



# United Nations Environment Programme



Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/GC.9/4/Add.1  
16 January 1981

Original: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL  
Ninth session  
Nairobi, 13-26 May 1981  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

### Addendum

### Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

This document contains the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at its ninth session on co-ordination in the field of the environment. The report was approved by the Committee on 3-4 November 1980. Annexed are reports on the results of thematic joint programming meetings and interagency consultations held in 1980.

Na.81-0001

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION  
TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AT ITS NINTH SESSION

INTRODUCTION

1. This report is submitted to the Governing Council of UNEP in discharge of the responsibilities assumed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and as envisaged in relevant decisions of the Governing Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. ACC noted with satisfaction that its second report, submitted to the Governing Council at its eighth session (UNEP/GC.8/4), had been received with appreciation by the Governing Council.

2. In exercising his responsibility for the preparatory process for consideration by ACC of environmental and desertification matters, the Executive Director of UNEP convened a meeting of officials designated by the executive heads of organizations members of ACC. The meeting took place at ILO headquarters, Geneva, from 2 to 4 September 1980, and was preceded on 1 September by the third meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

A. The system-wide medium-term environment programme

3. ACC was pleased to note that the Governing Council had, in decision 8/1, commended the co-operation of ACC members in the development of the system-wide medium-term environment programme, and that the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session in 1980, had expressed its appreciation of those efforts.

4. ACC noted with satisfaction that considerable progress had been achieved, since it had submitted its last report to the Governing Council, on such matters as the scope of the system-wide medium-term environment programme and its structure, and the process required for its preparation, and considered that informal meetings of experts drawn from organizations would be useful in the further development of the environmental activities of the United Nations system.

5. ACC agreed that the system-wide medium-term environment programme being jointly conceived and prepared would be of use to the United Nations system as a whole, and that each organization would take account of its provisions in accordance with its own constitutional mandate and programming procedures. ACC was therefore of the view that the system-wide medium-term environment programme should be seen not only as a document of use to the UNEP Governing Council, but also, and to the extent relevant to their particular mandates, as a basic document of interest to the governing bodies

of other United Nations organizations and thus as a means for exercising mutual influence on their planning and programming processes. In that connexion ACC members considered that UNEP should endeavour to send high-level representatives to attend the session of such governing bodies when they discussed their own future programmes.

6. ACC considered that the system-wide medium-term environment programme should encompass not only activities financially supported or otherwise stimulated by UNEP, but also those included in the organizations' programmes of an environmental nature. Of the latter, those involving more than one agency should be fully reflected, whereas those regarded as having an environmental nature only by the organization principally concerned would receive briefer treatment.

7. ACC agreed that the first step in the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme should be agreement on objectives for the period 1984-1989. In addition to the general objectives of the kind associated with the programme level, there should be specific action-oriented and time-limited objectives at the subprogramme level described in terms of the means of action to be used (for example, research, monitoring, legislation, information exchange, technical assistance).

8. ACC agreed that the thematic joint programming meetings which had taken place or were to take place in the latter part of 1980 were crucial in arriving at agreement on objectives for the period 1984-1989. Experience with thematic joint programming had shown that it was feasible to determine such precise objectives jointly in the context of more general goals. ACC agreed that those objectives as a whole should be reviewed at an interagency meeting, and submitted to the Governing Council at its ninth session as the proposals of the United Nations system. Approval of those objectives by the Governing Council at that session would enable the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the tenth session, and would also encourage the organizations to translate those environment-related objectives into their own programmes for the period 1984-1989.

#### B. Perspective document

9. ACC noted that at its seventh and eighth sessions the Governing Council of UNEP had discussed the preparation of a perspective document which was also to provide the over-all long-term context within which the activities of the United Nations system with regard to the environment should be placed.

10. At its eighth session, the Governing Council had stressed the need for consultation with the United Nations system in the formulation of the perspective document, the first such document being prepared for submission to the Council at its tenth session.

11. ACC considered that a perspective document which attempted to define shared perceptions of long-term environmental issues and of the appropriate efforts needed to deal successfully with the problems of protecting and

enhancing the environment, helped define a long-term agenda for action during the coming decades, and set aspirational goals for the world community, would be a useful way of reviving the sense of urgency and concern that had found expression at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972). Such aspirational goals for the world community would provide the over-all context for the efforts of the United Nations system and the basis from which medium-term objectives for the system should be derived. ACC considered further that the preparation of such a document should draw on the perceptions of governments and of the scientific and intellectual communities. Examples of information which should also be used in preparing the perspective document might include recent legislation, new national programmes, etc. An appropriate process should be developed to that end. ACC also considered that the State of the Environment reports which had been prepared in the past by UNEP, and particularly the State of the Environment report 1982, which was under preparation for the tenth session of the Governing Council, should provide much of the information that UNEP would need to analyse for the preparation of the perspective document.

12. At its ninth session, the Governing Council would consider the objectives for the system-wide medium-term environment programme 1984-1989, and would need to have a first description of the aspirational goals for the world community. Such goals were already implicit in, for instance, the results of the in-depth reviews prepared by UNEP, and some had already emerged from thematic joint programming exercises. ACC agreed that the future thematic joint programming exercises should also give attention to articulating the aspirational goals, relating to them the particular programme objectives.

C. Programme documentation for the ninth session of the  
Governing Council

13. ACC welcomed the changes introduced by the Governing Council of UNEP in the programme documentation, and the attempt to move swiftly into medium-term planning, programme budgeting and performance evaluation, as had been recommended by the General Assembly.

14. ACC noted that the Executive Director of UNEP was to present to the Governing Council at its ninth session a medium-term plan for the period 1982-1983. The presentation for the first two years would recapitulate the work programmes already approved by the Governing Council at earlier sessions, and programme proposals for 1982 and 1983 would be formulated, as far as possible, in a format consonant with the guidelines set forth in General Assembly resolution 34/224 of 20 December 1979, thus offering a good opportunity to develop further the methodologies for the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme. The medium-term plan was required as the basis on which the Governing Council would approve the financial targets for the Environment Fund for the biennium 1982/1983 and grant the necessary authority for the use of the resources of the Fund.

15. ACC also noted that the Executive Director was to prepare for the same session of the Governing Council a programme performance report, embodying an evaluation of results achieved in the period under review by the United Nations system in implementing the environment programme, both with and without the support of the Environment Fund.

D. Results of thematic joint programming exercises

16. ACC noted that since the eighth session of the Governing Council thematic joint programming had been carried out on environmental law, industry and appropriate technology, the working environment (resumed) and Earthwatch, and that consultations were shortly to take place on the integrated approach to environment and development, energy, human settlements and natural disasters. It was agreed that summaries of the results of those thematic joint programming exercises and consultations would be annexed to the present report after they had been cleared by the Designated Officials on Environmental Matters at their December 1980 meeting.

E. Study of Interrelationships between people, resources, environment and development

17. ACC was informed of the progress of work in the study of Interrelationships between people, resources, environment and development consequent upon the decision of the Governing Council at its eighth session to request the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to give favourable consideration to the recommendations of the expert group meeting convened by the Executive Director. The report of the expert group had been annexed to the Governing Council report. The Economic and Social Council had recommended to the General Assembly that it should consider the relevant decision of the Governing Council of UNEP, and that models for studying such interrelationships should take due account of the specific requirements of different regions and countries and should include the elaboration of a programme of work closely linked with the integrated system-wide interagency programming and planning, which should be placed under the direction of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, who should assure the over-all responsibility for the co-ordination of the system-wide efforts. A further high-level group of experts was to be convened by the Executive Director in January 1981.

F. Establishment of regional intergovernmental environmental machinery

18. ACC recalled the decision of the Governing Council at its seventh session inviting the regional commissions to consider setting up intergovernmental regional environmental committees. It was noted that the Executive Director had convened a workshop meeting in Geneva in conjunction with the session of the ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental Pollution, from 18 to 22 February 1980. Four out of the five regional commissions had been able to send representatives to the workshop.

19. ACC noted with satisfaction that since that date, ESCAP had decided to amend the terms of reference of its Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology, which had now become the Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and Environment, and that ECA had similarly amended the terms of reference of its Committee on Human Settlements, which had now become the Committee on Human Settlements and Environment. ACC expressed the hope that the other regional commissions would find it possible to take similar steps.

## II. CO-ORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

### A. Global level

20. ACC took note with satisfaction of decision 8/1 of the UNEP Governing Council regarding programme policy and implementation, and in particular of section IV, paragraph 2, whereby the Council expressed its satisfaction at the reporting by the Administrative Committee on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its concurrence with the Committee's analysis of the principal obstacles to the full implementation of the Plan of Action.

21. ACC also welcomed Governing Council decision 8/17, in which, in view of the principal obstacles to the full implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the Council called for strengthening of the efforts and co-operation of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Plan of Action, so as to ensure the proper multidisciplinary approach to projects and to arrange for effective pooling of the efforts and resources of the various agencies and bodies of the system with a view to ensuring the most efficient utilization of those resources.

22. In that respect ACC noted that the Interagency Working Group on Desertification and its subgroups continued to perform their functions effectively, and that the Group's third meeting had been held in Geneva on 1 September 1980.

23. ACC agreed that in order to strengthen the efforts and co-operation of the United Nations system, the following priority areas of activity in the field of desertification control should be undertaken:

- (a) Collection of information for the assessment and monitoring of desertification, and for evaluating its impact on people and the environment, including its economic, social and demographic consequences; that would require the establishment of national or regional systems for monitoring natural resources and human conditions;

(b) Application of available scientific knowledge and technologies to land use planning and resource management in areas affected by desertification, including the implementation of protective and corrective measures against desertification. Moreover, in the light of the programmes of the United Nations system in the field of desertification, and in order to fill gaps, special attention should be given to:

- (i) Water resources assessment, development and conservation;
- (ii) Rangeland assessment, development and conservation, with special reference to various aspects of livestock production and wildlife management and utilization;
- (iii) Management of rain-fed and irrigated agricultural land;
- (iv) Conservation of natural ecosystems;
- (v) Afforestation;
- (vi) Stabilization of moving sands;
- (vii) Development and use of alternative sources of energy;

(c) Strengthening of national and regional capabilities in science and technology that will enable developing countries to take full advantage of scientific knowledge and socio-economic insights in the planning and management of campaigns against desertification;

(d) Promotion of national and regional research programmes aimed at filling gaps in scientific knowledge and introducing technological innovations related to combating desertification;

(e) Promotion of national and international programmes for training, education and information related to desertification and land use management in areas prone to desertification;

(f) Strengthening popular participation in desertification control schemes.

24. ACC noted that in order to meet the needs of the years ahead, the following conditions had to be met:

- (a) Need for national plans of action to combat desertification;
- (b) Need for training of specialists for various activities related to combating desertification, particularly middle-level technicians;
- (c) Need for research on the adaptation of available technologies to local ecological, economic and socio-cultural conditions;
- (d) Need for sustained exchange of information, particularly between countries in specific regions and in the context of technical co-operation for development, with respect to problems, plans, projects, programmes, technologies, institutional arrangements, supporting measures and achievements in combating desertification.

25. ACC recalled the priority given by the General Assembly in resolutions 32/169 and 32/170 of 19 December 1977 to the Sudano-Sahelian region, the least developed among developing countries outside that region and other developing countries most seriously affected by desertification.

26. ACC urged that United Nations agencies give special attention to desertification problems in any development programmes related to arid and semi-arid areas which would further the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and promote financial support for such activities and programmes.

27. ACC noted the positive results achieved by the Consultative Group for Desertification Control at its second meeting (Nairobi, 12-14 March 1980) as a contribution to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification through the mobilization of additional resources for financing projects.

28. ACC took note of pledges of contributions to the Special Account, and of the study of additional measures and means of financing for the implementation of the Plan of Action which the Secretary-General was submitting to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session upon its request. ACC noted that the study had concluded that while the estimated cost of anti-desertification measures in a programme to be carried out over a 20-year period was \$4.5 billion per year, including a total for external financing of \$2.4 billion, the current annual loss of production due to the reduced productivity of land currently affected by desertification was of the order of \$26 billion annually. Of that \$26 billion, \$12 billion represented the annual loss of production in developing countries requiring external financial assistance. ACC therefore considered it to be of the highest importance that the additional external resources required for the developing countries in question should be made available.

#### B. The Sudano-Sahelian region

29. ACC noted with satisfaction the anti-desertification activities for the Sudano-Sahelian region carried out, on behalf of UNEP, by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 33/88 and 34/187, and that those activities were being conducted in co-operation with the organs concerned of the United Nations system in a concerted and co-ordinated effort towards the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Permeating all of those activities was the continuous consciousness-raising process of sensitizing the relevant entities to the severity of the problem of desertification and the specific action which must be taken to overcome it.

30. ACC noted that the planning and programming activities which had been undertaken in 13 countries of the region had resulted in the identification of 108 desertification projects for which the countries concerned had requested assistance. Further support continued in the formulation of additional projects.



31. ACC also noted that, parallel to its planning and programming activities, UNSO has initiated a continuing resource mobilization effort which had to date resulted in the financing of desertification control projects in Cape Verde, Niger and Senegal. In addition, funds had been made available for institutional support projects for the desertification control co-ordinating and monitoring agencies of the Governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and the Sudan. In Mauritania, financing was being provided for a seminar for the preparation of the framework for a national Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. On a regional level, UNSO was supporting, jointly with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, a programme of the Institute of the Sahel for the training of pastoralists in the Sahelian countries. A special avenue of resource mobilization had also been utilized when UNSO submitted to the second meeting of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, on behalf of the Governments concerned, 20 fully formulated on-going desertification control projects requiring additional financing. That matter was now being followed up as part of UNSO's resource mobilization activities.

32. ACC also took note that, in order to help ensure co-ordination at the regional level, UNSO had organized and financed a joint meeting with CILSS and the Club du Sahel, attended by representatives of the CILSS member States. The meeting had prepared a unified CILSS/UNSO plan for combating desertification in the countries concerned, which had subsequently been approved by the CILSS Council of Ministers (Ougadougou, 11 and 12 January 1980).

33. ACC also noted with satisfaction that, in the preparation of UNSO's desertification control programme for the Sudano-Sahelian region, carried out with the close collaboration of the countries concerned and the concerned agencies of the United Nations system, emphasis had been placed on the fact that desertification was a problem of development as well as a major form of environmental degradation, and that anti-desertification activities and development were closely interlinked. Corrective measures in anti-desertification projects were also designed to restore or increase the productivity of degraded ranges and rain-fed and irrigated lands. Since most of the desertification taking place in the region occurred in rural areas, an overwhelming majority of the projects in the initial programme were part and parcel of the countries' integrated rural development programmes. In addition, many of the projects had training and research components. In view of the persistence of the problem in the face of traditional methods of combating desertification, emphasis had also been placed on the use of innovative approaches, including the application of science and technology, technical co-operation among developing countries and methods for securing popular participation. The initial programme also included development projects to provide the populations of arid and semi-arid regions with alternatives to livelihood systems, land use methods, energy utilization and other behavioural patterns which led to desertification, where no options currently existed.

34. ACC recognized that UNSO was giving special attention to the problem of energy requirements in rural areas as a means of conservation to avoid further deterioration of forest resources and the growth of desertified areas, and in that connexion was co-operating closely with the relevant United Nations agencies on specific projects.

Annex

SUMMARY REPORTS ON THEMATIC JOINT PROGRAMMING MEETINGS AND  
INTERAGENCY CONSULTATIONS, 1980

1. During 1980 thematic joint programming meetings were held on the following subjects: environmental law (Rome, September); the working environment (Rome, September); Earthwatch (Rome, October); and industry and environment and environmentally sound and appropriate technology (Rome, September and New York, November). In addition, interagency consultations were held on an integrated approach to environment and development, and on energy and the environment in New York in November. A brief report on each meeting is given below:

A. Environmental law

2. The meeting discussed the following subjects:

- (a) In-depth review of environmental law;
- (b) Aspirational goals for the perspective document;
- (c) Objectives at the programme and subprogramme levels of the system-wide medium-term environment programme as regards environmental law (1984-1989);
- (d) Implementation during 1982/1983 of the sections of the medium-term plan relating to environmental law;
- (e) The Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law.

3. While it was noted that the preparation of the review required a concerted effort on the part of all the organizations concerned, and that further efforts should be made to secure contributions or comments from those organizations from which none had been received, the meeting considered the review to be an adequate basis for discussion. Useful comments were made, both orally and in writing, and were used in the revised in-depth review, the report on the objectives of SWITEP (UNEP/GC.9/7) and the medium-term plan for 1982-1983 (UNEP/GC.9/6).

4. The meeting generally endorsed a draft text with suggested material for the perspective document which had been submitted to it for discussion, and recognized that the formulation of the perspective document and of the aspirational goals should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate likely developments which could not be foreseen at present.

5. The meeting examined the programme and subprogramme objectives of SWITEP. It was generally considered that the proposed objectives were comprehensive and adequately reflected the requirements for future action.

within the United Nations system in the field of environmental law. The need for obtaining full co-operation from United Nations bodies in the continuing exercise of developing the SWMTEP objectives was underscored. Whether or not environmental law would be presented as a distinct programme or would reflect individual elements under the relevant programmes, such as soils, water, etc., would be decided in due course in determining the structure of SWMTEP as a whole.

6. The meeting noted that the medium-term plan basically enumerated level III activities. It was recognized that inputs from United Nations bodies concerning their level II activities were still needed. It was agreed that such bodies should send their inputs to UNEP for the period 1982-1983.

7. The meeting was informed of the proposed ad hoc meeting of senior officials expert in environmental law, scheduled to be held in September 1981, as well as of the informal consultations on the meeting convened by the Government of Canada in Ottawa from 5 to 7 November 1980. The types of topic which could be discussed at the meeting were presented for discussion, and some useful suggestions were made. On the whole, the meeting felt that the suggested topics were suitable for consideration by the meeting. It was suggested that further work on each topic would be necessary to identify issues and appropriate types of action at the national, regional or international levels.

8. The meeting was attended by representatives of ECA, WHO, FAO and WIPO. Observers from CEC and IUCN were also present.

#### B. Working environment

9. The second interagency thematic joint programming meeting on the working environment was held in Rome from 23 to 26 September 1980. At the first meeting, held from 9 to 12 October 1979 in Vienna, the participants had carried out an extensive review of the mandates and work programmes of United Nations organizations in the field of the working environment, and had agreed on sets of objectives for a co-ordinated, system-wide programme of action for the improvement of the working environment. In view of the planning cycles of most organizations, the first meeting had not been able to extend the review of work programmes beyond 1981.

10. The second meeting examined progress made towards the objectives of the co-ordinated programme since the first meeting. It was felt that the objectives approved at the first meeting, and subsequently endorsed by the Governing Council at its eighth session, should be revised in order to focus them better on the SWMTEP period, 1984-1989 and ensure that they reflected a truly co-ordinated programme of all concerned organizations. Although the meeting made a considerable effort to effect such a revision, the time available was too short to allow completion of the exercise. It was therefore decided that informal consultations would take place

between ILO, WHO and UNEP in order to finalize the proposals to be included in the document which would be submitted to the Designated Officials in December. /These consultations took place during October.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, the meeting could not complete work on activities for the period 1982-1983, but extensive information was submitted during and after the meeting to the UNEP secretariat. The information has since been used in the preparation of the chapter on the working environment in the medium-term plan.

11. The meeting which benefitted from the presence of FAO representatives, made suggestions for an expansion of the programme to include activities designed for the improvement of the environment and working conditions of agricultural workers.

### C. Earthwatch

12. The Interagency Working Group on Earthwatch has for a long while been an effective forum for airing and developing ideas on joint programming, and the October 1980 meeting was used for thematic joint programming. The meeting had two main functions: to examine the draft of the in-depth review of Earthwatch for completeness and factual correctness, and to consider the existing and proposed <sup>1/</sup> Earthwatch activities in relation to the system-wide medium-term environment programme (SWMTEP) and the programme perspective document which were both being developed by UNEP in concert with the United Nations system.

13. It was decided that activities related to Earthwatch should be reflected in appropriate places in SWMTEP, and summarized at the end of the document together with budgeting considerations.

14. The main function of the in-depth review of Earthwatch was to review all international activities having to do with environmental assessment, and, without going into administrative and budgetary details, to identify gaps in the substance of what was currently being done and what was planned. It was noted that the current meeting of the Earthwatch Working Group arose out of the deliberations of the previous meeting of the Working Group (Paris, September 1979) and of a meeting of Government-designated Experts (Geneva, November 1979), which had considered a background document on the concept and mechanisms of environmental assessment. <sup>2/</sup> The introduction to the draft put subsequent sections into a global context in regard to the structure of both the environment and the programmes of the agencies concerned with assessment. The three main chapters dealt with environmental agents affecting man and other targets, climate-related activities in the physical environment, and renewable natural resource activities in the biological environment. Sections on INFOTERRA, basic human needs and environmental data were appended.

---

<sup>1/</sup> See "Medium-term Plan, 1982-1983" (UNEP/GC.9/6).

<sup>2/</sup> "Environmental assessment under Earthwatch" (UNEP/WG.30/3).

15. As a result of discussion the in-depth review had been further revised to reflect suggested changes. Additional points were made during the meeting. For example, the need for research, particularly in the field of renewable natural resources, was very real and should be reflected in the programme perspective document. It was also felt that UNEP should first develop a "core" of socio-economic data, in harmony with the current thrust of the United Nations Statistical Office; that there needed to be an exchange of information about what types of data were available; and, most importantly, that it was necessary to determine unambiguously what data were needed for future management decisions. It was suggested that "Satisfaction of basic human needs in relation to the environment" would be a more appropriate title for the "basic human needs" sector of the Environment Programme. It was recognized that defining outer limits posed a perennial problem.

16. In sum, the meeting felt that the review was well prepared and of great value. The gaps identified, and the assessment plans which were to be expanded in the final version for the Governing Council should provide useful background for future thematic joint programming exercises.

#### D. Industry and environment

17. The meeting reviewed the draft objectives and structure of SWATEP, medium-term plan activities for 1982-1983, and the elements upon which aspirational goals in the sphere of industry and the environment could be founded. After carefully examining the draft objectives of SWATEP, the meeting approved a general objective at the programme level and agreed on a structure of subprogrammes and material that constituted a sound basis for further work in the preparation of time-limited objectives reflecting a system-wide, rather than a UNEP approach. UNEP was requested to pursue the task, in consultation with appropriate agencies, and report to a one-day reconvened thematic joint programming meeting in New York in November 1980.

18. The revised material was examined in New York, and as a result of that review, a further revision was prepared to embody the consensus of the United Nations family. The results of the review process were discussed by the Designated Officials in Nairobi between 15 and 19 December.

19. On the medium-term plan, the meetings in Rome and New York had before them a fairly comprehensive set of activities, which in the case of the Rome meeting, still lacked the required degree of detail on the level II activities of many of the United Nations bodies. Although useful additions were provided both during the meetings and in writing subsequently, it was agreed that the various agencies and bodies would re-examine the medium-term plan and provide UNEP with information on level II activities. The planned activities, as revised in the light of comments from the various bodies, are contained in the Medium-term Plan, 1982-1983 (UNEP/GC.9/6).

20. The Rome meeting exchanged views on perspectives concerning the framing of aspirational goals for the next few decades. A few paragraphs were drafted and given general endorsement by the meeting.

#### E. Environmentally sound and appropriate technology

21. Like industry and the environment, environmentally sound and appropriate technology was examined in Rome and New York, albeit briefly. The two meetings concentrated on the approach to be adopted in the area of technology and the environment in the SWMTEP period. The New York meeting also had before it a medium-term plan for 1982-1983. Although at both meetings an objective at the programme level was agreed to, it was concluded that technology and the environment should not stand as a distinct and separate programme in SWMTEP. Its essential components or elements should instead feature in the relevant programmes, i.e. water, energy, human settlements, etc.

22. Some brief comments were made on the medium-term plan, and the chapter has been revised to reflect the changes proposed.

#### F. Integrated approach to environment and development

23. The interagency consultations held in New York covered two matters: draft SWMTEP objectives, and issues raised under the proposed subprogrammes and the medium-term plan for 1982-1983. The area under discussion was acknowledged to be a complex one, to which the most serious consideration should be given not only in presentation but also in substantive terms, and it was suggested that a two-pronged attack was necessary, identifying and addressing first those areas in which immediate and concrete action was possible, and secondly those on which little was known at present, and where further study and discussion was necessary. The participants made detailed comments on the subject, the structure and materials offered, and as a result a reappraisal and restructuring of the original draft has been carried out, as reflected in the revised objectives (UNEP/GC.9/7). On the medium-term plan, comments were not forthcoming; nonetheless, the comments made during the meeting of Designated Officials in December 1980 have been taken into account in the medium-term plan (UNEP/GC.9/6).

#### G. Energy and the environment

24. As in the case of the integrated approach to environment and development, the interagency consultations on energy and the environment considered the SWMTEP objectives, the listing of programme elements under each of the subprogrammes and the proposed activities in 1982-1983 under the medium-term plan. While the proposed objectives at the programme and subprogramme levels were generally acceptable, comments were made orally and in writing on some of the programme elements and the manner in which they were presented in the medium-term plan and in SWMTEP. The comments made were taken into account in further development of the objectives; the comments on the elements would be taken into account in the development of the complete SWMTEP. On the medium-term plan, written comments were submitted by some of the participants and have been taken into account in completing the relevant portion of the plan.