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**Policy issues: State of the environment
Outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

**BACKGROUND PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PLENARY:
STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Discussion paper presented by the Executive Director

Addendum

Implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Water

The present document is a background paper intended to stimulate discussion and identify issues of concern to Governments that will be addressed by the plenary of the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The document has been revised to reflect views of Governments.

* UNEP/GC.22/1.

Executive summary

1. The World Summit on Sustainable Development, attended by over 100 heads of State and Government, produced three important outcomes: the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development;¹ the Plan of Implementation² (including the endorsement of targets and goals and a renewed commitment to the Millennium Development goals); and voluntary type two commitments by Governments and other stakeholders, business and non-governmental organizations. The Summit generated renewed commitment to fundamentally change the lives of those who suffer the consequences of global disparities while preserving the integrity of the natural environment for future generations. The United Nations Secretary-General identified water as one of the top five priorities for the Summit. The principles of sustainable development, particularly the connection between “water poverty” and “income poverty”, were highlighted at the Summit and will also be a key subject of the upcoming Third World Water Forum, where some 10,000 delegates will discuss the world water crisis and its solutions.

2. In addition to freshwater issues, there is the problem of the productive capacity and ecological integrity of saltwater environments, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters, which continue to be degraded and in many places even exacerbated. The Summit outcomes (in particular the Framework for Action on Water and Sanitation) clearly indicate that links between freshwater and coastal management should be enhanced. These links were further emphasized during discussions held on water and sanitation following the Summit, within such forums as the Task Force on Water and Sanitation (part of the Millennium Project).

3. Over the last 30 years, numerous major conferences and international agreements have provided the broad background for today’s water resource policies and decision-making. Over the last decade, numerous international conferences have discussed and agreed on steps required to speed up the implementation of Agenda 21. These international meetings have identified several key water issues and challenges, with increasing focus on provision of water supply and sanitation as well as the need for improved governance and integrated water resource management. Many actions have been proposed to meet the challenges, with emphasis being placed on the importance of taking concerted action to use water as an entry point to achieve the goal of sustainable development.

4. The supply and quality of freshwater remains one of the most critical issues of the twenty-first century. This realization prompted the UNEP Governing Council to include freshwater as one of its five areas of focus. Furthermore, in recognition of the linkages between freshwater basins and coastal and marine environments, the Governing Council adopted at its twenty-first session the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme which focuses on three key areas – assessment, management and coordination of actions. In view of the need to sustain and nurture the momentum generated by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the ministerial segment of the twenty-second session will provide an opportunity for reflecting on the outcomes of the Summit and their implications for the UNEP water policy and strategy. Most importantly, the ministerial segment will provide a platform for the Ministers to reaffirm their political will towards solving water issues and to add the UNEP perspective to efforts already undertaken by the international community.

5. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Forum is requested to agree on concrete targets, time-bound measures and actions to ensure an effective contribution of UNEP to the implementation of the water related outcomes of the Summit (the outcomes of the Summit call for institutional reforms and/or re-orientation as well as organizational strengthening). Given the centrality of water in the global agenda for social progress, economic development and sound environmental governance, firm political commitment is needed to decide on necessary measures, and on how to secure adequate financial resources to strengthen the implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy. In particular, concrete decisions and supporting measures are needed to:

- (a) Enhance the implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy;

(b) Consolidate progress made in the water assessment activities of UNEP by building on the achievements made;

(c) Fully support the implementation of the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment³, taking into account the outcomes of the Summit as they relate to freshwater, coastal and the marine environment;

(d) Strengthen the role of UNEP in freshwater management.

6. Chapter V of the discussion paper includes a series of questions Ministers are invited to consider. The following points are relevant to the debate that may follow:

(a) The high degree of attention accorded to water during the preparatory process for and at the World Summit itself, constitutes an important accomplishment generating significant international consensus on what remains to be done;

(b) The UNEP water policy and strategy was formally adopted at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. It constitutes a solid framework for UNEP to exercise leadership over the implementation of the water related outcomes of the Summit, notably the Plan of Implementation which also specifically recognizes UNEP programmes, such as the Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the regional seas programme;

(c) The World Summit on Sustainable Development accorded a high degree of importance to regional initiatives and mechanisms for the implementation of the Summit's outcomes. With regard to the United Nations system-wide support to Africa, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as constituting an over-arching framework for cooperation. The water sector is seen as a priority area for United Nations support to Africa as it is crucial for sustainable development in the region. The Summit also recognized the significant differences amongst regions in terms of water resource management (freshwater, coastal and marine). The UNEP approach to water could build on, and reinforce, ongoing efforts such as those of the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) whose establishment was spearheaded by UNEP (and other partners), as well as the European Union's "Water for life" initiative for Africa and the newly independent States and others;

(d) The importance of UNEP's role in country-level coordination, especially in the area of capacity-building, was underscored at the seventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and endorsed by the World Summit in the context of international environmental governance;

(e) The international community, in both the millennium goals and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, underlined that the global water crisis is a threat to economic development, poverty reduction and the environment and hence to peace. It also recognized that the provision of clean drinking water and adequate sanitation is necessary to protect human health and environment. In this regard, the goals of halving by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water or who do not have access to basic sanitation should be integrated in water resource management strategies. In adopting the Montreal Declaration, the Governing Council recognized the importance of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, developed by UNEP/Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). The role of UNEP mainly relates to the discharge, into the environment, of used waters. The discharge of untreated waste water has major environmental and health implications. At the World Summit, the European Union, the United States of America and other Governments launched type two partnership initiatives relating to water and sanitation. In addition, the United Nations recently established the Millennium Task Force on Water and Sanitation, of which UNEP is a member.

Introduction

7. At the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, the international community endorsed a series of goals that deal with poverty eradication and sustainable development. In the Malmö Ministerial Declaration⁴, the Nairobi Declaration⁵ on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the outcomes of the World Summit, Governments established a framework for sustainable development. The challenge for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum is to determine how to transform the framework into a reality by ensuring that UNEP plays a meaningful role in the management of water as a key to sustainable development.

I. CURRENT PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

A. Freshwater

8. The United Nations Secretary-General appropriately identified water as one of the top five priorities for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The water situation in the majority of the countries in the world continues to worsen. Recent statistics indicate that 1.2 billion people still lack access to safe water, while 2.5 billion are without proper sanitation. Two million people, mostly children, die each year from water or sanitation related diseases, a situation which has been compared to a jumbo jet full of children, crashing every four hours. It is alarming to note that one-third of the world's population lives in countries facing stressful water situations- by 2025 that number could increase to two out of three⁶.

9. The third publication of the *Global Environmental Outlook* reports that water is given low priority by countries, as evidenced by the decrease in official development assistance for this sector, the reduction of investments by international financial institutions, its low priority in national budgets and by the absence of water as a central feature in major regional programmes. Yet, some 1.2 billion people still have no access to safe drinking water. The issues of water and sanitation revolve around:

- (a) Access, availability and affordability;
- (b) Allocation issues;
- (c) Capacity-building and technological needs;
- (d) Social issues.

10. The newly developed international Water Poverty Index (WPI) as defined by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the World Water Council, reveals that some of the world's richest nations fare poorly in water ranking, while some developing countries score in the top ten. The Water Poverty Index has been developed by a team of 31 researchers in consultation with more than 100 water professionals from around the world. At the international level, the Index grades 147 countries according to five different measures – resources, access, capacity, use and environmental impact - to show where the best and worst water situations exist.

11. According to the Index, the top 10 water-rich nations in the world are, in descending order: Finland, Canada, Iceland, Norway, Guyana, Suriname, Austria, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland. The 10 countries lowest on the Water Poverty Index are all in the developing world - Haiti, Niger, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Malawi, Djibouti, Chad, Benin, Rwanda and Burundi. According to the Stockholm Water Symposium, "The links between poverty, social deprivation, environmental integrity, water availability and health become clearer in the WPI, enabling policy makers and stakeholders to identify where problems exist and the appropriate measures to deal with their causes".

12. The new Index demonstrates the strong connection between “water poverty” and “income poverty.” This link will be a prime subject of the upcoming Third World Water Forum, where some 10,000 government officials, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, industry and water experts will discuss the world water crisis and its solutions. The international Water Poverty Index demonstrates that it is not the amount of water resources available that determines poverty levels in a country, but rather how effectively those resources are used.

13. The report on the new Water Poverty Index highlights the following key requirements:

- (a) Capacity: a country’s level of ability to purchase, manage and lobby for improved water, education and health;
- (b) Resources: the per capita volume of surface and groundwater resources that can be drawn upon by communities and countries;
- (c) Access: a country’s ability to access water for drinking, industry and agricultural use;
- (d) Use: how efficiently a country uses water for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes;
- (e) Environment: a measure of ecological sustainability, issues included are water quality, environmental strategies and regulation, and numbers of endangered species.

B. Linking the freshwater, coastal and marine environment

14. Some of the world’s most precious aquatic ecosystems like estuaries, lagoons, mangroves and coral reefs are located in the coastal zone. The coastlines, however, are sagging under the impact of human activities. About 50 per cent of the human population lives within 200 kilometres of the coast lines, and more are coming every day. Moreover, a majority of urban centres are located in coastal zones.

15. It is widely recognized that there are important linkages between the freshwater issues in the upstream river basins and the water issues in their adjoining coastal zones. Changes in stream flows caused by irrigation, hydropower and water supply have altered levels of salinity in estuaries and lagoons. Discharges of household waste water and toxic industrial chemicals have deteriorated the water quality and caused significant adverse impact in coastal ecosystems, as well as on the living conditions of millions of poor people depending on coastal fisheries.

16. In terms of facts and figures, it is important to note that coastal areas are crucial to supporting life on our planet. They comprise 20 per cent of the Earth’s surface yet host a significant portion of the entire human population. Coastal ecosystems are highly productive and diverse, yielding 90 per cent of global fisheries and about 25 per cent of global biological productivity. Coastal ecosystems are also responsible for cleaning and reprocessing the ever increasing flow of artificial fertilizers and other by-products of modern industry.

17. The following statistics are illustrative of the pressures placed on coastal environments:

- (a) Approximately 50 per cent of the human population lives within 200 kilometres of the coast;
- (b) The average human population density in coastal areas is about 80 persons per square kilometre, twice the global average;
- (c) More than 70 per cent of the world’s megacities (more than 8 million inhabitants) are located in coastal areas;
- (d) Approximately 80 per cent of marine pollution is due to land-based activities;

(e) More than 90 per cent of waste water and 70 per cent of industrial wastes are discharged into coastal waters without any treatment;

(f) Some 250 million cases of gastro-enteritis and upper respiratory diseases are caused annually by bathing in contaminated waters.

(g) An estimated 50 per cent of the world's mangrove forests have been lost.

18. The 2001 report of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), highlighted that on a global scale the productive capacity and ecological integrity of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters, continued to be degraded and in many places even exacerbated.

19. The World Summit outcomes (in particular the Framework for Action on Water and Sanitation) clearly indicate that links between freshwater and coastal management should be enhanced. These links between freshwater and coastal and marine environments have been further emphasized during discussions on water and sanitation since the Summit, in the context of such forums as the United Nations Task Force on Water and Sanitation (part of the Millennium Project).

20. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities is the only global action programme addressing the interface between freshwater and coastal environments. Adopted in 1995 in Washington D.C., as a direct response to Agenda 21, it addresses the crucial linkages between fresh and saltwater, river-basin and coastal habitats. Implementing the Global Programme of Action is, first and foremost, the task of Governments. The Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, based at The Hague, the Netherlands, supports the efforts of States and other partners in addressing the serious impacts of pollution originating from land on the coastal and marine environments and the well-being of the coastal population.

21. At the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action held in Montreal in November 2001, Governments agreed to move the Programme from the planning to the action phase paying particular attention to financial and governance issues. In response, the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office focuses on facilitating new partnerships, including with the private and financial sector, and promoting the use of best practices, sustainable legal, institutional and regulatory instruments, as well as innovative technological solutions, particularly for addressing municipal waste water and the physical alteration and destruction of coastal habitats. The Coordination Office also supports Governments in developing domestic resources and national adopted programmes of action as an integral part of their national development strategies and management practices. The Global Programme of Action Clearing-house Mechanism provides a valuable tool to access information in this regard. This move from planning to action was firmly endorsed at the World Summit.

22. The first Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, identified the following key issues:

(a) Lack of awareness of the socio-economic importance of the impacts of land-based activities on the health and well-being of the coastal populations;

(b) Lack of a political will to address environmental problems that require an integrated and long-term approach and to change from the "business as usual" approach to a multi-stakeholder, pro-active one;

(c) Lack of funding to address land-based activities that impact the marine environment;

(d) Compartmentalization of issues: land-based activities impacting on the coastal zones are usually not considered in integrated river-basin management, an integrated approach to coastal zone, catchment/ river-basin management and land-use planning is lacking in most regions of the world.

23. Discharge of untreated municipal waste water in coastal areas represents one of the major threats to the well-being of coastal populations and ecosystems, worldwide. In response to that threat UNEP, jointly with WHO, UN-HABITAT and WSSCC, developed a strategic action programme on municipal waste water in 2000, which has been implemented since. The programme aims at setting a new standard in the approach to municipal waste water management and at promoting global consensus on best practices and procedures, including those addressing legal, regulatory, institutional, technical and financial issues. As such the programme is a direct contribution to the sanitation target adopted at the Summit.

C. Seas and oceans

24. UNEP has a long tradition of supporting countries in preparing policies and ensuring the management of coasts and oceans. The regional seas programme, initiated in 1974, provides an effective regional platform in this regard. Accordingly, the revitalization of the regional seas programme remains an important priority for UNEP. The respective regional seas conventions and action plans also provide a framework for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) project.

25. In terms of facts and figures, it is important to note that oceans comprise 72 per cent of the Earth's surface. They provide an essential life-support function as well as energy, food, recreation, and the cheapest form of transportation.

26. The following statistics are illustrative of the pressures placed on oceans:

(a) Of the 126 species of marine mammals, 88 are listed on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species;

(b) Some 58 per cent of the world's reefs are at risk from coastal development, marine pollution and overexploitation, with about 27 per cent of the reefs at high or very high risk;

(c) Important seagrass habitats, occupying over 600,000 km² are rapidly being destroyed – in Southeast Asian countries, 20 to 60 per cent of seagrass beds have been lost;

(d) Some 12 billion tonnes of ballast water containing, at any one time, 3,000 marine species are shipped around the globe each year, spreading alien and invasive species.

27. Many of the key issues for the oceans are related to the coordination of implementation measures at global, regional and national levels. These can be summarized as:

(a) Tragedy of the commons: issues relating to the management of the high seas, exploration and exploitation of the deep seabed, compliance and enforcement with international agreements and adopted code of conducts;

(b) A systematic and comprehensive assessment process addressing, in an integrated manner, all issues pertaining to the coast, oceans and islands is currently not available. The World Summit called for the establishment of such a process by 2004. Lack of data and information also hampers effective action at global, regional and national levels;

(c) Complexity of governance systems, increased fragmentation and lack of coordination among international conventions and institutions. The Summit called for an improved coordination mechanism.

D. Small island developing States

28. There are 44 small island developing States which face special issues relating to environment and development due to their small size, ecological vulnerability, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets.

29. As a result of their small size and particular geological, topographical and climatic conditions, many of these States face severe constraints in terms of both the quality and quantity of freshwater. This is particularly the case for low-lying coral-based islands, where groundwater supplies are limited and are protected only by a thin permeable soil. Even where rainfall is abundant, access to clean water has been restricted by the lack of adequate storage facilities and effective delivery systems.

30. These States need support in the critical role they play in the sustainable development of the oceans. The term “Small island developing States” is really a misnomer for many of the island States. They are in fact large ocean States. Their extensive exclusive economic zones frequently contain high levels of biological diversity and endemism, rich fisheries, extensive coral reef systems and significant seabed minerals.

31. The development and management of programmes designed to achieve the ecologically and economically sustainable utilization of coastal and marine resources are major challenges for small island developing States. The lack of an integrated approach to coastal and marine area management has limited the effectiveness of past and present management measures. Development patterns have also had an adverse impact on traditional management systems, an impact in many cases exacerbated by the effects of natural hazards and extreme events, such as hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, storm surges and abnormally high tides.

E. International forums

32. Over the last 30 years, numerous major conferences and international agreements have provided the broad background for today’s water resource policies and decision-making. Over the last decade, numerous international conferences have discussed and agreed on steps required to speed up the implementation of Agenda 21. Water for sustainable development was discussed at the intergovernmental level at the sixth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development in 1998, and a broad consensus was reached on key water issues⁷.

33. Recent international water meetings (the Second World Water Forum at The Hague in 2000 and the International Conference on Freshwater in Bonn, in December 2001) served as important forums for multistakeholder dialogues and generated new recommendations on how to address increasing water challenges. The United Nations Millennium Declaration and the preparatory process leading up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development further affirmed the role of water as a key to sustainable development and the urgency of immediate action.

34. These international meetings have identified several key water issues and challenges, with increasing focus on provision of water supply and sanitation as well as the need for improved governance and integrated water resource management. They have proposed many actions to meet the challenges, stressing the importance of taking concerted action to use water as an entry point to achieve the goal of sustainable development. As noted earlier, water is a critical factor influencing the global community’s responses and action to accomplish the millennium development goals, including those aimed at reducing poverty, integrating the principles of sustainable development into national policies and programmes, improving access to water, improving the lives of poor people and reducing child mortality by 2015.

35. The Bonn International Conference on Freshwater was a World Summit preparatory conference for freshwater and had the theme “Water – a key to sustainable development.” The conference decisions provide clear guidance on key issues and policy option priorities. The conference set out five “keys” to managing freshwater to achieve sustainable development:

- (a) Meet the water security needs of the poor;
- (b) Decentralize. The local level is where national policy meets community needs;
- (c) Establish new partnerships for better water outreach;
- (d) Forge cooperative arrangements at the water basin level, including across waters that touch many shores to ensure long-term harmony with nature and neighbours;
- (e) Ensure stronger, better performing governance arrangements, as the essential key.

36. The Bonn Conference recommended more specific action under three headings: governance; mobilizing financial resources; and capacity-building and sharing knowledge.

II. ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

37. The supply and quality of freshwater remains one of the most critical issues of the twenty-first century. This realization prompted the UNEP Governing Council to include freshwater as one of its five areas of focus. Furthermore, in recognition of the linkages between freshwater basins and coastal and marine environments, the Governing Council adopted the UNEP water policy and strategy which focuses on three key areas – assessment, management and coordination of actions. The water policy provides a basis for addressing the challenges highlighted at the World Summit and in the millennium development goals. All the three components, of the water policy and strategy, stress the cross-sectoral nature of water issues. One of the goals of the UNEP water policy and strategy is to identify and promote the tools that will address the critical water issues facing humanity. Annex II to the present report contains the highlights of the water related activities of UNEP. Examples of UNEP's major contributions in the field of water (freshwater, coastal and marine environments) include the following:

Assessing the world's water resources

- (a) Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) - to tackle freshwater and coastal and marine issues, including their impacts;
- (b) Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) Water Programme – to provide Governments with reliable water quality assessments and data;
- (c) Vital Water Graphics - graphics and maps, etc., as an overview of the state of the world's fresh and marine waters;
- (d) River basin information systems for global change impacts and challenges to natural resources in basin areas;
- (e) Groundwater (Africa) - focusing on urban pollution of surficial and groundwater aquifers;
- (f) Groundwater – survey of methods for groundwater recharge in arid and semi-arid regions;
- (g) Global marine assessment – a regular process for the assessment of the state of the marine environment;
- (h) United Nations Atlas of the Oceans (inputs)- Access to underlying data bases and approaches to sustainability;
- (i) Economic aspects of water assessments – methodologies and tools for addressing the social and economic dimensions;

- (j) Aquatic ecosystem provision of information and data relevant to aquatic ecosystems management;
- (k) Assessments within the framework of the International Waters Programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Protecting and managing the world's water resources

- (a) Protecting the marine environment – the main mechanism is the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities aimed at strengthening national, regional and global efforts to tackle what is perhaps the most important threat to the marine environment, i.e., the flow of chemicals, sewage, other types of wastes and pollutants into the sea through the air, rivers and coastal activities;
- (b) Regional seas programme – provides an effective framework for policy, legal and other instruments for the management of the coasts and oceans in 15 regions of the world;
- (c) Protecting the freshwater, coastal and marine environment of the small island developing States – facilitating and supporting the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for small island developing States;
- (d) Supporting the international coral reef action network project;
- (e) Linking integrated water resource management (IWRM) and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) – development of guidelines for the integrated coastal area management (ICARM) and other relevant tools;
- (f) Inland waters - programme and projects for the environmentally sound management of inland waters (e.g., Zambezi river development action plan; Lake Chad Basin diagnostic study and action plan);
- (g) International environmentally sound technologies – promoting the use of environmentally sound technologies to address urban and freshwater management issues;
- (h) UNEP Collaborating Center on Water and Environment – is a center of expertise to support the implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy, focusing on the environmental aspects of freshwater resources and the marine environment. The Center also undertakes important studies, formulation of guidelines and technical assistance in water management;
- (i) Water for Cities project – implementation, in cooperation with UN-HABITAT, of a pilot project on managing water for African cities;
- (j) Best practices – The Global Programme of Action Clearing-house Mechanism, the International Environment Technology Center, the UNEP Collaborating Center on Water and Environment, with its links to the Danish Hydrological Institute, the GIWA project as well as the regional seas conventions promote the exchange and dissemination of information on sound policy responses and cost-effective technologies as well as experiences and lessons learned at the subregional and global levels in the environmentally sound management of freshwater resources;
- (k) Management of international waters (within the framework of GEF);
- (l) Dams and Development – promoting intergovernmental dialogue on improving decision-making and management of dams and their alternatives.
- (m) Regional implementation of the water policy and strategy, including support to intergovernmental dialogue on water (e.g., UNEP supported the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW)).

Global, United Nations system-wide and regional coordination

- (a) Plays an active role in the United Nations system-wide coordination arrangements on water at the global and regional levels;
- (b) Contributes to the World Water forum series;
- (c) Member of the World Water Council;
- (d) Collaborative arrangements with the Global Water Partnerships;
- (e) Member of the Millennium Taskforce on Water and Sanitation;
- (f) Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's initiative on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB).

III. WATER RELATED OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: TARGETS AND GOALS

A. The World Summit on Sustainable Development

38. At the World Summit, the protection and management of the natural resource base of economic and social development such as water was recognized as fundamental. Consequently, it was deemed necessary to implement strategies which should include targets adopted at national as well as regional levels to protect ecosystems and to achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources. It was decided that integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans should be developed by 2005 through an integrated water basin approach.

39. The World Summit on Sustainable Development reiterated the millennium development goal to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water. A new target on halving the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation by 2015—not part of the millennium goals—was also set. Elements for a programme of action on sanitation were clearly established in the Plan of Implementation. Both the water and sanitation targets are set out under the Plan of Implementation chapters on poverty eradication and the natural resource base. Water resource management and protection were also recognized as fundamental to protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development. Water related policies were included in virtually all of the natural resource objectives of the Plan of Implementation.

40. Specific activities agreed to at the Summit to achieve water and sanitation targets and objectives include:

- (a) The establishment of a world solidarity fund to eradicate poverty and promote social and human development which is linked so inextricably to poverty eradication, that projects on water and sanitation could, in principle, be eligible for funding at the community level;
- (b) Elements for a programme of action on sanitation;
- (c) A mandate to launch a programme of action, with financial and technical assistance to achieve the millennium development goal on safe drinking water and the additional target on sanitation;
- (d) Development of integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans by 2005 with support to developing countries;

(e) Support to proposals and activities for the International Year of Freshwater in 2003 and beyond;

(f) A call for effective coordination among the various international and intergovernmental bodies and processes working on water related issues, both within the United Nations and between the United Nations and international financial institutions.

B. Millennium development goals

41. Water is intrinsically interconnected with the eight millennium development goals. Halving by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water is one of the 18 numerical and time-bound targets that are embodied in the eight millennium development goals – a direct recognition of the fact that over a billion of the world's people still lack safe drinking water, while over twice that number have no adequate sanitation. Equally important, water is an essential ingredient to virtually all the other millennium development goals - which range from eradicating extreme poverty and hunger to ensuring environmental sustainability. Good water management will be essential to achieving most if not all the other millennium development goals. Integrated water resource management will be especially key to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring environmental sustainability and improving health conditions. The United Nations Millennium Project, is a three year effort recently launched by the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to identify the best strategies for meeting the millennium development goals, including the identification of priorities, strategies, organizational means and financing.

42. Water and sanitation are dealt with in several ways in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the final list of millennium development goals and targets. In the statement of the United Nations millennium development goals, targets and indicators, which lists eight goals and 18 targets, the overall goal relevant to this area (labelled goal #7) is stated more generally as “ensuring environmental sustainability”, with three specific targets:

(a) Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources;

(b) Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water;

(c) Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

C. The United Nations Secretary-General's initiative on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity

43. The WEHAB paper highlighted a number of important areas which water and sanitation were seen to revolve around:

(a) Access, availability and affordability;

(b) Allocation issues;

(c) Capacity-building and technological needs;

(d) Social issues.

44. The framework for action on water and sanitation includes a call to the following actions:

(a) Protect the quality of surface and groundwater as well as of the aquatic ecosystems and coastal zones;

- (b) Develop integrated water resource management (IWRM) frameworks, including integrated coastal areas management, and prepare and implement water management action plans at the country level;
- (c) Accelerate water productivity gains in irrigated agricultural systems to contribute to food security, relieve environmental pressures and provide scope for water transfers to other important productive uses;
- (d) Strengthen disaster preparedness planning processes at the country level to protect the poor from the impact of water-related disasters (floods and droughts), particularly in low-lying countries and small island developing States;
- (e) Mobilize financial resources to meet the investment needs in the water sector.

D. Type two voluntary initiatives

45. A major outcome of the Summit was the large number of voluntary initiatives announced by Governments, institutions, non-governmental organizations, GEF and the private sector. At the UNEP/World Summit event many type two initiatives were announced including: White Water to Blue Water initiative (United States of America), Indonesian initiative to reduce marine pollution, the African process for the development and protection of the marine and coastal environment, Australia's oceans initiative, the European Union global initiative on water with special focus on Africa and the newly independent States.

IV. THE RESPONSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

46. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, at its meeting of 10 September 2002, considered the implications of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and consequently the UNEP programme of work contains the necessary provisions for the organization's role in and contributions to the implementation of the Summit's outcome, which include:

- (a) Strengthening the implementation of the Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;
- (b) Supporting the review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and assisting in the convening of the ten-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action to be hosted by Mauritius in 2004;
- (c) Supporting the work of the Millennium Task Force on Water and Sanitation, while strengthening the global and regional implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy.

V. QUESTIONS FOR MINISTERS/HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES

47. In view of the need to sustain and nurture the momentum generated by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the ministerial segment of the twenty-second session will provide an opportunity for reflecting on the outcomes of the Summit and their implications for the UNEP water policy and strategy. Most importantly, the ministerial segment will provide a platform for the Ministers to reaffirm their political will to solve water issues and to add the UNEP perspective to efforts already undertaken by the international community within the context of the Second World Water Forum and its ministerial segment (The Hague), the United Nations Millennium Assembly (New York), the International Conference on Freshwater, the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Montreal), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg) and the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment

Forum (Cartagena). The ministerial segment of the twenty-second session is expected to focus attention on new opportunities for strengthening the UNEP water policy and strategy:

(a) In order to respond in a focused manner to the World Summit, and also to the Monterrey Consensus,⁸ the Governing Council may wish to consider how UNEP could, within available resources, assist a selected number of countries (e.g., two per continent) to define and respond to the environmental implications in the water sector of the poverty reduction strategies and/or any other national sustainable development strategy, thus bringing its environmental expertise, as it relates to water resource management, to bear in ongoing development strategies. Alternatively, the Governing Council might wish to consider how UNEP could make use of its limited resources to highlight, through demonstration projects, the cost-benefits of good water management and poverty reduction;

(b) In order to respond to the elements of the World Summit Plan of Implementation, such as the need for strategies to protect ecosystems and to achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources and more specifically in order to develop the integrated water resource management plans for 2005, the Governing Council may wish to consider its work on water and advocate its use by other organizations. The ecosystem approach integrates the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems such as wetlands, forests and sustainably managed soils, which capture, filter, store and distribute water. This approach should be applied in the case of river, lake or aquifer basins;

(c) Targets on water supply and sanitation were agreed on at the Millennium Assembly and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Water supply and sanitation are closely linked. They cannot be managed in isolation, because they are two sides of one coin, particularly if considered from an environmental perspective. The Governing Council might wish to consider how UNEP could play a proactive role in ensuring that the international action in response to the water supply and sanitation targets takes a holistic approach, not only by addressing the supply and sanitation issues in the strict sense (number of taps and household sanitary services), but also by considering the environmental requirements and consequences of the provision of safe water supply and adequate sanitary services (including sustainable water resource management and waste-water collection, treatment and re-use);

(d) Considering the progress made through, inter alia, the adoption (1995) and implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and WEHAB, in linking freshwater and coastal management issues, the Governing Council might wish to consider how UNEP could enhance in practical terms the creation of integrated freshwater and coastal zone management practices at the national and international levels, for example at international policy forums such as the Third World Water Forum in Japan in March 2003 or through a further development of the regional seas programmes;

(e) The Governing Council might wish to consider which particular role it would like to see UNEP play in the 2004 review of the Barbados Programme of Action at different levels of funding.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

48. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Forum is called upon to agree on concrete targets, time-bound measures and actions to ensure the effective contribution of UNEP to the implementation of the water related outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Given the centrality of water in the global agenda for social progress, economic development and sound environmental governance, firm political commitment is needed to decide on the necessary measures and on how to secure adequate financial resources to strengthen the implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy.

49. Concrete decisions and supporting measures are needed to:

(a) Enhance the implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy (assessment, management and coordination);

- (b) Consolidate progress made in the water assessment activities of UNEP by building on the achievements made;
- (c) Fully support the implementation of the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment, taking into account the outcomes of the World Summit as they relate to freshwater, coastal and the marine environment;
- (d) Strengthen the role of UNEP in freshwater management.

Annex IMATCHING OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH
THE UNEP PROGRAMME OF WORKTable 1: Freshwater

	World Summit target	UNEP proposed and ongoing responses
1	Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	Ensuring sustainable resource management so that water can be supplied and monitoring progress towards this goal
2	Develop integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans by 2005	UNEP, as the environmental pillar of the United Nations system, has the mandate to assist Governments to protect and sustainably manage all ecosystems including aquatic ecosystems and other water related ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands soils, etc., in its water strategy. UNEP proposes to implement integrated water resource management on a river/lake/aquifer basin scale, based on the ecosystem approach, i.e., protection and sustainable use of ecosystems such as wetlands, forests and sustainably managed soils, which capture, filter, store and distribute water. UNEP will specifically address the ecosystem approach while implementing the activities of integrated water management of its strategy (inland waters).

Table 2: Freshwater/saltwater interface

	World Summit target	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) proposed and ongoing responses
1	Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to improved sanitation (including in coastal areas where nearly half of the world population lives)	<p>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s role mainly pertains to the discharge into the environment of used waters. Discharge of untreated waste waters has major health and environmental implications.</p> <p>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has a major role to play in ensuring that a holistic approach to this target is taken, incorporating not only the provision of household sanitation services but also waste water collection, treatment, re-use and re-allocation to the natural environment.</p> <p>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is addressing this, inter alia, through the Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Waste Water, developed by UNEP/GPA, WHO, UN-HABITAT and WSSCC, including promoting the institutionalization of the 10 key principles on municipal waste water management, the convening of regional forums and the conducting of pilot projects. Lessons learned from this programme, addressing coastal cities, can be used in in-land cities as well.</p> <p>UNEP also proposes to assess the feasibility of</p>

		<p>organizing, in cooperation with partners and within the framework of the regional seas, regional consultations concerning the development of Waste-water Emission Targets (WET) suitable for implementation at the national and sub-national levels.</p> <p>UNEP assessment programmes could monitor progress towards achieving this goal, not only as it pertains to providing household sanitary services, but as it relates to environmental health.</p>
2	<p>Advance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities with particular emphasis during the period 2003-2006 on municipal waste water, the physical alteration and destruction of habitat and nutrients (for subparagraphs pertaining to the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities please refer to the full World Summit Plan of Implementation)</p>	<p>Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, being the only global programme addressing the interface between the fresh and the saltwater environments, has a major bearing on the freshwater environment. Action needs to be taken on land, and in river basins to protect the coastal and marine environments. The first Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, held in Montreal in 2001, endorsed a comprehensive action programme, which the Coordination Office is implementing, thereby responding to the Summit target.</p> <p>The proposed UNEP/GPA 2004-2005 programme of work was amended to take the requirements ensuing from the Summit into account and thus represent UNEP's plans to respond to the paragraphs related to the Global Programme of Action in the Summit's Plan of Implementation.</p>
3	<p>Implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in small island developing States.</p>	<p>The Coordination Office is implementing its work programme mainly through the regional seas programmes. Several regional seas programmes incorporate small island developing States. As such the implementation of the Global Programme of Action as proposed in the UNEP 2004-2005 programme of work addresses this World Summit requirement.</p> <p>The Coordination Office proposes to initiate a special programme to contribute to the 2004 review of the Barbados Programme of Action.</p>

Table 3: Oceans and small island developing States

	World Summit target	UNEP proposed and ongoing responses
2	Encourage by 2010 the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of oceans, seas, islands and coasts	UNEP, amongst others, through the implementation of the regional seas programmes and the GEF/UNEP programmes as they relate to large marine ecosystems, is implementing this ecosystem approach.
3	Establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the marine environment	GC decision 21/13 on global marine assessment.
4	Maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that can be sustainably harvested, by 2015 at the latest	FAO is the lead United Nations organization in this regard. Several UNEP regional seas programmes address environmental issues, pertaining to sustainable fisheries.
5	Cease destructive fishing practices and establish a network of marine protected areas by 2012	FAO is taking the lead
6	Reduce and prevent waste and pollution by undertaking before 2004 initiatives aimed at implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in small island developing States	See above. In addition, UNEP proposes to assist a selection of small island developing States to develop and implement national programmes of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities and to undertake pilot projects in small island developing States that demonstrate the merits of ICARM (see also WEHAB paper on water, introducing the concept of ICARM in relation to IWRM).
7	Undertake a full review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for small island developing States in 2004	UNEP will contribute to the United Nations efforts in this regard
8	Support African countries to regenerate agriculture and fisheries and implement food security strategies, within the context of national poverty eradication programmes, by 2005	The implementation of the African process for the development and protection of the marine and coastal environment in sub-Saharan Africa, within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development initiative, to which UNEP contributes, will help achieve this goal.

Annex II

INDICATIVE LIST OF KEY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME WITHIN THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF ITS WATER POLICY AND STRATEGY

[Information documents containing additional information on the activities outlined below are part of the documentation for the twenty-second session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.]

Provision of accurate information - Many Governments view freshwater assessments simply as a process of collecting and analysing water-quality data and information for the purpose of state-of-the-environment reports. This is, in fact, one particular goal of UNEP freshwater assessment activities, and it will continue to assess water-quality conditions on a global and regional basis. The goal is to provide better quantitative pictures of current water-quality conditions and trends in water quality and water uses, and to facilitate the identification of emerging issues and future priorities.

UNEP water assessment activities - UNEP is currently involved, inter alia, in: the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA); the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS)/Water quality assessment programme water component; and regional assessments of the impacts of land-based activities in support of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, including that of the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), and groundwater vulnerability assessments. These taken together, constitute the nerve centre of UNEP's water assessment continuum. In addition, assessment activities in water related ecosystems such as forest, wetlands and soils are relevant. Phase one of GIWA, the scaling and scoping exercise is now almost completed. An important overview of the environmental problems in international waters has emerged. This is the first time that a global inventory has been undertaken on the health of the transboundary water bodies, seas, rivers, lakes, underground aquifers, and their ecosystems in terms of the environmental and social economic impacts.

Social and economic aspects of water assessments - UNEP will endeavour to refine its considerable assessment capabilities, not only to provide snapshots of the state of freshwater resources, but also information on the root social and economic causes of water related problems. UNEP will work to develop and test methodologies and tools for addressing the social and economic dimensions of integrated freshwater resources, particularly as they relate to the environmental aspects of sustainable development. Such elements are implicitly included in UNEP activities for the integrated freshwater management for the environmentally sound management of inland waters.

Services of aquatic ecosystems of value to humans - Lakes, rivers, wetlands and other aquatic ecosystems perform a variety of services of value to humans, including water regulation and supply, nutrient cycling, waste treatment and climate regulation. In addition, related ecosystems, such as forests and soils, are vital to aquatic ecosystems. These represent fundamental services that nature provides to humans, free of charge. UNEP provides information and data relevant to the management of aquatic and related ecosystems, including developing a clearer understanding of the water needs of aquatic ecosystems, as well as their human-valued functions. UNEP undertakes relevant scientific assessments and studies and developing policy guidance based on them.

Integrated freshwater management - The implementation of the programme for the environmentally sound management of inland waters facilitated the promotion of integrated freshwater management. This integrated approach to freshwater management and use includes the ecosystem approach, and considers the scientific and technical aspects, as well as the social and economic factors, that determine how humans use their water resources.

Assessments and management linkages - As noted elsewhere, at its fifth special session the UNEP Governing Council requested the Executive Director to facilitate the provision of advice and assistance to States, on request, on strengthening integrated river basin management. UNEP has assisted Governments in the past to develop comprehensive management action plans, particularly for transboundary river basins.

Regional seas programme - UNEP's regional seas programme continues to provide a firm legal, administrative and substantive framework for the implementation of Agenda 21, notably its chapter 17 on oceans in particular. Currently, 15 regions are covered and their action plans provide a very effective platform for intergovernmental cooperation.

Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities - Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. The first intergovernmental review of the Programme led to the adoption, in November 2001 of the Montreal Declaration. The outcomes of the World Summit also provided additional impetus.

Water for Cities project - The project Water for African Cities was initiated jointly by UNEP and UN-HABITAT to tackle the urban water crisis in African cities through efficient and effective water demand management.

Policy dialogue on water - UNEP promotes intergovernmental dialogue on water in all the regions and recently facilitated the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) as well as the African process for the protection, management and development of the coastal and marine environments in the region.

Drainage basin emphasis - UNEP assists Governments, upon request, in developing freshwater management plans applied at the river/lake/aquifers basin level, including for transboundary river basins. UNEP promotes a comprehensive river/lake/aquifer basin management in addressing the issue of sustainable freshwater resources.

International and regional cooperation and agreements - Many countries share one or more freshwater systems - rivers or lakes. In fact, it is estimated that there are more than 300 transboundary river basins, as well as numerous groundwater aquifers that are shared by two or more countries. UNEP will continue to promote international cooperation within the context of its integrated river basin management activities, including facilitating global and regional multilateral agreements for internationally shared freshwaters. UNEP has initiated an evaluation of the effectiveness of existing international instruments or agreements designed to facilitate cooperation between countries regarding shared international water resources. The publication of the *Atlas of Freshwater Agreements* serves this purpose.

Regional cooperation; freshwater, coastal and marine environment - *The Global Environment Outlook (GEO)* reports provide regional environment outlook information; GIWA covers 66 regions where issues related to specific water bodies, contaminants, and integrated land and water management are addressed; the *Atlas of International Freshwater Agreements* recently published by UNEP and its partners accords particular attention to regional water agreements; the new GEMS/Fresh water Quality Assessment Programme promotes cooperation with national institutions; the Global Programme of Action is being implemented in the regions with particular emphasis on the development of national programmes of action, regional implementation or processes, including regional protocols; the regional seas programme currently covers 15 regions; the UNEP regional offices support the above mentioned actions and processes and most importantly facilitate regional intergovernmental dialogue.

Integrated freshwater-coastal area management - Freshwater does not stop flowing at river mouths - it enters coastal waters. UNEP has been a pioneer in addressing integrated coastal area and river basin management, as a logical follow-up to its work in integrated river basin management and integrated coastal zone management. UNEP has developed conceptual guidelines to enable Governments simultaneously to address the sustainable management and use of coastal waters and the river basins that drain into them. UNEP is undertaking practical demonstrations to show that the identified guidelines and principles can, in

fact, provide an effective policy development and implementation tool for Governments, particularly those constituting the regional seas programmes. The application of these guidelines to the integrated management of the freshwater resources of small island developing States also will be explored.

Sustainable groundwater resources - As emphasized in UNEP's GEO reports, groundwater often represents a hidden asset. UNEP already works with collaborative partners to undertake assessments of groundwater vulnerability for the purpose of providing practical information on the environmental aspects of managing (including use of the ecosystem approach) and using groundwater resources in a sustainable manner.

Best practices - Efforts are being made by the Global Programme of Action, GIWA, the GEMS/Water/Water Quality Assessment Programme, the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment (UCC), the International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), the Dams and Development Project (DPP) and the regional seas programmes to promote the exchange and dissemination of information on sound policy responses and cost-effective technologies, as well as experiences and lessons learned at the subregional, regional and global levels in the environmentally sustainable management and use of freshwater resources. In furtherance of the same goal, partnerships are being strengthened with bodies such as the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), the World Water Council, the Global Water Partnership, and regional institutions and networks, as a means of drawing on the range of available expertise in identifying best practice responses to freshwater-related environmental issues at all levels.

Technology development and transfer – UNEP promotes and facilitates the strengthening of regional and international cooperation for technological transfer, as well as for the financing of integrated water resource programmes and projects. UNEP provides assistance in the identification and assessment of appropriate technologies and their effectiveness in many regions of the world.

Economic instruments - The economic valuation of water resources, including ecosystems, particularly in regard to water related environmental issues, is another major area in which UNEP can use its experience. UNEP works closely with Governments and their experts in highlighting the economic consequences of environmentally unsustainable water use. The UNEP Economics and Trade Unit promotes a variety of capacity-building initiatives.

Dialogue on dams for development project - The construction of dams continues to play an important role in water supply, energy, irrigation, flood control and navigation. At the same time, concerns continue to be expressed with regard to safety, economic, social or ecological considerations. In November 2001, the World Commission on Dams concluded a landmark two-year study on the sustainability of large dams. Based on the requests by Governments and stakeholders to assume responsibility for the follow-up in terms of promoting intergovernmental dialogue on improving decision-making, planning and management of dams and their alternatives based on the World Commission on Dams, core values and strategic priorities, UNEP established the Dams and Development project.

Emergencies - UNEP provides early warning and vulnerability assessments on emerging water and environmental issues, and on threats with global and regional significance such as floods and El Niño. UNEP assists countries in anticipating, preparing for, and responding to the water related dimensions of environmental emergencies, including in this context, conducting post-disaster and post-conflict environmental assessments.

Public awareness and education - UNEP promotes public education and awareness activities focusing on the role of the natural environment in supporting human existence and well-being, and the linkages between human life and the protection and sustainable use of freshwater resources.

Collaboration, cooperation and partnerships - UNEP supports inter-agency collaboration in addressing significant freshwater issues. UNEP has established the Environmental Management Group within the context of the Governing Council decision 21/21 on international environmental governance. UNEP also served on the post World Summit working group set up by the United Nations Secretary-General to develop proposals on the water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB) initiative which was a major contribution to the Summit. UNEP also serves on the Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation mandated to identify strategies for the achievement of the millennium development goals of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. In addition, UNEP has been given the lead agency responsibility for the World Water Day observance and actively participates in the preparations of the World Water Forum.

¹ Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-September 2002 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1) chap. I resolution 1, annex.

² Ibid. resolution 2, annex

³ Report of the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, Montreal, Canada, November 2001 (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Global Programme of Action/IGR.1/9 and Corr.1).

⁴ UNEP/GC SS.VI/1, annex.

⁵ UNEP/GC.19/1, annex.

⁶ 2002 Stockholm Water Symposium

⁷ E/1998/29 and E/CN.17/1998/20. Commission on Sustainable Development report on the sixth session, New York, April-May 1999.

⁸ Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002 (United Nations publications, Sales N.E.02.II.A.7) chap. I resolution 1, annex.
