overstretch the capacities of both Governments and the United Nations system, and carry the risk of duplication. It is felt that the need for an integrated approach at the national level, driven by national priorities, must be the starting-point in a discussion on streamlining of reporting requirements.

9. In conclusion, it may be stated that the implementation of Agenda 21 has given rise to new and stimulating means of cooperation among United Nations agencies and has also led to new opportunities for direct assistance and collaboration with national Governments, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Annex V

ACC DRAFT STATEMENT TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, 1995

Report on international cooperation in the field
of the environment

The United Nations System-wide Earthwatch

1. This report is submitted to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of December 1972 on institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation, and 32/197 of December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. The topic selected for this report is the UNEP-led system-wide Earthwatch.
2. One of the major achievements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was the general acceptance that environment and development were closely interrelated and must be considered together. This idea is embodied in the concept of sustainable development. Since the Conference was held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the challenge has been to give this concept practical application. One major area where the United Nations system can do this is in the implementation of chapter 40 of Agenda 21 on "Information for decision-making". The Secretary General's report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on the implementation of that chapter (E/CN.17/1995/18) addresses the general problem of providing adequate information for decision-making on sustainable development. The report, however, focuses on the inter-agency dimension of the implementation of chapter 40.
3. With its high levels of population growth and resource consumption, the world is rapidly moving towards currently perceived planetary limits, for which the growing global environmental problems are warning signals. While there has been some progress, the overall trends are still negative. It is possible that as these problems grow, they could increasingly interact with negative feedback as global environmental stresses increase, if remedial action is not taken. The basic capacities of the planet to support human activity are being damaged. There is an evident trade-off between the level of material development and human well-being that will ultimately be sustainable on this planet, and the care that we take of economic assets, natural resources, environmental life-support systems and human capital. These in turn are influenced by our population size, technology, and levels of resource consumption and waste production. Information for decision-making in order to provide a basis for sustainable development requires the integration of all these environmental, economic and social dimensions at the global, regional and national levels.

Earthwatch

4. Earthwatch was first proposed at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972 as a United Nations system-wide mechanism coordinated by UNEP to monitor major global disturbance in the environment and to give early warning of problems requiring international action. Following UNCED, the organizations participating in Earthwatch have focused Earthwatch on the priority requirements of Agenda 21 and on the delivery of information for decision-making, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 40 of Agenda 21 to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session and in the report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the UNEP Governing Council in response to General Assembly resolution 48/192 on strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems. The first meeting of the inter-agency Earthwatch Working Party, held in Geneva from 1-2 June 1994, redefined the mission of the United Nations System-wide Earthwatch as being to coordinate, harmonize and integrate observation, assessment and reporting activities across the United Nations system in order to provide environmental and appropriate socio-economic information for national and international decision-making on sustainable development and for early warning of emerging problems requiring international action. A number of specific activities designed to make the system-wide Earthwatch more operational were also identified.

5. The review of the system-wide contributions to Earthwatch has revealed the important role played by many agencies and organizations in different aspects of environmental observation, assessment and information for sustainable development. Over 30 significant inter-agency programmes were identified, together with a large number of related activities of organizations of the United Nations system. Even a partial costing suggests that the total financial effort represented by these activities is well over \$50 million. Together they have great potential for meeting many of the requirements of the system-wide Earthwatch. However, many of these activities have been developed in response to specific agency mandates or sectoral problems. A considerable effort will be required to reinforce these activities so as to develop their full potential, to cross-link them and to strengthen collaboration where appropriate, and to integrate the results into a coherent Earthwatch process able to respond to the needs and expectations of the international community.

6. Through the efforts of the inter-agency Earthwatch Working Party and the work of UNEP as IACSD Task Manager for Earthwatch, the inputs of all the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to Earthwatch have been identified, and mechanisms have been created to strengthen collaboration and joint programming. One major component of Earthwatch is the set of global observing systems with multi-agency sponsorship which are being developed for climate, oceans and terrestrial areas to make previously diffuse and scattered monitoring efforts more coherent, operational and focused on key issues of global change and sustainability.

7. Organizations of the United Nations system participating in Earthwatch are counting on UNEP to carry out its coordinating function in this area and to provide the necessary leadership to a more integrated system-wide Earthwatch, through a combination of active participation and networking. In particular, if

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UNEP reinforces linkages among expert information fora on the one hand and decisions makers on the other (at national and regional level, and within international policy arenas such as the Commission on Sustainable Development), then a significant contribution shall have been made. ACC stresses the importance it places on Earthwatch being a system-wide effort which requires the full participation and support of UNEP.

8. The need for and expectations of Earthwatch have evolved since its conception over 20 years ago. It is no longer sufficient just to alert the world to emerging and important environmental trends and problems. Environmental factors have to be integrated into political and economic decision-making mechanisms, and become as fundamental as economics in determining sustainable development. This will require the development of a flow of environmental data producing indicators for policy action to improve environmental protection and resource management, which in turn will involve adjustments in the economic development process. This flow of information must be more rapid, so that timely data and indicators are available when decision makers need them. Much of this must take place at the national level, but it is also relevant at the global level, where Earthwatch is the mechanism to provide this information.

9. Earthwatch should pay special attention to the need for balance among the requirements and capacities of various groups of countries in environmental observation, assessment and reporting activities, to ensure a reliable, accurate and objective flow of information at the international level. This will require special emphasis on efforts to fill the gaps in the global coverage of these activities through capacity-building in information gathering and assessment that will allow the full participation of all countries in the observation and assessment processes.

10. The system-wide Earthwatch should not only work to deliver more integrated information for decision-making at the international level through cooperation among the sectoral agencies, but should also promote assistance to national Governments to achieve a similar integration of information at the national level, bridging the many departments and ministries that should be involved. The tools and methodologies now being developed in Earthwatch will be useful in this regard.

11. The principal users of Earthwatch will thus include not only the various intergovernmental decision-making bodies that have been created to adopt policy measures and management actions in the various fields of environment and development, but also decision makers in national Governments who are required to know the international context within which their national actions must take place in our increasingly interrelated world. Earthwatch should also continue to supply information to the general public to build support for the actions that are taken.

12. One problem increasingly being faced by all the agencies participating in Earthwatch that may require the policy attention of the Governing Council, is that information for public purposes is increasingly becoming less accessible. One constraint is the increasing cost of information, as distinct from normal charges for connection or communications. Non-governmental organizations, and

even government departments, are trying to find ways to cover the costs of their information services. Data and information sales are seen as one option to achieve this. In some countries, public services are being privatized. Since business users of data can usually pass the costs on to their customers, data charges are often set to what the private sector can afford to pay. Public services and United Nations agencies cannot afford excessive charges, and almost no policy maker has a budget for obtaining the information required for decision-making. Present market approaches, however, do not recognize that the usefulness and value of information is often increased through universal availability. There is also a problem of the conflict of interest in access to information between the particular and the public good, such as with information held on damaging activities or dangerous properties in materials, whose release could threaten the reputation of the holder or the market for a product.

13. Governments are also sensitive to the release of information that may be perceived to be detrimental to legitimate national interests. This sensitivity can be accentuated by the fear of bias in the use of the information, for instance to favour particular economic systems, cultural models or styles of development, or to give an advantage to particular national or commercial interests. Yet in the common interest of the global community, objective environmental information is vital. As a matter of policy, the United Nations institutions must be the guarantor of the objectivity and reliability in information at the international level. Access by the United Nations system to the information required for an effective Earthwatch also needs to be promoted.

Addressing the interface between environment and development information

14. The changing role of Earthwatch was reflected in the deliberations of the Earthwatch Working Party, where the participating agencies did not consider it appropriate in the post-Rio period to consider the environment in isolation from human activities, since decision-making for sustainable development requires the integration of environmental, economic and social information. The Working Party therefore suggested, as one option, that a "development watch" should be created with which Earthwatch could interact closely, as proposed in chapter 40 of Agenda 21.

15. Already, a number of efforts are being made to develop the methodologies for linking and integrating environment and development information at the regional and global levels to produce policy-relevant outputs, in cooperation among organizations of the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations and the scientific community. For instance, UNEP, the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development are cooperating with the Scientific Committee on the Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) project on indicators of sustainable development. UNEP is exploring the usefulness of models, scenarios and projections through cooperation with the Dutch National Institute of Public Health and Environment (RIVM), the World Resources Institute, the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Stockholm Environment Institute, and is involving a number of research centres in developing countries in these initiatives. The World Bank is also building its information system with reference to sustainable development. Particular attention is being paid

to develop approaches suitable to all sizes of countries, all regions, cultures, economic systems and levels of development.

16. In response to chapter 40 of Agenda 21, a cooperative effort among the agencies has also begun to prepare proposals on Development Watch for the Commission on Sustainable Development. United Nations, UNDP and UNEP, inter alia, will play a key role in this effort to develop methodologies and indicators for subsequent consideration by Governments and use by countries in assessing the sustainability of their own development at the national level. The challenge for a "development watch" will be to select the data and indicators that best measure the status and results of development in ways that are useful for policy and decision-making, going beyond the traditional economic indicators to cover more completely the issues raised in Agenda 21. A major focus of this effort will be to contribute to the development of a work programme for the Commission on Sustainable Development to produce a core set of indicators for sustainable development, to be developed by DPCSD and the Statistical Division in close cooperation with UNEP. This will be a difficult task requiring reliable data, agreement on standard definitions and methodologies, and definition of a set of indicators for each of the major issues for which Agenda 21 set goals. Careful attention must be paid to balance so that all countries can select the indicators that are appropriate to their own culture, resources and level of development. The resulting indicators will need to combine economic, social and environmental factors to produce indicators for sustainable development. Such indicators, combined with other information on sustainability, should help to stimulate and guide the national policy-making process. In recognition of this there will be an emphasis on the need to include capacity-building as an integral part of the development of indicators, information and delivery systems.

17. Earthwatch will need to contribute to this process of defining and where necessary providing the environmental information needed to combine with economic and social data. It will also provide a global perspective to complement and reinforce efforts of each nation to determine the sustainability of its own development, since some elements of sustainability inevitably extend beyond national borders.

18. Together, these efforts aim to achieve the kind of management system for sustainable development that we now use for economic development. The world needs national and global data, assessment and early warning systems for environment and sustainability comparable to those presently governing the operation of economic decision-making. Linking Earthwatch with its focus on the global environment and a "development watch", through which countries can assess their own progress towards sustainability, will give a more complete picture of the trends in sustainable development. The two approaches (global and national) would produce joint outputs on the progress, possibilities and limits of sustainable development. The assembly within the framework of Earthwatch and "development watch", of data and assessments to produce indicators and projections using integrated conceptual frameworks, systems studies and models, will assist the development of more future-oriented international policy in an increasingly complex and integrated world.

ACC recommendations

19. ACC draws the attention of the Governing Council of UNEP to the importance of Earthwatch as a United Nations system-wide activity and an essential component of information for decision-making, as agreed in Agenda 21. It emphasizes the role of UNEP to provide leadership and direction to the system-wide Earthwatch, to maintain adequate inter-agency coordination of observation, assessment and reporting activities, and to assist in the joint programming and the integration of results that will make Earthwatch an effective effort of the United Nations system to provide international environmental information required for decision-making. It therefore recommends to the Governing Council and to all interested organizations of the United Nations system that sufficient resources be allocated to Earthwatch and to capacity-building for information gathering to implement this responsibility effectively.

20. ACC is of the view that the Governing Council may wish to consider the ways to promote ready access to the environmental information essential for ensuring a coordinated and efficient approach to providing relevant information for decision-making for sustainable development, including the implementation of a United Nations system-wide Earthwatch. The UNEP secretariat might be requested to convene an ad hoc governmental expert group on the issue to further clarify the matter.

21. ACC recommends that UNEP and the other organizations involved in the system-wide Earthwatch should continue to develop approaches to the linking of socio-economic and environmental assessment and reporting, and that the Earthwatch Working Party give further attention to the conceptual issues involved. In this connection, ACC also recommends that UNEP and all concerned organizations of the United Nations system participate actively in the process under way to initiate a "development watch" and to ensure its close inter-linkage with Earthwatch as parts of an integrated system of information for decision-making as recommended by Agenda 21.

Annex VI

AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK DURING THE THIRD SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(New York, 11-28 April 1995)

First week

Tuesday, 11 April

a.m.: Opening of the session. Items 1 and 2 of the agenda: "Election of officers". "Adoption of the agenda and other organizational issues". Introductory statements by high-level officials and eminent persons

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work

p.m.: Item 4 of the agenda: "Financial resources and mechanisms". Presentation of the report of the Ad hoc Working Group on Finance followed by a panel discussion

Possible participants of the panel could include: Chairman of the Ad hoc Working Group; two or three ministers for finance; high-level official from the World Bank; Member of HLAB; Private company CEO; NGO representative

Documentation: Report of the Ad hoc Working Group on Finance

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1995/8)

Wednesday, 12 April

a.m.: Item 6 of the agenda: "Review of sectoral issues" (integrated planning and management of land resources (chapter 10); forests (chapter 11) and "Forest Principles"; desertification and drought (chapter 12); mountains (chapter 13); agriculture and rural development (chapter 14); biodiversity (chapter 15))

Presentation of the report of the Ad hoc Working Group on Sectoral Issues, followed by a panel discussion

Possible participants could include: Chairman of the Ad hoc Working Group; two or three ministers (e.g. for agriculture, forestry); high-level official(s) from FAO and UNEP; internationally recognized scientist; farmer and/or NGO representative

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Presentations by the Chairs of desertification and
biodiversity conventions

Documentation: Report of the Ad hoc Working Group on Sectoral
Issues

Reports of the Secretary-General on the chapters
referred to above (E/CN.17/1995/2-7)

p.m.: Item 3 of the agenda: "General discussion on progress in the
implementation of Agenda 21, focusing on cross-sectoral issues and
the critical elements of sustainability"

(a) Critical elements of sustainability (trade, environment
and sustainable development (in chapter 2); consumption patterns
(chapter 4); combating poverty (chapter 3); demographic dynamics
(chapter 5))

(b) Decision-making (integrating environment in decision-
making (chapter 8); information for decision-making (chapter 40))

(c) Role of major groups (chapters 23-32)

Documentation: Reports of the Secretary-General on the chapters
referred to above (E/CN.17/1995/12-14, 15 and
Add.1, 18, 19, 9)

Report of the Secretary-General on information
received from national communication/reports
(E/CN.17/1995/24)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress
achieved in the implementation of the decisions
of the second session of the Commission
(E/CN.17/1995/22)

Thursday, 13 April

a.m. and p.m.: Item 3, continued

Friday, 14 April: No meetings (holiday)

Second week

Monday, 17 April

a.m. and p.m.: Item 5 of the agenda: "Education science, transfer of
technology, cooperation and capacity-building" (focus on science
(chapter 35), transfer of technology, cooperation and capacity-
building (chapter 34); biotechnology (chapter 16))

Documentation: Reports of the Secretary-General on chapters referred to above (E/CN.17/1995/16, 17 and Add.1, 20)

Tuesday, 18 April

a.m. and p.m.: Country presentations a/ and exchanges of national experiences in the elaboration of sustainable development plans and strategies and establishment of national sustainable development councils

Also p.m. (starting around 4 p.m.) Day of local authorities (Programme is expected to include an exhibition, presentation of six case-studies, a panel discussion)

Wednesday, 19 April

Country presentations a/ and exchanges of national experiences in selected sectoral areas (integrated land management and sustainable agriculture)

Thursday, 20 April-Friday, 21 April

Work of drafting groups

To negotiate conclusions and recommendations of the Commission it is suggested to establish three drafting groups, chaired by the vice-chairmen, to deal with: (a) finance; poverty; consumption; trade, environment and sustainable development; demographic dynamics; (b) transfer of technology; science; decision-making structures and major groups; and (c) sectoral issues and biotechnology. Not more than two groups will meet simultaneously

Third week

Monday, 24 April-Tuesday, 25 April

Work of the drafting groups continued

Wednesday, 26 April

a.m.: Consideration and approval of the results of the work of the drafting groups in the Commission

Item 7 of the agenda: Other matters

a/ Countries to be selected through the regional groups.

- p.m.: Item 8 of the agenda: High-level meeting
- 3-5: High-Level Segment with a focus on main policy issues identified by the Chairman on the basis of the work of the Commission and in the report of the Secretary-General for the High-level meeting
- Documentation: Report of the Secretary-General on major and emerging issues (E/CN.17/1995/21)
- 5-7: Panel discussion on employment and sustainable development. Participants could include: two-three ministers dealing with matters related to employment; member of HLAB; representative of trade unions and the private sector

Thursday, 27 April

- a.m. (and 3-5 p.m.): High-Level Segment, continued
- 5-7: Panel discussion on mass-media and sustainable development. The panel could include minister(s) for information, anchor-persons/prominent journalists, a chief editor from a major newspaper; high-level official from a major broadcasting company; media celebrity. May be followed by a question-and-answer session with all participants of the meeting

Friday, 28 April

- a.m.: Conclusions of the discussions in the High-Level Segment
- 4-4.30 p.m.: Adoption of the Chairman's summary on the High-Level Segment
- 5: Item 9 of the agenda: Provisional agenda of the fourth session; item 10: Adoption of the report of the session. Conclusion of work

* * *

In addition to the above, technical presentations/briefings and other events organized by agencies, countries and NGOs during lunch breaks and/or after 6 p.m. could be envisaged. These include: ILO presentation on the project, "Environment and World of Work"; UNCTAD presentation on eco-labelling.

Provisional agenda of the Ad hoc Inter-sessional
Group on Sectoral Issues of the Commission on
Sustainable Development

(New York, 27 February-3 March 1995)

The five-day meeting should discuss six sectoral issues, namely: integrated planning and management of land resources (chapter 10); forests (chapter 11 and "Forest Principles"); desertification and drought (chapter 12);

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mountains (chapter 13); agriculture and rural development (chapter 14); biodiversity (chapter 15), and elaborate relevant recommendations and policy options for consideration by the Commission at its third session. It is expected that the reports will be introduced by the task managers. Furthermore, it is suggested that the Chairmen of desertification and biodiversity conventions would also address the meeting.

Since sectoral issues to be considered are closely interrelated the following organization of work is suggested:

(a) All six sectors could be considered simultaneously on Monday and Tuesday;

(b) On Wednesday afternoon the Chairman will circulate a discussion paper, based on the initial round of discussion, which in its first part could attempt to distil and address all cross-cutting issues, while its second part could deal with matters that are sector-specific;

(c) This paper would be the subject of a second round of discussion on Thursday;

(d) On Friday morning the Chairman would present a draft report to the meeting, which would be commented upon by the participants. On Friday afternoon the redrafted report could be presented by the Chairman for approval of the meeting.

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Provisional agenda for the Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance
of the Commission on Sustainable Development

(New York, 6-9 March 1995)

Monday, 6 March
(morning)

Opening speeches
Chairman, Working Group on Finance
CSD secretariat

I. International policy environment and financial flows

A. Changes in the external environment

World economic growth and trade; interest rate trends; trade policy; terms of trade; etc.

B. Trends in resource flows and debt

Overview; official development finance; official development assistance; debt and debt service; outlook

C. Bretton Woods institutions and the financing of sustainable development

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(afternoon)

II. National policies and resource mobilization

A. Applying economic instruments

Sustainable development policies and the use of economic instruments; experience with economic instruments in OECD countries; economies in transition and developing countries

Tuesday, 7 March

(morning)

B. Improving the operations of national environmental funds

C. Promoting the role of the private sector in the financing of sustainable development

D. Aiming at international coordination of national sustainable development policies

(afternoon)

III. Innovative international mechanisms for resource mobilization

Internationally agreed tax on air transport/tradeable permits and joint implementation; conversion of official bilateral debt; other innovative mechanisms

Wednesday, 8 March

(morning)

IV. Financing for sectoral and cross-sectoral issues of Agenda 21

Trends in sectoral finance, in particular, chapters 10-15 of Agenda 21 and financial resources for cross-sectoral issues, in particular for financing the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and biotechnology

(afternoon)

V. Matrix of policy options and instruments

Thursday, 9 March

(morning and afternoon)

VI. Discussion of draft recommendations to the Commission and adoption of the report

(Based on the draft report prepared by the Chairman)
