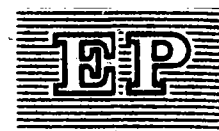




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## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM-WIDE MEDIUM-TERM ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### Report of the Executive Director

1. At its eighth session, the Governing Council considered the report of the Executive Director on the progress made in the preparation of the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme (SWMTEP), (UNEP/GC.8/4, part II A and Corr.1), the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) (UNEP/GC.8/4 part I and Corr.1) and a draft sample of SWMTEP (UNEP/GC.8/INF.3 and Corr.1). Delegations to the session welcomed the Executive Director's proposals regarding the development of SWMTEP, and felt that SWMTEP should provide the basis for the consideration by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination of the environment chapter of the United Nations medium-term plan 1984-1989. <sup>1/</sup> The Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1980, by resolution 1980/49 of 23 July 1980, expressed its appreciation of UNEP's efforts in the development of SWMTEP, in co-operation with the entire United Nations system, and requested all organizations within the system to continue to co-operate with UNEP in that endeavour, while the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session took note with appreciation of the efforts and progress made in the development of SWMTEP, and requested all organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to continue to co-operate with UNEP in the preparation of SWMTEP.

<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/35/25), para. 167.

2. In its decision 8/1, section IV, of 29 April 1980, the Governing Council commended the co-operation of members of ACC in the development of SWMTEP, and looked forward to further progress in the development of guidelines for the contribution of the co-operating agencies to SWMTEP. ACC again reviewed the ongoing preparations at its November 1980 meeting: in its report to the Governing Council at its ninth session (UNEP/GC.9/4/Add.1), the Committee stresses the need for joint conception and preparation of SWMTEP by UNEP and the other United Nations organizations. To this end, an intensive process of consultation has been set in motion. The Designated Officials for Environmental Matters have met on two occasions, in September and December 1980, and will meet again in March 1981 for the purpose, inter alia, for finalizing a preliminary draft of the objectives of SWMTEP which will be submitted to the Governing Council as document UNEP/GC.9/7. Thematic joint programming meetings and other forms of interagency consultations have also taken place.

3. ACC states in its report to the Council that SWMTEP should be seen not only as a document of use to the Governing Council of UNEP 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 of exercising mutual influence on their planning and programming processes. The Executive Director welcomes this statement of ACC, which meets the view expressed by the Governing Council at its eighth session that SWMTEP would be helpful in enabling the Council to play the role envisaged for it by the General Assembly in resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, of providing general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system. Once the Council has approved the provisions of SWMTEP, it may wish to provide such guidance by inviting the governing bodies and executive heads of other United Nations organizations to take full account in their own plans, programmes and budgets of those provisions that are relevant to their activities.

4. The Executive Director wishes to point out, however, that since the development of the first SWMTEP is taking place at the same time as, or in some instances after, the preparation of the medium-term plans of other United Nations organizations, the mutual influence sought by ACC could not always be fully attained during the crucial phase of preparation of these plans. As suggested by ACC, UNEP will endeavour to send high-level representatives to attend the sessions of the governing bodies of other organizations when these discuss their future programmes, in order to ensure that these bodies do not lose sight of the broad environmental context in which their programmes will take place, and that their activities contribute to furthering the objectives of the environment programme.

5. As suggested by the Governing Council, the emphasis between the eighth and the ninth session has been on the development of a framework and objectives for SWMTEP. As the Executive Director has stated

(document UNEP/GC.8/4) the methodology of preparation should be compatible, to the extent possible, with the methodology employed in the preparation of the United Nations medium-term plan, in order to ensure a convergence between the programming processes of UNEP and of the United Nations itself. Consequently, the substantive guidelines and technical instructions for the preparation of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, issued by the United Nations Secretariat in December 1980, have been carefully studied and adapted to the specific requirements of SWMTEP. The Executive Director has also availed himself of the advice of senior experts from other United Nations organizations on these matters.

6. The Executive Director believes that the approach followed in the preparation of SWMTEP, on which he elaborates in the introduction to document UNEP/GC.9/7, is compatible with the methodology of the medium-term planning in the United Nations and should permit UNEP to move smoothly toward programme planning, budgeting and evaluation.

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