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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:
ENVIRONMENT

International co-operation in the field of environment: provision
of additional resources to developing countries

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the members of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council the attached report of the Director-General of the United Nations Environment Programme.

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

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ANNEX

Report of the Director-General of the United Nations
Environment Programme

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 1988/69 of 28 July 1988 on international co-operation on the environment, the Economic and Social Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in co-operation with the competent organizations, to carry out an up-to-date review of the problem referred to in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), section III, paragraph 4, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council. The subject of paragraph 4, section III, of Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) is the provision of additional resources to developing countries.
2. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 1988/69, the Economic and Social Council further requested the organizations of the United Nations system concerned to include in their reports to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session an account of the measures they have taken to give effect to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 42/184 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 calling on them to provide additional resources to developing countries.
3. The Executive Director of UNEP, by his note dated 10 October 1988, requesting information on the action taken by Governments in response to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, also requested Governments to provide any relevant information further to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/69, with regard to the availability of additional resources. Similarly, on 6 September 1988, the Executive Director requested the concerned organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to provide an account of the measures they have taken to give effect to request to them to provide additional resources to the developing countries, in accordance with the relevant parts of resolutions 42/184 and 42/187.
4. As at 15 May 1989, the request for information had received a very limited response, which is summarized in section II of the present report. This response does not provide an adequate basis for the review envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) and further requested by the Economic and Social Council. The Executive Director considers that such a review would require a further request for information and the convening of a small group of a geographically balanced character, including experts with particular experience in bilateral development co-operation, with the participation also of the organizations of the United Nations system especially concerned, in particular, the financing institutions.
5. Accordingly, the Economic and Social Council may wish to consider calling upon Governments and concerned organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to respond urgently to the request for information by the Executive

Director of UNEP, at the latest by 31 December 1989. This would enable the expert group mentioned above, if its establishment is agreed upon, to meet at the beginning of 1990 to analyse the responses received and to make specific recommendations to the Executive Director as a basis for his report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on this issue.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS AND FROM ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Governments

6. In Belgium, a new environmental fund has been created under the patronage of the Royal Foundation, sponsored mainly by the private sector. A first activity undertaken by this fund is a study on possible action further to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (A/42/427, annex).
7. In Madagascar, a fund has been established with a contribution from the World Bank, Switzerland and others for the implementation of some projects. As part of this development, the creation of a national fund for the environment is being considered.
8. Norway, which allocates 1.11 per cent of the country's gross national product for development aid, will spend approximately \$110,000 for food security, resource management and conservation, population, and for environmental initiatives (through the World Bank). A specific budgetary allocation for environmental programmes in developing countries has been established, giving priority to the development of national conservation strategies.
9. Peru provides information that additional resources have become available from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for measures in soil erosion and desertification, from the Netherlands for environmental management, from the Federal Republic of Germany for the protection of ecosystems in the Andes, and from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Japan for the management of tropical forests.
10. In Sweden, the Parliament adopted in 1988, as an additional goal of Swedish development co-operation, the promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. The Budget Bill submitted to Parliament in January 1989 stipulates that Swedish capacity should be increased for assistance within the field of environment and natural resources as an integral part of development co-operation.
11. The United States of America places a high priority on ensuring that its bilateral and multilateral programmes of assistance to the developing world are environmentally sound. The United States is now committing 10 per cent of the bilateral assistance to environmentally-related projects and remains the largest contributor to a number of multilateral organizations, including UNEP. The United States will continue, within the constraints of its budget, to support environmental activities and programmes around the world.

B. Intergovernmental organizations

12. The European Community gives priority to the protection of natural resources in the allocation of its finances.

C. United Nations system

13. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) increased the allocations for environmental projects from \$65 million in 1977 to \$152 million in 1987. As a follow-up of the Toronto Conference on the Changing Atmosphere, significant increases in the financing of research and development on a wide range of actions related to atmosphere pollution are envisaged. UNDP would also, at the request of Governments, continue activities that promote collaboration between developed planning authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, women's groups, trade associations, etc., to achieve better integration of environmental aspects into economic policy-making and public sector management. The use of the Management Development Programme may also be considered in this regard, as well as, at the request of Governments, collaboration with the World Bank and other multilateral agencies to formulate country environmental sustainable development action plans.

14. The Administrator will be reporting to the UNDP Governing Council at its thirty-sixth session in June 1989 on the follow-up to Governing Council decision 88/57 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which will contain information on all UNDP action in this area, including in the field of resource mobilization. The discussions and decisions of the Governing Council on the matter will be reported to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, as called for in paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/69. With regard to resource mobilization specifically, following the administrator's instruction of 5 August 1988 to all UNDP resident representatives, workshops with host Governments on environment are in the process of being carried out, financed in part by special programme resources from UNDP. It is expected that these workshops will generate increased interest for projects in the area of sustainable development and protection of the environment, which will induce allocation of increased UNDP resources to this area. In addition, through current initiatives within the Committee of International Development Institutions on Environment and the World Resources Institute, UNDP, in collaboration with other members of these organizations, is in the process of launching initiatives aimed at increased resource mobilization for sustainable development and protection of the environment.

15. The World Bank has launched a programme through which allocations for environmental and natural resources projects have been increasing, e.g., forestry projects, projects for the conservation of biological diversity, watershed degradation, soil erosion, including desertification, the environmental health aspects of irrigation, salinity of irrigated land, pesticide use, industrial disasters, urban environmental issues, drinking water supply and sanitation, and global climatic change.

16. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), in co-operation with interested donor countries, is endeavouring to enhance its technical assistance strategy for the protection of the marine environment. IMO has commissioned the study that will appraise the organization's programme of technical assistance in the marine environment field in the light of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187. As part of the study, all IMC member States have been invited to identify problems encountered in implementing IMO Conventions for the prevention of marine pollution.

17. In addition, a resolution on technical assistance in the field of protection of the marine environment has been adopted by the organization's Marine Environment Protection Committee and will be presented by the member States of the IMO Assembly in October 1989. In the resolution the Secretary-General of IMO would be requested to undertake on a priority basis an evaluation of the problems faced by developing countries in the prevention, control and combating of marine pollution from ships and related matters, with a view to formulating the long-term objectives of the organization's technical assistance programme.

18. The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has approved (a) a policy document entitled "Children and environment: a UNICEF strategy for sustainable development", which, inter alia, calls for environmental factors relevant to children to be analysed and addressed in subsequent country programmes and (b) \$3 million from general resources and a further \$3 million subject to special fund-raising efforts as a global fund for the support of analyses planning and small-scale pilot projects at the country level over the next two years and prior to the incorporation of environmentally relevant activities into the normal UNICEF country programme cycle. As is indicated in the newly approved policy, future country programmes should address those environmental issues which fall within the mandate of UNICEF within the framework of the programme and fully integrated with other activities.

19. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in recent years, has increased its allocation to conservation-oriented activities and environment related matters benefiting the rural poor, reaching almost 50 per cent of total lending or approximately \$114.81 million in 1988 under the regular and special programme for sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, every two dollars invested by IFAD has generated more than one additional dollar from external sources for the same purpose.

20. Almost all projects approved in 1988 gave careful attention to environment impact and resources conservation issues. Allocations for land improvement, resource conservation and environmental protection was provided for through investment in small-scale irrigation and water harvesting, extension, research, training, co-operative and institutional support.

21. The World Food Programme (WFP) had, by the end of 1988, 157 projects with components intended to promote environmentally sustainable development. The total value of these components was more than \$1.4 billion. WFP and the World Bank are currently the world's largest providers of assistance to promote environmentally sustainable development.

22. The scope of WFP activities in support of the environment is extremely broad, covering such activities as:

(a) Forestry, including forest rehabilitation, agroforestry, community woodlots, government plantations to produce fuelwood and poles, conservation forests to stabilize hillsides, planting of fruit-trees on land unsuitable for annual crops and dune stabilization;

(b) Agricultural productivity, including irrigation, soil improvement, land preparation in resettlement areas and training of farmers in sustainable agricultural techniques;

(c) Physical conservation works, including the planting of fodder grasses, protection of pastures, destocking and restocking of herds in line with carrying capacity of land and support to pasture management associations.

Total value of WFP activities

(millions of United States dollars)

Forestry	635.8
Agricultural productivity	472.5
Physical conservation works	279.5
Rangeland management	<u>43.5</u>
Total	1 431.3

23. WFP is increasingly trying to combine such components in an integral way at both the "micro" level (on individual farms) and at the "macro" level (in entire watersheds). By upgrading every category of land in complementary ways, the projects make production from areas as a whole more environmentally sustainable. Many of the activities supported by WFP both increase output now and enhances sustainability over time. Soil bunds and water harvesting, for example, can have enduring returns that begin soon after work is completed. Even reforestation to improve soils and stabilize hillsides in the long run can start yielding benefits (in the form of lopped branches for fodder or firewood) within a couple of years after trees are planted. Properly conceived and implemented, activities such as these can equally serve short-term production needs and long-term environmental needs.
