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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:
ENVIRONMENT

Question of the convening of a United Nations conference
on environment and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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ANNEX II

SUMMARY OF VIEWS ON THE CONFERENCE

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I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

A. Comments by Governments

1. **Brazil.** The concept of economic and social development permeates the entire agenda of the international debate on environmental questions. For the great majority of the world population, underdevelopment is at the very root of environmental problems.
2. **Bulgaria.** Participants should include all States Members of the United Nations, as well as members of respective United Nations bodies, international organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
3. **Ethiopia.** The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held 20 years ago in Stockholm, 1/ which would appear to leave adequate time for a thorough analysis of "environment and development" in view of the knowledge and information that have been accumulated during the ensuing period through surveys, studies and research, and for the development of a global strategy to achieve environmentally sound development. Economic growth has to continue, but the deteriorating consequences must be mitigated. As development places demands on the environment, what should be chosen is economic growth which is sustainable and which does not damage the environment.
4. **Norway.** The Conference should place environmental problems within the context of broad development. It should adopt a comprehensive programme of action for sustainable development based on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, entitled "Our common future" (A/42/427, annex), and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond (General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, annex). The Conference must be both forward-looking and action-oriented.
5. **Sweden.** The overriding goal of the conference is concrete national and intergovernmental action towards sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries. Industrialized countries bear the main responsibility for environmental degradation by following production and consumption patterns without proper concern for the effects on their own environment and that of developing countries. The development course of industrialized countries must be changed so that developing countries would have more favourable opportunities to choose environmentally sound development patterns. Financial and technical support from the industrialized countries will also be required. Environmental degradation threatens life-sustaining systems and could be regarded as a major security problem, which demonstrates international interdependence.
6. Policy action has to be based on a comprehensive overview and be carried out across sectoral borders. At the same time, successful environmental policies must be integrated into development processes for all areas of society. In the long run, environmental problems can be solved only by preventive action, which needs to be devised with as clear a view as possible of the major environmental problems and their effects. Uncertainty, however, makes it necessary to apply adequate safety

margins. Practical environmental policy action must consist of both specific, mainly preventive, action to address the major environmental problem areas and of adaptation of policies in relevant fields in order to minimize negative environmental influences.

7. Turkey. The conference should create a sense of goodwill and responsibility among nations to protect the common future of mankind and the planet on which we live. The rights of the developing countries to continue development must be protected, and the greater responsibility of the developed countries for the worsening state of the environment should be emphasized. The obligations of developed countries in the solution of environmental problems should be much broader than those of developing countries. Precautions concerning the environment should not become a matter of bargaining interconnected to development assistance given by the developed countries.

B. Comments of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system

1. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

8. Despite an increased awareness of the interactions between socio-economic activities and environmental processes and impacts, national and international development planning and policy-making have, by and large, failed to incorporate environmental criteria. This lack of integration has further aggravated the depletion of natural resources and the degradation of environmental quality by dealing mostly with environmental impacts after they have occurred and largely neglecting the potential of policy adjustment for preventive action. The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment did succeed in launching significant programmes on environmental assessment and management through its Action Plan for the Human Environment. 2/

2. Office of the United Nations Relief Co-ordinator

9. In convening a United Nations conference on environment and development, the General Assembly would recognize that scientific and technical knowledge of the cause and effect of the main environmental problems has reached such proportions that a concerted effort to assemble, disseminate and apply this knowledge could have very positive results. UNDRO fully supports the idea of the convening of a United Nations conference, to be held no later than 1992. The world environment is deteriorating in many areas because of the effects of natural and man-made disasters. The vulnerability of human beings to ecological and other disasters is increasing. Despite national and international efforts to halt this process, the problem is worsening.

3. Economic Commission for Europe

10. The Commission will consider the matter at the forty-fourth session in April 1989. The attention of the ECE member Governments has been drawn to General Assembly resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988. The Commission's comments on the resolution will be communicated to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in May 1989. In the mean time, the Commission and the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution maintain their extensive programmes of work in the field of environmental protection. Particular attention will be given by the Commission when it meets in April to the form and scope of its contribution to and participation in the conference on the environment of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, to be held at Sofia in October/November 1989.

4. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

11. The Centre will bring General Assembly resolution 43/196 to the attention of the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session, which will be held from 24 April to 3 May 1989.

5. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

12. A review of progress made since the Stockholm Conference, as well as the formulation of new strategies for the medium and long term, would appear most opportune. Therefore FAO welcomes the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on environment and development. Subject to the guidance received from its governing bodies and, as was the case for the Conference in Stockholm, it is envisaged that FAO would participate actively in the preparations for such a conference within its areas of technical competence and available resources.

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

13. Twenty years after the Stockholm Conference, a United Nations conference on environment and development merits serious consideration. Although much will have been accomplished during these two decades, the progress of scientific knowledge and the increasing awareness of the importance of our environment are generating new dimensions, some of which could not have been forecast in 1972. One lesson is that the scope of environmental issues as a whole is so vast that all concerned must work as closely together as possible in order to make the best use of available resources, both intellectual and financial. There is a need to consider the environment as a whole, with the various interactions between the compartments, and to avoid dividing the environment or the responsibilities. The co-operative efforts and needs required to solve global problems should be stressed, as well as the requirement for solid, scientifically valid information and data. It is the intention to bring General Assembly resolution 43/196 to the attention of the IOC Assembly in July.

7. International Civil Aviation Organization

14. While ICAO does not have specific views at this stage on the objectives, content and scope of the conference, it should be mentioned that the environmental ramifications of any proposals for ICAO technical assistance projects are taken into consideration and that ICAO is at present actively involved in the economic aspects of aircraft noise restrictions.

8. World Health Organization

15. It is important and timely to convene a global United Nations conference on environment and development. The Executive Board has requested the organization to collaborate in its preparation.

9. International Atomic Energy Agency

16. The Agency welcomes the idea of convening a conference and is of the view that, if it is carefully prepared, the conference will perform a useful function. In co-operation with other United Nations organizations, the Agency would contribute to the preparatory process and the conference itself in the area of its technical competence.

C. Comments of other organizations

1. Commonwealth Secretariat

17. While great strides are being made in raising environmental consciousness, particularly in industrial countries, and while there are some impressive achievements to record, the Commonwealth Secretariat considers that the idea that poverty and environmental stress are inextricably related is not yet adequately understood. The case was well made in the report entitled "Our common future" (A/42/427, annex), and has been made by UNEP for some years, but the industrial countries in particular still seem to see the two as disconnected, or perhaps are disinclined to address themselves to the problem of world poverty. The 1992 conference should make further progress in this area.

2. Asian Development Bank

18. The Bank supports General Assembly resolution 43/196, in which it decided to consider the question of convening a conference in 1992, which would provide an assessment of the progress in environmental activities during the two decades since the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. The 1992 conference should consider, among other things, emerging environmental concerns raised in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond (General Assembly resolution 42/186, annex), and the outcome of the proposed ministerial-level meeting on environment to be held by ESCAP in May 1990.

3. Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture

19. The Institute perceives a growing concern among its member countries about the conservation of the natural resource base and would consider a United Nations conference on environment and development of great interest and value.

4. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries: Fund for International Development

20. The Fund considers that the conference should provide awareness to Governments, donors, enterprises and private citizens of environmental issues and options and should develop a framework to mobilize financing and technical assistance in order to adopt preventive and curative measures for the environmental problems associated with development projects.

II. SCOPE, OBJECTIVES, CONTENT AND TITLE OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Scope

1. Comments of Governments

21. Brazil, Norway and Sweden. Guidance with respect to the scope of the Conference is provided by General Assembly resolution 43/196, in which the Assembly reaffirmed some of the reasons for holding the Conference, certain objectives in doing so, and proposed that the Conference could, inter alia:

"(a) Review trends in policies and action taken by all countries and international organizations to protect and enhance the environment and to examine how environmental concerns have been incorporated in economic and social policies and planning since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972;

"(b) Assess major environmental problems, risks and opportunities associated with economic activities in all countries;

"(c) Make recommendations for further strengthened international co-operative action within a set of priorities to be established by the conference, define the research and development effort required to implement such recommendations, and indicate financial requirements for their implementation, together with a definition of possible sources for such financing."

22. Brazil. It is important to elaborate a common perception of the problems of the human environment and to agree on ways and means of enhancing international co-operation aimed at promoting sustainable development world wide. The existence of large arsenals of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction constitutes the major threat to the environment and to the very survival of mankind itself, and that issue must not be evaded any longer in discussions on the world's environment.

23. Ethiopia. The conference should consider fauna, flora and all elements of the environment, as well as interdependencies, dependencies, competition and other interactions, including human use of resources. It should focus on the development of agriculture, industry, fisheries, construction, forestry, human settlements and mining.

24. Egypt. The conference should consider global, regional and national problems.

25. Norway. The conference should explore ways and means of how best to promote and consider sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries. It must consider major environmental problems within the framework of the interdependence of environment/ecology and development/economics.

26. The background document prepared by UNEP for the consultations held at the ministerial level at Nairobi in January 1989 could be a very useful point of reference in an attempt to specify further the scope, objectives and content of the conference. The document lists nine problem areas and various aspects of remedial action that should be taken.

27. Seychelles. The objective of the conference should be the co-operative/human development of the world, which should at the same time protect its common environment.

28. Sweden. Certain conventions and protocols on important environmental problems could be signed in connection with the conference. On other issues, concrete action plans should be adopted with recommendations for national and international action. Financial measures should be taken and the conference should endorse the review and assessment on which the decisions are based.

2. Bodies of the United Nations system

(a) Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

29. The conference planned for 1992 might usefully review national and international environmental and socio-economic policies which have been instituted since Stockholm, in order to obtain a better understanding of the linkages between those policies and to identify the ways and means of achieving their integration in development planning and policy-making. The international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade might also address the role of international environmental concerns in development policies and co-operation, and its recommendations might thus provide a broad framework for, or at least significant input into, the deliberations of the planned conference.

(b) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

30. The conference should be action-oriented and, rather than dwell on environmental problems which have already been identified and considered in the report entitled "Our common future", it should focus on practical measures to resolve those problems. Such an approach would enable United Nations technical agencies to play an active role and make a positive contribution to the preparations for the conference.

(c) World Bank

31. The conference should take stock of major national and international initiatives on environment since the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and should aim at promoting consensus on international action to address critical issues of growing international concern. Emphasis should be placed on the experiences of developing countries in integrating environment and development in national policy. The World Bank would be prepared to report on analytical work on sustainable development and assist in presentations by countries implementing environmental action plans.

(d) International Maritime Organization

32. Given the broad scope inherent in the subject of environment and development addressed in the context of a United Nations global conference, it will be necessary to focus on the major environmental problems of global significance and the need for institutional and legal changes to address them.

3. Comments of other organizations

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

33. If one accepts the idea of reviewing the Stockholm call for action, the scope and content of the conference in 1992 will to a large degree be established. Regardless, it seems clear that both environmental management and development concerns will have to be addressed, particularly in the light of the discussions and follow-up work associated with the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, prepared by UNEP, both of which contain the "dualism". The challenge facing the organizers will be to maintain a balance, but one which should favour the "environment", since "development" in the traditional sense is the domain of many other bodies and conferences.

Objectives and content

1. Comments of Governments

34. Brazil. The conference should approve a comprehensive set of recommendations (plan of action) with a view to fostering international co-operation for the improvement of the human environment in all countries and regions of the world and should identify financial requirements and sources of financing for the plan of action.

35. Major contemporary environment problems relate to climate change, acid rain, water supply, pollution of the oceans and coastal zones, soil degradation, desertification, deforestation, habitat alterations and threats to biological diversity, and transboundary transfer of toxic and hazardous wastes.

36. Bulgaria. The conference should review and evaluate the results achieved by joint activities of the international community in implementation of the Stockholm Declaration 3/ during the 20-year period following the Conference of 1972 and, on that basis, should outline measures for improving the co-operation in joint efforts aimed at solving global and regional ecological problems.

37. Egypt. The conference should identify the effects of different aspects of development, including industrialization, energy production and use, urbanization, utilization of natural resources and land use. It should also identify the effects of production and disposal of hazardous material on the environment as regards ecological balance, depletion of non-renewable natural resources (fertile lands,

fossil fuel, biological diversity), human heritage, climate changes and human society. It would be important to identify ways and means for avoiding the undesirable effect of development without compromising the justified aspirations of developing countries for progress, for example, through planned urbanization and land use, use of energy from renewable resources, adoption of clean technology, control of traffic in hazardous wastes (chemical, nuclear), distribution of information about environmental hazards and accidents, and institutionalizing co-operation in case of environmental accidents.

38. Ethiopia. The conference should deal with the issues of preservation of man's environment, should attempt to draw practical positive strategies to maintain stable population within available resources, and should search for sustainable economic growth scenarios that meet present needs without negative effects on the environment. The conference should also address man's cultural heritage and education, aesthetic, recreational and scientific values with a view to pinpointing technologies that have damaged the environment in geographic regions where intensive exploitation has taken place and emphasizing the instrumentality of scientific knowledge and good common sense for the rational exploitation of natural resources.

39. Hungary. The conference should identify the gravest environmental problems calling for urgent national and international action and should elaborate a programme of action to address them. In addition, the priority tasks of the conference could include co-ordination of the international conventions on the protection of the environment already in force or in the process of elaboration, elimination of existing overlaps and establishment of an effective system and follow-up of global monitoring.

40. Nigeria. The conference should critically assess achievements and failures since the Stockholm Conference, based on the goals of that Conference and the resolutions adopted in 1972, as well as other relevant resolutions and action plans that have evolved since. It should also identify goals, amend and adopt suitable strategies for the next 20 years, based on practical national, regional and global experiences of the past two decades.

41. Norway. The conference should prepare concrete measures within the main problem areas, which would then constitute part of the programme of action to be adopted. It should adopt/sign concrete agreements (such as a convention on climate and protocols on specific problems) with a view to quantifying, as much as possible, the objectives of the programme of action. The need for institutional changes related to future international co-operation and co-ordination in relation to environment and development should also be considered.

42. In addition, there should be an indication of financial requirements for carrying out the agreed recommendations and of possible sources for such financing, as well as the need for additional financial resources, technical assistance and the transfer of environment technology to the developing countries. The developed countries should be prepared to provide the main part of the resources, since they carry the main responsibility for the problems of the global environment.

43. Seychelles. The objective of the conference should be the co-operative/human development of the world, which should at the same time protect its common environment.
44. Sweden. The conference should assess the causes behind environmental threats and the political risk they pose to thereby lay the basis for policy action to reduce pressures on the environment and life-sustaining systems. It should strengthen the network of legally binding international instruments in the field of the environment. The United Nations system has an essential normative role with regard to policies for reduced environmental pressures on life-sustaining systems, and recommendations and declarations could lead to harmonized policies. In many cases, binding agreements should be used as more effective instruments. The conference should upgrade the effectiveness of existing conventions which do not function properly because too few States are parties to them or because of financial problems.
45. In addition, conventions and protocols should be signed, and plans of action should be adopted on the following environmental problem areas, which are presently of special importance: atmospheric issues (climate change, ozone depletion, acid rains), fresh-water supply and quality, oceans and coastal areas (pollution and coastal-zone management), land degradation (desertification and deforestation), loss of biological diversity, hazardous waste and toxic chemicals, problems connected with biotechnology, and degradation of the close living and working environment of poor people. Those problem areas are of global significance, but parts of them could best be dealt with on a regional basis. Regional or global conventions and protocols have already been agreed on or are being negotiated on some problems. The Governing Council of UNEP could, at its fifteenth session, initiate negotiations on other issues, while other such decisions could be taken during the preparatory process. A global convention on the protection of climate should be ready for signature at the conference.
46. With regard to problems not ripe for legally-binding agreements, work should be initiated early during the preparatory process on draft action plans for addressing the policy sources of environmental disturbances from major sources, such as industry, energy systems, transport, agriculture, forestry and urban systems, and by making use of, inter alia, taxation, education, research and population policies. These should be aimed at promoting a sustainable and environmentally sound development for the benefit of the environment and of health. Those action plans should also be carefully prepared during the preparations for the conference. Both the differences and the interdependence between countries should be kept in mind.
47. An effort should be made to address financial measures in order to ensure the successful implementation of conference decisions. The industrialized countries carry the main responsibility for the provision of resources for the joint action agreed upon, and should therefore be prepared to finance measures that deal with problems of a global character. In addition, they must be prepared to assist developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. Measures are needed in the fields of development co-operation, debt-servicing and trade to facilitate the implementation in developing countries of the joint action. With

regard to development assistance, the environmental dimension has to be integrated in all efforts, as this is a pre-condition for sustainable and environmentally sound development. A dialogue between the co-operating parties, built on respect for plans and priorities of the recipient countries, is a pre-condition for successful results.

48. Present arrangements for intergovernmental environmental co-operation should be preserved, but a considerable strengthening of the mandates and financial resources of existing institutions, particularly UNEP, is needed.

49. Thailand. The conference should discuss environmental policies and strategies relating to international development, and address environmental problems, such as industrial pollution and the deterioration of natural resources, environmental management mechanisms, legislation, the assessment of the environmental impact and environmental education.

50. Turkey. The general framework of mutual influence between environment and development should be determined and, in this regard, the sectors which most affect the environment should be identified and procedures for removing those effects should be found. The international organizational structure concerning the environment, with its administrative, financial and scientific dimensions, should be determined and, in this framework, developing countries should be given the same authority and responsibility in that structure as the industrialized States. In addition, the conference might establish a control mechanism and determine the rules concerning the common use and protection of space, oceans and Antarctica, which are mainly used by developed countries for various activities.

51. Yugoslavia. The objectives of the conference should be to promote international co-operation to halt degradation of the environment as an integral part of economic growth and development and to contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between the targets of growth and development, on the one hand, the necessity of protecting and enhancing the environment, on the other. Special consideration should be given to the effects of the economic and financial crisis and the debt burden on the degradation of the environment. The conference should recommend measures and actions that would, through the restoration of the growth and development of developing countries, support efforts to protect and enhance the environment. The export of hazardous wastes to developing countries should be checked, and the role of the United Nations system should be strengthened with respect to the consideration and resolution of global environmental problems. Special attention should be given to the co-ordination of international conventions on the protection of the environment already in force or in the process of elaboration and the elimination of existing overlaps, and the establishment of an efficient system of global monitoring and follow-up.

2. Bodies of the United Nations system

(a) Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

52. The recent discussions at the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the General Assembly indicate two specific areas of high-priority environmental concern, namely, the interactions between atmospheric pollution, climate change and socio-economic activities, and the production and dumping of hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals brought about by industrial activities. The non-sustainability of development efforts that treat inadequately the depletion and degradation of natural resources, such as minerals, forests, water and soils, are further priority areas that could be addressed specifically by the conference.

(b) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

53. The objectives of the conference should include the setting of global environmental priorities and the enhancement of co-operation and co-ordination among member Governments, international organizations and the private sector for sustainable development. The conference should develop and adopt measures for the proper assessment and prevention of environmental disasters through programmes of technical assistance and technology transfer, demonstration projects, education and training, tailored to specific environmental issues.

(c) United Nations University

54. The conference should consider the human dimensions of global environmental change. The initial research results and recommendations from the University's programme in this area will be available in 1992. In addition, the World Institute for Development Economic Research will conduct a research project on environmental economics, which is an important area that should be considered by the conference.

(d) United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control

55. In the discussions at the conference, consideration should be given to the damaging effect on the environment by agricultural practices used for the cultivation of opium and coca in some countries and the damages caused by toxic chemicals in the processing of coca.

(e) International Labour Organisation

56. Although the Organisation has no specific proposals to make concerning the objective content or scope of the conference, whatever the final decision may be, it will certainly provide an opportunity for the ILO to make an appropriate contribution concerning its own limited special areas of concern; that is, issues related to the working environment, environmental training and the relationship between the environment and employment, poverty and development. Recognizing the

rapidly expanding number of international activities concerning the environment, especially the convening of many other conferences, meetings and working groups during the next few years, it will be important for this conference to make a unique and carefully prepared contribution to the development of a co-ordinated and coherent programme of future action in this field.

(f) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

57. The conference should focus on the ways and means of implementing the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development, rather than simply discussing the same matters again. It should, particularly, aim at finding solutions to environmental problems deriving from major development activities in such sectors as industry, transport, energy, agriculture and rural development (including forestry and fisheries), and urbanization. Recommendations for preventive/remedial action could be addressed, *inter alia*, to institutions at national, regional and international levels. Thus the agenda could include the following:

(a) A review of policies and actions taken by countries and international organizations to protect and enhance the environment and promote sustainable development, including how environmental concerns have been incorporated in economic and social policies and planning since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972;

(b) Assessments of major environmental problems arising from the important economic sectors or relating to key horizontal issues, and identification of preventive/remedial measures essential for sustainable development. Those assessments could cover:

- (i) Industry, including energy and transport;
- (ii) Agriculture and rural development (including forestry and fisheries), and associated socio-economic aspects;
- (iii) Urbanization and human settlements;
- (iv) Health and employment, which would cut across economic sectors;

(c) Proposals for a programme of action and recommendations to Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, including priorities, for each major economic sector. The recommendations should aim at strengthening international co-operation, defining the research and development activities required for implementation, and specifying the financial resources needed and potential funding sources.

58. The more specific horizontal issues, such as research, education, training, social and economic aspects, legislation, institutions, information exchange and technology transfer, could be addressed within each of the above agenda items and development sectors. The linkages between sectors, especially environmental problems deriving from development activities in one sector which may affect other sectors, should also be addressed.

(g) World Health Organization

59. Taking into account the fact that it is the prerogative of Governments to determine the objectives and scope of such a conference, the objectives of the conference should include the promotion and protection of human health. Some of the major broad issues which the conference should address have already been presented in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (A/42/427, annex) and in the 1986 State of the Environment Report: Environment and Health (UNEP/GC/14/5), prepared by UNEP. Such issues include the health consequences of uncontrolled urbanization, the indiscriminate use of technology, chemical and toxic waste, unsafe water supplies and inadequate sanitation facilities as a result of unbalanced development.

(h) World Bank

60. The Conference should review legal mechanisms to deal with environmental rights and obligations at the global level, and should encourage wide participation of the NGO community.

(i) International Maritime Organization

61. The Conference should review the extent to which the international community has addressed the major environmental problems facing the world and the extent to which countries individually and acting together have taken action to protect and enhance the environment and integrate environmental concerns in development policies since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm). It should identify gaps in the global strategy for environmental protection and sustainable development and make recommendations for further strengthening of international co-operation in the protection and enhancement of the environment and in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development.

62. The protection of the marine environment and the sustainable and environmentally-sound exploitation of its resources are a matter of broad concern to the international community and, as such, fall within the mandate of several United Nations organizations and is the subject of concern of many regional bodies and non-governmental organizations. Therefore IMO suggests that the proposed conference should include within its scope a review, inter alia, of the actions taken to protect the marine environment, taking into account current work being pursued within the United Nations system, particularly the report on the state of the marine environment presently being finalized by the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP). Pursuant to its mandate, IMO would seek to ensure that the conference would recognize that a safe and environmentally sound marine transport infrastructure was an essential element of sustainable development and that any necessary follow-up action would be taken to protect the marine environment from pollution from ships and disposal of wastes at sea.

(j) World Meteorological Organization

63. The Conference could build upon reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Second World Climate Conference, in order to take a major step towards a global convention on climate change due to human activities, or, if possible, a convention for the protection of the global atmosphere from various forms of contamination. Such a convention, or a significant step towards it, would be seen as a major achievement of the conference. There should also be an opportunity during the proceedings to address the question of national and international actions to ensure the scientific underpinning for sustainable development. If the atmosphere, waterways, soils, seas and biological communities are to be sustained, long-term commitments to environmental measurement programmes and scientific studies of the "sustainability" of components of the natural environment are essential. Among such measurement and study programmes are those which are part of the activities of WMO on the atmosphere, on the climate system and on water resources. WMO also points out that disasters due to tropical cyclones and floods, as well as other natural hazards, can have enormous impacts on sustained economic development, and yet adequate warning and preparedness systems are demonstrably capable of reducing the losses, especially the loss of life. World-wide and regional systems of monitoring, prediction and warning of natural and anthropogenic disasters, including use of space techniques, could be a major subtheme for which WMO would be willing to take a leading role. Progress in the first year or so of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-1999) could also be a theme for a valuable session at the conference.

(k) International Atomic Energy Agency

64. It is up to Governments to determine the objectives and scope of such a conference, though the Agency expects that the production of energy, which is essential to development and, at the same time, has a major environmental impact, will be one of the important issues addressed.

(l) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

65. A part of the programme of the proposed conference should deal with the interaction between environmental policies and international trade and capital flows with, given the nature of the conference, a particular emphasis on the implications of that interaction for economic development. The objectives of that part of the conference programme should include an improved understanding of how measures and policies governing international trade can appropriately take into account considerations related to the protection of the environment. It would also be important to examine how frictions in trade relations, which can impact negatively on Governments' willingness to pursue environmental policies, could be avoided through efforts to secure a greater degree of convergence of national regulations and practices related to the financing of pollution control costs associated with the production of goods and services.

3. Other organisations

(a) Caribbean Development Bank

66. Accidents in the maritime transport of petroleum and petroleum products could seriously jeopardize the highly vulnerable economies of those States which, to make matters worse, are in many cases highly dependent on tourism and fisheries. The Bank, therefore, would recommend that the conference consider issues such as the regulation and control of matters affecting the determination of responsibility for the corrective action and compensation in cases where petroleum spills affect the environment and economic activity in both the short and long term.

(b) Nordic Council

67. The Council adopted recommendations on a Nordic Environment Policy Programme, as well as an Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment. Environmental issues are so important that they should be raised to the same level as disarmament policies within the United Nations. The industrialized countries should allocate a certain percentage of their GNP to global environment co-operation, and the United Nations General Assembly should adopt a declaration to that effect. The Social and Environment Committee, with the endorsement of the Council, also proposed the establishment of a European Environment Fund so that modern technology could be made available to those countries which emit great amounts of transfrontal pollutants. These are issues which should be taken up at the conference. Other issues might include the "greenhouse effect" and the climatic changes owing to pollution of the atmosphere, especially by carbon dioxide, and the protection of the ozone layer.

(c) Organization of African Unity

68. The conference should lay particular emphasis on the current practice by industrialized countries and transnational corporations of dumping toxic and hazardous wastes in Africa.

(d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

69. The Organisation believes that worthy objectives would include the following:

(a) To review progress made by the international community in response to the Stockholm call for action;

(b) To provide the best overview possible of environmental conditions and trends in the world at the time of the conference;

(c) To review and synthesize the results of the spectrum of major environmental conferences in the 1989-1991 timeframe (for example, World Conference on Climate and Energy, Report of the World Commission on Environment and

Development and regional meetings) as a basic planning tool for the 1992 conference and as a contribution in its own right;

(d) To identify specific environmental management successes, key unresolved problems and major shortcomings, including the reasons therefore;

(e) To define an agenda for the future which should have at least a 20-year perspective;

(f) To examine the implications of, and pathways towards, sustainable development as a specific focus of the conference;

(g) To review the scope and evolution of institutional machinery and its ability to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

70. As to content, a "sustainable development" subtheme may have attractive features in terms of steering and focusing the debate. Other topics which deserve attention include:

(a) The state of environmental measurement and monitoring;

(b) The quality of environmental research, education and training;

(c) Technology development, including designing to achieve specific environmental objectives and "clean" technology;

(d) Environmental economics and environment-development policy integration;

(e) Management of air, water and land resources, including a special look at urban eco-systems, desertification and deforestation;

(f) Legal and administrative machinery, including a review of recent conventions and protocols (for example, ozone) and the selection for future targets;

(g) Assistance to developing countries, including technology transfer and financial assistance.

(e) Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference

71. The conference should concentrate on:

(a) Relating natural resources to conservation and utilization for sustainable development;

(b) Relating conservation to maintaining and increasing productivity;

(c) Emphasizing the three broad classes of natural resources management: conservation, utilization and environmental monitoring.

(f) Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries: Fund for International Development

72. The conference should be comprehensive and most of the focus should be placed on environmental problems - issues and options of the developing countries rather than the industrialized countries. The conference should address the ecological balance, including the environmental impact of population growth (on forests, for example) and, subsequently, narrow its focus to specific environmental problems in developing countries, such as deforestation, desertification, ground- and surface-water pollutants, overfishing, air pollution, toxic chemicals and metals. Furthermore, the conference should concentrate on the environmental options and issues of all sectors, including agriculture, transport, industry, water-resource development and the residential sector.

73. The OPEC Fund would suggest an analysis of the following:

(a) The role of Governments in terms of their policies and practices - how their improper or proper use could lead either to the degradation or enhancement of the environment;

(b) The role of donors (multilateral, bilateral, United Nations, non-governmental organizations) in terms of providing financing and technical assistance to (i) projects designed solely for preventing or remedying environmental damage; (ii) new development projects with environmental ramifications;

(c) The role of enterprises and private citizens in terms of maintaining environmental quality and avoiding or curing environmental damage.

(g) South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

74. The conference should formulate short-term and long-term plans of action whereby sustainable development could be achieved through the rational utilization of the world's scarce resources and effective environmental management, emphasizing the following:

(a) Adequate strengthening of existing organizations in the field of the environment;

(b) Firm financial commitments of donor agencies for environmental activity;

(c) Programmes of action to include activities, among other programmes in the following disciplines: (i) environmental education, training and awareness; (ii) the use of renewable and reusable sources of energy, including biogas and solar energy; (iii) assessment of the environmental impact of development projects; (iv) environmental legislation and its effective application; (v) control of deforestation and desertification.

C. Title

1. Governments

75. Governments have suggested the following titles for the conference:
- (a) The Second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Brazil);
 - (b) Society and Nature on the Eve of the Twenty-first Century (Bulgaria);
 - (c) United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Egypt);
 - (d) United Nations Conference on Concerted Actions on Regional and National Environment and Development (Ethiopia);
 - (e) Twenty Years After Stockholm - How Far? (Nigeria);
 - (f) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Towards Sustainable Development (Norway);
 - (g) The title should contain the word "human" (Seychelles);
 - (h) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Sweden);
 - (i) The title should stress the interrelation between development and the environment (Turkey);
 - (j) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Yugoslavia).

2. Bodies of the United Nations system

76. Bodies of the United Nations system have suggested the following titles for the conference:
- (a) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs);
 - (b) United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (ESCAP).

3. Other organizations

77. Other organizations have suggested the following titles for the conference:
- Environment and Development: Twenty Years Later (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

III. APPROPRIATE WAYS OF PREPARING FOR THE CONFERENCE

A. At the national level

78. Brazil. Governments should be invited to submit national reports to the conference.

79. Ethiopia. It is envisaged that country reports will be prepared. The set of reports by order of countries will illuminate problems and opportunities related to the rational use and conservation of resources.

80. Hungary. A national preparatory committee will be established consisting of representatives of the Government, government departments and non-governmental organizations active in the field. Substantive preparations would be greatly facilitated if such committees were set up in Member States.

81. Nigeria. Guidelines should be distributed to Governments to help them assess their achievements on a national level in the light of the common goal of sustainable development. Such assessments should be submitted in the form of comprehensive government reports, a summary of which could be presented at the conference. The reports should also propose and review strategies (national and regional, as well as global), based on individual country experiences, which should be adopted for the next two decades.

82. Norway. As part of the preparatory process, Governments should present reports, which would constitute important elements for the work of the preparatory committee.

83. Sweden. Governments should submit national reports to the conference during the preparatory phase. These would constitute an important part of the review of trends in policies and action since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972.

B. At the regional level

1. Governments

84. Brazil. The conference should be preceded by a series of regional meetings at the expert and intergovernmental levels.

85. Ethiopia. An interdisciplinary approach should be adopted, for example, with such objectives as the study of local manifestations concerning resources and interactions with situations in adjoining country/countries; the study of the inventories of regional natural resources; and the establishment of working relationships with research workers, decision-makers and operational personnel. Areas of co-operation in joint projects, such as desert control, the restoration of watershed and forest covers, with practical arrangements for the sharing of costs and benefits. This would include management of the schemes, which would serve as examples to be emulated and replicated elsewhere.

86. Bilateral and regional conferences take into account countries sharing common resources or having common concerns which may have been united in pursuing and searching for ways and means of achieving their objectives and aims. Their example could provide guidance to new trial regions. States that have national inventories and that take into account the policy intentions of other countries could serve as examples of reciprocal sensitivities towards neighbours. Good examples of institutional design with orderly purposes could be provided by the organization of existing co-ordinating groups that are preferably made up of the countries' representatives, based in one of their capitals, and with mandates such as making projections of key variable needs identified by national or domestic considerations of the countries concerned.

87. Hungary. The experience of regional and subregional environmental co-operation, including the related experience of ECE and the result of the high-level conferences held during the past period should be taken into account. The meeting on the protection of the environment of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, scheduled to be held late in 1989 at Sofia, might also make a useful contribution to the success of the conference.

88. Nigeria. Regional bodies should assess progress made thus far in the light of the mandate establishing them.

89. Norway. The various regional conferences on environment and development which will precede the global conference should provide important contributions to the conference.

2. Bodies of the United Nations system

(a) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

90. Regional preparatory meetings should be held to:

(a) Study ways and means for implementing General Assembly resolution 42/186, by which the Assembly adopted the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(b) Review and formulate concrete proposals concerning national and regional efforts for sustainable development;

(c) Adopt regional plans of action for the management of natural resources and protection of the environment;

(d) Assess, identify and evaluate ongoing national activities and propose activities concerning sustainable development for consideration by the conference.

(b) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

91. A ministerial-level conference on the environment in Asia and the Pacific will be convened in 1990, the outcome of which will be useful input to the 1992 conference. In addition, the conference could also draw upon other regional commissions, such as ECE and ECA, which will also have convened ministerial-level conferences by that time.

C. The global, intergovernmental preparatory process

Governments

92. Brazil. Preparatory institutional machinery should include an intergovernmental preparatory committee with membership as broad as possible. Participation in the preparatory work should be open-ended. This function could be entrusted either to an existing organ (such as the Governing Council of UNEP), which would serve as the core group for the preparatory process, or to a new committee specifically designated by the General Assembly.

93. Egypt. A preparatory meeting should be organized and attended by bodies of the United Nations system, selected representative States, non-governmental organizations and a number of experts in relevant disciplines.

94. Hungary. A global survey on the state of the environment should be prepared to help identify the gravest environmental problems.

95. Norway. It is crucial to have an efficient preparatory committee. One possibility would be to establish a committee of the whole under the General Assembly (such as the preparatory committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972). Alternatively, the Governing Council of UNEP could constitute such a preparatory committee. An "open-ended" Governing Council for that purpose would be required to allow all interested Governments to participate. Governments should be asked to ensure that their delegations to the meetings of the preparatory committee and the conference itself reflect the cross-sectoral character of the conference.

96. Seychelles. As part of the appropriate ways of preparing for the conference, an approach should be made to each and every Member of the United Nations with the request that one and all should give urgent consideration to the ways and means of co-operation in all fields of development, in order to afford full protection to our threatened environment.

97. Sweden. The preparations for the conference and the conference itself are viewed as an integrated process leading up to joint concrete action. That approach requires a strong preparatory committee for the conference. The Governing Council of UNEP should be selected for that task in the light of its terms of reference, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972. Special sessions of the Governing Council will be required for the orderly preparation of the conference. If it is to be held in 1992, the Governing Council would need to

meet as the preparatory committee once or twice in 1990 and once in 1991, in addition to dedicating part of the regular session of that year to this purpose, and possibly once in 1992 for finalizing the documentation. Interested countries should be encouraged to host sessions of the Governing Council in its capacity as preparatory committee for the conference. Donor countries should be encouraged to support the active participation of least developed countries in the preparations for the conference and in the conference itself.

98. Thailand. A working group of senior experts from selected Member States should work on the content, as well as the necessary preparations for the conference.

99. Turkey. An ad hoc Committee should be established.

100. Yugoslavia. Preparatory work for the conference should be entrusted to a preparatory committee, to be established under a General Assembly resolution on the convening of the conference, to be adopted at its forty-fourth session.

D. Non-governmental organizations

1. Governments

101. Brazil. Non-governmental organizations should also be invited to submit reports as part of the review of policies and action.

102. Hungary. Non-governmental international organizations should play an active and important part in the protection of the environment and should be involved in the preparations for the conference.

103. Norway. Industry, trade unions, the scientific community and non-governmental organizations should play an active role in the preparatory process and be encouraged to participate in the conference. As part of the preparatory process, non-governmental organizations should prepare reports, which would constitute important elements for the work of the preparatory committee.

104. Sweden. All relevant non-governmental international organizations should be invited to submit reports as a part of the review of policies and actions. Special arrangements should be considered for the active and effective participation of NGOs.

2. Other organizations

South-Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

105. Efforts should be made to identify organizations, not only within the United Nations system, but also recognized international and intergovernmental organizations, which are directly involved in environmental matters and could be potential executors of activities of the environmental action plans to be promoted

by the Conference without the creation of new organizations, unless it is deemed absolutely essential. Efforts should also be made to strengthen those organizations institutionally by United Nations funding, so that they could effectively participate in the implementation of action plans.

E. Inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination

1. Governments

106. Brazil. Preparatory activities of an organizational and substantive nature preceding the conference will require co-ordination and collaboration between the different bodies and organizations of the United Nations system.

107. Ethiopia. The specialized agencies of the United Nations could formulate and support programmes of action for the planning and control of the use of resources and environment, information, legislative guidelines and education.

108. Nigeria. International bodies should assess their progress made so far in the light of the mandates establishing them.

109. Norway. If the conference is to be successful, it will be important to secure the participation of all relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

110. Yugoslavia. The United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system dealing, within their competences, with environment and development problems, should make their substantive contribution to these preparations.

2. Bodies of the United Nations system

World Health Organization

111. Inter-agency participation in the preparation of the conference should be guided by ACC.

F. Secretariat of the conference

1. Governments

112. Brazil. A special secretariat could be created to ensure the necessary technical support for the preparation and holding of the conference. The unit could incorporate personnel from the secretariats of concerned organs and agencies of the United Nations system, under the co-ordination of the Executive Director of UNEP, and experts from outside the United Nations system could be recruited as necessary.

113. Bulgaria. The preparation and organization of the conference should be entrusted to the UNEP secretariat. The Executive Director should work out a detailed organizational programme containing the timetable, size and scope of the preliminary reviews, national, scientific reports etc., which should be made available to the Executive Director for the preparation of the conference.

114. Norway. A separate secretariat should be established for the conference, which should have close links to UNEP, as well as other United Nations organizations, international financial institutions, the scientific community, industry and non-governmental organizations. The location of the secretariat should be discussed further before a decision is taken. The composition of the secretariat should reflect the cross-sectoral nature of the conference and the most relevant expertise in the various areas. The question of the selection of its members should be elaborated at the forthcoming session of the Governing Council of UNEP.

115. Sweden. A strong conference secretariat is an absolute necessity. The Secretary-General of the United Nations should be authorized to set up a secretariat, with the assistance of the Executive Director of UNEP, for the preparation of the conference and to serve the preparatory committee, which should maintain close links with the UNEP secretariat. To draw upon the combined experience of the United Nations system, officials from various parts of the system could be seconded to the conference secretariat, part of which should, however, be recruited from outside the United Nations system to ensure that the staff represents the best available expertise in the field. The secretariat should be located where United Nations secretariat and communication facilities are readily available and where many countries are represented, preferably Geneva. The Secretary-General of the conference should be at the level of Assistant Secretary-General, who should be appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General and should report to him through the Executive Director of UNEP.

2. Bodies of the United Nations system

(a) World Health Organization

116. The organization is prepared to second a staff member temporarily to assist the secretariat of the conference.

(b) International Maritime Organization

117. The organization is ready to co-operate with other relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in ensuring that the conference has before it adequate information to enable it to make recommendations concerning the enhancement of international co-operation in the field of the protection and sustainable development of the marine environment.

(c) International Atomic Energy Agency

118. The Agency is ready to help provide the technical basis for a policy discussion on the environmentally sound management of energy systems. It would expect to work together with other United Nations agencies in this endeavour, as well as expert bodies, such as the World Energy Conference and the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis.

IV. SUITABLE TIME AND PLACE AND OTHER MODALITIES

A. Time

Governments

119. The following dates have been suggested by Governments:

(a) During the first half of 1992, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Stockholm Conference. Duration and precise dates would be submitted by the preparatory committee for decision by the General Assembly (Brazil);

(b) June 1992 (Bulgaria);

(c) June 1992, 20 years after the Stockholm Conference (Egypt);

(d) During the summer of 1992 (Ethiopia);

(e) Within the time frame indicated in the General Assembly resolution (Hungary);

(f) In 1992, the twentieth anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, would be an appropriate time (Nigeria);

(g) There seems to be general agreement that the conference should take place in 1992. The exact dates would depend on a series of factors and should be discussed by the Governing Council of UNEP (Norway);

(h) June 1992 (Sweden);

(i) August 1992 (Thailand);

(j) 1992 (Turkey).

B. Place

Governments

120. Brazil. The Government of Brazil takes this opportunity to confirm the offer it made during the forty-third session of the General Assembly to serve as host for the second United Nations conference on human environment. The conference may be held in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo or Brasilia, all three of which are served by international airports and have the necessary infrastructure, facilities and services for the successful holding of an international conference of this magnitude.

121. The offer to serve as host for the conference reflects the importance the Government of Brazil attaches to environmental matters and its readiness to promote

further international co-operation in this area. It is in that spirit that the Government hopes that the international community will agree to hold the conference in Brazil.

122. Egypt. The conference should be held in Nairobi or a suitable city in a country that is willing to share the expenses.

123. Nigeria. Options for the venue are: United Nations Headquarters in New York, UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, or any other country of the world that wishes to serve as host for the conference. The criteria of cost-effectiveness and convenience are proposed for effecting a final decision on the venue.

124. Norway. It is noted that three countries have offered to serve as host for the conference: Brazil, Canada and Sweden. It is very important that this question be decided as soon as possible. A decision must be made by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, and consideration of the issue of the conference as a whole during the Assembly would be greatly facilitated if agreement in principle could be reached by the Governing Council on the venue question.

125. Seychelles. The conference should be held in a central place in Europe, for example, France.

126. Sweden. Sweden is again prepared to act as host, if this is the general wish.

127. Thailand. The conference should be held in New York, Geneva, Nairobi or Bangkok.

128. Turkey. The conference should be held in a relatively central location with a view to enabling the representatives of all nations to participate with a minimum expense. Turkey would prefer that the conference be held in Europe.

129. Yugoslavia. The conference should be held in a developing country.

C. Other modalities

Governments

130. Bulgaria. The following items should be considered at the conference:

- (a) Report of the United Nations Secretary-General;
- (b) Co-reports by recognized institutions from respective regions of the world;
- (c) Exchange of views on the reports;
- (d) Adoption of the final document.

131. Egypt. Scientific sessions should be held during the conference; both governmental and non-governmental inputs should be considered.

132. Ethiopia. The forum should make provision for the hearing of the adversary views of the preservation and resource users' groups. Background papers, prepared months in advance, should serve as a basis for discussion of the spirit of the conference. Following that, delegates should be requested to propose a plan of action to be taken at the national, regional and international levels. This indeed will induce motivation to bring forth any national rational use of strategies and conservation of resources along the identified three respective discussion groups. Then information and knowledge gaps can be identified, and measures can be taken to accommodate deficiency situations. Subsequently, a list of recommendations will be drawn up by national delegates, regional and international representatives, to formulate the rational use and conservation of the resources of the environment.

133. Sweden. The preparatory process should engage all relevant parts of the United Nations system, as well as development assistance agencies and international financial institutions. The conference should be on a high political level and should include Heads of Government and Ministers responsible for the environment. The duration of the conference should be approximately two weeks. A plenary and two or three committees of the whole could be foreseen. Such arrangements would give enough time for thorough discussions and final negotiations on decisions to be adopted. The thematic division of work between committees will have to be considered by the preparatory committee.

Notes:

1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum).

2/ Ibid., chap. II.

3/ Ibid., chap. I.
