**Administrative Committee on Coordination**

# Report of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth meeting

**Palais des Nations, Geneva, 18-19 September 2000**

## Contents

# I. Introduction

1.    The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) held its sixteenth meeting at Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 18 and 19 September 2000. The agenda for the session, as adopted by the Committee, is contained in annex I, the list of participants in annex II, the list of documents in annex III and the provisional agenda for the seventeenth meeting in annex IV.

2.    In opening the meeting the Chairman briefed the Committee on the outcomes of the Millennium Summit and the informal meeting of environmental ministers held in Bergen, 15-17 September 2000. He noted that the Millennium Summit was an event of great political significance which reaffirmed the role of the United Nations and the need for its strengthening at the dawn of the new century. He also noted that although the Secretary-General had devoted a special chapter to sustainability in his Millennium Report, an important challenge of the preparatory work leading to the 10-year review in 2002 of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) would be to bring the issues of sustainable development back on the political agenda at the highest levels. That challenge had been recognized during the meeting in Bergen. Other issues discussed at that meeting were preparations for the review in 2002, the need for strengthening international environmental institutions and enhancing policy coordination among them, and freshwater and energy.

# II. Matters for consideration by the Administrative Committee on Coordination

### Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the seventeenth meeting of IACSD

3.    The Committee will hold its next meeting in New York in March 2001. The provisional agenda for the meeting is contained in annex IV to the present report.

# III. Work of IACSD

## A. Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of ACC

### ACC reform

4.    The Committee was briefed by the Chairman on the discussions in ACC and the latest developments in regard to the review of ACC and its machinery on the basis of the report of a senior-level review team. In that context, the proposal to establish a high-level programme committee of ACC was highlighted. The high-level programme committee was expected to subsume the functions of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) and part of those of the Organizational Committee (OC); provide broad oversight in relation to the functions of more specialized inter-agency bodies, such as IACSD and the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality (IACWGE) and their subsidiaries; and introduce a stronger monitoring capacity in the ACC machinery which should, by itself, facilitate a more flexible exercise of specialized functions through inter-agency networks, task managers, and/or lead organizations, rather than necessarily through standing bodies.

5.    The Committee supported the goals of strengthening the executive authority in the United Nations system and developing more flexible modalities in the operation of inter-agency machinery. That, in the view of the Committee, could greatly contribute to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of its future work. Members of the Committee agreed that strategic issues of sustainable development should remain high on the agenda of ACC and be fully taken into account in the work of the high-level programme committee. It was recalled that in 1997 ACC, in its statement to the General Assembly, had underscored that sustainable development provided an overarching framework for United Nations system-wide activities in the economic, social and environmental fields.

6.    Since its establishment in 1993, IACSD has effectively relied on decentralized thematic allocation of coordination responsibilities to the task managers which were nominated from its member organizations on the basis of comparative advantages and expertise. The use of formal and informal inter-agency arrangements such as ACC subcommittees, inter-

agency groups, task forces and networks were also seen to contribute to productive results. Such an approach was particularly useful in those areas of cooperation where a large number of United Nations organizations and agencies have strong intergovernmental mandates and established programmes, and where no single lead agency could be identified. The latter included such areas as oceans and coastal areas; freshwater; energy; geosciences; disaster reduction, sustainable development indicators; streamlining national reporting etc. Successful results of inter-agency work led by IACSD include an established system of analytical reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development in support of its policy development and monitoring functions; the 1997 comprehensive assessment of freshwater resources of the world; the oceans atlas; the implementation plan of the outcomes of the Commission's Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and United Nations system-wide information databases and electronic networks on sustainable development. It was recalled that the inter-agency work in the area of sustainable development was strongly supported by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, which, in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[1] called for strengthening of IACSD and the system of its task managers.

7.    Further progress in United Nations system-wide work on sustainable development, including successful preparations for the review in 2002 of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for its further implementation, which is expected to address a broad range of sustainable development challenges at the highest political level, will depend on effective implementation and strengthening of a broad range of inter-agency functions, which include:

(a)    Further integration of economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development in the work programmes and other activities of the organizations, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, and collectively in the United Nations system;

(b)    Elaboration of common approaches to the implementation of intergovernmental mandates and global programmes of action, both existing and anticipated, in the area of sustainable development by the organizations of the United Nations system at the global, regional and field levels. This will include such new areas for programme formulation and implementation as energy and transport, both of which would need to involve a large number of organizations of the United Nations system;

(c)    Facilitating greater policy coherence and coordination between various intergovernmental bodies and processes and in the work of various governing and policy-making bodies of the United Nations system dealing with specific aspects of sustainable development, through joint formulation of proposals for action and recommendation for consideration by such bodies;

(d)    Facilitation of coordinated approaches to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of other global conferences related to sustainable development in the work of the organizations of the United Nations system;

(e)    Identification of new and emerging sustainable development issues and trends, and formulation of joint proposals on ways and means to address them;

(f)    Promotion of more active and coordinated involvement in the inter-agency work on sustainable development of international organizations that are not part of the United Nations system;

(g)    Enhancing the overall efficiency and further improving and reviewing the working modalities of the task managers system, taking into account the proposed expansion of the task managers approach in the context of promotion of coordinated and integrated follow-up to global conferences.

8.    The Committee stressed that there were high expectations from Governments regarding the need for the entire United Nations system to support, in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing way, preparations for the review in 2002 and that IACSD had already started intensive work in that area at its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions. It was suggested that specific modalities of the functioning of an inter-agency body for policy coordination and integration in the field of sustainable development should take into account the ongoing intergovernmental preparations for the 2002 summit where matters relating to collaboration and coordination among international institutions in the field of sustainable development would be high on the agenda.

**International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**

9. With regard to issues pertaining to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Committee noted that IACSD and ACC should give their continued attention to the implementation of ISDR at the current early stage in the transition period from the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The Strategy should continue to focus on preparedness and prevention. It was noted that in many parts of the United Nations system there was important work being undertaken in relation to those areas which should be integrated into the ISDR process.

10. The representative of the ISDR secretariat noted that the transition had been completed, generating a programme (the Strategy) based on the cross-cutting and inter-agency aspects of disaster reduction. On the request that the ISDR concentrate on disaster reduction, as opposed to humanitarian assistance, it was stressed that the two areas were entirely different and belonged to separate offices of the United Nations organization. He recalled that disaster management, disaster reduction and, more recently, risk reduction were areas in which various agencies had to focus with reinvigorated efforts in the future. ISDR, however, was clearly in charge of prevention aspects and had no mandate relating to emergency response.

11. The representative of the ISDR secretariat also reported on the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF), which was scheduled to meet for the second time in Geneva, on 10-11 October 2000. IATF was at the core of the ISDR programme and largely responsible for its implementation, together with the secretariat for ISDR. He thanked IACSD and ACC for their continued attention to disaster reduction matters and called for the continued cooperation of all agencies concerned in furthering the ISDR programme. He also thanked the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for seconding to the ISDR secretariat a senior adviser for hydrometeorological and climate-change issues, thus responding positively to the United Nations Secretary-General's call to all agencies to provide staff to the ISDR secretariat.

12. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) noted that as a member of IATF, UNEP was tasked with coordinating the working groups on early warning. An inventory of what was available in that field within the United

Nations system was being prepared for the first meeting of the working group, to be held in October 2000. The two other working groups were:

(a) El Niño, la Niña, climate variables and climate change, under the leadership of WMO;

(b) Quantification of risk, vulnerability and impact of disasters, under the leadership of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## B. Matters relating to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly

13. The Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas informed IACSD on the outcomes of the first meeting of the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS), held in New York from 30 May to 2 June 2000. It was recalled that, in resolution 54/33, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, had decided to hold such consultative meetings on an annual basis, with the direct involvement of relevant international organizations and other stakeholders. That was done with a view to ensuring that economic, social and environmental dimensions of international work related to oceans were more prominently integrated into the deliberations of the General Assembly which so far had been focused on the legal aspects of the oceans debate.

14. The first UNICPOLOS addressed two main topics:

(a) Responsible fisheries and illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries: moving from principles to implementation;

(b) Economic and social impacts of marine pollution and degradation, specially in coastal areas: international aspects of combating them.

15. From that debate it was clear that UNICPOLOS could play a role in promoting further implementation of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and the cross-sectoral issues addressed in chapter 17 of Agenda 21. In that sense it would be useful to maintain close coordination within the United Nations Secretariat to avoid duplication and overlap between the two processes. Areas especially mentioned by governmental representatives were the effective implementation of part XIII (Marine scientific

research) and part XIV (Development and transfer of marine technology) of the Convention.

16. Although the final decision on the agenda of a second meeting rested with the General Assembly, it was clear from the proceedings that there was broad support for including marine science as an area of focus for a second UNICPOLOS during 2001. Other topics suggested included: capacity-building; crime at sea; development and transfer of marine technology; implementation of IMO and ILO conventions; protected marine areas; strengthening regional fisheries organizations; and strengthening regional seas programmes.

## C. Follow-up to the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council

17. The Committee noted that the Economic and Social Council deliberations on the follow-up to the Commission on Sustainable Development's Intergovernmental Forum on Forests had not concluded. The Committee agreed to revert to the issue, particularly with regard to the inter-agency arrangements in support of future work on forests, once more specific decisions were taken at the intergovernmental level.

18. The Committee noted that the Council, at its substantive session of 2000, in the context of promoting coordinated and integrated implementation of the outcomes of global conferences, had recommended that the task managers approach, initially designed for the follow-up to UNCED, should be used more broadly for the implementation of the outcomes of other conferences, in particular in relation to their cross-cutting themes. It was recalled that similar recommendations were made by IACSD at its earlier sessions and subsequently supported by ACC. It was felt that implementation of the recommendation of the Council should be seen in the context of the proposed reform of ACC and take into account the developments taking place at the intergovernmental level, in particular in the context of the relationship of the Council with its functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and processes.

19. The representative of UNEP briefed the Committee on the outcome of the sixth special session of the Governing Council of UNEP/First Meeting of the Global Environmental Forum, held in Malmö, Sweden, from 30 May to 2 June 2000, which resulted in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration.

## D. Follow-up to the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

20. The Committee was briefed on the outcomes of the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It was noted that while all of the relevant task managers were already actively involved in the preparation of documentation, it was of the utmost importance for them to finalize their drafts by the agreed deadline of mid-November 2000, so that the expectations of Member States regarding early issuance of reports of the Secretary-General would be duly met.

## E. Preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

21. With regard to preparations for the ninth session, on the issue of energy, the Committee expressed its expectation that the Commission's Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development would treat, in a balanced way, the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the energy issue and that it would give due attention to ways and means of improving access to energy and the energy services of developing countries, in particular to people living in rural areas. The Committee expressed its support for the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy, established to support preparations for the ninth session. It was agreed that the Task Force could also contribute to the elaboration of a common system-wide approach to new and renewable sources of energy.

22. The Committee welcomed the intention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to prepare a document on rural energy and the environment for the ninth session of the Commission.

23. The Committee was informed that the Government of Canada, with a number of other co-sponsors, was considering organizing an exhibition of energy technologies to be displayed during the ninth session of the Commission. It was agreed that, should

the exhibition take place, it would be useful to prepare and circulate an information brochure on energy-related work in the United Nations system. It was noted that the Inter-Agency Task Force was already working on ways and means of showcasing and presenting the role and activities of United Nations agencies in the field of energy to the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development.

## F. Preparations for the 10-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

### Proposed format for the preparation of documentation

24. IACSD discussed the "Proposed format for the preparation of documentation for the 2002 review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21" (ACC/IACSD/XVI/2000/CRP.3), which had been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, and agreed on the following:

(a) Each IACSD task manager would prepare one review report, consistent with its responsibilities, agreed upon in IACSD and in accordance with the thematic clustering (see annex V). In those cases where several chapters of Agenda 21 were clustered together, or where the thematic content of a chapter had relevance to other chapters, the task managers would collaborate to prepare, collectively, one review report on the particular cluster;

(b) The review report on each of the thematic clusters would consist of two parts: a factual part (3-5 pages), assessing the progress achieved; and an analytical part (8-10 pages), providing a more detailed analysis of policies and strategic approaches applied;

(c) The factual parts of the review reports would be presented as reports of the Secretary-General to the first session of the Commission at its tenth session in 2001, for information. The Commission at its eighth session had recommended holding that session immediately after the closure of the ninth session. They would also be made available to regional preparatory processes for information. The analytical part of the review reports would be used for the preparation of the Secretary-General's main policy report for the review in 2002, which would be presented to the second session of the Commission at its tenth session, in 2002, to facilitate substantive negotiations. An outline of the Secretary-General's main policy report is provided in annex VI below;

(d) Since the analytical part of the review reports could not be used in full for the preparation of the Secretary-General's main policy report, the Committee asked the Division for Sustainable Development to make every effort to prepare a compendium containing the analytical part of the review reports and to make it available as resource material to the second session of the Commission at its tenth session in 2002. Agencies reported that they were preparing relevant information material, which would include case studies. That information material would be submitted to the Division for Sustainable Development, which would make it available to the global intergovernmental process for the review in 2002;

(e) The task managers would submit the factual and the analytical parts of the review reports to the Division for Sustainable Development by 1 February 2001. That was necessary to allow for timely translation and distribution of the factual parts prior to the commencement of the first session of the Commission at its tenth session, and for synthesizing the information contained in the factual parts and preparing the first draft of the Secretary-General's main policy report for circulation to all task managers in May 2001.

25. With regard to the Secretary-General's main policy report, IACSD agreed on the following:

(a) The proposed outline (see annex VI) would be corrected as follows:

(i) Section II.E. "Contributions of UNCED-related conventions ..." would be deleted. The secretariats of the conventions would, however, be invited to contribute to relevant thematic sections;

(ii) Section III. "Emerging challenges ..." would be amended to include issues such as disaster mitigation, poverty eradication, resource security, and the role of civil society in the context of globalization;

(iii) Reference would be made to transitional processes in Eastern European countries;

(b) The report needed to be strategic in nature. The challenge would be to synthesize the information provided by the task managers in the analytical part of their review reports into a comprehensive assessment of progress made (sect. II) and to present, based on that assessment, a politically dynamic section on emerging challenges to sustainable development and the further implementation of Agenda 21 (sect. III). It was, therefore, agreed that section III would be drafted in close consultation and cooperation with the IACSD task managers and that the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs would facilitate that important process by engaging the heads of United Nations agencies.

26. Although the synthesized information contained in the analytical part of the review reports will create the main body of the Secretary-General's main policy report, additional contributions and relevant results of regional preparatory meetings, which will be made available by United Nations agencies and regional commissions to the Division for Sustainable Development after the submission of the review reports in February 2001, will also be used to finalize the Secretary-General's report by September 2001.

**Draft ACC statement**

27. IACSD considered the draft ACC statement to be submitted to the review in 2002 (ACC/IACSD/XVI/2000/CRP.4), prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In general, the Committee was of the view that the statement needed to be sharpened to send a clear political message to Member States and to trigger action. It also needed to give a more realistic picture of the state of play by addressing success and failures in the fulfilment of commitments to sustainable development in a more balanced manner. In finalizing the statement, coherence must be ensured with the Secretary-General's policy report for the review in 2002.

28. In particular, the Committee noted that the ACC statement needed to:

(a) Register concern about the degree of commitment to sustainable development;

(b) Highlight a few important areas in which the activities of the United Nations have contributed to concrete results in implementing sustainable development objectives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition (e.g., in the areas of freshwater, energy, national sustainable development strategies, capacity-building). At the same time, key areas in which little or no progress has been made have to be addressed;

(c) Note that while there has been success in certain areas, including strategies at the national level, there has also been a proliferation of activities that are increasingly burdensome for national Governments and the United Nations system;

(d) Contain a strong message to the review in 2002 that the United Nations system can only meet its responsibilities in sustainable development and fulfil its commitments if adequate resources, financial and otherwise, are made available;

(e) Note that there have been mixed results in attaining the integration of economic, social and environmental issues — one of the key messages at the Rio Earth Summit. While there has been progress made in integrating the processes in several areas (e.g., water and energy), there has been no progress in other areas. Moreover, now that sustainable development has been integrated into the work of the technical organizations, it is essential to address ways in which to integrate it effectively into development cooperation, the international finance system, and international legal structures and other cross-sectoral issues;

(f) Assess the fulfilment of the commitment made by ACC in its 1997 ACC statement to make sustainable development the overarching goal of the activities of the United Nations system in the social, economic and environmental fields. The level of coordination among United Nations agencies in integrating sustainable development into field operations needs also to be assessed and commitments made concerning new activities in support of sustainable development in countries and regions.

29. Following the discussion the Committee agreed that IACSD task managers would submit their specific suggestions for the statement to the Division for Sustainable Development, for inclusion in a revised draft ACC statement by the end of December 2000, and that the revised draft statement would be considered by IACSD at its seventeenth session, in the spring of

2001, and be presented to ACC at its spring 2001 session.

## G. Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD

### Report of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas on its ninth session

30. The Chair of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas (SOCA) brought to the attention of IACSD six items from the Subcommittee's most recent meeting (London, July 2000):

(a) United Nations atlas of the ocean. Significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of this project. All partner agencies have signed their agreements, and discussions with Blackwell Scientific publications and the National Geographic are under way for CD production and distribution. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity informed SOCA of its willingness to become a member of the atlas core group. The schedule of the project, if kept, will allow the atlas to be available for distribution at the review in 2002;

(b) Forward implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. The office for the Global Programme of Action in The Hague is preparing an intergovernmental review in 2002. As a contribution to the review, SOCA members will help to prepare a list of relevant projects being undertaken within the United Nations system;

(c) First UNICPOLOS meeting. A paper on ecosystem-based management in fisheries is being prepared jointly by FAO and UNEP, to be presented to the third Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Convention, organized by UNEP (Monaco, 6-9 November 2000) and at the second Meeting of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, convened by FAO in January 2001. The importance of this innovative approach to increased cooperation among diverse constituencies on rather contentious issues was highlighted;

(d) Ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21. Comments made by SOCA members in its report complement the central effort to review in 2002 the implementation of Agenda 21. SOCA members reported that a series of events in preparation for the review would take place under their initiative and leadership. Therefore a series of ancillary inputs to the process on specific aspects of Agenda 21 will be available;

(e) Making SOCA more transparent, effective, and responsive. The SOCA brochure produced for and distributed at the first UNICPOLOS meeting, and other measures, such as the half-day session of exchanges between the SOCA members and the delegations at UNICPOLOS, were very well received;

(f) Review of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP). It was recalled that, in response to the invitation of the Executive Director of UNEP, a review process of GESAMP had been agreed upon by SOCA members. The process was under way, and results should be expected during 2001.

## H. Other matters

### 1. Follow-up to issues dealt with at previous IACSD meetings

*Common core data sets*

31. The UNEP representative provided a progress report (ACC/IACSD/XVI/2000/CRP.6) on a number of issues regarding the work being undertaken on common core data sets. He noted that while some effective inter-agency activities were being undertaken on core sets of indicators — in the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, in the indicators process of the Commission on Sustainable Development and in OECD — gaps in coverage still remained in areas such as data on natural resources and environmental parameters. Most of those processes were driven by data producers aiming to improve the delivery of their products. Yet what was still lacking was a mechanism for data users in the major international assessment and reporting processes to harmonize their requirements for common global data sets relevant to the questions they needed to address. It was noted that there was a particular gap in data sets providing adequate spatial and temporal coverage to identify trends and distribution.

32. It was further noted that it was currently technically possible to conceive of a distributed information system with multiple portals where each agency maintained its own core data sets, while making

it possible to combine them in integrated multiple-data layers. UNEP intended to pioneer the development of such a global environmental information system with non-governmental organizations and private-sector partners and would open it to United Nations system partners as soon as feasible. As an intermediate step for the Commission at its ninth session, UNEP would be updating the summary descriptions of the data and information activities of United Nations system partners on the Earthwatch web site (http://www.unep.ch/earthw/.html). The UNEP representative requested the cooperation of all United Nations partners in updating material on the web site and in providing more complete links to their relevant web sites.

33. After the UNEP presentation, IACSD discussed a number of issues regarding data sets, information technology and knowledge-sharing. A number of Committee members reported on initiatives of their organizations in those areas. The Chairman suggested that UNEP initiate work on a compendium of available technical standards for data collection. He also suggested that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs prepare one-page data sheets in a range of sectoral areas for quick reference for consideration during the preparations of the review in 2002.

34. In concluding, the Chairman noted that many issues raised in the discussions were of a very broad nature and beyond the scope of IACSD. He suggested that, since all organizations were data producers and users, the issues might be considered by the proposed high-level programme committee.

### 2. Briefings

*International Year of Mountains*

35. The representative of FAO briefed the Committee on activities and initiatives that have been undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Mountains (IYM) in 2002. FAO as lead agency has also been active in promoting and supporting the initiatives. Some of them are:

(a) Preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the International Year, to be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(b) Launching of the official IYM web site in July 2000;

(c) Publishing of the IYM concept paper in three languages. The paper, also posted on the IYM web site, provides a framework for preparations for the Year and an overall approach strategy and substance of the programme of the Year;

(d) A request for information from member States regarding the identification of national focal points and national level initiatives for IYM, mountain-related data and key concerns and priorities related to mountain regions.

36. It was noted that the seventh meeting of the Inter-agency Group on Mountains (chaired by FAO) will be held in Switzerland, on 13-15 November 2000. This key meeting will determine IYM activities, events and the lead organizations that will take responsibility in preparing them. In addition, FAO plans to create a multilateral trust fund to enable it to establish a coordination unit by early 2001.

*Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

37. In his briefing on the outcome of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nairobi, Kenya, 15-26 May 2000), the representative of the Convention on Biological Diversity focused on four main issues. First, was the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which 68 countries had signed. It was hoped that 50 ratifications would have occurred by the end of 2001 so that the Protocol would enter into force before the sixth meeting of the Conference, in April 2002.

38. Secondly, the Conference took a number of decisions concerning the implementation of existing programmes and the adoption of new programmes, such as inland water biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, forest biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity and new programmes on coral reefs, pollinators, drylands and traditional knowledge. It was stressed that implementation of those programmes was based on the premise of cooperation and collaboration at the inter-agency level. All decisions referred to the need to identify collaboration at that level; many contained specific expectations about collaboration with individual agencies or specific aspects of the implementation.

39. Thirdly, inter-agency assistance was key to assisting countries in meeting their multiple obligations with regard to implementation. In the case of the

Convention on Biological Diversity, almost every identifiable United Nations agency that had a field presence had a part to play in assisting national implementation of the Convention. The Convention secretariat was engaged in examining, with the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and with UNEP, proposals to harmonize the reporting requirements under different instruments in order to lighten the burden on countries.

40. Fourthly, with regard to assessment of implementation, the Conference of the Parties had adopted a decision on national reporting under the Convention. The secretariat had developed a matrix on questions based on the entire range of obligations assumed — under the articles of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties — designed in such a way as to elicit hard and comparable answers.

*Global harmonization of chemical classification and labelling systems*

41. The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) briefed the Committee on the progress made in the Global Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labelling Systems (GHS). He noted that much of the technical work would be completed by 2001 and that the Economic and Social Council in 1999 had decided to reconfigure the Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods as the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. The decision also includes the establishment of a parent committee to deal with programmatic and policy issues.

42. The adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the principle that the GHS would become a practical and coherent universal standard for chemical hazard communication within the transport chain, in the workplace and for consumers means that it will eventually have a significant impact on the chemical safety legislation of all countries.

43. In closing the meeting, the Chairman noted that it would be the last meeting for Dr. Glaser who had been with the Committee since its inception and had made an extraordinary contribution to its work. The Chairman noted that he wished to place on record his

deep sense of appreciation for Dr. Glaser's work and commitment to sustainable development.

*Notes*

[1] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

# Annex I

## Agenda

Item 1.　Adoption of the agenda and timetable.

Item 2.　Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of:

　　(a)　Administrative Committee on Coordination;

　　(b)　Intergovernmental bodies:

　　　　(i)　General Assembly;

　　　　(ii)　Economic and Social Council.

Item 3.　Matters related to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development:

　　(a)　Follow-up to the eighth session of the Commission;

　　(b)　Preparations for the ninth session of the Commission.

Item 4.　Preparations for the 10-year review of progress achieved since UNCED:

　　(a)　Proposed format for the preparation of documentation for the 2002 review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

　　(b)　Draft ACC statement.

Item 5.　Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD:

　　(a)　Report of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas at its ninth session.

Item 6.　Other matters:

　　(a)　Follow-up to issues dealt with at its previous IACSD meetings:

　　Briefing by the United Nations Environment Programme on common core data sets.

　　(b)　Briefings on:

　　　　(i)　International Year of Mountains;

　　　　(ii)　Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

　　　　(iii)　ILO briefing on Global Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labelling Systems (GHS).

Item 7.　Adoption of the report.

## Annex II

### List of participants

Chairman:     N. Desai (United Nations)

Secretary:     K. Gerlach (United Nations)

*United Nations, its entities and programmes*

United Nations

| | |
|---|---|
| Department of Economic and Social Affairs | J. DiSano<br>A. Vasilyev<br>D. Pilari |
| Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | F. Pisano<br>E. Palm |
| Economic Commission for Africa | P. Makinwa-Adebusoye |
| Economic Commission for Europe | M. P. Silveira |
| United Nations Centre for Human Settlements | W. Cobbett |
| United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the | A. Hamad |
| United Nations Development Programme | A. Nirody |
| United Nations Environment Programme | A. Amin<br>A. Dahl<br>H. Fadaei |
| United Nations Population Fund | A. MacDonald |

*Specialized agencies and related organizations*

| | |
|---|---|
| International Labour Organization | I. Obadia |
| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | A. Dejene |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | G. Glaser<br>A. Szölösi-Nagy |
| World Health Organization | Y. E. R. Von Schirnding |
| World Meteorological Organization | S. Chacowry<br>D.D.C. Don Nanjira<br>P. Llanso |
| World Bank | N. Van Praag |
| International Monetary Fund | S. Prowse |
| International Atomic Energy Agency | J. Knesl |
| World Trade Organization | S. Shaw |

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|---|---|
| ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas | P. Bernal |
| United Nations University | G. Sampson<br>G. T. Velasquez<br>W. B. Chambers |
| Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change | J. Pasztor |
| Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity | A. Gross |

*Observers*

| | |
|---|---|
| Global Environment Facility | S. Li |

# Annex III

## List of documents

| | |
|---|---|
| ACC/IACSD/XVI/2000/CRP.1/Rev.1 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| ACC/IACSD/XVI/2000/CRP.2 | Timetable |
| ACC/IACSD/XVI/2000/CRP.3 | Proposed format for the preparation of documentation for the 2002 review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 |
| ACC/IACSD/XVI/2000/CRP.4 | Draft ACC statement on sustainable development and strengthening the United Nations system outreach to the general public |
| ACC/IACSD/XVI/2000/CRP.5 | Report of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas at its ninth session |
| ACC/IACSD/XVI/2000/CRP.6 | Common core data sets. Briefing paper prepared by UNEP |

# Annex IV

## Provisional agenda for the seventeenth meeting of IACSD

Item 1.   Adoption of the agenda and timetable.

Item 2.   Follow-up to the outcome of meetings of:

    (a)   Administrative Committee on Coordination;

    (b)   Intergovernmental bodies:

        (i)   General Assembly;

        (ii)   Economic and Social Council.

Item 3.   Matters related to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Item 4.   Preparations for the 10-year review of progress achieved since UNCED:

    (a)   State of preparations for the 2002 review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

    (b)   ACC statement.

Item 5.   Reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to IACSD.

Item 6.   Other matters.

Item 7.   Adoption of the report.

# Annex V

## Proposed thematic clusters for the preparation of the review reports for the 2002 review

| Cluster | Chapter of Agenda 21 | Task Manager(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Demographic dynamics and sustainability** | 5 | UNFPA |
| For section I of the policy report | | |
| **2. Decision-making structures and institutions for sustainable development** | | |
| Integrating environment and development into decision-making | 8 | DESA[a] |
| National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building | 37 | UNDP |
| Information for decision-making | 40 | DESA, UNEP |
| Science | 35 | UNESCO |
| International legal instruments and mechanisms | 39 | DESA, UNEP |
| International institutional arrangements | 38 | DESA |
| For sections II.A.1, 2, and 4-6 of the policy report | | |
| **3. Role of major groups** | 22-32 | DESA |
| For section II.A.3 of the policy report | | |
| **4. Combating poverty** | 3 | DESA |
| For section II.B.1 of the policy report | | |
| **5. Health** | 6 | WHO |
| For section II.B.1 of the policy report | | |
| **6. Education, public awareness and training** | 36 | UNESCO |
| For section II.B.3 of the policy report | | |
| **7. Changing production and consumption patterns** | 4 | DESA |
| For section II.B.2 of the policy report | | |
| **8. Sustainable human settlements** | 7, 21 | UNCHS |
| For section II.B.4 of the policy report | | |

| Cluster | Chapter of Agenda 21 | Task Manager(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **9. Trade** | 2 | UNCTAD |
| **and finance for sustainable development** | 33 | DESA, with a contribution on investment from UNCTAD |
| For section II.B.5 of the policy report | | |
| **10. Environmentally sound technologies** | 34 | DESA |
| **including biotechnologies** | 16 | UNIDO |
| For section II.B.6 of the policy report | | |
| **11. Atmosphere** | 9 | WMO/UNEP |
| For section II.D.2 of the policy report | | |
| **12. Land and agriculture** | | |
| Integrated approach to planning and managing land resources | 10 | FAO |
| Desertification and drought | 12 | UNEP |
| Sustainable agriculture and rural development | 14 | FAO |
| For section II.C.2 of the policy report | | |
| **13. Sustainable mountain development** | 13 | FAO |
| For section II.C.2 of the policy report | | |
| **14. Forests** | 11 | FAO |
| For section II.C.1 of the policy report | | |
| **15. Oceans and seas** | 17 | SOCA[b] |
| For section II.C.4 of the policy report | | |
| **16. Freshwater** | 18 | SCFR[c] |
| For section II.C.5 of the policy report | | |
| **17. Biodiversity and biosafety** | 15 | UNEP |
| For section II.C of the policy report | | |
| **18. Chemicals and wastes** | 19, 20, 21 | UNEP |
| For sections II.A.4, II.B.2 and II.B.3 of the policy report | | |

| Cluster | Chapter of Agenda 21 | Task Manager(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **19. Energy and transport** | Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 | DESA |
| For section II.D.2 of the policy report | | |
| **20. Sustainable tourism** | Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 | WTO |
| For section II.D.3 of the policy report | | |

*Note*: The sections referred to are to be found in annex VI, the proposed outline of the
    Secretary-General's main policy report.
  [a] Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat.
  [b] Inter-Agency Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas.
  [c] Inter-Agency Subcommittee on Freshwater.

# Annex VI

## Proposed outline for the Secretary-General's main policy report for the 2002 review

I.  Introduction: general policy trends (integration of social, economic and environmental objectives/ "whole of the government" approach to sustainable development; interrelationships between population, demographic dynamics and sustainability; participation and partnership; links between sustainable development and peace and security).

II. Current status of progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

    A.  Decision-making structures and institutional issues

        1.  Strategic approaches to sustainable development

        2.  Information for decision-making

        3.  Role of major groups

        4.  National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building

        5.  International legal instruments and mechanisms

        6.  International institutional arrangements

    B.  Cross-sectoral issues

        1.  Combating poverty

        2.  Changing consumption and production patterns (e.g., awareness-raising; information-sharing; resource efficiency management; economic instruments/voluntary measures/regulatory policies; environmental management)

        3.  Addressing social aspects of sustainable development (education, public awareness and training; health; nutrition; employment; intergenerational equity; gender)

        4.  Promoting sustainable human settlement development (e.g., drinking water and sanitation; air pollution; shelter; waste management)

        5.  Trade and finance for sustainable development

        6.  Environmentally sound technology, including biotechnology

    C.  Conservation and sustainable management of natural resources

        1.  Land resources

        2.  Sustainable mountain development

3. Forests

4. Oceans and seas, living marine resources and coastal zone management

5. Freshwater

D. Economic sectors

1. Sustainable agriculture and rural development

2. Energy and transport and atmosphere

3. Sustainable tourism

III. Emerging challenges to sustainable development and the further implementation of Agenda 21

A. Impact of globalization and liberalization trends on sustainable development (trade and trade-related issues; financial resources and mechanisms; implications of rapid technological advances, in particular in the areas of information and communication; the increasing role of the private sector for achieving sustainable development objectives; issues related to governance; disaster mitigation, poverty eradication, resource security; risks of marginalization of the poorest countries and the poorest groups, especially women and children; role of civil society in the context of globalization; transitional processes in Eastern European countries).

B. "Course corrections" needed for achieving the objectives of sustainable development

C. Strengthening international institutional arrangements in support of an effective follow-up to the 2002 review of progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 including an integrated follow-up of major United Nations conferences relevant to sustainable development

IV. Elements for a future programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

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