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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation
of General Assembly resolution 42/187

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* A/43/50.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987, decided to transmit the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development entitled Our Common Future 1/ to all Governments and to the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and invited them to take account of the analysis and recommendations contained in the report in determining their policies and programmes. Further operative paragraphs of the same resolution called upon, invited or reaffirmed the need for Governments or for governing bodies to take actions set out in the resolution.

2. In paragraph 20 of the same resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that requirement.

3. In order to meet the requirements of paragraph 20 of the above-mentioned resolution, namely, that the report should be submitted to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, and given that the second regular session of the Council is scheduled to convene on 6 July 1988, with consequent deadlines for the preparation and submission of documents, a deadline of 23 April 1988 was set for the collection of information for the present progress report. The report thus can only reflect progress made in a period of approximately three months. Nevertheless, the report does show that a start has indeed been made by the governing bodies of organizations and Governments in addressing the requirements of the General Assembly resolution.

Transmittal

4. General Assembly resolution 42/187 and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development were transmitted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to all Governments and to the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, by letter dated 25 February 1988. The Executive Director called attention in particular to paragraphs 3 to 7 of Assembly resolution 42/187, referred also to paragraphs 11 and 13 to 17, and finally to paragraphs 20 and 21, which relate to reporting requirements to the General Assembly and the inclusion of a sub-item entitled "A long-term strategy for sustainable and environmentally sound development" on the provisional agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly. The Executive Director referred also to Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, by which the General Assembly adopted the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed to that resolution, which he had separately brought to the attention of Governments and governing bodies, and expressed the intention of UNEP to collaborate with Governments in the implementation of the two resolutions in every way possible within its mandate and the resources available to it.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS

5. As at the date of preparation of this report, no specific information has been provided by Governments pursuant to the letter of 25 February 1988 from the Executive Director of UNEP. However, the Executive Director has been made aware that a process of consideration of the resolution and report of the World Commission on Environment and Development has been initiated by a number of Governments, for instance, those of Canada, the Nordic countries and the Netherlands. Given the requirement in paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 42/187 that a consolidated report be presented to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session, and a similar requirement in paragraph 13 of Assembly resolution 42/186 for a report to be made on the implementation of that resolution to the same session of the Assembly, it is the intention of the secretariat to request Governments to provide relevant information by a deadline of 31 December 1988.

III. ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANS

1. The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

6. At its first special session, held at Nairobi from 14 to 18 March 1988, the Governing Council of UNEP adopted its decision on programme policy and implementation (Decision SS1/1 of 18 March 1988), which set forth the following:

(1) In paragraph 1, the Governing Council resolved to exercise fully the role expected of it with respect, *inter alia*, to the follow-up of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/186 and with respect to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/187.

(2) In paragraph 2, the Governing Council decided to include a new item in the provisional agenda of its fifteenth session, entitled "Follow-up to the relevant resolutions of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the General Assembly".

(3) In paragraph 3, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, using as appropriate the mechanism of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters, to provide the Council at its fifteenth session with the following documents:

(a) Reports made available to the Council by the governing bodies of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in accordance with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 42/187, on progress made in their organizations towards sustainable development;

(b) The report prepared by the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 42/187, on efforts by the organs,

organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to pursue sustainable development.

(4) In paragraph 4, the Governing Council further requested the Executive Director to submit to it at its fifteenth session a report containing proposed comments by the Governing Council on the reports referred to in paragraph 3 and on any other matters concerning progress on sustainable development that fell within the Council's mandate.

(5) In paragraph 5, the Governing Council emphasized its view that sustainable and environmentally sound development should be one of the main objectives of a new international development strategy, taking into account the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and also the analysis and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and invited the Executive Director to contribute fully and actively in the process of development of the strategy and to keep the Council and its Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of developments.

2. Economic Commission for Europe

7. The report of the World Commission on Environment and Development was considered and welcomed by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at its forty-third session, held at Geneva from 12 to 23 April 1988, and was the subject of decision A (43) of 21 April 1988. This decision, inter alia, refers also to the Regional Strategy for Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources in ECE member countries covering the period up to the year 2000 and beyond, and requests the Executive Secretary to undertake a review of ECE programmes and activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development, taking account of the report of the World Commission, the Environmental Perspective, and the Regional Strategy; the decision also convenes, before the end of 1988, an ad hoc meeting of experts to consider the above review and to formulate concrete proposals which should be submitted for comments to the principal subsidiary bodies in a position to do so, before consideration by the Commission at its forty-fourth session, with a view to inclusion in the Commission's programme of work; calls upon its subsidiary bodies to review their programmes of work in the light of the report of the ad hoc meeting as endorsed by the Commission at its forty-fourth session, to identify and evaluate the ongoing activities and to propose activities to the Commission; requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a progress report on the contribution of ECE to the international effort towards sustainable development for consideration by the Commission at its forty-fourth session and submission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in accordance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 42/186 and paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 42/187; invites the Executive Secretary to bring to the attention of the Executive Secretaries of the other United Nations regional commissions relevant ECE activities; and welcomes the initiative of the Government of Norway to hold, in 1990, in co-operation with ECE, a regional conference at the ministerial level to review progress in the follow-up of selected aspects of the report of the World Commission and identify initiatives for further measures of relevance to the ECE region.

3. The Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation

8. The Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), at its 239th session (February/March 1988), through its international organisations committee, was informed of the major contents of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 and a discussion took place. In addition, the ILO medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995 had drawn attention to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and this had also led to a useful exchange of views within the programme, finance and administrative committee of the Governing Body. The Office informed the Governing Body that it was now trying to draw conclusions from its own analysis of the report of the World Commission and its specific implications for the ILO. The Governing Body was also assured that the Office would make concrete proposals concerning how the ILO could play an active role in putting into effect the recommendations of the report within the programme and budget proposals for 1990-1991, which would be examined initially by the Governing Body at its session in February-March 1989.

4. The Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

9. At its 91st session (June 1987), the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was appraised of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and informed that FAO had reviewed and commented on draft reports prepared by advisory panels of the World Commission on food security, agriculture, forestry and environment, and on energy and sustainable development. At the twenty-fourth session of the FAO Conference (November 1987), member Governments were appraised of UNEP Governing Council decision 14/14, which transmitted a draft resolution on the report of the World Commission to the General Assembly. The FAO Conference unanimously adopted resolution 9/87 entitled "FAO activities related to the World Commission on Environment and Development". The FAO resolution concurred with the main thrust of the report of the World Commission, particularly as regards retaining essential ecological integrity of production systems, renewal of natural resources, balanced physical planning in rural areas and integrated forest management. The FAO resolution requested the Director-General to report to the 94th session of the FAO Council (November 1988) on FAO policies, programmes, budget and activities contributing to sustainable development. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 42/187 on 11 December 1987, FAO governing bodies have not yet met and been informed officially of this resolution. At the next session (November 1988), General Assembly resolutions 42/184, 42/186 and 42/187 will be brought to the attention of the Council and a report will be made on FAO activities.

5. The UNESCO/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

10. The Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), at its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 7 to 14 March 1988, in discussing the IOC contribution to the third medium-term plan of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), noted that special

attention should be given to the concept of sustainable development in the use of the oceans and their resources, evolving from consideration and application of the recommendations in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development; it emphasized that several conclusions in the report were relevant to IOC and that the Commission should seek involvement at an early stage, in the implementation of the recommendations of the report, through appropriate channels. The Executive Council in this context took note of General Assembly resolution 42/187, and passed its resolution EC-XXI.7, which included a specific reference to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and its recommendations.

6. The Executive Board of the World Health Organisation

11. The Executive Board of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended to the forty-first World Health Assembly the adoption of a resolution on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which requests the Director-General, the Executive Board and its Programme Committee to take into account that report in preparing the programme budget for 1990-1991. It also requests the Director-General to submit a progress report on this matter to the Executive Board at its eighty-third session as a basis for the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session. An Ad Hoc Working Group of all concerned programmes was established by the Director-General under the co-ordination of the Division of Environmental Health. The Group, which met in March 1988, will make recommendations and a draft report to the Executive Board for forwarding to the forty-second World Health Assembly in May 1989.

7. The Development Committee of the World Bank

12. The Development Committee, meeting on 15 April 1988, had before it a paper entitled "Environment and development: implementing the World Bank's new policies". The paper referred to the relationship between the conclusions of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the World Bank's new environment policy. The Development Committee considered a number of important issues raised in the report of the World Commission and welcomed progress made by the Bank in its environmental programme. A further progress report on the implementation of the Bank's environmental programme was requested for the 26 September meeting of the Committee.

8. The General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

13. In November 1987, the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) adopted decision GC.2/DEC.11, welcoming the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and requesting the Director-General to report to the Industrial Development Board in October 1988 on aspects of UNIDO policies, programmes, budget and activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development in accordance with the report of the World Commission.

The UNIDO draft programme on environmental resources management, pollution control and safety for 1988-1991, and the draft medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995 recognize the importance of environmental protection.

9. The General Assembly of the World Tourism Organisation

14. Paragraph 3 and 6 of resolution 200 (VII) on environment, adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), at its seventh session (Madrid, September 1987), called upon:

(a) WTO to study the implications of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development for its policy and programmes, and,

(b) WTO members to pay particular attention to environmental aspects of tourism in their plans and programmes, taking due account of recommendations formulated in the aforementioned report.

10. Other governing bodies or intergovernmental organs

15. The executive heads of other organs, organisations and programmes have communicated that, while their governing organs had either not met or were not notified in sufficient time to consider the resolution and report, the following consideration is expected:

(a) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The UNICEF Executive Board meeting in April 1988 will have before it a paper pointing out ways in which UNICEF can further help provide sustainable and environmentally sound development;

(b) United Nations/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The twenty-second session of ECLAC, to be held at Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 April at the technical level and from 25 to 27 April at the ministerial level, will consider General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, to be introduced by the ECLAC secretariat through working document LC/G/1516, on recent resolutions and decisions emanated from United Nations organisms. Both resolutions as well as the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond will be distributed to delegations. Furthermore, the ECLAC secretariat will present document LC/G/1508 on the work of the Commission since April 1986 and document LC.1506 on the proposed programme of work for the period 1990-1991 for discussion by government delegates in Committee II, dealing with activities accomplished and planned in the area of environment and development. Additionally, ECLAC document LC/G/1488 on restrictions on sustained development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the requisites for overcoming them, which is the main substantive study presented by the secretariat for discussion in Committee I, contains substantive references to the need for sustainable development strategies for overcoming the development and debt crisis, calls attention to serious damage to development potential, quality of life and resource potentialities and productivity due to environmental deterioration and resource depletion in several areas and sectors. It also calls

attention to the potential and sound resource of environmental management for improving development prospects and recommends that it should be taken into account in development strategies, plans, projects and policies.

(c) World Food Council (WFC). In response to General Assembly resolution 42/187, WFC will have on its agenda at its fourteenth ministerial meeting to be held at Nicosia, Cyprus, from 23 to 26 May 1988, the following item: "Towards sustainable food security: food and environmental issues vital to human survival". Policy documentation for WFC deliberations on this item has been prepared jointly by the WFC and UNEP secretariats.

(d) World Food Programme (WFP). General Assembly resolutions 42/186 (The Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond) and 42/187 (Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development entitled Our Common Future) will be brought to the attention of the WFP Governing Body, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, at its twenty-fifth session (30 May to 10 June 1988).

(e) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The UNESCO Executive Board will consider at its 129th session (25 May to 9 June 1988) a sub-item on questions related to environment and sustainable development, which will refer to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187. The Director-General has informed the Board of action taken to ensure that problems related to environmentally sound and sustainable development are adequately dealt with in current and future UNESCO programmes. Highest priority to these matters is given in the planning of the next medium-term plan (1990-1995). They were also brought to the attention of governing bodies of specialised programmes, such as Man and the Biosphere, the International Hydrological Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for consideration in the planning of specific activities. The Director-General proposes to submit a consolidated progress report to the Executive Board at its 130th session (October/November 1988) in response to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 187.

(f) International Maritime Organisation (IMO). General Assembly resolution 42/187 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development will be considered by the IMO Council at its sixtieth session to be held in London from 20 to 24 June 1988. Paragraph 47 of chapter 10 of the report of the World Commission, concerning measures to control ocean disposal waste, in which the World Commission encourages the London Dumping Convention to reaffirm the rights and responsibilities of States to control and regulate dumping within the 200-mile EEZ, is being referred by the Secretary-General of IMO to the eleventh Consultative Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, which is scheduled to be held at IMO headquarters, in London, from 3 to 7 October 1988.

(g) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). IFAD is sponsoring at Algiers, from 18 to 21 June 1988, the "International consultation on environment, sustainable development and the role of small farmers". The consultation will focus specifically on translating the recommendations of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development into a specific framework for financing institutions, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of agricultural development projects. Two working groups will discuss the management

of natural resources for sustainable development, and institutional arrangements and delivery systems for sustainable development. The consolidated statement that will emerge from the consultation may be later disseminated as the "Algiers Declaration on Sustainable Development".

(h) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Reference to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development will appear in the Agency's annual report for 1987. The secretariat is considering the best way of informing the Agency Board of Governors of the long-standing environmental context of the Agency's programmes and its relationship with the report of the World Commission.

11. Other information

16. Additional information, provided at the level of secretariats, is summarised in the annex to the present report.

Notes

1/ A/42/427, annex.

ANNEX

A summary of further information provided at the level of secretariats of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system or of Secretariat units

I. UNITED NATIONS

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

1. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs has:
(a) established a departmental task force on environment and development to assess the contribution of the programmes and activities of the Department to environmentally sound and sustainable development; (b) revised the work programme for 1988/1989 of the Department, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/187, to include, inter alia, assessment of long-term environmental issues and sustainability of development in reports on global socio-economic and demographic trends, policy modelling and surveys of the energy situation. The revision is subject to the approval of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; (c) initiated a global programme on environment statistics and co-operated in the development of a satellite system of environmental and resource accounting; (d) proposed collaborative activities to UNEP for implementation of the above programmes. In addition, the Department will follow up findings of the cross-organisational programme analysis of activities on the environment, according to the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; and intends to consolidate activities of the Department in a "Resources for development" programme.

B. United Nations Children's Fund

2. The organisational objectives of the United Nations Children's Fund generally meet the objectives and recommendations of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development ^{a/} by addressing the environment problems caused by increasing human population and its detrimental effects on socio-economic development. Specific inter-related components of country programmes focus on health nutrition hygiene education and women's development to assist towards the attainment of the full physical and mental potential of the rising generation. Within such broad categories, specific programme activities are too numerous to list fully. They include environmental components in primary and non-formal education curricula, environmental sanitation, drinking water supply, domestic energy, including fuel efficient stoves and community fuel wood plantations, small-scale soil and water conservation activities within the framework of community development, home gardening and food conservation. To the maximum extent possible, all programme activities are executed with community participation and with emphasis on long-term sustainability. A conference room paper was prepared for the UNICEF Executive Board meeting in April 1988 pointing out ways in which UNICEF can further help promote environmentally sound sustainable development even without large commitments of funds through a continuation of such activities as

those listed above, supplemented by advocating the long-term congruence of human and environmental welfare and by sensitising UNICEF personnel to environmental risks and opportunities as part of a concern for the future of children.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

3. The urgent call for sustainable development was supported by the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), whose Final Act b/ included a special paragraph pointing out the close interlinkages between the economy, population and the natural environment and the growing recognition that environmental degradation can be halted and reversed only by ecologically sustainable growth and by integrating environmental factors in development programmes. Although available resources have not permitted the UNCTAD secretariat to pay major attention to the environment in its work programme since 1984, environmental considerations continued to be present, explicitly and implicitly, in its research work and in its reports and documents, particularly in sectoral research on energy and on food processing; for instance, the recent report of UNCTAD entitled "Technology issues in the energy sector of developing countries: the performance of the power sector in developing countries" (UNCTAD/TT/97, November 1987), in the study entitled "The promotion of risk management in developing countries" (TD/B/C.3/218, 14 January 1987) and in special chapters on "Environment and disaster" in the UNCTAD annual reports on the least developed countries, as well as in some other studies. In consultation with UNEP, the UNCTAD secretariat is exploring the possibility of specific studies on trade-related environmental aspects of the development process, with emphasis on, inter alia, environmental aspects of development in the least developed countries. The UNCTAD secretariat is also considering ways of introducing more systematically considerations of environmental impact and the identification of remedial measures in the design of its operational activities.

D. United Nations Population Fund

4. In its efforts to help remedy existing environmental problems, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is primarily involved in examining sources of those problems in human activity (as per paragraph 3 of the General Assembly resolution 42/187). In particular, UNFPA is concerned with the impact of population growth on conserving and enhancing the resource base (as per paragraph 5 of the same General Assembly resolution). To date, the activities of UNFPA in these areas have been aimed at examining and clarifying interrelations between population and environment, towards discerning areas of meaningful population-oriented action programmes. Thus, the themes of the UNFPA 1988 "State of the World Population Report" will be "Population, resources and environment". In preparing for this report, UNFPA initiated a joint "brainstorming" with the Conservation Foundation (Washington, D.C.), to explore avenues of policy intervention involving population and environment. UNFPA also participated in the meetings of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in Costa Rica. Further UNFPA involvement in environmental programmes towards sustainable development is expected in the future. With this in mind, UNFPA is contributing "seed" funding and will

participate in a steering committee on sustainable development and the incorporation of population and environmental concerns in development planning.

E. United Nations University

5. A major programme area of the United Nations University (UNU) is entitled "Global life support systems", with specific projects concerned with sustainable development of highland regions and humid tropics, climate-biotic-human interactions within the humid tropics, agroforestry systems, global commons and energy systems and policies. Also UNU is in the process of setting up an institute for natural resources in Africa, which will be largely concerned with sustainable development of an African food and energy resource base. In response to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, UNU, together with the International Federation of Institutes of Advanced Studies and the International Social Science Council, will co-sponsor in September 1988 a symposium at Tokyo on human response to global change, intended to develop an intellectual agenda and organisational framework for social and policy sciences complementing the International Biosphere-Giosphere Programme of the International Council of Scientific Unions.

F. Economic Commission for Africa

6. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is presently discussing with UNEP the modalities of implementing General Assembly resolution 42/187 through a regional seminar on environment and development.

G. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

7. Special issues of the quarterly periodical "ESCAP Environment News" highlight the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, i.e. issues on "Development and Environment", "Technology and Environment", "Environmental Impact Assessment" and "Media and the Environment". A special article by S. Kibria, entitled "Sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific region, the role of ESCAP", appeared in one of them. An item entitled "Sustainable development in Asia" was on the agenda of the Regional Conference on Media and the Environment, organised by ESCAP in January 1988, which adopted a resolution on the role of media in promoting public awareness on sustainable development in the region. ESCAP has also formulated a project on "Dissemination and follow-up to the findings and recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific" for implementation in 1988-1990. Most of ESCAP environmental activities are in line with the recommendations of the World Commission. The priority programme element on environment is the "incorporation of environmental considerations into development planning and process". ESCAP is tentatively planning a Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment for Asia and the Pacific in 1990.

8. At its forty-fourth session in April 1988, the Commission adopted a resolution on the implementation of the principle of environmentally sound and sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region. The resolution, *inter alia*, requested the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with UNEP, to undertake a cross-sectoral interdisciplinary study on the basis of the reports of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee in order to identify issues of particular relevance and make proposals for action by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The resolution further requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, within available resources, a progress report on the contribution of ESCAP to the efforts being made towards sustainable development for consideration by the Commission at its forty-fifth session, and for submission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in accordance with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 42/187. The resolution of ESCAP also invited members and associate members in a position to do so and concerned donors and international organisations to provide additional financial resources to assist developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives, decided to convene a ministerial-level conference on the environment in 1990, and to include in the agenda an item to review the progress in the follow-up to the report of the World Commission and to identify further measures to be taken in respect of the Asian and Pacific region.

H. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

9. The main input of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/187 is the preparation and organisation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in response to General Assembly resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987, designating the 1990s as a Decade in which the international community will pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of natural disasters reduction. The International Decade will be concerned with the mitigation of a wide variety of natural hazards.

I. World Food Council

10. In response to General Assembly resolution 42/187, the World Food Council (WFC) will have on its agenda at its fourteenth ministerial meeting to be held at Nicosia, Cyprus, from 23 to 26 May 1988, the following item entitled "Towards sustainable food security, food and environmental issues vital to human survival". The deliberations by WFC ministers will contribute policy guidance to shaping further the long-term strategy for sustainable and environmentally sound development, which is to be discussed at the General Assembly at its forty-third session, in accordance with paragraph 21 of Assembly resolution 42/187. Policy documentation for WFC deliberations on this item has been prepared jointly by the WFC and UNEP secretariats.

J. World Food Programme

11. One of the primary contributions of the World Food Programme (WFP) to preserving the environment is through efforts at programming food aid to assist in desertification control. WFP, through project food aid, is working together with recipient Governments to strengthen efforts being made to combat desertification. Food aid can provide partial or full payment of wages in kind or incentives for large work forces or local communities engaged in environment improvement activities, such as soil and water conservation, erosion control, terracing and reforestation work. WFP project assistance, which may only be given at the request of Governments and in support of officially-sponsored projects for economic and social development, is currently being provided through more than 100 projects which contain elements designed to combat desertification. The total cost to WFP of these projects is over \$US 1.2 billion and they cover such activities as reforestation, dune fixation, terracing, watershed protection, grazing control. Following General Assembly resolution 42/187, WFP has intensified its consultations with relevant United Nations agencies to identify ways of strengthening its environmental assessment procedures and has established a Special Task Force on environment as part of the project design and implementation process.

II. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

12. Following the discussion in the Executive Council (see para. 10 of the present report), appropriate consideration is taken of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development in the further formulation of the contribution of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to the third UNESCO medium-term plan. Due regard is also given the report, as appropriate, in the ongoing implementation of the IOC programmes and activities. Much of the ongoing IOC programmes and activities are relevant to the recommendations of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development with respect to the oceans and the interactions of the oceans with the atmosphere and the land. Specifically within the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME) Programme and its Marine Pollution Monitoring (MARPOLMON) System, the report of the World Commission has been discussed, and several proposals for actions reflecting on the recommendations in the report as regards the oceans are being formulated for inclusion as possible and appropriate in the implementation of the GIPME Programme, in the framework of which extensive co-operation is maintained with UNEP, and other agencies.

B. World Bank

13. The World Bank programmes closely reflect the emphasis of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development on many important issues: (a) the Commission emphasizes close linkages between economic growth, poverty alleviation and environmental preservation. Such recognition underlies the Bank's

environmental work, in particular, in helping Governments integrate environmental concerns into national development policies. By 1989, the Bank plans to complete an environmental issues paper as a key operational instrument for each borrowing country to guide appropriate policy approaches; (b) the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development underlines multilateralism. The Bank strongly supports increased multilateral co-operation, since many environmental problems spill over national boundaries and defy solutions by national authorities working alone; (c) the World Commission has rightly expressed the important role non-governmental organizations can play in fostering greater concern for the environment in the development process. The World Bank has taken a number of actions aimed at strengthening its co-operation with non-governmental organizations, particularly those in developing countries. At its most recent meeting in Santo Domingo, the non-governmental organization Committee of the World Bank agreed that present priority should be to increase operational collaboration between the Bank, Governments and indigenous non-governmental organizations. Bank resident representatives have been asked to facilitate such links. An operational manual statement on work with non-governmental organizations is being prepared, and Bank operational staff have reviewed and identified specific upcoming activities and projects in which the Bank will work together with non-governmental organizations. In the environmental field, the Bank is forging closer links with key international non-governmental organizations, such as the International Union for the Conservation of National Resources, the Worldwide Fund for Nature, the World Resources Institute and the International Institute for Environment and Development; (d) the report of the World Commission also stresses the convergence of interests between developed and developing countries on environmental concerns. It is believed that the Bank is well placed to play the role of honest broker between developed and developing countries on environmental issues and to assist in pursuit of solutions that will be mutually beneficial to all countries; (e) the Bank's overall environmental agenda focuses on other key problem areas of concern to the report of the World Commission, including deforestation, conservation of biological diversity, watershed degradation, desertification, salinity, global climate change, industrial disasters and urban environmental issues.

C. World Tourism Organization

14. Present budgetary restraints will make it difficult to implement the provisions of the resolution of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) (see para. 14 above of the progress report) in full. Consequently, no specific activities are planned in 1988-1989, nor will the Environment Committee of WTO be able to meet this year. However, ongoing and planned tourism projects financed from multilateral sources such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and executed by WTO, will include, when appropriate, an environmental component. Likewise, present and future education and training courses sponsored by WTO emphasize environmental issues and an environmentally respectful approach to planning and managing the various aspects of tourism. WTO will co-operate fully with UNDP and support UNEP's system-wide medium-term environment programme and proposed medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995, as well as the recommendations of the Brundtland report and the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/186 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

Notes

a/ A/42/427, annex.

b/ To be issued in Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Seventh Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes.
