

**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

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**REPORT OF THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL  
on the work of its fifteenth session**

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**15 - 26 May 1989**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 25 (A/44/25)



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## **NOTE**

**Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The fifteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 15 to 26 May 1989. The Council adopted the present proceedings at the 14th meeting of the session, on 26 May 1989.

## CHAPTER I

### ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

#### A. Opening of the session

2. The fifteenth session was opened on 15 May 1989 by Mr. Z. R. Ansari (India), Vice-President of the Council at its fourteenth session.

3. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the ecological disasters that had occurred since the previous session of the Council.

#### B. Attendance

4. The following States members of the Governing Council 1/ were represented at the session:

Argentina	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Australia	Malta
Bangladesh	Mexico
Botswana	Netherlands
Brazil	Oman
Bulgaria	Pakistan
Burundi	Poland
Canada	Republic of Korea
Chile	Rwanda
China	Saudi Arabia
Colombia	Senegal
Costa Rica	Sri Lanka
Côte d'Ivoire	Sudan
Czechoslovakia	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
France	Togo
Gabon	Turkey
Germany, Federal Republic of	Uganda
Greece	Ukranian Soviet Socialist Republic
Guyana	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
India	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Indonesia	United States of America
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Venezuela
Iraq	Yugoslavia
Japan	Zaire
Jordan	Zimbabwe
Kenya	
Lesotho	

5. The following States Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, but not members of the Governing Council, were represented by observers:

Algeria	Kuwait
Albania	Liberia
Austria	Malawi
Bahrain	Malaysia
Belgium	Maldives
Burkina Faso	Mali
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Mongolia
Comoros	Morocco
Congo	Nepal
Cyprus	New Zealand
Democratic Kampuchea	Niger
Democratic Yemen	Nigeria
Denmark	Norway
Djibouti	Peru
Ethiopia	Philippines
Egypt	Portugal
Gambia	Seychelles
German Democratic Republic	Spain
Ghana	Somalia
Guinea	Swaziland
Israel	Syrian Arab Republic
Italy	Thailand
Jamaica	United Republic of Tanzania
	Uruguay
	Zambia

6. The Holy See, not a Member of the United Nations, was also represented by an observer.

7. The following United Nations bodies and Secretariat units were represented:

United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs  
 United Nations Office of the Director-General for Development and International  
 Economic Co-operation  
 United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi  
 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)  
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
 Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)  
 Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)  
 Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)  
 United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)  
 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
 United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)  
 United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)  
 World Food Programme (WFP)

8. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation (ILO)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
World Bank  
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
International Maritime Organization (IMO)  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

9. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented:

European Communities  
Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD)  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)  
League of Arab States  
Nordic Council  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
Organization of African Unity (OAU)  
Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC)

10. In addition, 32 international non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

11. The following other organizations were represented by observers:

African National Congress of South Africa (ANC)  
Palestine  
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)

#### C. Election of officers

12. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Mr. I. N. Topkov (Bulgaria)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. G. García (Colombia)  
Mr. J. Nyagah (Kenya)  
Mr. E. Rajakoski (Finland)

Rapporteur: Mr. S. Tell (Jordan)



#### D. Credentials

13. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May.

#### E. Agenda

14. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council at its fourteenth session and revised at its first special session by decisions SS.I./1, paragraph 2, and SS.I/3, paragraph 7: 2/

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Executive Director's reports.
5. Follow-up of the relevant resolutions of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the General Assembly.
6. State-of-the-environment reports.
7. Co-ordination questions:
  - (a) Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
  - (b) Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;
  - (c) Guidelines for the revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995.
8. Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.
9. The Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters.
10. Provisional agenda, date and place of the sixteenth session of the Council.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the session.

## F. Organization of the work of the session

15. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.15/1/Add.1 and Corr.1) and the timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/1/Add.1, annex I).

16. In accordance with rule 60 of the rules of procedure, the Governing Council, at the opening meeting of the session, decided to establish a sessional Committee of the Whole and to allocate to it agenda items 7 (a) (Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)), 7 (c) (Guidelines for the revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995) and 8 (Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification). The Council also decided to allocate to the Committee of the Whole those parts of agenda item 7 (b) (Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination) dealing with the co-ordination and follow-up of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. It was agreed that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. G. García (Colombia), Vice-President of the Council.

17. The Council also decided to establish an informal open-ended negotiating group under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Rajakoski (Finland), Vice-President of the Council, with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group to consider the texts of draft policy decisions before their submission to the plenary meeting of the Council for formal consideration.

18. The Council further decided that Mr. J. Nyagah (Kenya), Vice-President of the Council, would assist the President, particularly when administrative and financial matters were being considered.

## G. Work of the Committee of the Whole

19. Under the chairmanship of Mr. G. García (Colombia), the Committee of the Whole held 15 meetings, from 15 to 24 May. At its 1st meeting, it elected Mr. R. Barrett (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as rapporteur and approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.1.

## H. Address by the President of Kenya

20. At the 2nd plenary meeting of the session, the Executive Director of UNEP presented His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya, with a Global 500 Award for his outstanding contribution, both nationally and internationally, to the cause of the environment.

21. In his address to the Council, President Moi said that the environmental problems that the Council was called upon to address were human in origin and global in nature; their solution would therefore require both human intervention and global action and co-operation. Climate change and depletion of the ozone layer were the greatest challenges of the time. It was therefore important for all States to accede to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

22. Stressing the need for an international treaty to control transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, he said that the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (adopted at Basel on 22 March 1989) was a positive development. States should enact national legislation to punish individuals engaging in unlawful operations that polluted the environment. In the same vein, African and other developing countries must refuse to allow their territories to be turned into dumping grounds by the developed world.

23. The disappearance of tropical forests, with the attendant irremediable loss of biological diversity, and desertification were other pressing problems. Governments had a duty to ensure that development went hand in hand with the preservation of the environment. Kenya had taken steps to protect its arable land from soil erosion and to reclaim marginal land. While those activities continued to enjoy government support at all levels, there was a need to mobilize external resources for continued assistance to African countries, particularly those bordering the Sahara Desert. Kenya also participated in efforts to protect the regional marine environment. It was the depositary of the convention and protocols concluded under the Eastern African regional seas programme and was making arrangements to ratify them.

24. In conclusion, President Moi said that international commitment was essential to solve environmental problems. At the same time, action was ultimately crucial at the national level: efforts to protect the environment would be successful, in the long run, if all people, particularly industrialists and farmers, were willing to adjust their operations and lifestyles appropriately. A whole new concept of obligation and duty had to be deployed on an international scale; global efforts must be fully mobilized to confront the possibility of total biological disaster; and priorities and attitudes must change with the times.

## CHAPTER II

### ADOPTION OF DECISIONS\*

#### Strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 15/1)

25. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May 1989, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.32).

26. The Executive Director said that the financial implications of the meetings of the Bureau of the Council with the bureaux of the counterpart organs of the specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations, proposed in section II, paragraph 5, of the draft decision, were estimated at \$60,000.

27. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

28. The representative of Japan said that his delegation had joined the consensus because his Government considered it important to strengthen the role of UNEP, which it would continue to support by providing funds and staff. He expressed the hope that the Fund target referred to in section V, paragraph 1, of the decision would be achieved as soon as possible, but said that Japan would have difficulty in increasing its annual contribution at the rate mentioned in section V, paragraph 2, of the decision.

29. The representative of Kenya said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the decision, but felt that paragraph 1 (b) of section IV of the decision should have included a reference to the supply of freshwater resources, as well as to their quality.

#### Implementation of resolutions and decisions of direct relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions and by the Economic and Social Council at its sessions in 1987 and 1988 (decision 15/2)

30. At the 14th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.37).

31. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

32. The representative of the United States of America made a statement on his delegation's interpretation of the final clause of the understanding of the Council with regard to the concept of "sustainable development", as contained in both annex I, paragraph 13, and annex II to the decision. It agreed that the concept of sustainable development did not in itself represent a new form of conditionality. As a provider of development assistance and participant in multilateral institutions providing development financing, the United States looked forward to

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\* For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its fifteenth regular session, see annex I to the present report.

working closely with developing countries in helping them to achieve sustainable development. In doing so, however, it would continue to press for changes in development project proposals in order to minimize any long-term impacts on the environment and would continue to oppose funding projects that, in the view of the United States, would result in unacceptable environmental damage. In the longer term, it hoped that there would be a fundamental evolution in development project proposals from developing countries, as they integrated the concept of sustainable development into their development policies and plans. Meanwhile, developing countries could anticipate vigorous negotiations with United States and other providers of development aid and financing over the funding of projects with significant potential environmental impacts. He wished to avoid any suggestion that the clause in question implied a change in those long-standing policies of the United States Government. He also noted with regret that the understanding of sustainable development that had been agreed upon omitted any reference to the involvement of the local community in decisions that affected it. The United States believed that the most effective environmental safeguards were those derived through a process of public participation, including local involvement and consent. It also felt that the concept of sustainable development had been explained at some length in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. The Council's definition lacked that report's nuances and caveats representing special concerns and might lead to a distortion of the useful concept which had been so carefully developed by the World Commission.

33. The representative of Switzerland said that he deplored any suggestion of confrontation in the dialogue between the donors and recipients of development assistance. He did, however, believe that it was essential to take account of environmental concerns in development activities and therefore supported the constructive comments of the representative of the United States.

34. The representative of Brazil said that the statement of the Governing Council on sustainable development constituted a positive step towards a more accurate definition of that concept. In his delegation's view, the imposition of conditionalities in aid or development financing by multilateral development institutions hampered the development process itself. Sustainable development would be achieved only through unimpeded financial flows to developing countries in order to combat poverty, the most cruel form of environmental degradation. His delegation had been pleased to hear the view expressed by the Executive Director, in his opening statement at the session, that sustainable development and conditionalities were incompatible. Brazil firmly believed that conditionalities must be abolished if the world was to embark upon a new path leading towards the protection of the environment through development.

35. Supporting the comments of the representative of Brazil, the representative of India said that his delegation considered that the local community, and not donors thousands of miles away, was the best judge of what was good for it.

36. The representative of Guyana said that his delegation also supported the comments of the representative of Brazil and regretted the conditionality that appeared to be implicit in the statement of the representative of the United States.

37. The representative of Mexico said that he, too, shared the views of the representative of Brazil: the imposition of conditionality in respect of sustainable development was contrary to the interests of developing countries.

United Nations conference on environment and development (decision 15/3)

38. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.28).

39. The President said that, following consultations, the Bureau had decided to change the words "United Nations conference on environment and development" in paragraph 1 of section B of the annex to the draft decision ("Elements to be considered for inclusion in a resolution by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development no later than 1990") to read "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", thus suggesting that that might be the title of the conference.

40. The draft decision, as orally revised, was adopted by consensus.

41. At the request of the representative of India, the Secretary explained that, in accordance with United Nations rules and practice, the phrasing of paragraph 6 of section B of the annex to the draft decision indicated that all States Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency should automatically be invited to participate as full members in each of the meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee for the conference.

42. The representative of the United States said that his delegation attached particular importance to paragraph 4 of section B of the annex to the decision. Only by concentrating on the issues set out in that paragraph could the conference promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in all countries. An appropriate title for the conference had been much debated, and his delegation had joined in the consensus on the proposed title on the understanding that the substance of the decision would not be changed to weaken the focus on the environment.

43. The representative of Kenya said that the comments he had made regarding section IV, paragraph 1 (b), of decision 15/1 also applied to paragraph 4 (b) of section B of the annex to decision 15/3.

Special session of the Governing Council in 1990 (decision 15/4)

44. At the 14th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by Greece, India, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland and the United States (UNEP/GC.15/L.38) and prepared on the basis of an earlier draft decision submitted and then withdrawn by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.34/Rev.2).

45. The Secretary explained that the costs of holding the proposed special session of the Council, which would have to be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations, would depend on the venue, which, according to paragraph 1 of the draft decision, would in turn depend on the General Assembly's decision as to the location of the first session of the preparatory committee for the proposed United Nations conference on environment and development. By way of example, he said that the financial implications of holding such a three-day special session were estimated at \$65,000, if it was held at Nairobi, \$307,000, if it was held at Geneva, and \$404,000, if it was held in New York.

46. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

47. The Executive Director said it was his understanding that the decision, as adopted by the Council, was in contradiction with the decision taken by Governments two years previously to hold biennial sessions, with special sessions held only to adopt the system-wide medium-term environment programmes. The present decision was tantamount to a request to revert to annual sessions. In any event, the decision would be transmitted to United Nations Headquarters with a request to the Secretary-General go include in the regular budget the funds required for the session, according to the figures the Secretary had provided.

48. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recalled that the delegations that had initiated the first, informal draft of a decision on a special session of the Council had agreed to omit any mention of the desirability of holding the session at the ministerial level on the understanding that the report on the work of the session would contain a specific remark to that effect.

49. Speaking in response to the statement of the Executive Director, the representative of the United States said that he had supported the decision on the understanding that it in no way indicated a wish on the part of the Council to revert to annual sessions.

Contribution of the Governing Council of UNEP to the preparation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (decision 15/5)

50. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.26).

51. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Economic crisis, foreign debt and the environment (decision 15/6)

52. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.36).

53. The draft decision was adopted without a vote.

54. The representative of the United Kingdom, supported by the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and the United States, said that his delegation was unhappy about the language of the operative part of the decision, since it considered that question of debt management should be pursued within other United Nations forums.

Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (decision 15/7)

55. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.23)

56. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 15/8)

57. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Group of Arab States (UNEP/GC.15/L.35).

58. At the request of the representative of the United States, a vote on the draft decision was taken by roll-call. The draft decision was adopted by 28 votes to 1, with 18 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela.

59. The observer for Spain, speaking in explanation of vote, on behalf of the States Members of the European Communities that are members of the Council, and on behalf of Switzerland, said that those countries had abstained in the vote because they believed that the decision touched on political issues that came within the purview of United Nations bodies other than UNEP. It was neither appropriate nor in the best interests of UNEP that the Governing Council should be burdened with political matters.

60. The representative of Canada said that her delegation understood the role of UNEP to be the discussion of key environmental issues falling within its mandate. The subject of the decision should be discussed in the appropriate forums.

61. The representative of Finland, on behalf of Sweden, said that Finland and Sweden had voted in favour of the decision, although it contained some elements that could be more appropriately handled by other United Nations bodies.

62. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that, although he had voted in favour of the decision, he wished to reiterate his delegation's reservation about the terms used to refer to the Zionist entity.

63. The representative of the United States said that he regretted the injection of political issues into United Nations technical bodies, such as the Governing Council. Furthermore, UNEP was not a technical assistance agency and should not be undertaking such activities as those called for in Governing Council decision 4/11. His delegation's position did not, however, imply indifference towards the economic and social welfare of the Palestinian people, which should be improved through bilateral and multilateral assistance agencies, and he was glad to note that, in conjunction with the World Health Organization, UNEP would participate in the project entitled "Training course on water supply, sanitation and health for



environmental health officers working with the Palestinian people". The United States endorsed the recommendation contained in paragraph 18 of the report of the Executive Director on the subject (UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.2), namely, that an apolitical programme in the occupied territories should be considered for implementation by UNDP, the nations and local leaders.

64. The representative of Uganda later informed the UNEP secretariat that his delegation had intended to vote in favour of the draft decision.

65. The representative of the Republic of Korea later informed the UNEP secretariat that, had his delegation had time to consult with its Government before the vote was taken, it would have voted in favour of the draft decision, as it had voted in favour of decision 14/11.

66. The representatives of Burundi and Senegal later informed the UNEP secretariat that had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of the draft decision.

International co-operation for the protection of mankind and the environment against the devastating effects of chemical and other weapons of mass destruction (decision 15/9)

67. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.33).

68. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

69. The representative of the United States said that his delegation had often expressed its aversion to the use of chemical weapons, but it was concerned about the time and effort that would be required to prepare the comprehensive report called for in paragraph 3 of the decision.

A United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance (decision 15/10)

70. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.29).

71. Some technical mistakes in subparagraph (b) of the operative part of the draft were orally corrected by the Secretary.

72. At the request of the Executive Director, the Bureau agreed to revise subparagraph (d) of the operative part of the draft decision by inserting the word "preliminary" before the word "results" and deleting the phrase "through the Economic and Social Council".

73. The draft decision, as orally revised, was adopted by consensus.

74. The Executive Director said that his understanding of subparagraph (d) was that he would provide an oral report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session as part of his introductory statement on the report of the Governing Council.

Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (15/11)

75. At the 11th meeting of the session, on 23 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.13).

76. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Provision of language facilities for meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (decision 15/12)

77. At the 12th meeting of its session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives. (UNEP/GC.15/L.8).

78. The Secretary said that the cost of providing full language services for meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was estimated at \$450,000 for the biennium, assuming that a total of eight meetings would be held in that period.

79. The draft decision was adopted without a vote.

80. The representative of the United States said that the decision proposed an injudicious allocation of scarce resources. If the draft decision had been put to the vote, his delegation would have voted against it, as it would do when the proposal was put to the General Assembly. A departure from the current practice for the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives would set a precedent for other organs that the United Nations could ill afford.

81. The representative of Japan associated himself with the views of the representative of the United States.

82. The representative of China said that his Government strongly believed that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, all six official and working languages of the Council should be treated equally at all formal UNEP meetings, including meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Any arrangement involving unequal treatment of the different official languages was unacceptable to the Chinese Government, which had made its views known on several occasions to the secretariat. The Chinese Government had also taken note that, owing to regular budgetary constraints, UNEP was considering a progressive reduction of staff: that process should not, however, be used as a reason for abolishing or reducing the staff of only certain language services. If, owing to budgetary constraints, the number of language staff had to be reduced, the staffing levels for all the official languages should be reduced in equal proportions.

State-of-the-environment reports (decisions 15/13 A to C)

83. At the 11th meeting of the session, on 23 May, the Council had before it three draft decisions on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.6, draft decisions A to C).

84. After hearing a summary by the Executive Director of the discussion under agenda item 6 (State-of-the-environment reports), the Council decided that the 1990

state-of-the environment report, referred to in paragraph 6 of draft decision A, should include additional sections on female children, on drugs and smoking, and on institutional structures for enhancing children's environment, and that, in his next report on emerging environmental issues, referred to in paragraph 3 of draft decision B, the Executive Director should provide a detailed elaboration of the issue of new technologies and a brief description of the issues of municipal waste, of plastics and of the ecological situation in the Arctic.

85. At the suggestion of the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Council approved the insertion of a new paragraph 4 in draft decision A and an amendment to the original paragraph 4 (a) of that draft decision.

86. At the suggestion of the representative of Chile, the Council approved an addition to paragraph 1 of draft decision C.

87. The draft decisions, with the additions approved by the Council and as orally amended at the suggestion of the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and Chile, were adopted by consensus.

#### The clearing-house function (decision 15/14)

88. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.24 and Corr.1).

89. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

#### The regional office system (decision 15/15)

90. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.30/Rev.1).

91. At the suggestion of the representative of Venezuela, the Council approved the insertion in paragraph 4 of the draft decision of the words "and Latin America and the Caribbean" after the word "Africa" and of the word "each" after "should".

92. The draft decision, as orally amended by the representative of Venezuela, was adopted.

#### Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (decision 15/16)

93. At the 12th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.15/L.27).

94. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

#### Decisions 15/17 to 15/41

95. Decisions 15/17 to 15/41 were adopted on the basis of draft texts submitted by the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.15/L.22 and Add.1 and 2 and Corr.1 and Add.3). Except as indicated below, the draft decisions were approved in the Committee and adopted by the Council at the 12th plenary meeting of the session, on 25 May, by consensus and without comment.

Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean (decision 15/17)

96. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group (UNEP/GC.15/GW/L.3).

Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (decision 15/18)

97. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Chairman (UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.5).

Preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in Western Asia (decision 15/19)

98. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.18).

Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1990-1991 (decision 15/20)

99. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee approved a draft decision on this subject, based on the suggested action by the Governing Council contained in the Executive Director's summary of the documentation before the Council under agenda item 8 (UNEP/GC.15/9).

System-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 (decision 15/21)

100. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.14).

Report of the Secretary-General on the effects on the environment of the dumping of nuclear wastes (decision 15/22)

101. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee approved a draft decision based on the suggested action by the Governing Council contained in the note by the Executive Director on this subject (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.6).

Desertification (decisions 15/23 A to D)

102. The Committee approved four draft decisions on this subject, including a draft resolution for submission to the General Assembly, contained in the annex to draft decision D, submitted by an ad hoc informal drafting group composed of the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States (UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.4).

103. After the adoption of the draft decisions in plenary, the representative of Kenya, commenting on paragraph 1 of decision 15/23 B, said that his delegation maintained the view that the United Nations Special Account to finance the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification should not be abolished and that it would be appropriate for the Governing Council to review the matter at its sixteenth regular session.

Sustainable agriculture (decision 15/24)

104. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Switzerland (UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.11).

Oil pollution of the Red Sea (decision 15/25)

105. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by Egypt, Jordan, the Sudan and Saudi Arabia (UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.12).

Plan of action for the surveillance, ecological assessment and clearance of war-related pollution, objects and wrecks in the sea area of the Kuwait Action Plan region (decision 15/26)

106. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by Kuwait (UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.7).

Precautionary approach to marine pollution, including waste-dumping at sea (decision 15/27)

107. The Committee approved a draft decision entitled "Precautionary approach to marine pollution" submitted by the representatives of Ghana and Italy (UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.9).

108. In plenary, the title of the draft decision was amended at the suggestion of the representatives of Kenya and the United States.

International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (decision 15/28)

109. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.12, draft decision E).

110. In plenary, the Council agreed to amend paragraph 5 of the revised objectives of the Register annexed to the draft decision, to read: "To facilitate the implementation of policies necessary for the exchange of information on chemicals in international trade".

List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance (decision 15/29)

111. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee approved a draft decision based on the suggested action by the Governing Council contained in the report of the Executive Director on this subject (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2/Supplement 3 and Corr.1).

Environmentally safe management of chemicals, in particular those that are banned and severely restricted, in international trade (decision 15/30)

112. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee approved a draft decision based on the suggested action by the Governing Council contained in the report of the Executive Director on this subject (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2/Supplement 3 and Corr.1).

International legal instruments in the field of the environment (decision 15/31)

113. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.17).

Shared natural resources and legal aspects of offshore mining and drilling (decision 15/32)

114. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.12, draft decision A).

Progress in the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes (decision 15/33)

115. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by Ghana, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.8).

Preparation of an international legal instrument on the biological diversity of the planet (decision 15/34)

116. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by Kenya, Norway, the Sudan and Sweden (UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.6).

Progress in the protection of the ozone layer (decision 15/35)

117. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee approved a draft decision based on the suggested action by the Governing Council contained in the report of the Executive Director on the subject (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.3), as amended by the representative of India.

118. In plenary, the representative of India, speaking in explanation of position, said that although he welcomed the spirit and intent of the Helsinki Declaration on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, referred to in paragraph 7 of the decision, he had reservations about its wording, as it left some doubts as to implications for developing countries. He also noted that the Declaration had been finalized at an informal meeting hosted by the Government of Finland and later noted at the First Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, at which his Government had been only an observer.

Global climate change (decision 15/36)

119. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by Canada, Egypt, Kenya, Malta, Senegal, Switzerland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom (UNEP/GC.15/CW/L.10).

120. In plenary, the tenth preambular paragraph of the draft Decision was amended at the suggestion of the representative of France.

121. Speaking in plenary in reference to paragraph 11 (d) of the draft decision, the representative of Canada said that, while he agreed that the stabilization of emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and the development of energy sources that did not emit greenhouse gases should be among the goals and objectives to be pursued, specifying them as a first step constituted an identification of priorities that the industrialized countries had yet to set. Nevertheless, given

the complex negotiations involved in drafting that paragraph, he had accepted the current wording of the text. The comments of the representative of Canada were supported by the representatives of Australia, Japan, Sweden and the United States.

122. The representative of India reiterated the reservations about the Helsinki Declaration that he had expressed in connection with decision 15/35.

Promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology (decision 15/37)

123. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.12, draft decision F).

Harmonization of environmental measurements (decision 15/38)

124. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.12, draft decision C).

Industrial accidents (decision 15/39)

125. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee approved a draft decision based on the suggested action by the Governing Council contained in the report of the Executive Director on this subject (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2/Supplement 3 and Corr.1).

INFOTERRA: The International Environmental Information System (decision 15/40)

126. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee approved a draft decision based on the suggested action by the Governing Council contained in the report of the Executive Director on this subject (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2/Supplement 3 and Corr.1).

Environmental impact assessment (decision 15/41)

127. The Committee approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.12, draft decision B).

Additional sources of funding (decision 15/42)

128. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 19 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.7).

129. The draft decision, as orally amended by the representatives of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States was adopted by consensus.

Trust funds (decision 15/43)

130. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 19 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.5).

131. The President introduced a number of additions to the text to take account of recent developments relating to trust funds.

132. The draft decision, with the additions introduced by the President and as orally amended by the representative of Mexico, was adopted by consensus.

The Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1986-1987 ended 31 December 1987 (decision 15/44)

133. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 19 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.9).

134. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Programme and programme support costs (decision 15/45)

135. At the 8th meeting of the session on 18 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.15).

136. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Management of the Environment Fund in the biennium 1988-1989 and use of resources in the period 1990-1993 (decision 15/46)

137. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 22 May, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Acting President (UNEP/GC.15/L.20).

138. The draft decision, as orally amended by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States, was adopted by consensus.



## CHAPTER III

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE FORTY-SECOND AND FORTY-THIRD SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

139. The Governing Council considered agenda items 4 and 5 concurrently at the 1st to 7th meetings of its session, in the course of a general discussion on the various policy issues raised in the documentation. For item 4, this comprised: a summary of the documentation under the item (UNEP/GC.15/2); chapters I and IV of the 1987 and 1988 annual reports of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/3 and 4); the introductory report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Supplement 1); the report of the Executive Director on the results of the external evaluation of the clearing-house (UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Supplement 1); the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of Governing Council decision 14/11 on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.2); the report of the Executive Director on the regional office system of UNEP (UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.3); and a letter dated 10 May 1989 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil and Venezuela and the Chargé d'Affaires of Colombia (UNEP/GC.15/L.3). For item 5, the documentation comprised: a summary of the documentation under the item (UNEP/GC.15/6); chapter IV of the 1987 and 1988 annual reports of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/3 and 4); a note by the Executive Director on the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the General Assembly and of the 1987 and 1988 sessions of the Economic and Social Council of direct relevance to UNEP (UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Supplement 1); a note by the Executive Director on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 (UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.2); notes by the Executive Director transmitting reports of United Nations governing bodies on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 (UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.3 and Supplements 1-12); and a note by the Executive Director transmitting the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development (UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.4).

140. In his opening statement at the 1st meeting of the Governing Council, the Executive Director stated that, since the Council's last regular session, environment had forced its way to the top of the international political agenda. At the forty-third session of the General Assembly, there had been four resolutions on the subject, even though environment as an item would not normally have figured on the agenda. At that session, President Gorbachev of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had expressed the view that environment and debt relief were as important to peace as arms reduction.

141. In 1989, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer had entered into force. During March, the London Ozone Conference took place, and a forceful statement was made at The Hague by 24 Governments, 17 of which had been represented by their Head of State or Government, on environment in general and global warming and ozone depletion in particular, and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted. In May, a strong declaration at Helsinki had committed Governments to phasing out, no later than the year 2000, the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that depleted the ozone layer, as well as to phasing out halons and other related substances as soon as feasible.

142. Nevertheless, signs of sustained and universal action were few. The debt burden of developing countries was inseparable from their ecological problems. At the same time, few of those countries allotted significant resources to environmental protection; yet, in all but the poorest nations, 90 per cent or more of development expenditure was domestically financed. Governments were lagging behind public opinion, in the South as well as the North. As never before, UNEP was critically placed to stimulate action and had the benefit of experience to guide it.

143. The agenda of the current session contained proposals to direct at least 75 per cent of the human and financial resources of UNEP to the priority areas listed in paragraph 6 of the introductory report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/5).

144. The findings of the United Nations cross-organizational programme analysis in 1988 had been disappointing. The impact of the Council's decisions in other governing bodies and forums of the system had to be enhanced. He was proposing measures that would give an expanded bureau or standing body an active role, particularly between sessions of the Council.

145. The year 1992 should become the target for a range of specific actions: it was not just a question of approving arrangements for a United Nations conference in that year. He proposed:

(a) Agreement on targets for the following 10 years and modalities for their implementation;

(b) Conclusion of a framework convention and protocol on climate change;

(c) Discussion of new ideas for securing proper protection of the environment and management of its resources;

(d) Appropriate institutional changes within the United Nations system;

(e) Assigning the Council responsibility to deal with security and the environment, with a properly funded mechanism for dealing with environmental emergencies;

(f) Preparation of a thorough plan for raising additional resources for environmental protection by, for example, innovative taxation and diversion of resources through disarmament and debt initiatives.

146. The Executive Director expressed concern over the issue of conditionality in the context of sustainable development, which was the subject of General Assembly resolutions adopted at the forty-second and forty-third sessions, the follow-up to which was to be considered by the Council. He was certain that the Council shared his concern and looked to it for a clear, unanimous statement that sustainable development did not and should not imply unwarranted interference with the sovereign right of countries to direct their own development.

147. A truly significant increase in the resources made available to UNEP, which, until recently, had been declining in real terms, was the most obvious test of serious intent by Governments to meet the environmental challenges. In the supplement to his introductory report (UNEP/GC.15/5/Supplement 1), the

Executive Director had explained why he felt that contributions to the Environment Fund should be raised from an estimated \$40 million in 1989 to \$100 million in 1997, which implied an average annual rate of increase of 35 per cent. He had listed a supplementary programme of Fund activities costing \$35 million, the minimum needed to initiate actions which Governments had indicated that they required from UNEP.

148. He remained confident that, given a scientifically sound understanding of the symbiosis between people and their environment, a global effort could reverse the flood-tide of environmental destruction. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had recognized the central place of the environmental issue. UNEP sought approval of the agenda from the Council and guidance on how best to carry it out.

A. Key issues, nature of the role of UNEP and measures to enhance its effectiveness

1. Environment as a world issue and the performance of UNEP of its role

149. A large number of representatives noted that the environment had become a major world issue and that, as a result, there were a number of significant developments in the field of environment, in which UNEP had played an active role. One representative, referring to the conclusion of international agreements, described the preceding two years as very successful.

150. A number of representatives expressed their views on the performance of UNEP of its role, as characterized by the four "Cs" of conceptualization, co-ordination, catalysis and codification. One representative said that UNEP had shown strength in promoting conventions and several others expressed similar views. Another observed that, although UNEP had achieved much of importance in conceptualization and in the legal field, there had undoubtedly been difficulties in its co-ordinating and catalytic role, which would be overcome if it was provided with facilities to act in those fields. One representative considered that UNEP was good at focusing attention on global concerns, but that it did not lay enough stress on country and regional programmes. Several representatives regarded one of the main functions of UNEP as co-ordination with the specialized agencies; one representative said that the proposed 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development should consider whether UNEP should be given increased authority in its co-ordinating mission. Another representative described the task of UNEP as identifying gaps and overlaps in the United Nations system, as well as co-ordination. Other representatives felt that the main role of UNEP lay in assisting the developing countries. One of them stressed the UNEP function of streamlining co-operation between developed and developing countries, particularly by funding mechanisms and transfer of technology schemes. Other representatives mentioned the importance of monitoring and dissemination of information.

## 2. Concentration on priority issues

151. Most representatives expressed agreement with the areas of concentration contained in the Executive Director's introductory report. One representative considered that land degradation and the supply and quality of freshwater should precede the atmospheric issue. Another stated that activities relating to nature and conservation were rather underrepresented, adding that the Executive Director should establish a coherent action programme for vulnerable ecosystems, in which tropical forests and wetlands received priority.

152. One representative emphasized that sustainable development needed to be put at the top of the priority list of all countries. Another said that, while his Government agreed that UNEP should allocate its limited resources mainly to priority projects, it should not totally neglect non-priority items such as industrial pollution and degradation of nature in developing countries. Several representatives expressed the opinion that consideration should be given to whether priority issues could best be dealt with at the global or regional level. Another representative called for an appropriate division of environment-related tasks among United Nations bodies.

## 3. Enhancing UNEP effectiveness

153. There was general agreement about the desirability of enhancing the effectiveness of UNEP. Some representatives mentioned the need for UNEP to acquire a greater status within the United Nations family. One representative stated that, for that reason, his Government supported the Executive Director's proposal to institutionalize an expanded bureau as a kind of standing executive committee. Other representatives also supported the latter proposal, but some were of the opinion that it did not constitute the best solution. One representative considered that the agreement was too cumbersome to serve the sole function of maintaining contact with the bureaux of other United Nations organs. Two other representatives wondered whether use might be made of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Still others thought that annual meetings of the Council would be a more effective solution. One representative pointed out that the Council's decision to meet once every two years had been taken very recently, as a result of the critical financial situation of the United Nations.

154. The same representative said that he was reluctant to adopt the Executive Director's proposal that two days of the session of the Council should be devoted to considering specific sectors, such as energy, in conjunction with the ministers responsible for those fields; such meetings would not lead to any effective decision-making. He also thought that the Council had no role to play in settling environmental disputes. His Government would prefer that function to be undertaken by the International Court of Justice.

155. One representative said that, in order to strengthen UNEP, stronger political guidance was required. He therefore supported the proposals for shortening the sessions of the Council and concentrating on policy issues. Several representatives pointed out that the sessions must be attended by ministers, who were the decision makers. Two representatives pointed out the importance of staff in connection with enhancing UNEP effectiveness. One of them, noting that an analysis of that aspect was missing from the Executive Director's introductory report, stated that the professional capacity of the staff must match the

importance paid to world environmental issues. He said that his Government was prepared to make available additional staff members. The other representative stressed the need to apply the principle of equitable geographical distribution to staff recruitment, as that would help UNEP in effective policy planning and management.

156. One representative referred to the problem of effective urgent response to environmental emergency situations, which were occurring with greater frequency. His Government had already proposed, for discussion at the current session, the creation of a centre for urgent environmental assistance. It would involve minimum additional demands on the regular budget and would not require any substantive change in the secretariat structure. A number of representatives expressed their interest in the proposal.

157. The same representative also referred to his Government's proposal to set up an international environmental control space laboratory or manned orbital station as part of a global and comprehensive environmental monitoring and control system.

#### 4. Training and technical co-operation

158. On the subject of sound technologies, one representative suggested that the development and adoption of environmentally appropriate and affordable technologies was a bottle-neck for developing countries. Another representative said that, as alternative technologies were developed, they must be put at the disposal of developing countries by effective arrangements for their transfer. She further stated that an international institute was being set up in her country to promote the development of environmentally sound technology and she hoped that it would provide a valuable contribution to the efforts being made to disseminate such technologies. A third representative, who observed that his Government had adopted the protection of the environment as one of its three highest priorities, along with housing and nutrition, said that unrestricted exchange of environmentally sound technologies, licences and experience should assist in halting environmental degradation. He praised the initiative of the preceding speaker's Government in establishing the International Institute for Environmentally Sound Technology and expressed his country's interest in participating in its activities.

159. One representative said that UNEP could devote greater efforts to training officials from developing countries. In this connection, another representative said that his country had since 1977 provided a 10-month post-graduate course for approximately 200 experts from developing countries. The course was constantly adapted to their needs, in co-operation with UNEP and UNESCO.

160. One representative expressed the view that UNEP activity in the sphere of pollution control was adapted mainly to sophisticated modern industries that produced manufactured goods; however, most countries in the South Asian region had agro-based industrial units. He suggested that UNEP might frame programmes with special reference to agro-based and rural industries. Another representative said that, while he endorsed the proposal by one country to establish an international environmental control space laboratory, he was himself looking for money to buy thermometers, rain gauges and other instruments in order to establish agro-meteorological weather stations. One representative called on UNEP to make greater efforts to provide hardware and software to developing countries.

## 5. Environmental activities at the national and regional level

161. A number of representatives gave some description of the recent development of environmental measures, both institutional and legislative, in their countries and of the major programmes initiated by their Governments. One representative regretted that most development projects funded by bilateral and multilateral lending agencies - even by the United Nations - still did not undergo environmental assessment. However, the accounts given by representatives from countries at various stages of development seemed to indicate that the situation was improving. Several representatives reported that their national environmental units had been upgraded to ministries and that environment assessment procedures had been or were being adopted. Several representatives reported action taken or proposed at the national level for sustainable development. Many representatives gave examples of participation in regional or subregional projects. Some representatives called for specific subregional activity relating to the Black Sea and to the Yellow Sea. One representative stated that, in 1990, his country would host an international conference on the environmental management of enclosed coastal seas.

162. Representatives from a wide variety of countries described their concern at the common threat that the level of the seas would rise, owing to global warming, with results ranging from very serious to catastrophic.

163. A number of representatives described measures to increase public awareness of environmental problems through education and publicity. One pointed out that the implementation of any scientific measures to halt environmental degradation needed strong political will and social acceptance; unless people were fully motivated to participate actively and were direct beneficiaries of conservation activities, no effort in that field was meaningful. A number of representatives said that in their countries environmental topics were treated in text books at primary, secondary and university level. One representative said that two national universities had introduced degree courses in environmental studies and one of them offered post-graduate and doctorate degrees.

## 6. International environmental law

164. A considerable amount of attention was paid by representatives to recent developments in international environmental law. Repeated references were made to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol thereto, the Helsinki Declaration, the Declaration of The Hague, and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Many representatives announced that their Governments had signed the Montreal Protocol and Basel Convention and enumerated the list of other environmental conventions and agreements to which they adhered. A number paid tribute to the crucial assistance of UNEP in the relevant negotiations. Several representatives pointed out that, while it was encouraging that the developing countries had become involved in global environmental issues, more developed countries had the duty to assist them in the implementation of their obligations under international treaties and conventions. In that connection, one of those representatives quoted principle (d) of the Declaration of The Hague, which read "... countries to which decisions taken to protect the atmosphere shall prove to be an abnormal or special burden, in view, inter alia, of the level of their development and actual responsibility for the deterioration of the atmosphere,

shall receive fair and equitable assistance to compensate them for bearing such burden ..." (A/44/340-E/1989/120, annex).

165. The representative of Norway recalled her Government's offer to contribute 0.1 per cent of its gross national product or about \$100 million a year to an international climate fund under the auspices of the United Nations, provided that matching contributions were made by other industrialized countries. She said that such a fund would support the developing countries in fulfilling the requirements of international agreements, for example, by facilitating the transfer of technology, the development of alternative technical solutions and alternative forms of energy, technical assistance and sustainable use of tropical forests. The Declaration of The Hague also recommended the creation within the United Nations of an international environmental authority. The Government of Norway supported judicial settlements of disputes and questions of compensation in connection with transboundary pollution and contravention of international environmental agreements.

166. The representative of the Netherlands announced that his Government was ready to contribute up to a maximum of 250 million guilders (approximately \$US 125 million) to a world climate fund when such a fund was established. He also said that the body envisaged by the Declaration of The Hague could be an environmental authority or council comparable in political influence and prestige to the Security Council. There would have to be mechanisms for monitoring and control, with access to scientific advice and an inspectorate to verify compliance with standards. In that way, there might be two environmental bodies within the United Nations system, each with its own mandate. One representative suggested that it might be desirable to involve one of the main United Nations bodies, such as the Security Council, in environmental conservation machinery. The proposed 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development might study the possibility of establishing a small committee of the Security Council to deal with the environment. An international environment fund to assist the developing countries with environmentally sound and resource-saving technologies might be established by using the savings resulting from arms limitation and disarmament measures. Another representative said that his delegation deplored the proliferation of international organs without careful consideration. His Government welcomed international legal instruments that defined the responsibilities of States parties, but it wished to be assured that instruments were provided with the authority and resources to make them effective.

167. There were a number of suggestions for new conventions. The instrument that most representatives regarded as a priority matter was a framework convention on climate change, modelled perhaps on the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

168. Another proposal that had support was for a legally binding code of conduct in environmental matters. One of its supporters said that a prerequisite for international economic order and sustainable development was an international moral order. Other suggestions were: an umbrella convention on biological diversity; a convention on deforestation; and an international convention on energy. One representative proposed the formulation of an agreement on woodlands by a working group to be established by the Governing Council at its current session. The group would be asked to submit proposals to the Council at its next session. It had been observed earlier by one representative that two crucial sectors in which profound changes were necessary were energy and transportation, but concerted action on both was hampered by the fact that there was no strong United Nations body with wide

coverage in those fields. Another representative stressed the need to review existing international agreements and, where necessary, complete or strengthen or replace them. There was some feeling that the Montreal Protocol required amendment. Another representative suggested that UNEP should consider framing workable environmental law and guidelines for regional co-operation in the management of shared riparian resources.

169. Responding to some of the comments made during the debate, the Executive Director said that there had been no dissent from the view that UNEP's role should be strengthened even with the prospect of possible institutional changes after 1992 within the United Nations system in respect of global environment problems. There had been general support for the six areas of concentration he had set out in his introductory report, subject to the introduction, under conservation of biological diversity, of the issue of biotechnology and its environmental impacts. A number of developing countries, particularly in the Latin American and Caribbean region, had stressed UNEP's role in developing mechanisms for transferring resources and technology to developing countries. He recommended that those two elements should be included in the draft decision on technical co-operation which was being discussed in the informal negotiating group.

170. He said that a number of representatives had supported the idea of an expanded bureau or standing committee to act for the Governing Council between sessions. However, one representative had wondered whether the Committee of Permanent Representatives might function as an intersessional body and another representative had put forward the idea of an extra session of the Council to be held in 1990. He could state categorically that an extra session would be considerably more expensive than the use of an expanded bureau, particularly if at the outset the latter's role was confined to contracts with the bureaux of other United Nations bodies. Furthermore, it was only two years since the Council itself had recommended biennial sessions and a special session once every six years to adopt the system-wide medium-term environmental programme. A request for a special session would have to be submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for approval by the General Assembly of a supplementary appropriation. Given the current financial situation of the United Nations, he feared that such approval would be difficult to obtain. As far as the Committee of Permanent Representatives was concerned, he did not feel that it was its role to go as representatives of the Council for discussions with the bureaux of other United Nations organs at the ministerial level. There had been strong support for postponing to the second week of the session the meetings of the Governing Council at the ministerial level, when the bureau for the biennium would be elected, the first week being devoted to committee work on programme and financial matters.

171. The Executive Director was gratified to learn that several Governments intended to establish national committees. The Governing Council might issue a further appeal to States on the matter.

172. The Executive Director then referred to several other issues that had been raised in the discussion. The first was the proposed global convention on climate, about which he hoped agreement was close. However, he reminded the Council that General Assembly resolution 43/53 on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind required that the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and the Executive Director of UNEP, utilizing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, prepare a comprehensive review covering, inter alia, elements for inclusion in a possible future international convention on



climate. As a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the Council must bear in mind during negotiations that it must function within that directive. He hoped that further consideration would be given to the world climate fund which had been proposed by Norway, either forthwith or at any rate in 1992. Mention had been made of a convention on genetic resources and the Federal Republic of Germany had suggested the establishment of a working group to formulate an international agreement on forests and woodlands. An international environment and development fund had also been suggested. Some of those matters might be included on the agenda for the 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development, but others, such as a climate convention and a convention on genetic resources, might be further discussed at the current session of the Governing Council.

173. Apart from suggestions for preparing a convention on climate or a code of environmentally appropriate conduct for adoption at the 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development, there had been emphasis on a stronger environmental authority to deal with major global environmental problems. It was for consideration whether that body should be an existing organ transformed or a new institution. Other suggestions had been the creation of an environment emergency centre and an outer space laboratory for environmental monitoring. One of the recommendations in his introductory report (UNEP/GC.15/5, paragraph 14 (e)) had been that the Governing Council might use its good offices to avoid international disputes on environmental issues. However, the resolution of conflict situations was another matter and it had been suggested that the appropriate body was either the Security Council or the International Court of Justice, subject to some appropriate formula.

174. One representative, responding to the Executive Director's comments, asked him to continue to explore the idea of an environmental authority. He also considered that UNEP should begin preparations for the formulation of a climate convention immediately. Another representative said that negotiations should only begin once the scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had published their findings. However, the Executive Director pointed out that, unless the Governing Council gave him precise instructions on the matter at the current session, no other opportunity would arise until the next session of the Council in 1991.

#### B. Financial resources of the Environmental Fund

175. There was general recognition in the Governing Council that, whatever might be done to increase UNEP effectiveness, the need for increased funding was inescapable. The representatives of Australia, Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Soviet Union informed the Council that their Governments were presently considering an increase in their contributions to the Fund. Many representatives stated that their Government had already increased their contributions to the Environment Fund. The representatives of Bulgaria, France and Japan indicated that their Governments would increase their contribution in the future. The representative of Finland announced that his Government would increase its Fund contribution in 1990 by 50 per cent compared with the present level. The representative of Malta stated that his country intended to double its current contribution. The representative of the Netherlands indicated annual increases in contributions leading to a doubling of its present contributions by 1994 and said that he was willing to consider the doubling to be reached by 1992. The representative of Switzerland informed the Council that, as long ago as 1987, his

Government had decided to double its contribution by 1991. A number of representatives considered the \$100 million target to be realistic.

176. Many representatives, from both developed and developing countries, emphasized that the responsibility lay mainly with developed countries to increase their contributions.

177. As to other funding, the representative of Norway stated that her Government was ready to provide initial funding for a three-year period to build up a Nordic GRID monitoring system in Norway. The representative of Switzerland said that his Government was ready to give substantial support to programmes that would aid developing countries, particularly in the framework of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, the secretariat of the Basel Convention and GRID. At the same time, one representative observed that the very success of the machinery of trust funds for specific purposes which matched national priorities might possibly prevent some countries from making larger contributions to the Environment Fund. Another representative expressed the view that specific action programmes with targets might bring forth more contributions to trust funds, adding that the growing number of specific funds for conventions, activities related to climatic warming and so on suggested that UNEP should provide a measure of co-ordination in such matters.

178. The representative of Austria announced that his country was considering increasing its contribution to specific UNEP programmes.

179. Two representatives said that the employment of contributions in local currencies in regional co-operation activities - a mechanism under study in Latin America and the Caribbean - might prove more feasible for developing countries at the present juncture than direct contributions to the Fund.

180. One representative viewed with concern the increasing tendency of some developed countries to provide economic support through bilateral rather than multilateral channels.

181. One representative proposed that a proportion of the debt-servicing obligations of developing countries, as well as the debts themselves, should be converted into payment of contributions to various environment funds of UNEP.

182. Responding to the statements made by representatives, the Executive Director noted that there was general support for increasing the resources of UNEP and that several representatives had made a definite commitment to double or substantially increase their contributions by 1992 or earlier. Many representatives had considered the target of \$100 million to be realistic. The Governing Council might wish to endorse the target figure in principle and decide that the additional resources for 1990-1991 should be used in accordance with the proposals contained in the supplement to his introductory report (UNEP/GC.15/5/Supplement 1). If the Council so wished, an accompanying decision might request the Executive Director to consult the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the use of the additional resources, as and when they become available, in accordance with the Executive Director's recommended additional programmes.

**C. A 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development**

183. The majority of representatives expressed support for the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992, although one representative cautioned against diverting resources or delaying action that had to be taken before 1992. A number of views were expressed regarding the preparatory committee, some representatives favouring an open-ended Governing Council, while others preferred an independent intergovernmental committee. Several representatives stated that regional meetings and reports should form an important part of the preparatory process. Many representatives emphasized the need to involve other United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and industry both in the preparatory process and in the conference itself. One representative proposed that an ad hoc secretariat should be set up under the leadership of an official directly appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General.

184. A wide variety of topics were proposed for discussion at the conference. A number of representatives mentioned the strengthening of the role of UNEP and other United Nations bodies in promoting environmental co-operation. One representative referred to the future role of UNEP. Several proposed the establishment of an ecological security council and an emergency centre for environmental assistance, while one representative mentioned supra-national mechanisms for the protection of the environment and future developments in the international co-operation structure and another representative the monitoring and forecasting of ecological disasters. A number of representatives suggested a code of environmental conduct and others a definition of environmental responsibility. The same representatives mentioned modalities of funding and another representative suggested the establishment of an environment fund financed by savings on armaments. One representative mentioned the transfer of technology, increasing public awareness, and the planning, management and evaluation of the environment. Another representative supported the dissemination of safe and resource-saving techniques. The following topics were each mentioned by one representative: promotion of the concept of sustainable development; the additional economic resources required for that concept; the effect of indebtedness on the environment; a new economic order as an indispensable requirement if developing countries were to implement effective, comprehensive policies; and ecological security through peace, disarmament, development and co-operation. One representative said that he saw the conference as an opportunity to redefine each country's responsibilities in the environmental field and to establish effective mechanisms to help developing countries. Some representatives expressed the hope that the conference would adopt concrete action plans and specific time-bound targets. It was hoped that the conference might prove a breakthrough by the United Nations system towards environmentally sound and sustainable development.

185. Several titles were proposed for the conference, namely: conference on the ecological effect on mankind; conference on society and nature on the eve of the twenty-first century; conference on sustainable development; United Nations conference on ecological security; and the second United Nations conference on the human environment. Two representatives supported the candidature of Brazil as the venue for the conference, while another representative proposed that it should take place in the region of Asia and the Pacific.

186. Responding to comments made on the proposed 1992 conference on environment and development, the Executive Director noted that General Assembly resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988 assigned specific tasks to the Governing Council. It was invited to submit through the Economic and Social Council its views on the objectives, content and scope of the conference. It might also comment on the date, venue, title and financial implications. The preamble to Assembly resolution 43/196 provided ample scope for the conference to deal with specific objectives. In their views, members of the Council had laid more emphasis on the environment and management of natural resources than on development as such. But environmental concerns could not be discussed in a vacuum, only within the wider context of the whole development process, with the constraints currently impeding that process, particularly in the third world. It did not appear that there was any wish to turn the 1992 conference into a conference on trade or debt problems, even though it was clearly understood that the debts of developing countries were crippling their development and bad practices in international trade were destroying their ability to protect the environment or use their natural resources properly. Nevertheless, the purpose of the 1992 conference was to consider the rehabilitation of the planet Earth. It was evident from many statements that there was common concern in such areas as climate change and water resources, the need for institutional changes in the United Nations system and at the national level, as well as the necessity of finding environmentally sound technology.

187. There had been several references to the desirability of an open-ended Governing Council constituting the preparatory body for the 1992 conference, with its own rules of procedure and bureau, so that it bore no resemblance to the Governing Council as such. In that way the Council, as the authoritative body on environmental matters, could give a lead to the preparatory committee. The Council should indicate how many meetings the preparatory committee would require: three or four meetings would appear appropriate. It should also consider the desirability of preparations at the national level and at the regional level through the regional economic commissions. It was probable that not more than five regional meetings would be required in 1990-1991 on the lines of the joint UNEP/ESCAP and UNEP/ECA meetings in connection with the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Stress should be laid on the participation of non-governmental organizations and the scientific community in the preparatory process. Furthermore, Governments and the secretariat strongly supported the involvement of the United Nations system as a whole through an inter-agency mechanism, in view of their long experience of environmental matters.

188. In addition to the General Assembly's suggested title of conference on environment and development, a number of other titles had been proposed for the conference, including sustainable development, society and nature on the eve of the twenty-first century, ecological effects on mankind, global environment and economic recovery, second United Nations conference on human environment, United Nations planet earth assembly and healing the planet earth United Nations conference. He left it to the informed negotiating group to find a title which conveyed urgency and a wider spectrum than the environment.

189. As for the date of the conference, since the Governing Council itself was the creation of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972, perhaps no date could be more appropriate for the end of the conference than 5 June, the twentieth anniversary of the Stockholm Conference.

190. Turning to the question of the secretariat of the conference, he said that he could not agree with the Secretary-General's proposal for a divided secretariat. The preparations for a conference of such magnitude required a secretariat established in one place, and the Governing Council had shown support for a strong secretariat with a separate identity. A single person must be appointed, at the Under-Secretary-General level as in all previous United Nations conferences, to act as Secretary-General of the conference, with entire responsibility both for financing and substance of the meeting, again in accordance with United Nations tradition. He or she should be directly accountable to the United Nations Secretary-General.

191. In responding to the Executive Director's remarks and to the proposals with regard to the 1992 conference that he subsequently circulated, a number of representatives endorsed the proposal that an open-ended Governing Council should serve as the intergovernmental preparatory committee for that 1992 Conference and should meet in 1990. Some representatives also emphasized the importance of involving United Nations specialized agencies and regional conferences in the preparatory work. One representative considered that a General Assembly committee of the whole should serve as the preparatory committee and should meet in New York, where all United Nations States Members could take part. Several representatives drew attention to a need for a strong secretariat under an independent Secretary-General directly responsible to the United Nations Secretary-General. One representative stated the need for a strong and independent secretariat should be emphasized to the General Assembly. Another representative expressed a preference for Geneva as the site of the secretariat.

192. One representative said that sustainable and environmentally sound development should be the main theme of the conference, while others considered that the objectives proposed by the Executive Director were too narrowly defined and one representative proposed that topics such as the role of the International Court of Justice in relation to environmental issues and the establishment of an environmental fund financed by savings from disarmament should also be discussed. It was stressed that the conference should involve ministries other than environment ministries and that it should provide an opportunity for co-operation rather than confrontation. Two representatives, referring to the Executive Director's proposal regarding the establishment of an international financing facility, said that they could not commit themselves to any specific formula on debt management at the present stage. With regard to the conference's title, one representative and one observer were in favour of "second United Nations conference on the human environment", while other representatives preferred "United Nations conference on environment and development".

193. While one representative specifically proposed that the conference should be held at Nairobi, others stated more generally that it should take place in a developing country, preferably in an established United Nations conference centre. There was general agreement with the dates proposed by the Executive Director, namely, 25 May to 5 June 1992.

#### D. Environmentally sound and sustainable development

194. A number of representatives emphasized that sustainable development could be achieved only if existing economic discrepancies were eliminated and two representatives stressed that the main cause of environmental problems was

poverty. Many representatives stressed that the debt crisis in developing countries constituted a major obstacle to protection of the environment and one representative drew attention to the fact that, overburdened by huge external debts, developing countries were compelled to overexploit their resources in order to service those debts. He proposed that a proportion of the debt-servicing obligations of developing countries, as well as the debts themselves, be converted into contributions to various environmental funds. One representative expressed the hope that realistic assistance to developing countries would match the expensive solutions to environmental problems being formulated in the developed world. Concern was also expressed by some countries at the imposition of conditionalities by multilateral financing institutions.

195. It was noted that there was growing awareness of the global nature of the environment, and several representatives stressed the need for international environmental co-operation so that each partner could make a contribution to the best of its ability, with the stronger partners helping the weaker to achieve their common objective. Another representative pointed out that, for poorer countries, the environment was a priority that came after the fulfilment of minimum needs. A large number of countries expressed the view that countries where pollution and hazardous wastes originated should assume the major part of the burden in combating pollution and disposing of waste.

196. Several representatives drew attention to the relationship between environmental problems and security, emphasizing the danger to the environment posed by vast arsenals of nuclear weapons.

197. A number of representatives emphasized the need to increase public awareness of environmental problems and described the activities being carried out in their countries to that end.

198. Attention was drawn to the declarations on the environment adopted by Latin American countries, which focused on the rejection of external interference, the reaffirmation of sovereignty, the need to reconcile environmental protection and economic and social development imperatives, expansion of international co-operation and a solution to the external debt problem.

199. One representative emphasized the need to revise without delay the system-wide medium-term environment programme so as to reflect the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Another representative drew attention to the need to prevent environmental damage, which was less costly than repairing it.

200. In response to the comments on sustainable development, the Executive Director noted that it was the subject least addressed by delegations. Nevertheless, as he had observed in his opening statement, it was essential for the Governing Council to clear the air by adopting a decision plainly stating that sustainable development did not and should not imply infringement of the sovereign right of any country to direct its own development. In default of such a statement, there would be continued controversy in other United Nations forums over the issue of conditionality. The Council might take as a basis for its draft statement the proposed recommendations and comments to the General Assembly on sustainable development contained in his note on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 (UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.2).

#### E. Results of the external evaluation of the clearing-house

201. Introducing his report on the results of the external evaluation of the clearing-house (UNFP/GC.15/5/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Supplement 1), the Executive Director said that his recommendations on the clearing-house mechanism, broadly speaking, endorsed those made by the three senior consultants who had carried out the external evaluation as requested in Governing Council decision 14/6. 3/ The supplement to his report presented the findings of two field missions that had been undertaken subsequent to the discussions at UNEP headquarters, since the evaluators had observed a lack of direct contact in the field. The final paragraph of that document confirmed their earlier recommendations.

202. One representative stated that there had been consensus in the general debate on the need for a massive transfer of technologies and resources to the developing countries; that that was the essential purpose of the clearing-house function and that it was of growing importance. Donors were responding better to requests for assistance in various forms and the clearing-house mechanism should reinforce that trend. Several other representatives agreed that the operation of the clearing-house should be further developed and considerably strengthened. Several representatives supported the recommendation of the external evaluation, which the Executive Director had endorsed, to re-examine the distribution of tasks between the Clearing-house Unit and other elements of the UNEP secretariat. One of them said that he would like to study the terms of reference of the Unit following the redistribution of tasks. As to finance, it would be best to seek bilateral aid to bring about the strengthening of the clearing-house.

203. Another representative stated that training was a crucial problem for developing countries, the lack of which impeded the creation of environmental institutions. The catalytic role of those institutions required knowledge of technologies, which the clearing-house enabled them to obtain. He was concerned about the effect of a proposal to redistribute functions away from the Clearing-house Unit and considered that further justification was needed for that recommendation.

204. Replying to some of the comments on the clearing-house mechanism, the Executive Director said it was evident that it was growing in importance and served to strengthen the role of UNEP, but it was also important to make use of the technical capacity available throughout the United Nations system. With regard to the necessary financial resources, it had always been his policy to devote money to programmes rather than to people working in offices, so that he appealed to Governments to second senior, well qualified staff.

#### F. The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

205. The Executive Director drew the attention of the Council to the introduction to his report on the implementation of Governing Council decision 14/11 on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.2), which explained the circumstances in which the material for the report had been collected, and emphasized that the Government of Israel had not been involved officially. The full report by the consultant was available, upon request, to any Government that so desired.

206. The observer for Palestine said that the report of the Executive Director was in contradiction with the true facts. The consultant had been unable to make a proper study, because of the restrictions placed on him and the manipulated official statistics with which he had been fed. Furthermore, the situation in the Golan Heights and the south of Lebanon was not covered at all in the report. The Executive Director should not rely on the report he had received from the consultant; he should organize an official UNEP visit instead.

207. The speaker added that the environmental situation was deteriorating due to Israeli occupation and that the Israeli forces engaged in cruel and inhuman practices. Since the beginning of the intifadah, large numbers of Palestinians had been detained in camps, others had been evicted to Jordan and Lebanon, in violation of international codes and human rights, homes had been deliberately destroyed and the remaining population lived in intolerable conditions. In the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, olive and citrus trees and agricultural produce had been destroyed, land confiscated for Israeli use and wells poisoned. As was well known, Israel possessed nuclear plants and weapons and remained outside international control of its atomic wastes. The situation had been fully documented by international news agencies, and ministers for foreign affairs of several countries had witnessed what was happening. He called on the international community to put an end to those practices and the Governing Council to condemn them.

208. Many representatives supported the suggestion by the observer that the report of the Executive Director should not be approved and that he should be asked to send an official committee to investigate the situation. One representative reminded the Council of the statement made by another representative that the environment and peace were indissoluble. The matter was serious and important. He could agree with the suggestion that the report of the Executive Director needed to be reconsidered. Another representative stated that a more comprehensive report was needed, since the report before the Council represented only one point of view, which should be integrated into a larger report that presented other views as well.

209. One representative said that the Governing Council had not met to discuss the Arab-Israel conflict and the intifadah. The latter had contributed to environmental degradation by setting fire to forests in Israel. He insisted that no other army in the world would have shown greater restraint in the face of provocation. The Council should appreciate that, during the last two decades, Samaria and the Gaza Strip had seen improvements in health and desertification had been rolled back, flora and fauna had been protected and safe drinking water made extensively available. In many respects, as stated in the report, the state of the environment was better there than in some industrialized parts of Israel. The Government of Israel deserved praise for the environmental action it had taken over the years. He hoped that peace would soon be restored to that troubled area.

210. Another representative said that the Council should take fully into account the constraints which the Executive Director had faced in preparing his report. The methods adopted by Israeli forces had had a devastating effect on the environment and his delegation could not agree with much in the report. He thought it would be better, however, to assemble a neutral group of people to make further investigations, after which the Council could continue its discussion on the question.

211. The observer for the League of Arab States supported the suggestion that an official visit should be organized.



212. Another representative reminded the Council that his delegation had not been in favour of decision 14/11 but had joined the consensus. The report submitted by the Executive Director stated what had been found during the visit. His Government deplored the introduction of politics into the deliberations of the Council. Although UNEP was not a technical assistance agency, his Government was glad that a joint UNEP/WHO project was under implementation in the areas. He supported the Executive Director's proposals for action by the Council. He noted that the term "occupied territories" was to be interpreted as reflecting the situation created in 1968.

213. The observer for Palestine, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, pointed out that the United States and Western European Governments were now holding meetings with Yasser Arafat, who did not give orders for actions such as burning forests. Intifadah was a legitimate activity. Peace-loving forces in Tel Aviv had been demonstrating against the Israeli Government, and the Palestinians sought a just peace.

214. The representative of Israel, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that a dangerous precedent would be created if the Governing Council were to ask UNEP to prepare more and more reports on the same subject. The Council should adopt the Executive Director's report without modification.

215. Responding to comments on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, the Executive Director stated that the "tourist" was the Head of the Friends of UNEP Committee in the United States of America. He pointed out that UNEP was not competent to send any person or persons to an occupied territory on an official basis: that was for the Secretary-General to arrange if so requested by the Security Council. The Governing Council must first note the report of the Executive Director before it considered it to be incomplete or did not support it on any other grounds, if such was its wish. As he had said at the beginning of the discussion, they were not reading the report of the tourist, but that of the Executive Director. He requested the Governments of the countries concerned to send him all the information on the subject in their possession and he would supplement it by setting up an independent group of experts versed in the fields of environment to review the information and present him with a full picture on which he could base a further elaborated report. He appealed to the Governing Council to keep its deliberations non-political.

#### G. UNEP regional office system

216. Introducing his report on UNEP's regional office system (UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.3), the Executive Director stated that, at its fourteenth session, the Council had requested him to reduce the cost of the system to the programme and programme support costs budget but, as his consultations had clearly shown, the Council had not intended him to cut down expenditure on the system as such. Although there had been no request to undertake an evaluation of the regional offices, he had nevertheless felt the need of an evaluation and had engaged an independent consultant for the purpose, as indicated in the introduction to his report.

217. There was general support for the proposals set out in the report of the Executive Director, particularly with regard to strengthening the regional offices in developing regions. One representative observed that additional funds were not required in the case of the Regional Office for Europe and another representative,

agreeing with him, said that the same comment applied to the Regional Office for North America: indeed, both of those offices could receive less. Those views were supported by two other representatives. There was considerable opposition to the proposal to transfer responsibility for the six Arabic-speaking countries of Africa to the Regional Office for West Asia. One representative said that the countries in North Africa had not been consulted about the proposal and that they did not support it, as they were in agreement on African solidarity.

218. One representative said that the creation of a subregional office in Africa would answer aspirations of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to give better services to all parts of Africa, and two other representatives said that both the African Conference and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) would co-ordinate their activities with the proposed subregional office. One representative preferred the idea of strengthening the existing regional office by providing additional financial and personnel support to that of creating subregional offices, since the former alternative would minimize additional expenditure on administration and infrastructure. One representative considered that the proposal to establish a subregional office in Latin America was premature. He suggested that the secretariat should prepare a study on the terms of reference of such offices and engage in consultations with the Governments concerned. That suggestion was supported by two other representatives. Another representative said that the proposal to establish a subregional office in the Pacific should be the subject of consultation among the countries of the region, since none of the small islands of the South Pacific were represented at the current session of the Governing Council. A subregional office would enable such countries to participate more effectively in UNEP programmes and provide support in confronting their particular environmental problems, including the prospect of sea-level rise.

219. With regard to the location of offices, one representative suggested that the Regional Office for Africa should be moved out of Nairobi, where it was submerged in headquarters activities. Several representatives suggested that the cost of establishing subregional offices could be minimized by co-locating them with the offices of other United Nations subregional units, including those of UNDP.

220. With regard to the funding of the system, two representatives said that they agreed with the principle of switching funds out of the programme and programme support costs (PPSC) budget. Another supported in principle the proposal to finance the subregional offices from extrabudgetary funds, but excluding the Environment Fund itself. However, the associated support costs should be charged to PPSC, as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended.

221. A number of representatives commented on the various regional offices. One representative said that more emphasis should be laid on actual programme development and implementation for the achievement of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on the Programme for African Co-operation. He also endorsed the Executive Director's recommendation on the establishment of UNEP national committees and on strengthening relationships with UNDP, the World Bank and the regional economic and social commissions. A representative from another region said that he would like to have more information about the functions of national committees. Yet another representative referred to the need to strengthen the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, where remarkable economic development was

causing many types of environmental problems. His country had sent a remote-sensing expert and an expert on nature conservation to the Regional Office at Bangkok.

222. One representative proposed more decentralization of UNEP programmes and more active participation by countries and snaring of regional resources. He suggested that the Regional Office at Bangkok should be responsible for co-ordinating the regional seas programme, but that other aspects of regional co-operation should be dealt with centrally. Two representatives supported the request of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment that the Governing Council should ask the international community to make greater efforts to achieve Africa's objectives of maintaining the environment.

223. Another representative said that the Regional Office for Europe should be restructured to improve programme delivery. The Office should function as a support unit for clearing-house activities and it should also obtain the expertise required to ensure that due account was taken of UNEP policy in the increasing number of consultations among Europe-based organizations dealing with environmental matters. He went on to say that, on a regional and subregional basis, generally, more attention should be paid to the growing number of requests for technical support from individual countries. He endorsed the recommendation for strengthening the relationship between regional offices of the United Nations and other international agencies in order to promote environmental components in their activities. The long-term objective should be to phase out UNEP regional offices when environmental concerns had been fully integrated into the programmes of the regional economic and social commissions. To that end, he would urge that the work of the regional offices should be internally evaluated at regular intervals in relation to the environmental activities of those commissions.

224. The Executive Director stated that he had no interest in differences on matters of detail among the States of a region; he simply sought to use UNEP resources to the best effect. He did not believe it possible from a single office to serve 50 African countries as effectively as he would wish, but, so long as UNEP did not possess the resources to do otherwise, the four officers who made up the Regional Office for Africa had to be located in one office and that office had to be at Nairobi alongside the headquarters, in order to take advantage of the backstopping provided by the whole of UNEP. The whole purpose of his report was to stimulate a debate on principles, priorities and practicalities; he was putting forward ideas and proposals and looked to the Council for policy guidance. Of course, if financial possibilities of strengthening the system by means of establishing subregional offices manifested themselves, there would be detailed discussions with the Governments concerned regarding their location and so forth.

#### H. General statements by observer organizations

225. The observer for the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) of Azania said that the political system in South Africa had to be overthrown because it was the root cause of serious environmental problems, such as land degradation, soil erosion and endemic poverty. In spite of so-called reforms, Africans were still unable to buy land or reside without a permit outside the bantustans, scattered pieces of barren and impoverished land on which over 11 million Africans were compelled to live and to which 1.7 million more were currently under threat of removal. For the PAC of Azania, apartheid was the outcome of colonial conquest and therefore Namibia was

not Africa's last colony, as supporters of the Pretoria régime wanted the world to believe. The decolonization struggle would end only when South Africa - Azania - had also been liberated and the right to self-determination of its African people established. He wished to thank all the Governments and peoples that had continued to bring pressure to bear on the racist régime of Pretoria by implementing United Nations resolutions on sanctions and imposing sports and cultural boycotts. He also thanked those countries and organizations which had secured the unconditional release of the President of PAC. In conclusion, he expressed his movement's solidarity with the Namibian people and with the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in their hour of need and with the Arab Palestinian people and the new State of Palestine.

226. The observer for the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs welcomed the Executive Director's emphasis on the need to "give shape and provide content" to the concept of environmentally sound and sustainable development and to develop methodologies for its implementation. There was already considerable knowledge about the environmental impacts created by socio-economic development policies and the Department was currently exploring, in that connection, a number of avenues of analysis and assessment. The Department believed that those activities would make useful contributions to the 1992 conference, in the preparation of which it could and should play an active role. As the Governing Council would be aware, work was under way on the United Nations international development strategy for the 1990s. The Department would convey any further conclusions of the Council on that matter to the ad hoc committee of the whole for the preparation of the strategy.

227. The observer for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) outlined the main recommendations contained in the decision on sustainable development recently adopted by the Trade and Development Board. During the Board's meeting, developing countries had expressed concern that environmental issues would lead to new conditions in their relations with developed countries and that resources for development would be diverted to environmental protection. While welcoming the adoption of the Basel Convention, he emphasized that it remained to be seen whether it afforded sufficient protection to developing countries, especially against illegal traffic in hazardous wastes. With regard to sustainable development, UNCTAD believed it was extremely important to formulate international and national development policies that corresponded to the environmental opportunities and constraints facing each least developed country. With regard to technical assistance, UNCTAD was already dealing with one request concerning an environmental issue in a least developed country. As the secretariat reviewed the relationship between sustainable development and the main lines of UNCTAD activities, the scope for such assistance would become clearer. Undoubtedly, further requests for assistance would be received to which UNCTAD would be ready to respond, provided that additional financing was made available, as the Board decision explicitly requested.

228. The observer for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) drew attention to the report of the UNDP Administrator, which outlined a cost-effective strategy for responding rapidly to the increasing number of demands from Governments for technical co-operation and pre-investment support that integrated environmental and sustainable development considerations into development planning and into micro-economic and macro-economic management. The strategy also aimed at accelerating the flow of technology and substantial additional resources for

projects and programmes to combat environmental degradation, to implement biodiversity and conservation activities and to mobilize community participation at the grass-roots level (including women and youth). Strengthening the technical capacity of developing countries to participate effectively in the international dialogue on the biosphere required the urgent attention of the international community, as well as increased financing. At the request of a developing country, UNDP was already preparing a feasibility study on phasing out the use of chemicals and materials producing CFCs and replacing them with acceptable substitutes. In collaboration with UNEP, the World Resources Institute and a number of bilateral programmes, it was also carrying out a feasibility study on identifying new sources and mechanisms to finance conservation activities. An international symposium was planned for late 1989 to consider a specific action plan based on options formulated following consultations with developing countries in six regional workshops held earlier in 1989. UNDP was also considering launching a world youth environment programme under which Governments would involve young people in a number of environmental projects, thereby contributing towards alleviating unemployment and providing training. In conclusion, he welcomed the Executive Director's proposal on enhanced co-operation with UNDP.

229. The observer for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that the Director General of his Organization strongly believed that it was important to act at the present time to safeguard natural resources and to preserve environmental integrity for future generations, making use of the available knowledge and building on the momentum created by recent initiatives. However, action should be combined with a continued, vigorous and scientific assessment of the problems and of possible solutions. UNESCO attached great importance to the climate change issue and was prepared to provide support for the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It would also contribute to preparations for the proposed 1992 conference. The Director General of the Organization had repeatedly underlined the important role of the scientific community, which should be closely associated with any United Nations programme or action plan in the environmental field. In that connection, proposals had been made to establish a corps of scientists to monitor the implementation of environmental protection measures recommended at the international level. The UNESCO draft medium-term plan for 1990-1995 and its draft programme and budget for 1990-1991 gave high priority to activities related to environment and natural resources management.

230. The observer for the World Bank welcomed the important international, regional and national meetings that had recently taken place on environmental and sustainable development issues; however, considerable energy and resources would be needed if good intentions were to be translated into action. There was a need for increased international co-operation, as well as new forms of participatory action at all levels. The Bank had been encouraged by the strong interest shown by member countries in new, comprehensive and participatory planning mechanisms, called national environmental action plans and he explained their concept. It was also satisfying to note the interest shown by United Nations bodies and bilateral agencies in the national environment action plans. With regard to the Mediterranean Action Plan, sizable investment would be required in order to implement its priority components and institutions, such as the World Bank, and the European Investment Bank had an important role to play in that respect. He stated that the World Bank sought close co-operation with UNEP in its endeavours and would soon respond positively to the Executive Director's constructive proposal for enhancing the partnership. The Bank had made considerable progress in integrating

environmental issues into economic decision-making, and recognized that it had to be very explicit when advising member countries on the benefits and costs of alternatives for increased economic growth and enhanced social development within a sustainable development framework. For countries that had experienced negative economic growth during recent years, the task was difficult, but it was essential to ensure that structural reforms which aimed at increased economic growth took into account productivity improvements that safeguarded rather than undermined natural resources.

231. The observer for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said that scientific research to explain the factors determining meteorological conditions was the basis of the work of his Organization. Its scientific findings had been the necessary starting point for international action in regard to the ozone layer. However, less was known as yet about regional variations than about the global picture. Adequate support for research into climate change was vital but, unfortunately, the level of resources made available to increase scientific knowledge had recently declined. WMO was much concerned with the questions of atmospheric and climate changes and water resources and he strongly endorsed their inclusion in the Executive Director's list of priorities.

232. The observer for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) said that, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, IMO commissioned a study to appraise its programme of technical assistance in the marine environment field. As part of that study, all IMO member States had been invited to identify problems encountered in implementing IMO conventions for the prevention of marine pollution. In addition, a resolution on technical assistance in the field of protection of the marine environment had been adopted by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, and was expected to be endorsed by the sixteenth Assembly, the governing body of IMO, in October 1989. The World Commission on Environment and Development had made a number of recommendations which related to the implementation of the London Convention on Dumping of Wastes at Sea. The Consultative Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, in October 1988, had accepted the recommendation that the Convention should reaffirm the rights and responsibilities of States to control and regulate dumping within the 200-mile exclusive economic zones. With regard to the recommendation of that Commission on the reporting of releases of toxic and radioactive substances from land-based sources into any body of water, the Consultative Meeting had confirmed that the Convention already provided for notification of the nature and amounts of wastes dumped at sea and the recording and dissemination of the relevant information. IMO proposed to review the existing rules and practices with respect to the transport of hazardous wastes by sea in the light of the provisions of the Basel Convention, with a view to recommending any additional measures needed to assist member States in fulfilling their responsibilities with regard to the protection of the marine environment. It had also taken note of the conclusions of the London Conference on Saving the Ozone Layer and it had agreed that the use of halons as fire-extinguishing agents on board ship should be restricted as much as possible. A draft resolution to that effect would be submitted to the sixteenth Assembly of IMO. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/196 on the proposed United Nations conference on environment and development, the Secretary-General of IMO had drawn attention to the fact that an environmentally sound marine transport infrastructure was an essential element of sustainable development and had urged that the conference agenda should include a review of the actions taken by IMO to protect the marine environment. In conclusion, he said that pollution of the oceans and coastal development - in particular the development of ports - also had a grave

impact on the marine environment. Many developing countries endeavoured to earn foreign currency through coastal tourism. That increased the strain on the coastal environment, which was particularly sensitive to pollution owing to its vulnerable ecosystems, such as mangroves, coral reefs and sea-grass beds. IMO, with its unique mandate with regard to the protection of the marine environment, could play an important part in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development.

233. The observer for the European Economic Community (EEC) said that regional organizations could be useful building blocks for global solutions. In addition to achieving project Europe, 1992 should be a milestone towards a European ecological community, since it was a legal requirement that environmental policy should be a component of all other EEC policies. The Community would participate in examining specific mechanisms for transfer of technology and financial assistance to developing countries, as follow-up to the Helsinki Declaration. Global climate change was the next big challenge and the aim should be to have a convention and implementing protocols ready by 1992. The 1992 conference should also concentrate on how global policy to preserve the environment could best be co-ordinated and made more effective. That necessarily included the central role of UNEP. The first task should be to strengthen existing structures, without excluding other developments subsequently. As to environmentally sound and sustainable development, the Community accepted that economic development was sound only if environmentally sound. It sought to increase the percentage devoted to environment within the resources which it made available for co-operation with developing countries. In that respect, the link between debt and the environment could not be underestimated.

234. The observer for the Nordic Council said that the Council had increased its efforts to contribute towards strengthening protection of the environment through, in particular, the convening of international conferences and the adoption of a wide-ranging action programme on the environment and protection of the seas. Most areas of human life had an environmental aspect and it had to be stated categorically that environmental disaster meant economic disaster. The risks consequent upon irresponsible use of biotechnology also constituted a new threat and strong controls at the international level would have to be implemented. Greater solidarity between rich and poor countries was required because environmental problems affected the world as a whole. The know-how for tackling environmental problems already existed, but increased financial resources and practical political decisions were needed for. She expressed satisfaction that many countries attending the Governing Council had committed themselves to increasing their financial support for UNEP programmes and it was to be hoped that disarmament would free further resources. In conclusion, she stated that the environment had to be protected for future generations. In that regard, the convention on the rights of the child, which was before the General Assembly, represented a step forward, in that it gave children the right to a safe and sound environment.

235. The observer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) stated that, in preparing for the 1992 conference, it would be essential to avoid overlapping and inefficiency resulting from poor communication between the numerous, independently operated bodies concerned - the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, various pieces of co-ordination machinery and so forth. He recalled that, during the period 1970-1972, intergovernmental working groups on marine pollution, environmental monitoring and exchange of environmental information had provided, in advance of

the Stockholm Conference, tangible products which eventually became the London Convention on Dumping of Wastes at Sea, GEMS and INFOTERRA. He questioned whether the same mechanism should not be adopted over the next two years in preparation for the 1992 conference. He strongly endorsed the Executive Director's inclusion among the priorities of the risk of climate change from atmospheric pollution and supported the idea of a framework convention on the protection of the global climate. He welcomed proposals in the supplement to his introductory report for the conservation of biological diversity; supported the other priorities of the Executive Director; and stressed the importance of accommodating regional differences in the ecosystem. Finally, he said that IUCN was preparing an Antarctic conservation strategy - a matter which was relevant to the Council's discussion of the Executive Director's reports on the state of the environment.

236. The observer for the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI) said that her organization represented thousands of non-governmental environment and development organizations in all regions of the world. ELCI wished to draw particular attention to three of the key issues listed in the Executive Director's report, namely, atmospheric issues, impoverishment of biological diversity and hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals. Non-governmental organizations called upon Governments to make climatic change a priority issue. A detailed statement outlining the policy options that non-governmental organizations were recommending had been distributed to all delegations. Governments were asked to take immediate action to reduce the use of fossil fuels by the introduction of energy conservation and energy-efficient technologies and to increase reliance on renewable energy resources. Non-governmental organizations wished to reiterate that nuclear power was neither an acceptable nor an effective option. Steps had also to be taken to preserve the world's forest and bush lands and to create new forested areas. In addition, Governments, with the support of UNEP, should launch a campaign to educate citizens and industry about the consequences of environmental pollution and continued deforestation. UNEP should promote the negotiation of a global convention and the necessary protocols to control emissions of greenhouse gases. In order to save time, UNEP should begin formulating a protocol to control the main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, simultaneously with the framework convention. Governments of developing countries should participate actively in the process and resources should be made available for that purpose. Industrialized nations should begin reducing their own emissions immediately, without awaiting the completion of international agreements. While ELCI welcomed the Basel Convention and the London Guidelines on the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, it considered that the real measure of success would be whether those instruments actually succeeded in drastically reducing trade in such substances. UNEP must move towards a preventive policy based on reduction of waste generation at the source and the phasing out of the use of toxic chemicals where adequate substitutes existed. With regard to biological diversity, UNEP should assist IUCN in involving people from developing countries in the drafting of a global convention on the conservation of biological diversity, on which IUCN was working. Subsequently, UNEP should promote negotiation of the convention, in collaboration with IUCN, ELCI and other non-governmental organizations. Finally, she urged the Governing Council to strengthen the recommendations of its decision 14/83 3/ relating to co-operation with non-governmental organizations and in particular to appoint a liaison officer for the non-governmental organizations, who had experience in that area, at a senior professional level.

237. The observer for Greenpeace International said that many of the statements at the session had contained praise for recent international environmental instruments



on the ozone layer and the movement of hazardous wastes. That was little more than self-flattery. The limited consensus reached by the International community on a small number of issues fell far short of providing the solutions required for sustainable development. Immediate, time-bound action was required at both international and national levels on the priority areas listed in the Executive Director's report. Accordingly, Greenpeace urged the Governing Council to adopt decisions addressing the root sources of environmental problems, rather than their symptoms: to eliminate hazardous wastes at source and to make the requisite technology unconditionally available to developing countries; to place the onus on the discharger to prove that his actions were not harmful to the environment and to end all dumping in the seas and oceans immediately; to switch to environmentally benign projects and processes, including substitutes for nuclear power; to make the polluter pay for the social costs of his actions; and to promote activities compatible with the peaceful co-existence of all forms of life. Greenpeace also urged members of the Governing Council to make the necessary changes unilaterally if international progress was too slow. He concluded by saying that Greenpeace would not fail to bring to the attention of the public any issues upon which action was not taken.

238. The observer for the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) recalled that his organization covered 5,300 enterprises in 100 countries. He said it was important to recognize the mood of the public: people wanted action on environmental pollution and neither Governments nor industry were doing enough to address an issue which was real, urgent and complex. Global organization was required and UNEP enjoyed very great credibility with both the developing and the developed world. Any additional body would merely serve to distract from the main task. UNEP should be encouraged and financed to do more: the Executive Director's budget proposals were reasonable. Work on the problem of the ozone layer and hazardous wastes must continue and efforts must be made to reduce the time delay in ratifying conventions. The trade-off between sustainable development and productivity must be managed. The fact that industry must change its ways was by and large recognized. There must be more interaction between industry and Governments in the matter of technology and financing. ICC had identified four areas for action on sustainable development over the next few years and had issued guidelines to industry on how to participate in concrete ways. The areas were: radically new concepts and action between Governments and industry in an ecological/economic approach; accelerating the transfer of clean technology; promoting environmental auditing by industry, since far too few enterprises appreciated the need for it; and promoting knowledge of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Basel Convention.

239. The observer for the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) said that the concept of sustainable development elaborated in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development encapsulated a challenging approach to environmental care. With the help of the UNEP Industry and Environment Office in obtaining speakers from the United Nations, IPIECA had held a useful symposium at Paris in September 1988. The World Commission report expressed the opinion that industry was an indispensable motor of growth. Since energy drives the motor, the petroleum industry would help seek the optimum energy solutions to the issues involved.

I. Statements in exercise of the right of reply

240. In the course of the discussion on agenda items 4 and 5, the representative of Nepal, in his general statement, said that the recent blockade by India of his country had forced the people of the mountain ecosystem to cut down more trees to meet increasing demand for firewood both in rural and urban areas, since the supply of kerosene and LP gas for cooking had been seized. The situation had caused further depletion of the Nepalese forest resources and even protected trees had been cut to meet fuel shortages, thereby destabilizing the fragile slopes of the mountains.

241. The representative of India, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, denied that there was any blockade of Nepal by India. He said goods, both essential and luxury items, were freely moving into Nepal from India and from other countries through two transit points, facilities at Calcutta port, transit routes with other neighbouring countries and intra-Nepal transit routes through India. The transit facilities given by India were more than allowed by international norms. The representative of Nepal had mentioned that deforestation was occurring in Nepal through scarcity of kerosene and fuel. The reasons for the deforestation were well known. It had been occurring at a rapid rate in Nepal for some time and it was adversely affecting the ecology of India. He concluded by saying that India and Nepal had friendly relations with each other, since they were linked by bonds of culture, religion, history and geography. The Governments of both India and Nepal had declared their intentions to solve their bilateral problems through friendly dialogue. It was improper to have used the forum of the Governing Council meeting to make patently false statements about his country.

242. The representative of Nepal, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, reiterated that India's unilateral decision to blockade Nepal affected all aspects of Nepalese life and, more specifically, the development activities and the natural environment of Nepal. Since no petroleum products could enter the country, more forests were being cut down for firewood and the consequent environmental deterioration would affect the Indo-Gangetic plain. He asserted that India's action was unethical and that many people would suffer as a consequence of it.

## CHAPTER IV

### STATE-OF-THE-ENVIRONMENT REPORTS

243. In considering agenda item 6, at the 12th meeting of the session, the Council had before it a summary of the documentation under the item (UNEP/GC.15/7); the 1988 state-of-the-environment report on the public and environment (UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.1); the 1989 state-of-the-environment report on the state of the world environment (UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.2); the report of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues (UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.3); the outline of the 1990 state-of-the-environment report on children and the environment (UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.4); and a note by the Executive Director on the implementation of Governing Council decisions on state-of-the-environment reports (UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.5).

244. Introducing the item, the Executive Director noted that document UNEP/GC.15/7 contained a summary of the other documents and had been considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in formulating the three draft decisions on the subject, which were before the Council (UNEP/GC.15/L.6). The 1988 state-of-the-environment report on the public and environment, had been circulated to Governments some time previously. It contained two basic findings: the importance of the role of women and the influence of the mass media. Women were generally more concerned about the environment, even in the poorer developing countries where they might be unaware of the existence of the term. The report gave a considerable amount of data about the role of women and the environment. Its last chapter was devoted to the role of the media. All studies showed that the media tended to concentrate on specific events, giving wide coverage to environmental disasters, but providing little information about environmental risks or the follow-up to catastrophes. It was therefore recommended that there should be training workshops in the UNEP public information programme for the personnel of the major media. The information contained in the report had been supplemented by a survey commissioned from the United States firm, Harris Polls, on the perceptions of policy makers and the general public about environmental issues. The survey had covered 14 different countries and the results had been similar everywhere, as had been the case in earlier surveys conducted in the States members of the European Communities and in the United States. The poll found that the general public considered that Governments were not doing enough about environmental matters. Women and the younger generation tended to be more sensitive to environmental issues than men and the older generation. However, over 80 per cent of those polled in the 14 countries came out strongly in favor of paying more, if necessary through taxation, to secure a better environment and were not prepared to trade the environment for more industrial development. The findings of the poll confirmed the information contained in the 1988 state-of-the-environment report and endorsed the activities of the Information and Public Affairs Branch.

245. Following the agreed practice of alternating general and specific reports between odd- and even-numbered years, the 1989 report entitled "The state of the world environment" was an update of previous reports. The outlook was not promising. Air quality monitoring showed that levels of sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter in many large towns were above the limits established by WHO. Cities in developing countries were generally more polluted than those in developed countries. According to WHO and UNEP assessments, water, particularly in rivers, was not as polluted as had been generally thought. However, many rivers

contained large amounts of nutrients and, in developing countries, high concentrations of pesticides and nitrates. Progress in providing drinking water and sanitation had been slow: in 1982, 73 per cent of the urban population had had access to clean water; by 1989, the figure was 75 per cent. The corresponding percentages in respect of sanitation for rural populations had increased from 13 to 16. The situation with regard to marine pollution and the decline in biological diversity was no better.

246. Turning to the report on emerging environmental issues (UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.3), the Executive Director said that it dealt with the two issues selected for detailed treatment by the Council at its fourteenth session: health risks from diesel vehicles and acid fog. He drew attention to the slight modification in the definition of "emerging environmental issues" as it appeared in paragraph 6 of the report. The report also described three environmental issues that had emerged during the period 1987-1989: new technologies and the environment; algal blooms in the sea; and Antarctica. The description of new technologies and the environment covered biotechnology, the semi-conductor industry and the use of video display terminals. Great interest had been shown in algal bloom outbreaks. The most recent outbreak, in the North Sea in 1988, had been the subject of a major action by the Nordic countries. He had been bringing up the question of the Antarctic region - from a purely environmental standpoint, completely unrelated to politics - since 1976.

247. He suggested that the issues of Antarctica and new technologies and the environment might be those selected for more detailed elaboration in the report on emerging environmental issues to be submitted to the Council at its sixteenth regular session.

A. The 1988 state-of-the-environment report on the public and environment

248. There was a general agreement among representatives about the importance of securing public participation and the need for disseminating information about environmental matters. One representative said that the 1988 report would be widely distributed in her country. Another asked whether the findings of the public opinion poll to which the Executive Director had referred would be made available for public distribution. One representative supported the proposal to hold training programmes for media personnel at different levels and stressed, in particular, the importance of women and the environment. One representative expressed agreement that UNEP information activities should specifically target policy makers, as well as the public at large. Another representative, praising the 1988 report, offered amendments to the draft decision before the Council, which would broaden the scope of UNEP activities to increase public awareness of environmental dangers. Several representatives referred to specific activities that were being conducted in their countries to encourage popular assistance with local environmental problems.

**B. The 1989 state-of-the-environment report on the state of the world environment**

249. On the subject of environmental quality, several representatives considered that the management of drinking water and the problem of water quality were top priorities. Some representatives referred to the control of industrial and agricultural chemicals and others expressed the interest of their Governments in the problem of climate change and hazardous wastes. One of those representatives urged that those problems, however serious, should not militate against the continued follow-up of work on industrial and nuclear accidents. Two representatives commented on monitoring systems: one expressed his country's readiness to co-operate on the UNEP monitoring systems and the other referred to a note that her delegation had circulated, describing monitoring methods.

**C. Emerging environmental issues**

250. One representative said that one of the selected issues described in the report of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues (UNEP/CC.15/7/Add.3), health risks from diesel vehicles, was hardly new, since such risks had been generally known for some 15 years. The new issue was rather the development of cleaner diesel engines and filters. Furthermore, he could not agree with the suggestion in paragraph 21 of the report that further studies were an essential prerequisite to formulating adequate measures for reducing the impact of acid fog. He felt that some measures could be introduced immediately, as was being done in his country.

251. A number of topics were proposed with regard to environmental issues that had emerged during 1987-1989. One representative suggested the Arctic region, where there was a problem of food chain contamination common to all Arctic countries. Another representative suggested municipal wastes, plastics, recycling, and waste exchange and waste elimination; those proposals were endorsed by another representative.

252. During the discussion, several representatives drew attention to the importance of algal bloom and one reported an outbreak of algal bloom in the Mediterranean - a rare occurrence that had also been witnessed by nationals of other Mediterranean countries.

253. There was support for the topic of new technologies and the environment. One representative, while welcoming the inclusion of biotechnology, urged that the approach should be prudent and scientific, but not stifling. Several representatives expressed their interest in organizing exchanges of information on new technologies between countries.

254. There was considerable opposition to the inclusion of Antarctica as a topic and to the text of paragraph 38 in the Executive Director's report. Representatives stated that the environmental health of Antarctica was well protected by the contracting parties to the Antarctic Treaty, as was shown by the measures that had already been agreed upon to conserve the flora and fauna, seals and marine living resources. One representative pointed out that the damage to the ozone layer over the Antarctic region was due to outside influence and that at a recent consultative meeting, the contracting parties to the Treaty had agreed to convene a world conference to discuss the formulation of principles and a code of

conduct to protect the region. Another representative said that IUCN was already developing a strategy for the region; a reference to that might have been made in paragraph 38. Another representative said that his Government had long advocated environmental assessment of the build-up of pollutants, and yet another said that his country intended to press for the area to be established as a wilderness park.

255. The question of the legal position of Antarctica was raised. A number of representatives considered that the reference in paragraph 38 to the "common heritage of all mankind" was unacceptable and should be deleted because the special legal and political status of the continent was defined in article 4 of the Antarctic Treaty, which provided for the position both of countries claiming sovereignty and of those which did not recognize such claims. Another representative pointed out that it was open to any country to become a contracting party to the Treaty. A number of those representatives stated that they preferred not to make the Antarctic a substantive issue and strongly recommended that the topic should not be included among those for the Executive Director's next report on emerging environmental issues.

D. Outline of the 1990 state-of-the-environment report on children and the environment

256. Several representatives had suggestions for additional material to be included in the 1990 report: one suggested a subsection on institutional structures to protect the health of children; another suggested additional subsections on the special nature and role of female children and the particular risks to which female children were exposed at home and at work, environmental awareness in childhood, as well as the role of the educational system in that regard; another suggestion concerned the effects of drugs and smoking by children.

257. The observer for UNICEF said that the UNICEF Executive Board had endorsed a resolution that included a number of policy proposals to protect the environment and sustain development, while meeting the urgent needs of children and mothers. Projects with strong environmental components were to be given priority by UNICEF when seeking supplementary funding. Environmentally oriented actions would soon become regular components of the UNICEF country programmes. Child survival, protection and development, water and sanitation, women in development, food and nutrition, education, urban basic services and appropriate technology were some of the areas where UNICEF could strengthen programme components with environmental impact. In collaboration with UNEP and the Government of Kenya, UNICEF was translating the new child and environment policies into practical interventions in two districts to ensure a cleaner, safer environment and to teach children how to preserve or enhance the environment in which they would live as an adult.

258. The observer for the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) said that his organization had assisted UNEP in activities to observe International Youth Year. Those activities were not matched by an appropriate level of concern for youth in the speeches of the members of the Governing Council at its current session. It should be recognized that youth organizations made a remarkable contribution in stimulating public concern for the environment and in eco-restoration programmes, as was demonstrated by UNEP-sponsored IYF activities. Youth claimed the right to be heard when decisions were made on matters that concerned the future. He urged the Council to give the UNEP secretariat a mandate to catalyse youth activities around the world as part of

a broad non-governmental organization programme. When the programme of the proposed 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development was formulated, a youth forum should be included, similar to that held as part of the preparations for the Stockholm Conference. The outcome of discussions for a convention on biodiversity should not, he warned, be the creation of an instrument to legitimize gene robbery by some privileged nations. He expressed the view that inadequate political will was being shown to protect the most vital ecosystem of the planet - the tropical forests - and commented on the irony that some countries in the low-income group would experience an unduly high share of the world-wide sufferings that climate change might cause.

259. Replying to some of the comments made in the discussion, the Executive Director said that there appeared to be no disagreement with the general thrust of his 1988 and 1989 state-of-the-environment reports. With regard to the publication of the findings of the public opinion poll, he was currently in contact with the 14 countries involved in the survey to seek agreement for a wide dissemination of its main findings. The outline for the 1990 report on children and the environment had been formulated after intensive consultations with UNICEF. The proposals by representatives for additional material would be included. Responding to the challenge made by one representative regarding the topicality of health risks from diesel vehicles, he said that it was true that the problem had been known for a number of years, but it had not been addressed in any forum until he had brought it to the attention of the Governing Council two years previously. There had been support for the proposal on new technologies and the environment, subject to a note of caution from one representative about stifling inventiveness in biotechnological research. That had never been the intention: such research had positive and negative aspects and the question was how to handle the latter without impeding the former. Representatives had given relatively little attention to the topic of algal bloom. With regard to Antarctica, the same objections had been expressed by contracting parties to the Antarctic Treaty during a similar discussion in 1976. He was glad, however, that his proposal had been better received during the current session than in 1976, when there had been a move to use language that would have inadvertently eliminated some ongoing projects near the outer limit of Antarctica. He wished to put it on record that UNEP did not play politics: the phrase to which exception had been taken was not to be construed as having any political connotation and should be understood in the context of the preceding paragraphs. The damage to the ozone layer was caused by pollution from outside Antarctica and the contracting parties to the Treaty alone could not avert the danger. It had been the intention to call on the other countries to help the Treaty parties. Representatives could rest assured that he had no other intention.

260. Issues proposed during the discussion for his next report on emerging environmental issues had included municipal wastes and plastics and the critical situation in the Arctic. He wondered whether the remaining proposals for recycling wastes and for waste elimination might not more properly come under the heading of emerging solutions rather than problems. He therefore recommended the first two topics he had mentioned and he promised to report on the other two matters among positive developments.

261. The Council then proceeded to consider and adopt three decisions on the state-of-the-environment reports, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report. Comments made at the time of their adoption may be found in chapter II above.

## CHAPTER V

### CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

262. In considering agenda item 7, the Council had before it the following documents: a summary of the documentation submitted under the item (UNEP/GC.15/8); chapter II of the 1987 annual report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/3); chapter II of the 1988 annual report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/4); three memoranda of understanding on co-operation between UNEP and other agencies of the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.15/Inf.4, annex); the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.1); the 1987 and 1988 reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.2 and 3); and a note by the Executive Director on guidelines for the revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 (UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.4).

Item 7 (a): Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

263. At its 1st meeting, the Council heard a statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), who began by referring to the impressive success that UNEP and the world environmental movement as a whole had enjoyed during the past years. Those very advances in global environmental action threw into stark relief the issue of sustainable development, a goal which apparently posed a fundamental dilemma: the higher economic growth to which countries aspired depleted natural resources faster and that led to larger environmental changes and worse deterioration. That negative impact was clearly visible in settlements, where much of the economic growth was centred. He suggested that the key to solving the dilemma lay in searching for other tools to bridge the gap between development and long-term environmental sustainability, focusing in the first instance on technological and policy innovation, together with better planning and management.

264. He said that slowing growth, even if politically tenable, would lead to rural poverty and environmental despoilation: in other words, it would exacerbate other problems such as desertification and soil exhaustion. Somehow, means had to be found of minimizing the environmental problems that accompanied urban growth, which undoubtedly posed a major challenge to both innovation and management. Nor was the impact confined to the urban settlements: the intensification of city-based activities had repercussions on the urban-rural region and its natural resource base. Rivers, estuaries and coastal zones were polluted by sewage, for example, and ground-water quality was similarly affected by infiltration from uncontrolled dump sites. Such negative impacts were not always easy to identify and were difficult to price because the damages often appeared after a time lag. Under pressure to cope with the urgent need for infrastructure expansion, urban authorities had tended to undervalue the long-run benefits of sound environmental management.

265. He reminded representatives that the urban poor, who made up 30 per cent to 60 per cent of urban population in developing countries, were the people most affected. Health problems were foremost among the environmental concerns of those



inhabitants and nobody could adequately measure the costs in terms of human suffering and the deteriorating quality of life. There was no doubt that coping with the environmental consequences would strain the financial and managerial resources of local governments. A substantial investment in institution-building and improved operations and maintenance would be involved. Beyond a certain point, responsibility belonged to State or national Governments which, however, also had financial and technical limitations in the developing countries. An effort of broader scope was required, which must undoubtedly include concerted action on the international level and the active engagement of the global environmental movement. While donor Governments and multilateral financial institutions had assisted in several sectors, including urban development and industry, there was sometimes uncertainty about the best means of making policy and institutional changes and of developing local capacity so that the environmental objectives of urban development could be met. Policies would have to be developed and action taken at both national and international levels to address priority issues. Maximum use must be made of innovations and new technologies that were environment-friendly.

266. More attention would have to be paid to training those responsible for planning, design and appraisal of urban development programme projects. In that connection, Habitat had published in 1988 three volumes of environmental guidelines for the planning and management of human settlements. At its twelfth session, held in 1989, the Commission on Human Settlements had decided that the co-operation between Habitat and UNEP should embrace the application of those guidelines to a few major metropolitan areas in developing countries.

267. At the same session, the Commission, in its resolution 12/18 of 2 May 1989, had recommended to the General Assembly that "the critical role and contribution of human settlements and urbanization to environmentally sound and sustainable development and the impact of human settlements and urbanization upon the environment should be among the issues to be considered and addressed within the context of a United Nations conference on environment and development". 4/

268. Concluding his statement, the Executive Director of Habitat stressed the urgency of action to implement the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, which both the Commission and subsequently the General Assembly had adopted in 1986.

269. In accordance with the decision taken by the Governing Council in organizing the work of the session, item 7 (a) was discussed in the Committee of the Whole, which considered it in conjunction with its discussion of programme 6 (Human settlements and the environment) under agenda item 8 (see chap. VI, paras. 410-413 below). The Committee also approved a draft decision on the subject, which was subsequently adopted by the Council as decision 15/18 (see annex I).

#### Item 7 (b): Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

270. Item 7 (b) was considered by the Council at the 11th meeting of the session, on 23 May, while those parts of the reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) dealing with the co-ordination and follow-up of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification were, in accordance with the decision of the Council on the organization of the work of the session, considered by the Committee of the Whole in conjunction with its consideration of programme 3.2 (Arid lands and desertification) under agenda item 8 (see chap. VI, paras. below).

271. The Executive Director introduced the 1987 and 1988 reports of ACC (UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.2 and 3). He recalled that it had been decided that reports on environmental issues submitted to the General Assembly by other United Nations bodies should also be made available to the Governing Council for comments to the Assembly. The first part of the 1988 ACC report covered the issue of environmentally sound and sustainable development. Another element of the 1988 report was the revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995. The Council had decided, by its decision SS.I/3, that it would provide policy guidance for that revision at its sixteenth regular session. Accordingly, the Executive Director had addressed letters to States seeking their views on possible changes to be made in the system-wide programme. In view of the fact that few Member States had provided specific guidance, the Council might wish to decide, after the substantive discussion of item 7 (c) by the Committee of the Whole, that the programme should be revised on the basis of its mid-term review.

272. In the 1988 ACC report, the main activities of the United Nations system on some emerging environmental issues had also been indicated, namely, climate change, hazardous wastes and biological diversity. Because of the importance of the issues involved, ACC had decided to take up the subject in more detail at its session in April 1989.

273. The observer for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) referred to the active participation of the Agency in the implementation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme. Very recently, in connection with the increased concern about the dumping of hazardous wastes, work had begun within IAEA for an internationally agreed code of practice on international transactions involving nuclear wastes. However, it seemed that there had been a misunderstanding as to the views of the IAEA on energy issues as they had appeared in the Agency's report on its contribution to sustainable development, which included issues ranging from nuclear accident response to assessment of marine pollution. IAEA had not expressed any doubt about the necessity of a low-energy scenario, but had questioned the realism of the specific scenario presented by the World Commission on Environment and Development, which was at variance with authoritative forecasts. Global primary energy consumption was currently increasing by about 2 per cent per annum and significant increases were projected for developing countries. For example, China had plans to double, and India to triple, its coal consumption between the 1980s and the year 2000. By the end of the century, those two countries would use more coal than was consumed currently by all the countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). That trend was typical for developing countries, which in most cases had no option but to rely on fossil fuels. The IAEA analysis of the World Commission scenario had not indicated possible changes in energy policies, but the Director-General of the Agency had in several recent statements stressed the need for conservation, for increases of nuclear and hydro-power and for research and development on renewable energy sources, particularly solar energy. He had further emphasized that no single one of those options would suffice to counter the threat of climatic changes, but that all would be needed. His conclusions were broadly in line with the views expressed at the current session of the Governing Council.

274. In conclusion, the observer stated that IAEA would co-operate with other organizations of the United Nations family, as well as scientific expert bodies dealing with energy, to ensure that comprehensive data and sound analysis were available to policy makers, in particular in the context of the Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change and the preparatory work for the proposed 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development.

275. The Council subsequently considered and adopted decision 15/11 on the reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report. Comments made at the time of adoption may be found in chapter II above.

Item 7 (c): Guidelines for the revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995

276. At the 1st meeting of the session, the Council decided to allocate item 7 (c) (Guidelines for the revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995) to the Committee of the Whole, which discussed it at its 9th meeting, on 19 May.

277. Introducing the item, the Assistant Executive Director, Office of the Environment Programme, noted that, in pursuance of Governing Council decision SS.I/3 of 18 March 1988, 5/ the Executive Director had sent a letter to the 159 States Members of the United Nations seeking the views of Governments on possible revisions to the programme. He had received 27 responses, of which only 14 had contained substantive suggestions: seven more responses had been received after the deadline. The suggestions received had included general recommendations on the contents of the programme; amendments to specific paragraphs or sections; and the inclusion of new subjects or the rearrangement of subjects within the document.

278. Several representatives expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of action on the part of the secretariat in this matter. Those representatives said that the system-wide medium-term environment programme, as the guiding document for the environment programme of the United Nations system, should be consistent with General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187.

279. Some representatives suggested the preparation by the Executive Director of policy guidelines for the revision of the programme to be presented to the Governing Council at its sixteenth session, so that the revision of the Programme could be considered at its seventeenth session. Other representatives objected, noting that this would make it impossible to implement the revision and would further exacerbate the conflicting demands on resources at a time when the 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development would also require attention.

280. The Assistant Executive Director repeated that the Executive Director had been unable to prepare guidelines because he had not received sufficient guidance from Governments.

281. The Committee proceeded to approve a draft decision on the subject, which was subsequently adopted by the Council as decision 15/21 (see annex I).

## CHAPTER VI

### PROGRAMME MATTERS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

282. Agenda item 8 was considered by the Committee of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Mr. German García (Colombia), at its 1st to 15th meetings, held between 15 and 24 May.

283. In considering the item, the Committee had before it the following documentation: a summary of the documentation under the item (UNEP/GC.15/9); chapter III of the 1987 annual report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/3); chapter III of the 1988 annual report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/4); the proposed programme budget of UNEP for the biennium 1990-1991 (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.1); the reports of the Executive Director on: programme matters requiring policy guidance from the Council (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2 and Corr.1 and Supplements 1, 2 and 3 and Corr.1); progress concerning the protection of the ozone layer (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.3); implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1987-1988 (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.4); and international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.5); the Secretary-General's report on the effects on the environment of the dumping of nuclear wastes (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.6); the report of the Executive Director on progress in the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.7); the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the contribution of the United Nations system to the preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in Western Asia (UNEP/GC.15/L.1); the "Register of international treaties and other agreements in the field of the environment" (UNEP/GC.15/Inf.2); a note by the Executive Director on the relationship between UNEP targets to be reached by 1995 and the approved UNEP medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995 (UNEP/GC.15/Inf.3); and an executive summary of the Beijer Institute report entitled "Possible responses to climate change" (UNEP/GC.15/Inf.5).

284. The Assistant Executive Director, Office of the Environment Programme, introduced item 8, indicating those areas that required policy guidance. He pointed out the relationship of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.1) to the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 (UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1), the medium-term plan for UNEP for the same six-year period (UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.2) and the targets for 1995 approved by the Governing Council at its first special session, in 1988 (UNEP/GCSS.I/3/Add.1). The Assistant Executive Director also drew the attention of the Committee to a change in approach to various subprogrammes that had been proposed by the Executive Director, namely, that the activities of the programme should be focused on six major environmental problems. The Assistant Executive Director asked the members of the Committee for their views and guidance.

285. Opening the Committee's consideration of item 8, the Chairman suggested that the proposal by the Executive Director to focus activities on six major problem areas should be discussed in plenary. One representative, commending the secretariat on its preparation of the proposed programme budget, suggested that agreement on what the programme should seek to accomplish should precede discussion of financial apportionment. The Assistant Executive Director explained that the Committee normally examined the budget first on a programme-by-programme basis, reviewing the activities carried out during the previous two years and discussing

proposed activities and priorities for the next biennium before making budget allocations in the light of relevant financial decisions taken in plenary; these allocations would then be reported back to plenary. This procedure was agreed upon by the Committee.

#### A. Programme 1: Atmosphere

286. The Assistant Executive Director introduced the programme on atmosphere and climate change by noting the entry into force of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 1 January 1989. None the less, he observed, because risks to the ozone layer now appeared to be greater than had been predicted, stricter control than that specified by the Protocol would be necessary; to this end, further scientific assessment under WMO and UNEP auspices was already under way and would continue. An important step in dealing with this issue had been the establishment by WMO and UNEP of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in November 1988; its first report would be completed by mid-1990. Another aspect of the work of UNEP on climate change was the World Climate Impact Studies Programme, under which the development of national climate impact programmes was being considered and, in some developing countries, was being assisted.

287. All representatives who spoke expressed support for the work of UNEP concerning climate change and agreed that it should continue as a priority area in the programme.

288. There was general support for developing a global framework convention on climate change and many representatives suggested that the Executive Director, with the Secretary-General of WMO, should establish a mechanism suitable for negotiating the elements of such a convention, taking into account the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other relevant national and international activities.

289. Some representatives maintained that this process should begin immediately, while others cautioned against moving too fast. They held that work on a legal instrument dealing with climate change should be based on firm scientific evidence and that time should be allowed for the Panel to present its report to WMO and UNEP.

290. A representative, who was also Chairman of Working Group 3 (Response strategies) of the Panel, reported on the outcome of a recent meeting at which the Group had decided to prepare a paper to address, inter alia, the need for and nature of a possible framework convention on climate and to identify elements of such a convention. A number of other representatives commended the work of the Panel and its working groups and endorsed the decision to address these aspects, which they considered valuable for negotiating an eventual convention on climate change.

291. One representative stated that the Panel should continue to serve in an advisory capacity to UNEP and WMO and that the Panel alone should not constitute the forum for developing a framework convention; that task should be left to UNEP in consultation with WMO.

292. Many representatives of developing countries expressed concern about their ability to participate fully in scientific programmes on the atmosphere, including the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Others said that the

fragmentation of the work of the Panel through the proliferation of its committees, working groups and sub-working groups made this problem especially difficult for their countries. There was a need, they maintained, for technical, financial and other types of assistance. It was also important to tap the scientific potential of developing countries and to ensure that their analytical capability was enhanced in addressing the national and regional implications of climate change. Several representatives from industrialized countries agreed that the full participation of developing countries in the work of the Panel and in relevant scientific programmes was vital and expressed their willingness to provide assistance.

293. One representative stressed the need for all countries to determine how their national strategies would fit into an international framework and urged them to identify what practical measures might best accelerate the programme to safeguard climate.

294. Another representative said that one immediate practical measure to limit climate change was to accelerate the phasing-out of ozone-depleting substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol. She referred to the Helsinki Declaration, in which more than 80 Governments had agreed that this measure should be fully implemented by the year 2000, if not before, and stressed the necessity of meeting the needs of developing countries by providing technology and affordable, safe substitutes.

295. One representative said that, although she welcomed the spirit and intent of the Helsinki Declaration, she had reservations about its wording, as it left some doubts as to implications for developing countries. She noted, too, that the Declaration had been finalized at an informal meeting hosted by the Government of Finland and later noted at the First Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, at which her country had been only an observer.

296. Several representatives pointed out that it was important for developing countries unable to participate in the work of the Panel to be kept fully informed of all its activities. Others drew attention to the need to avoid duplication within the Panel and overlap with the work of other bodies.

297. Referring to the role played by forests in regulating the composition of the atmosphere, several representatives of developing countries spoke of their ability to assist by preventing deforestation in their countries and by implementing reforestation programmes.

298. Several specialized agencies of the United Nations system spoke of the importance their organizations gave to the climate change issue. The observer for UNESCO informed the Committee of several relevant activities implemented under its Man and the Biosphere Programme and by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. He called for greater inter-agency co-operation on the issue and expressed the willingness of UNESCO to participate fully in all activities. The observer for WHO said that his organization intended to undertake a study that would address the impact of climate change on human health and on disease vectors. The observer for WMO reported on its major scientific research and monitoring programmes, some of which, such as the Background Air Pollution Monitoring Network (BAPMoN), were carried out in co-operation with UNEP. He stressed the requirement for increased atmospheric monitoring, pointing out that there were major deficiencies in the monitoring networks, particularly in tropical areas, and appealed for sufficient resources to overcome this problem.

## B. Programme 2: Water

299. Introducing the water programme, the Assistant Executive Director stated that it concentrated on assessment, management, development and protection.

300. Several representatives expressed their satisfaction with the Executive Director's proposal that the problem of water should be one of the six priority areas of the programme.

301. One representative suggested that, after the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade ended in 1990, water quality and access to water should be emphasized. She added that the issue of access to water included the mobilization of resources, recycling of water and spread of information, stating that the International Training Centre for Water Resources Management could help in spreading information. She emphasized the need for co-operation between UNEP and other United Nations organizations and regional bodies.

302. One representative observed that the Volta river basin had been selected as one of the priority areas by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and stated that the time had come to take action on that basin. One representative drew attention to the need for international assistance with water resource problems in his country and informed the Committee that programmes on forest recovery for watershed protection had begun.

303. One representative proposed that higher priority be given to a series of issues: water resource management at the national level, social and economic pressures on water resources, the increased awareness of water problems through water management training, and the detection and removal of toxic chemicals from water and sediment. Speaking of the GEMS/Water programme, he stressed the importance of water-quality monitoring to detect long-term and global trends and noted the current proposals to update the programme. He suggested that assessment and monitoring should be strengthened, as recommended in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, adding that bilateral aid agencies should consider providing financial assistance to the global water assessment programme.

304. One representative suggested placing greater emphasis on the problems of restoring levels in ground-water aquifers in arid areas, the re-use of waste water, and water supply and sanitation. He expressed satisfaction with the work of the GEMS/Water programme, but proposed that the current number of water quality determinants be reduced to three or four so that developing countries could manage the monitoring themselves. He pointed out that such a decrease, coupled with an increase in GEMS monitoring stations, would improve understanding of the global water situation.

305. The representative of Lesotho, speaking for the country charged with executing the Zambezi Action Plan on behalf of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), thanked UNEP for its interest in the Zambezi river basin, endorsed its views concerning the Zambezi Action Plan and looked forward to further assistance, not only from UNEP, but other organizations as well. He also informed the Committee that a feasibility study was being completed by the Scandinavian countries and appealed to other donors for financial assistance for the Zambezi Action Plan.

306. Stressing the importance of water in life support systems, one representative stated that population growth and migration to urban areas posed serious threats to water resources in developing countries. Because those countries could not deal with the problem alone, he suggested further co-operation between UNEP and WHO to strengthen water supply and sanitation programmes.

307. Another representative, supporting the priority given to water problems, emphasized the importance of drinking water.

308. The observers for UNESCO and WMO welcomed the high priority given to water problems by the Executive Director and expressed their organizations' willingness to continue co-operating with UNEP.

309. The observer for WHO informed the Committee that following the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, his organization, like others, would continue its activities in this area, but with somewhat broader scope and greater emphasis on water quality and the control of pollution. He highlighted the importance of the GEMS/Water programme with regard to public health as well as environmental protection.

310. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director, Office of the Environment Programme, noted the high level of co-operation among the organizations of the United Nations system in water programmes and said that co-operation was equally necessary among Governments, especially in the management of international water bodies. Responding to a question, he informed the Committee that the role of UNEP in the Zambezi Action Plan, after its finalization, was to monitor and assist in its implementation. Regarding the question of the Volta river basin, he said that action priorities concerning African water bodies were decided by the Committee on River and Lake Basins of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

### C. Programme 3.1: Terrestrial ecosystems

#### 1. Subprogramme 3: soils

311. The Assistant Executive Director introduced this subprogramme, noting that it would address the enhancement of international awareness of global soil degradation, assistance to developing countries in formulating and implementing national soils policies and their integration into development plans, and promotion of the rational use of soils in fragile ecosystems in collaboration with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and international institutions.

312. Several representatives welcomed the fact that the Executive Director had proposed land degradation as one of the UNEP priority areas, and emphasized that UNEP should not only focus on formulating national plans, but also on promoting sustainable use of marginal lands and activities that aimed at reducing the pressure on land caused by an ever-increasing population.

313. One representative stressed that the role of UNEP should be confined to planning activities, acting as a catalyst and tapping new sources of financial support. Another representative urged that priority be given to soil biology, where knowledge, though essential for proper tropical soil management, was as yet insufficient. The representative was pleased to see the tropical soil biology and fertility programme of the International Union of Biological Sciences reflected in the UNEP programme.



314. One representative explained that despite extensive efforts in his country to reduce erosion and protect soil fertility, the total area of eroded land continued to increase. He supported the recognition of UNEP of land degradation as an important issue and added that his country would collaborate closely with UNEP in this field.

315. Another representative expressed his appreciation of the co-operation between UNESCO and UNEP in tropical soils programmes.

316. The observer for UNESCO noted the collaboration of UNEP with UNESCO and the International Union of Biological Sciences in the tropical soil biology and fertility network and co-operation of UNESCO with UNEP in the soils and fertilizers network of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

317. Many representatives discussed soil erosion and land degradation in relation to desertification control and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

## 2. Subprogramme 3.2: arid lands and desertification

318. In his introduction, the Assistant Executive Director observed that the desertification problem was far better recognized today as an environmental issue than it had been in 1977 on the eve of the United Nations Conference on Desertification. However, isolated sectoral anti-desertification projects and their lack of integration with national development plans had led to limited success. Consequently, the main thrust of the subprogramme was technical assistance to developing countries in the preparation of national plans for combating desertification and the establishment of mechanisms to implement them. The Assistant Executive Director requested representatives to provide policy guidance to the secretariat regarding the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, the Special Account to finance the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and other international financing measures aimed at implementing the Plan of Action.

319. The Director of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) described the activities of the Office in the 22 countries south of the Sahara, and drew attention to the need to protect the fragile productive base of the area and to arrest biological decline.

320. Several representatives discussed the Consultative Group for Desertification Control and the Special Account. Some expressed strong reservations about these two mechanisms, stating that both had lacked support, had not lived up to expectations and had not been able to fulfil their task of funding desertification control. They requested that both be abolished. By contrast, other representatives, largely from affected developing countries, maintained that the Consultative Group still had a function as a forum for exchanging experience and that it should concentrate its activities at the national level. One representative emphasized strengthening the Consultative Group at the national level; another stated that its terms of reference should be more clearly defined; and another maintained that it was the only world-wide mechanism for mobilizing financial resources for desertification control. Some representatives expressed their concern at the numerous regional and subregional organizations involved in desertification control and called for greater co-ordination and collaboration among them.

321. Certain representatives opposed the creation of new financial institutions for desertification control, arguing against the further proliferation of institutions and bureaucracies in their view, existing multilateral development banks and bilateral funding arrangements were sufficient for channelling funds on concessionary terms.

322. Other representatives linked debt and desertification.

323. A number of representatives stressed their concern that desertification control might be relegated to second place as an environmental action programme, despite the ever-increasing expansion of the problem and the large numbers of people affected. They asserted that desertification contributed to other environmental problems, such as climate change, and should therefore be a core programme of environmental management. One representative argued that policies and management plans concerning ground-water resources should be developed in conjunction with desertification control and afforestation programmes. Concern was also expressed at the degradation of resources, including soil and water, and a call was made for managing them so as to ensure sustainable development.

324. Many representatives expressed the view that action plans to combat desertification should be integrated with national development plans, with emphasis on popular participation. One representative emphasized this approach as one that would attract both international assistance and domestic support. Others said that, rather than concentrate on project implementation, UNEP should study long-term desertification problems and their possible solutions. In this regard, one representative suggested that UNEP should play a leading role in evaluating desertification control programmes; others stressed its role in the assessment of desertification.

325. One representative, recalling the discussions at the fourteenth session of the Governing Council that had highlighted the importance of pastoral nomadism, suggested that the programme of UNEP should include assistance to one or two countries in the form of a pilot project on environmental management to reduce the destructive character of this way of life.

326. Another representative called for UNEP assistance in combating the spread of the Kalahari Desert.

327. The observer for UNESCO reported on his organization's work on implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and referred to the 1948 conference that had launched the UNESCO Arid Zone Research Programme. He also described the activities of the Integrated Project on Arid Lands which were supported by UNEP in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. He added that UNESCO had also participated in the work of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control.

328. The observer for Greenpeace International maintained that past programmes had addressed the symptoms of desertification rather than its root causes. He stated that environmentally unsound agricultural practices, such as the use of pesticides, had caused degradation of resources and had contributed to the loss of biodiversity, thereby leading to desertification.

329. In response to some of the questions and comments made by representatives, the representative of the secretariat said that nomadism was covered in the proposed

programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The establishment of a new financing institution for desertification control programmes had been proposed as a response to General Assembly resolution 42/189 C of 11 December 1987, by which the Assembly had requested that the Executive Director discuss with Governments the feasibility of adopting a new and realistic approach to financing the implementation of the Plan of Action. The Special Account would monitor resource flow to desertification control activities as recorded by national accounts and would provide further support to national and regional programmes. Representatives should decide on the future of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control and give the Executive Director proper guidance as to how to proceed. UNEP and UNSO would continue to assist Governments to draw up national plans of action to combat desertification and to integrate them into national development plans. Assessment and evaluation of desertification would be one of the concentration areas of the desertification control programme of UNEP. However, evaluation was an expensive exercise for which the existing budget would be insufficient.

### 3. Subprogramme 3.3: tropical forest and woodland ecosystems

330. The Assistant Executive Director drew attention to current data indicating that some countries had been destroying their natural forest areas at a far greater rate than had been reported 10 years ago. This would result in further losses of genetic diversity, of natural resources and of options for the future, as well as an increase in greenhouse gases. He said that UNEP supported the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and the UNCTAD International Tropical Timber Agreement of 1983, among other programmes. He said that negotiations were under way to improve incentives to protect and improve the management of tropical forest ecosystems.

331. Many representatives and observers strongly supported the Executive Director's designation of tropical forests as a priority area and urged UNEP to increase its work on conservation by increasing both the financial and human resources devoted to the programme.

332. A number of representatives said that UNEP should increase its promotion of biological diversity in concert with its work on forest conservation, since these two subjects were closely related and should be part of a broader global effort to conserve biological diversity. One representative referred to the serious rate of destruction of non-tropical forest ecosystems and stressed the need to pay attention in a balanced way to all forest systems.

333. Many representatives expressed the view that UNEP should work as much as possible through existing programmes like the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and the International Tropical Timber Organization.

334. One representative urged UNEP to develop cost-effective conservation efforts and to include tropical forests in the proposed convention on biological diversity. He raised the issue of compensation and also mentioned that his country was negotiating "debt for nature swaps", a mechanism currently being considered by the World Bank as well. This was supported by other speakers, while another expressed concern that many developing countries were exporting their natural resources to meet their debt obligations. One representative suggested a mechanism whereby debt could be converted into contributions to environmental organizations such as UNEP.

335. The observer for UNESCO described his organization's work on conservation of tropical forests and other ecosystems in which UNESCO regularly co-operated with UNEP, mainly through its Man and the Biosphere programme. One representative emphasized the importance of the UNEP contribution to this programme.

336. In response to some of the comments made in connection with subprogramme 3, the Deputy Assistant Executive Director, Office of the Environment Programme, said that UNEP would continue its efforts to participate in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and the International Tropical Timber Organization, particularly on environmental conservation.

#### 4. Subprogramme 3.6: biological diversity and protected areas

337. The Assistant Executive Director described the UNEP work on biological diversity. He also mentioned the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the need for a global convention on biological diversity and its possible form.

338. Many representatives and observers expressed their concern about biological impoverishment and agreed that, as a major environmental problem, it should be a priority issue for UNEP. They strongly supported the call for a global convention on biological diversity. Several representatives argued that the UNEP role in preparing such a convention should be strengthened and said that co-ordination with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, FAO, UNESCO, and other organizations concerned should be ensured. New initiatives should take into account work undertaken under the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and similar instruments and plans, as well as the work of gene banks.

339. One representative said that, although he disagreed with some of the articles of the latest draft convention on biological diversity prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, he believed that consensus could be reached and that the Union should be encouraged to develop its draft further. UNEP could provide a forum in which a draft convention could be negotiated, taking into consideration the work of FAO, UNESCO and other bodies. While acknowledging that work was also being done elsewhere, he suggested the creation of a working group within UNEP to undertake the preparation of the draft convention.

340. One representative urged strongly that existing relevant conventions should be ratified before discussion was begun on a new one. However, he stated that the draft of the International Union was a good starting point for a convention, which could then be signed at the 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development.

341. One representative explained that some existing conventions on the subject were operational, some faced problems, and some were not implemented at all. He suggested an umbrella convention, in which existing conventions could be included and to which items, such as biotechnology and technology transfer, could be added.

342. One representative argued that the UNEP role in ecosystem conservation should be strengthened and that emphasis should be placed on biological diversity in financial and staff allocations.
343. Several representatives noted the need to preserve genetic resources that provide the raw materials for biotechnological advances in agriculture, the food industry and the health sector. They argued that the importance of these resources merited a new international approach towards the equitable distribution of raw materials as well as of the benefits arising from biotechnology development between developing and industrialized countries. Socio-economic aspects and fair financial arrangements should be given their due importance in any global convention on biological diversity.
344. One representative agreed that the development of a new legal instrument covering ex situ conservation was necessary, but stated that sufficient work was already being done on in situ conservation; UNEP should therefore focus largely on rationalizing existing work in this latter area.
345. One representative recommended the establishment of an international body, along the lines of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to study various aspects of biological diversity, in particular furthering biotechnology in developing countries.
346. Another representative said that the preparation of programmes for the conservation of biological diversity should not await a global convention, but should proceed immediately; the drafting of a global convention could continue as a parallel activity.
347. One representative proposed the creation of a special fund for projects designed to preserve biological diversity. He added that global environmental protection should be linked to new arrangements for dealing with debt and to a new international economic order.
348. One representative noted that genetic resources conservation was indeed essential and that UNEP should undertake practical actions, such as developing guidelines and recommendations for gene preservation.
349. Other representatives argued that the problem went far beyond the conservation of tropical forests and of biological diversity in themselves; population pressure and hunger were also key elements. He stressed the importance of undertaking conservation activities within the framework of national policies and plans of action.
350. One representative said that UNEP had an important role in providing environmental management to conserve biological diversity.
351. Noting the importance of developing national conservation strategies, one representative called for greater effort in registering existing species as a prerequisite to successful conservation.
352. The representative of Brazil drew the attention of the Committee of the recently signed Amazon Declaration of the States parties to the Amazonian Co-operation Treaty, which had been circulated at the current session of the Council as document UNEP/GC.15/L.3. The Declaration reflected their common

interests in the Amazon region and their intention to co-operate in the development and protection of its heritage. He stressed the need of developing countries for financial resources and appropriate technology to enable them to make sustainable use of their genetic resources.

353. Several representatives and observers offered to assist UNEP in drafting an international convention on biological diversity. One representative also mentioned the need for a convention on the protection of nature in Arctic regions.

354. Some representatives and the observer for FAO emphasized the need to pay attention not only to plant genetic resources, but also to mechanisms to conserve animal genetic resources.

355. Some representatives and observers, expressing concern about the possible impact of climate change on biological diversity, said that work to preserve biological diversity should take this into account; the two subjects were closely related. Conservation of natural forests was of vital importance to the world climate, just as climate change would alter the distribution of species.

356. Several representatives requested the Executive Director to continue to support the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity in its work on a draft convention on biological diversity.

357. The observer for UNESCO emphasized the importance of the World Heritage Convention and the Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves for the conservation of biological diversity and the need to create biosphere reserves in areas not yet protected.

358. The observer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources stated that his organization supported a global convention based on well-defined criteria covering both in situ and ex situ conservation. He informed the Committee that the Union had developed draft articles for inclusion in the convention and that these would soon be distributed. He welcomed the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity, in which the Union would continue to play a part.

359. The observer for FAO stated that his organization had established a global plant genetic resources system in 1983, consisting of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources. He outlined the main decisions and recommendations taken in April and May 1989 by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the FAO Committee on Agriculture concerning the issue of animal genetic resources conservation. He also stated that his organization would continue to collaborate with UNEP and other bodies in this field to further the development of an international legal instrument for the conservation of biological diversity.

360. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director, Office of the Environment Programme, thanked the observer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other representatives for their statements and for introducing the difficult socio-economic issues that had to be incorporated in programmes on biological diversity and in any future convention. That was one of the reasons for the Executive Director's specific request for authority to convene additional working sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

**5. Subprogramme 3.7: microbial resources and related biotechnologies**

361. The Assistant Executive Director highlighted recent progress in biotechnology and its promising potential for achieving sustainable development, if appropriately directed. He also noted possible policy problems and challenges, in particular to developing countries. He said that the UNEP objective in this area was to maximize the benefits while minimizing the risks of biotechnology through continuous support for the regional network of microbiological resource centres (MIRCENs), pilot projects, and the work of the joint UNIDO/WHO/UNEP Working Group on Biotechnology Safety.

362. Referring to the work done in this field by FAO and to the work of the OECD on biotechnology regulation, some representatives requested UNEP to take full account of these activities to ensure co-ordination.

363. One representative requested UNEP and FAO to develop guidelines for conservation of genetic resources and to take a leading role in the application of biotechnology and plant genetic resources in the fight against hunger.

364. Other representatives recommended that biotechnology and technology transfer should constitute important elements of the proposed convention on global biological diversity; one explained that this would enable developing countries to receive a share of the profits of their genetic resources as raw materials for biotechnology.

365. The observer for FAO stated that his organization had been requested by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in 1989 to monitor the developments and implications of biotechnology and, in collaboration with other organizations, to prepare a code of conduct on biotechnology as it affects the conservation and use of plant genetic resources.

366. The observer for UNESCO stated that his organization would continue its collaboration with UNEP by supporting such activities as the regional MIRCENs and pilot applications of sound biotechnologies for increased soil fertility and food production through the IUBS Soil Fertility Network.

367. One representative noted with appreciation the budget provision for training in biotechnology and stated that this would help build infrastructural support and the use of biotechnology by developing countries.

368. Some representatives expressed concern over the testing of genetically engineered organisms in the environment in the absence of appropriate regulation, particularly in developing countries. They went on to state that UNEP should prepare strict international regulations on the testing and use of such organisms.

369. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director explained that UNEP was well aware of the potential applications and implications of biotechnology. It had a role to play, together with other United Nations bodies, particularly in the sound application of biotechnology and in its regulation through the UNIDO/WHO/UNEP Working Group on Biotechnology Safety, of which FAO was expected to become a member.

## 6. Subprogramme 3.8: agricultural lands and agrochemicals

370. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Executive Director said that the international community was now increasingly aware that chemical pesticide control campaigns must be thoroughly re-examined. In this connection, he singled out desert locust control which, since the beginning of the current plague in 1984, had consistently relied on chemical pesticide use. In addition to its economic implications, this strategy had serious environmental implications. He drew the attention of the Committee to General Assembly resolution 43/203 of 20 December 1988, which called upon the relevant United Nations bodies, including UNEP, to undertake an assessment of the pesticides and techniques currently used in the fight against the reproduction of larvae and to test the efficacy of these pesticides and techniques, bearing in mind their effects on the environment and the health of the people in the affected zones.

371. A number of representatives referred to the relationship between this area of the programme and to the rest of the UNEP work on terrestrial ecosystems. It was noted that poor management of agricultural lands, especially in non-sustainable farming, not only led to desertification, depletion of tropical forests and reduction of biodiversity, but also often to increased use of chemical pesticides which, in turn, created a number of serious environmental and human health hazards.

372. One representative pointed out that desertification in his country resulted mainly from the agricultural methods used and that that generated enormous environmental problems. Noting that the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development had stressed that relationship, he emphasized the need to find a remedy that would reduce overdependence on pesticides in the development of agriculture. He stated that he would propose a draft decision on the development of a clear-cut concept of sustainable agriculture, which he hoped would receive due support from the Governing Council.

373. Another representative, while supporting these views, reported that his country had considerable experience in training managers to reduce the use of pesticides in plant protection and had already co-operated with UNEP in this area.

374. With reference to a draft decision on sustainable agriculture that was before the Committee, the observer for FAO said that that important decision was of direct relevance to his organization's work. However, it might have financial implications for his organization. FAO would consider the text carefully with a view to implementing its provisions in close co-operation with UNEP.

375. The observer for Greenpeace International, noting that unsustainable agricultural development included environmental pollution by excessive use of pesticides, emphasized the need to develop clear policies to promote sustainable agriculture. He called upon UNEP to bring together environmental and agricultural policy makers to discuss the issue of sustainable development with regard to agricultural policies and practices.

376. In his response, the Assistant Executive Director assured the observer that the efforts of UNEP in this area were geared towards achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development. A good example of this was the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation.



## General statements on the terrestrial ecosystems programme

377. Some representatives expressed their regret that the proposed budget for terrestrial ecosystems had been reduced by 2 per cent. The Assistant Executive Director replied that this figure was misleading and assured them that the allocation for this budget line did not represent an overall decrease. For example, considerable amounts were allocated for technical and regional co-operation, which also covered terrestrial ecosystems.

378. The observer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources stressed the need to have a comprehensive view of the work being done in the area of terrestrial ecosystems and offered assistance in compiling this information. He asked UNEP to note that the activities of the Union were not restricted to the protection of species, as suggested by the proposed programme budget; a major part of the budget of the Union was spent on work concerning sustainable development. The Assistant Executive Director replied that it would not be possible to present a view of all activities, as requested, pointing out the amount of paper required to report on the work of UNEP.

379. One representative referred to the system-wide medium-term environment programme as a tool for facilitating regional and international co-operation. He urged industrialized countries to provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries not only for environmental protection, but also for economic development.

380. In his concluding remarks, the Assistant Executive Director observed that few representatives had made specific recommendations or asked specific questions. He noted that suggested priority areas, namely, land degradation, including desertification, and impoverishment of biological diversity, including deforestation, particularly of tropical forests, had received much attention and that he interpreted this as approval for the Executive Director's proposal to concentrate on these issues. He further confirmed the awareness of UNEP of the work of other United Nations organizations in this area. He pointed out that the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification served as the co-ordinating body for desertification and also referred to the Ecosystem Conservation Group, in which FAO, UNESCO and UNEP co-operated, as a body with a similar role in ecosystems management. He noted that the World Bank and UNDP were also considering participation.

### D. Programme 4: Oceans

381. Introducing the programme on oceans, the Assistant Executive Director stated that regional seas would remain its central element, with priority given to the consolidation of regional action plans for Eastern Africa and the East Asian Seas and the adoption of the Action Plan for the South Asian Seas. Negotiations would continue on action plans for the Black Sea and the north west Pacific. UNEP would also make further efforts to link existing regional seas action plans, to address global marine problems through the launching of a world-wide pollution monitoring programme and a programme to monitor the effects of climate change on the marine and coastal environment, and to promote measures for the protection of marine mammals.

382. Commending the programme, one representative referred to the activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Global Sea Level Monitoring Programme and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Mission to Planet Earth. Indicating the high priority his country gave to protecting its coastal zones and coastal waters, he invited UNEP to take national experience into account in addressing global marine and coastal issues. He also stated that his country would increase its participation in the implementation of the Caribbean Action Plan and would support the secretariat through direct contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund.

383. Endorsing the priorities proposed for the programme and stressing the importance of a pragmatic approach and of international co-operation in this field, one representative held that the programme deserved a larger share of funds for the next biennium. She also expressed strong support for the establishment of global systems to monitor the marine environment. These systems would involve research, standardization and data exchange and would therefore require constant co-operation among UNEP, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), WHO, WMO, IMO, FAO and the Governments concerned. She added that, because coastal zones and island ecosystems were particularly fragile, subject to a series of conflicting uses and strong human pressures, they merited special attention within the framework of the regional seas programme. She also endorsed the support of UNEP of the South Pacific Action Plan. UNEP should continue to promote and guide the initial steps of the regional action plans, she added, and then withdraw gradually as the coastal States assumed greater collective responsibility for implementing them. As her Government made considerable contributions to the regional seas programme, she was particularly concerned about the lack of or late contributions of others, the more so because it was anticipated that UNEP would be launching new action plans.

384. One representative pointed out that the oceans programme received only 10 per cent of the Environment Fund while oceans covered more than 70 per cent of the planet. Consequently, the priority given to it should be reconsidered. He also noted that of the trust funds managed by UNEP, seven were devoted to the regional seas programme: this demonstrated the great interest and support Governments attached to the programme. He recommended that UNEP should increase its allocation to the regional seas programme in the next biennium.

385. One representative endorsed the support of others for the proposed oceans programme, particularly its climate change aspects. His own country's experience confirmed that the UNEP regional approach was the best way to protect the world's seas. His Government endorsed the self-financing aim of the programme and would welcome a report on progress towards this goal.

386. One representative, stressing that the oceans formed part of the global commons, said that concern for them should parallel concern for the atmosphere. Listing the problems of the North Sea, he said that the rate of degradation of seas and coasts rivalled deforestation and desertification as an environmental problem. Therefore, his Government supported the proposal that funds for the oceans programme should be increased for the biennium 1990-1991.

387. Another representative endorsed this view and stressed that marine pollution was best tackled by national measures complemented by regional and international co-operation, especially in reducing pollution from land-based sources. He strongly advocated the elaboration of an action plan for the protection of small cetaceans.

388. While echoing the support of others for the oceans programme, one representative said that the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region was seriously hampered by a shortage of funds because the participating States faced serious economic problems. The Action Plan needed greater financial support from the international community; its priorities had to be set carefully, as the funds might not cover all the agreed activities. Coastal erosion, he observed, should be a high priority because many coastal towns were gradually disappearing into the sea. It was also important to harmonize national legislation with the Abidjan and Basel Conventions and to strengthen the network for marine pollution monitoring.

389. Another representative also appealed for contributions to the Trust Fund for the Action Plan for West and Central Africa and stressed the seriousness of coastal erosion in the region. The project on pollution monitoring, he added, was being implemented successfully with the assistance of FAO, WHO and IAEA; another priority project focused on contingency planning for pollution accidents. Yet another representative called for political and financial support for this action plan, saying that the countries of West and Central Africa were trapped between terrestrial desertification and a new form of desertification in the sea. The richest fisheries of West Africa were declining. He urged UNEP to execute the UNDP project for the study of the highly polluted Bay of Dakar and warned that unless action was taken now, emergency assistance plans would have to be developed.

390. The representative of Kuwait, the host country of the Secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment expressed support for the programme and reported that the Kuwait Action Plan was entering a new era after eight years of war, with new protocols on exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and on pollution from land-based sources. Within the recently approved plan for surveillance, environmental assessment and the clearance of wrecks and other war-related objects, UNEP could play a major role. Other areas of co-operation with UNEP might include the formulation of guidelines for the development and management of coastal areas, training in marine pollution assessment and coastal management, and monitoring sea-level rise in the area of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment as a contribution to the global climate impact programme.

391. Several representatives cited the levels of support for the activities of the regional seas programme through trust funds as evidence of the confidence the programme had inspired. One representative endorsed the need to assess the damage and clean up marine regions that had suffered extensive pollution from recent military conflict, and he asked UNEP to promote international assistance for this purpose. He said that the Red Sea, as a semi-closed body of water with heavy maritime traffic, bordered by developing countries which lacked resources, was a sea in need of the help of UNEP. The users of this sea should contribute to its environmental protection. Growing oil traffic increased the risk of pollution, but the investment required to prepare for such accidents was beyond the reach of any riparian State. The help of the UNEP was needed to assemble inventories of the equipment, facilities and experts available, as well as for the development of institutional arrangements to borrow or lease such equipment.

392. One representative said that the Mediterranean Action Plan, through pressure on the coastal States, contributed effectively to the reduction of pollution in the Mediterranean basin. His country supported a new protocol on the exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and would double its present contribution to the

Environment Fund. Another representative suggested refocusing the Mediterranean Action Plan through a series of pilot projects on integrated coastal zones.

393. Commending the role of UNEP in the development of the South Pacific Action Plan under the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, one representative expressed satisfaction with the decision of the recent meeting of the Steering Committee of the programme that the plan should continue to be considered the South Pacific component of the regional seas programme. The forthcoming UNEP-sponsored intergovernmental meeting on climate impact in the South Pacific would stimulate the countries of that region to participate in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He also stressed the importance of maintaining biological diversity in the marine environment, pointing out the dangers of over-fishing, siltation and drift gill-net fishing, the last of which was devastating South Pacific marine resources.

394. Another representative requested that UNEP resume full substantive and financial support to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. He, too, expressed concern about the drift gill-net fishing practised by certain countries in the South Pacific region.

395. Several representatives asked UNEP to consider the development of a regional seas programme for the north-west Pacific and one requested that UNEP, in co-operation with the East-West Center, convene an expert meeting on marine pollution in the region as part of the preparation for the development of an action plan for the protection of the north-west Pacific region.

396. Another representative requested faster implementation of the work agreed upon in the framework of the Eastern African Action Plan, including contingency planning for marine pollution emergencies, fisheries-related projects, environmental impact assessment, coastal erosion and research on the sources, levels and effects of pollutants.

397. Thanking UNEP for assistance received through the South-East Pacific Action Plan, one representative emphasized the increasing importance of the regional seas programme because of its relevance to climate impact studies. Another representative said that the Plan had provided training on environmental impact assessments vital to the countries of the region.

398. One representative said that the proposed convention on preserving biological diversity should include the marine environment. He added that the Oceans programme required stronger financial support and that UNEP should pay more attention to the problem of pollution in the world's oceans, which were the lungs of the planet and which reduced climate fluctuations. He announced his country's willingness to participate in the regional seas programme and said that it was ready to propose a series of projects relevant to the Baltic, the Black Sea and the oceans of the Far East.

399. The observer for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) highlighted the close co-operation between UNEP and the Commission on projects for monitoring regional and global marine pollution, for developing pollution assessment and monitoring techniques and for training experts and technicians. UNEP, WMO and IOC were currently developing a global project to monitor the effects of climate change on the marine and coastal environment. Because IOC and UNEP jointly provided the technical secretariat for various groups of experts under the

Technical Committee for Global Investigations on Pollution in the Marine Environment, IOC would welcome the co-sponsorship of UNEP of the Committee.

400. The observer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources emphasized his organization's co-operation with UNEP on issues related to the oceans programme, adding that the Union would continue supporting the development and implementation of regional protocols on conservation, particularly in the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and Central America and the Indian Ocean regions. The Union had co-operated with UNEP in producing the directories of coral reefs and hoped also to co-operate in preparing directories relevant to other coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves, as a contribution to regional protocols and to work on global climate change and sea-level rise. The joint UNEP/IUCN/WWF World Conservation Monitoring Centre could provide a global database to support protocols and an evaluation of the implications of climate change and sea-level rise. Another area of co-operation with UNEP was the implementation of the Marine Mammals Action Plan.

401. The observer for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme spoke of the need for more intensive participation by Governments in the Programme and stressed the importance of continuing co-operation between the Programme and the regional seas programme.

402. The observer for the Permanent South Pacific Commission, referring to the South-East Pacific Action Plan, said that the support of UNEP had helped the countries involved to develop a network of 42 laboratories, to train 1,100 experts and to adopt four legal agreements.

403. The observer for Greenpeace International, expressing support for the regional approach of UNEP called for more regional protocols on dumping of wastes at sea and on pollution from land-based sources, as well as for the adoption of precautionary principles in these protocols and the elimination of destructive fishing methods, such as the drift gill-nets.

404. In summarizing the debate, the Assistant Executive Director thanked the speakers for their endorsement of the proposed oceans programme and noted that, if Governments increased their contributions, allocations to the programme as one of the concentration areas could increase. He also noted that UNEP intended to participate fully in the activities of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme as part of the regional seas programme. In reference to other points, the secretariat also informed the Committee that as no funds were currently budgeted for new regional programmes like the one suggested for the north-west Pacific, money for such programmes would have to be found elsewhere. A meeting to prepare an action plan for small cetaceans was being planned. The problem of drift gill-net fishing would be examined jointly with FAO. Arrangements for securing pollution control equipment would be discussed with IMO.

#### E. Programme 5: Lithosphere

405. In his introduction, the Assistant Executive Director explained that the main objective of this programme was to foster the study of biogeochemical cycles of phosphorus, sulphur and carbon. The main activities were scientific workshops and the publication of their findings.

406. Several representatives and observers welcomed and supported this programme: one recommended that the role of the UNEP regional offices in the implementation of the programme should be increased.

407. One representative, noting that this programme was not in the Executive Director's list of priorities, expressed concern that a major new project was contemplated.

408. The Deputy Assistant Executive Director replied that the programme on lithosphere was not new, but rather a follow-up to work begun during the previous biennium. He agreed with the suggestion that the regional offices should play an important role and said that the clearing-house mechanism of UNEP could also help implementation.

409. The observer for UNESCO expressed the interest of his organization in co-operating with UNEP on the environmental effects of mining, particularly in developing countries.

#### F. Programme 6: Human settlements and the environment

410. Introducing the programme on human settlements, the Assistant Executive Director stated that co-ordination and co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) had a high priority; this was reflected in the joint UNEP/Habitat report on co-operation. A set of environmental guidelines for settlement planning and management had been published and it was now up to Governments to arrange for their implementation. In this respect, UNEP and Habitat could make only limited progress in certain metropolitan areas. The Assistant Executive Director noted that the low priority given to the subprogramme on natural and man-made disasters was a result of Governing Council decision 11/7, on which the Council might now choose to give fresh guidance.

411. One representative commended the workplan, especially as it related to coastal settlements and climate change.

412. Some representatives urged that the budget allocation to the programme be increased, particularly to the section on community preparedness for natural and man-made disasters. They suggested placing more emphasis on training people to prepare for natural disasters and to cope with their after-effects.

413. Some representatives emphasized the need for the programme to reflect the resolutions on human settlements and sustainable development adopted at the twelfth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, held at Cartagena, Colombia, earlier in 1989.

414. One representative, while supporting the co-operation between UNEP and Habitat and endorsing their proposed joint work programme, suggested that specific

attention should be given to the further development of an environmental approach to settlements planning and management, to the provision of technical guidance on water supply and environmental sanitation, and to waste management. He also suggested that the guidelines jointly prepared by UNEP and WHO on health aspects of human settlements should be widely distributed.

415. One representative stressed the importance of urban utilities, especially low-cost water treatment, and the need for environmentally sound handling of solid waste and waste water.

416. Another representative argued that the problems of pastoral nomadism should be included in the subprogramme on human settlements. Nomadism was a traditional technology for the utilization of marginal land that otherwise would remain unused and therefore the establishment of permanent settlements for nomads was not appropriate, either socially or environmentally; there was a need to find acceptable solutions that would preserve their traditional way of life. He also indicated his country's willingness to support such work financially, should a suitable project be proposed.

417. One representative stated that there was a need to focus on the problem of transport in urban settlements, which affected air quality and had an important bearing on policies of urban and rural settlement.

418. The observer for UNESCO expressed the need for continued co-operation between his organization and UNEP in both human settlements and in preparing for natural disasters. His organization, notably its Man and the Biosphere programme, had an important part to play, especially in regard to the problems of large cities.

#### G. Programme 7: Human health and welfare

419. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Executive Director recalled the establishment in 1979 of the International Programme on Chemical Safety as a joint venture of ILO, WHO and UNEP. He explained that the major thrust of this programme was a concerted United Nations effort to assess the risks of chemicals to human health and the environment, as well as to strengthen national capabilities in the field of chemical safety. Under a new Memorandum of Understanding among the three participating organizations, the objectives of the programme had been given a sharper focus by agreement to joint studies on methods of testing chemicals, evaluating the effects of chemicals on non-human biota and on how the work of the International Programme could better serve developing countries. On the control of vector-borne disease, he recalled that the Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Vector Control had been established in 1980 by WHO, FAO and UNEP. The time had now come for that Panel to move from experimentation to practical application. Governments and donor agencies should be encouraged to increase collaboration in many related fields by adopting clear-cut policies with specific objectives and responsibilities regarding health and water resource development projects.

420. A number of representatives welcomed the proposed activities of this programme. One representative reported that his country's work with UNEP to carry out projects had so far been very satisfactory and he expressed interest and readiness to continue this co-operation. Several representatives expressed concern at the reduced budget allocation for this programme, a few of them stressing its

importance relative to other areas, some of which were being accorded higher priority. One representative stressed the need to pay special attention to the working environment within the informal industrial sector, particularly in developing countries. Another representative, however, disagreed and noted the reduced allocation with approval. Some representatives singled out the relationship between this programme and the problems of energy consumption, one warning particularly against the potential hazardous effects on human health arising from poor transportation systems. Commending efforts to discover new sources of energy, he also pointed out that human health should be the ultimate objective of development rather than the price of progress. Another representative suggested that human health should be the general title of the whole UNEP programme, as attainment of adequate human health and welfare was what the work of UNEP was all about.

421. Another representative, commenting on the role of UNEP regional offices, requested that separate reports be submitted to the Governing Council showing how each had contributed to the implementation of the programme.

422. The observer for WHO said that, although work on health was highlighted in this programme, health concerns and health inputs from his organization were included in a much broader spectrum of environment programme activities, ranging from those that dealt with atmosphere and water to many involving environmental assessment and environmental management.

#### 1. Subprogramme 7.1: hazards of pollution

423. Many representatives welcomed the work continuing under the International Programme on Chemical Safety, and one stressed its positive contribution to chemical safety through the provision of guidance for the safe handling and management of chemical pollutants. The same representative noted the usefulness of information from the Programme for prior informed consent and pledged his country's continuing support for the Programme.

424. Another representative, while recognizing the excellent results achieved so far under the Programme, observed that it had yet to extend its work to many other fields, among them the widespread use of agricultural chemicals in developing countries.

425. Another representative also praised the work of the International Programme on Chemical Safety and underlined the importance of broad continued support for the Programme. He described some of the work being done with assistance from his country, such as the evaluation of the effects of industrial chemicals on health. Three important results had been the international chemical safety cards, the WHO pesticide data-sheets and guidelines for drinking water quality. Another activity was the development of ways to test for long-term toxicity and the evaluation of food additives and pesticide residues. He added that the importance of work on the toxicity of chemicals had increased. Yet another representative, noting the emphasis laid on this subprogramme, stressed the need for Governments to commit themselves fully to examining the effectiveness of the tools available to them for dealing with the effects of pollution in their own territories.



426. One representative expressed satisfaction that the problem of assessing chemical hazards, which needed special expertise, would be addressed during the coming biennium.

427. The observer for WHO explained that his organization collaborated with UNEP in the work of the International Programme on Chemical Safety. The Programme was already well established, having operated for the past 10 years. With the assistance of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, it had now produced evaluations of well over 100 chemicals. Results of these evaluations had been made available not only through the environmental health criteria documents, but also in other forms and were increasingly used in decision-making both by Governments and by industry. The evaluation results were also used by Governments to set exposure limits for chemicals in air, water and food. Other activities of the programme dealt with training, emergency assistance and other ways of helping countries cope with chemical safety problems. The Programme depended heavily on the scientific support it received from member States, as well as on other resources.

428. In his concluding remarks, the Deputy Assistant Executive Director appealed to States to assist the International Programme on Chemical Safety, particularly in its training activities, either by hosting training courses or by helping participants from developing countries to attend courses elsewhere.

## 2. Subprogramme 7.2: environmental aspects of communicable diseases

429. Several representatives expressed their support for work projected under this subprogramme. One noted that such issues as the provisions of clean water and proper sanitation could play an important role in preventing the spread of communicable diseases. Proper housing was also a key element. Another representative, addressing the importance of tropical disease control in developing countries, spoke of the threat his country faced from the vectors of environmentally related diseases such as malaria and schistosomiasis. He noted the achievements of the Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Vector Control since its establishment. Guidelines and other tools for environmental management for vector control produced by the Panel of Experts had been extremely useful for implementation of environmental management programmes and the promotion of intersectoral collaboration for vector control in water resource development projects. He noted that the environmental and climatic conditions in his country were ideal for implementation of the field activities of the Panel. The need for such work had been underlined by the recent increase in malaria in the highlands. Further, he noted that, while this phenomenon could not necessarily be attributed to a rise in temperature or to any other climatic or demographic change, it could be argued that, in the long term, the greenhouse effect, which the Committee had addressed at length, might well lead to changes in water levels, coastline, etc., some of which could affect the mosquito vector ecology. It was therefore time to start reviewing climatic changes attributed to the greenhouse effect, to define the possible impacts on vector ecology, and to suggest ways of monitoring the situation more effectively. Consequently, he welcomed the proposed efforts by both WHO and UNEP to look at the possible greenhouse effect on vector-borne disease distribution.

430. Turning to the proposed second activity under the subprogramme - providing assistance to developing countries to help them improve their environmental

management of mycotoxins - one representative referred to his country's past successful collaboration with UNEP in that area.

431. The observer for WHO, addressing the issue of vector control, recalled that in his introductory statement, the Assistant Executive Director had referred to the Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Vector Control. He said that the Panel had raised the question of the impact that the greenhouse effect might have on the distribution of vector-borne diseases and, in this connection, reminded the Committee of plans of WHO to undertake a review of the effects of climate change on health. He invited UNEP to contribute to and support this work.

432. Responding to issues raised during the discussion of this subprogramme, the Assistant Executive Director said that he shared the view that everything UNEP did impinged on human health and welfare. On vector control, he said that the Panel of Experts had indeed begun to move from generalities towards addressing the actual conditions found in developing countries. He drew attention to the frequent financial constraints that hindered the application of the expertise of the Panel and experience and he appealed to donor countries to support the Panel through the UNEP clearing-house mechanism.

#### H. Programme 8: Energy, industry and transportation

##### 1. Subprogramme 8.1: energy and environment

433. Introducing the energy subprogramme, the Assistant Executive Director emphasized the importance of energy production, conversion and use as prime causes of many major environmental problems. The approach of UNEP was to promote an understanding of the impacts of energy use on the environment and thereby contribute to sounder energy planning and policy at both the technical and institutional levels.

434. One representative stressed the importance of achieving early results in this field, which had a wide impact on climate change and general human health. Activities aimed at the efficient use of energy and the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy should be given every encouragement. He said that the industrialized countries had a special responsibility to deal with the problems of energy use and to develop alternatives to current patterns and technologies. He argued that these new technologies should be made easily and freely available to developing countries. As there was no special United Nations agency for energy, he recommended support for the development of environmentally sound energy policies and the transfer of the necessary technologies to those countries in need.

435. A number of representatives expressed their support for various parts of the subprogramme, especially work related to energy policy and climate change, human health aspects and new and renewable sources of energy.

436. One representative spoke of the need for a system that could both assess the requirements of developing countries and secure the transfer of environmentally sound energy technologies, especially in the search for new and renewable sources of energy.

437. Another representative spoke of the need for a convention on the transboundary movement of nuclear wastes, which could be drawn up by UNEP and IAEA.

438. The observer for IAEA drew the attention of the Committee to the Secretary-General's report on the environmental effects of the dumping of nuclear wastes (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.6), which had been prepared by IAEA in consultation with UNEP. Although there were no confirmed cases of dumping of nuclear wastes, IAEA had initiated work on an international code of practice on the subject, following the principles laid down in the recent Basel Convention.

## 2. Subprogramme 8.2: industry and environment

439. In his introduction to the subprogramme on industry, the Assistant Executive Director emphasized four lines of action: the preparation and dissemination of technical guides focused on small- and medium-size enterprises in highly polluting industry sectors; training activities to support and reinforce the use of these guides; technical co-operation on specific industrial problems at the request of Governments; and the transfer of information, together with the transfer of environmental technologies.

440. Several representatives expressed their satisfaction with the work of the UNEP Industry and Environment Office and recommended that it be strengthened.

441. A number of representatives said that a convention on notification and assistance in the event of industrial accidents was not necessary. Activities should be directed instead towards establishing an international network on this subject in connection with the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level Programme, which several representatives commended.

442. One representative said that while the training being offered in the field of industry and environment was valuable, too many organizations were involved; UNEP could play a role in co-ordination. He recommended that the Executive Director examine the possibility of establishing an environmental training network or similar co-ordination unit at the UNEP Industry and Environment Office. One representative announced her Government's financial support for a training workshop on hazardous waste management for French-speaking African countries.

443. A number of representatives stressed the importance of strengthening the network on low and no-waste technologies. Some expressed their willingness to support this activity.

444. One representative stressed the importance of direct outside financial support for some of the specific activities under the technical programme of the UNEP Industry and Environment Office and in particular for the technical guides. Another emphasized the need for these guides in developing countries, as well as for the Industry and Environment Review, as a means of transferring information.

## 3. Subprogramme 8.3: transportation

445. Some representatives expressed concern over the low level of activities in the subprogramme on transportation, as it was recognized that transport was one of the major sources of atmospheric pollution and also very important in the context of urban development. Transport was seen by one representative as an example of an

area where information and transfer of technologies could help developing countries immensely. Another representative called for more work on removing lead from petrol.

446. Several representatives and the observer for ILO emphasized the need to strengthen activities related to the working environment. One representative stressed the urgent need for activities related to mining.

#### I. Programme 9: Peace, security and the environment

447. The Assistant Executive Director introduced this programme by drawing attention to the increased international interest in the concept of environmental security; he noted that it had nothing to do with disarmament.

448. One representative, while noting the commendable work being undertaken by the Peace Research Institute in Oslo, said that it now needed redirection. It was especially important to develop the concept of environmental security and to elaborate a set of criteria to determine when a situation or activity became a threat to security. Noting that the programme linked the concept of environmental security to Earthwatch, he argued that as UNEP had no mandate to make political assessments, it was necessary to establish a new decision-making body which might bring such issues before the Security Council. He said that the proposed new centre for environmental emergency assistance might be linked to this body and ended by predicting that this subject would be discussed by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session as well as at the 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development.

#### J. Programme 10: Environmental assessment

##### 1. Subprogramme 10.1: scientific and technical information

##### INFOTERRA: International Environmental Information System

449. The Assistant Executive Director introduced the programme on assessment by making a statement on INFOTERRA, which, he said, had adapted to changing users' needs and technological innovations in broadening access to environmental information and sharing it. He stressed the importance of environmental information in decision-making and noted that the INFOTERRA 3 meeting at Moscow in March 1989 had made some 32 recommendations regarding technical assistance to developing countries, consolidation of the network, regional co-operative schemes, improvement in INFOTERRA operations, new communications technologies and the creation of a data base on environmentally sound technologies.

450. One representative stated that INFOTERRA should replan its activities to enhance national and regional environmental information resources in developing countries and to assist them in building an independent capacity to acquire, interpret and apply environmental information in decision-making. He welcomed the pilot companionship scheme, which his country would use as a case-study on how to channel approximately \$25,000 to \$50,000 to developing countries. Another representative requested that national focal points in industrialized countries support the companionship scheme.

451. Several representatives asked the Executive Director to continue to give high priority to the strengthening of the INFOTERRA network.

452. Some representatives requested that the INFOTERRA national focal points in developing countries be provided with material and financial assistance so that they could use INFOTERRA services more effectively.

453. Many representatives endorsed the recommendations of the INFOTERRA 3 meeting and recommended their implementation, especially in operations, network development, new technologies, and the promotion of the INFOTERRA network.

454. One representative recommended that INFOTERRA create a data base on environmentally clean technologies.

455. A number of representatives highlighted the importance of information provided through INFOTERRA in environmental management, and called for an increased allocation of resources to the INFOTERRA Programme Activity Centre, particularly to permit the implementation of the recommendations of the INFOTERRA 3 meeting.

456. It was suggested that INFOTERRA could provide useful information on safe handling of pesticides and also that INFOTERRA should be part of the proposed centre for environmental emergency assistance.

457. Several speakers urged Governments to give high priority and support to their INFOTERRA national focal points.

#### International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals

458. The Assistant Executive Director noted that the responsibilities of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals had increased with the growth in international trade in chemicals; its network of national correspondents now covered 111 countries. He noted further that the International Register operated a data bank and a global network for the exchange of information on potentially toxic chemicals and was co-operating closely with other international organizations, in particular with the International Programme on Chemical Safety. The International Register participated in the International Programme on Chemical Safety Task Group meetings and provided data to them. The Register also operated a query-response service and was an INFOTERRA special sectoral source for scientific and regulatory information on chemicals. The Assistant Executive Director also mentioned the important role the Register had played in the preparation of the Basel Convention, the further development of the London Guidelines and the incorporation of the principle of prior informed consent. The Register was assisting developing countries in establishing national registers of potentially toxic chemicals and provided training to them.

459. All representatives who spoke about the International Register expressed great appreciation of the subprogramme's efforts to provide valid data on chemicals. Several representatives commended the Register as a valuable resource; one said that the Register had greatly assisted in the implementation of the London Guidelines, in developing a national register and in providing training within his country.

460. One representative stated that co-operation between the International Register and the International Programme on Chemical Safety should continue and indicated

his country's willingness to continue to provide data to these programmes. Another representative also supported continued co-operation between these programmes, particularly in the area of training.

461. In expressing their support for the International Register, all representatives said that it should remain a high priority. Several noted that additional resources would be needed to meet the increased responsibilities of the International Register, in particular those related to implementing the London Guidelines in their amended form, as well as training.

462. Several representatives endorsed the recommendation of the expert consultation on the International Register for soliciting extrabudgetary resources. They also supported the amended objectives and strategies of the International Register.

463. Given the new responsibilities to which the amended objectives and strategies gave rise, some representatives indicated that they might provide additional support to the International Register. Suggesting areas for possible improvements, one representative noted the need to strengthen the data bank on chemicals and to consider providing assistance to developing countries in computer science and technology. Several requested a stronger training programme that would increase the participation of officials from developing countries. One expressed his satisfaction with the co-operation between the International Register and the Centre for International Projects of the USSR Commission for UNEP in this area, and urged industrialized countries to develop similar co-operative arrangements for training.

464. Several representatives expressed support for the initiative to establish national registers of potentially toxic chemicals, others noted the need to strengthen the network of the International Register of national correspondents, and yet another encouraged Governments and industry to contribute information to the Register in a usable form.

465. One representative noted the report on the list of environmentally harmful chemicals, but expressed concern at the increased demands on the UNEP budget and on Governments that might result.

466. All representatives who spoke on the proposed amendment to the London Guidelines concerning prior informed consent expressed support for its adoption, most of them noting the need to ensure full co-operation with FAO. All but one, however, considered the development of a convention on trade in potentially toxic chemicals premature.

467. Furthermore, it was noted that the International Register must be able to assist developing countries in implementing prior informed consent procedures. In this respect, the observer for FAO mentioned his organization's continuing close co-operation with UNEP.

468. Commenting on the successful completion of the Basel Convention, several representatives referred to the role of the International Register in its implementation. One stressed the need for close co-operation between the Register and the interim secretariat on the Convention.

## 2. Subprogramme 10.2: monitoring and assessment

469. The Assistant Executive Director introduced the subprogramme on environmental assessment, GEMS, by outlining its continued work in gathering environmental data through its monitoring network and using this information to produce technical assessments. Those GEMS endeavours entailed continuous close co-operation between UNEP and its United Nations partners, notably WHO, WMO, FAO and UNESCO, as well as with Governments. He outlined GEMS activities in the areas of scientific and technical information, specifically the work of the Global Resource Information Database in health-related monitoring, and the recently completed global assessments of urban air quality, fresh water quality and food contamination; natural resource monitoring under the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation; the harmonization of environmental measurement and the Environmental Data Report. The second edition of this report had been completed by the Monitoring and Assessment Research Centre, in co-operation with the World Resources Institute and the Department of the Environment of the United Kingdom and would be available shortly. He noted that the activities of the Global Resource Information Database would be enhanced by the generous donation of computer systems to it by the IBM Corporation.

470. Representatives from some developing countries pointed out their need for training and technological and financial assistance to be able to participate fully in environmental monitoring and assessment programmes.

471. One representative reiterated his country's support for the principles that underlay the harmonization of environmental measurement, which included the co-ordination of international data collection and management activities and the development of common data criteria. He did not, however, support the establishment of a new entity to manage this activity, existing mechanisms being perfectly adequate. He stressed that harmonization of environmental measurement should be carried out within the existing GEMS structure.

472. Several representatives voiced continuing support for the development of the programme of the Global Resource Information Database, and one stressed the importance of the establishment of regional centres of the Global Resource Information Database. The sophisticated technology on which the Database was based had to be made more readily available to developing countries. Some representatives noted that this was being achieved through the UNEP/UNITAR training programme, through regional workshops such as that to be hosted by Ghana later in 1989 and through the distribution by UNEP to co-operating developing countries of micro-computer systems donated by industry. One representative indicated his country's readiness to be associated with the Database and to assist in its development.

473. The observer for WHO described his organization's long collaboration with UNEP, in particular the GEMS programme and its health-related environmental monitoring activities. He mentioned the recent publication of global assessment reports on fresh water quality, urban air quality and food contamination. He drew attention to the importance of GEMS' health-related monitoring activities to all UNEP programmes, climate, atmosphere and fresh water being prime examples.

474. All representatives who spoke expressed support for the monitoring and assessment programme. One stated that environmental assessment was an extremely important part of UNEP. He recommended more effective horizontal and vertical

co-ordination of the information systems of the three subprogrammes and suggested that there was a need to develop an overall information management strategy.

475. Some representatives recommended better use of other United Nations agencies and more effective co-ordination in the area of information systems.

476. The Assistant Executive Director noted the need for an assessment of data and the reinforcement of existing links among assessment, management and supporting measures in the different elements of the UNEP programme.

## K. Programme 11: Environmental Management Measures

### 1. Subprogramme 11.1: environmental aspects of development planning and co-operation

477. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Executive Director explained the special role of the subprogramme on environmental aspects of development planning and co-operation in promoting follow-up to the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. In particular, the subprogramme aimed to provide guidance and assistance with analysis, policy adjustments, changes in procedures and institutional arrangements and training to integrate environmental objectives into decisions on development, planning and administration. It also made available guidance to foster environmentally responsible attitudes towards international trade, investments and aid.

478. The Committee took note of the programme activities implemented during 1987 and 1988 and endorsed without comment the proposed programme for the biennium 1990-1991.

### 2. Subprogramme 11.2: environmental law

479. The Assistant Executive Director introduced the environmental law programme and noted the milestones that had been passed since the fourteenth session of the Governing Council, namely, the entry into force of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the adoption in March 1989 of the Basel Convention for the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. He said that the Environmental Law and Machinery Unit had one of the heaviest workloads within UNEP. He also expressed the gratitude of the Executive Director to the Governments that had hosted meetings and supported the participation of experts from developing countries in the work leading to and following up these legal instruments.

Many representatives expressed their support for environmental law activities and congratulated the Unit and UNEP on its important achievements, such as the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention and the introduction of prior informed consent into the London Guidelines.

481. Several representatives gave priority to the development of a convention on biological diversity and a convention on climate. One stated that UNEP should be closely linked with the preparation of a convention on climate and that sufficient budget allocations for this activity were necessary.



482. Another representative emphasized the importance of protecting the ozone layer by implementing the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol and referred to the recent meetings in London and Helsinki. He also stressed the importance of the Helsinki Declaration and appealed to all countries to sign the Basel Convention and become parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

483. Several representatives emphasized the importance of the Basel Convention and some informed the Committee of their participation in the development of this instrument and their progress towards ratification.

484. One representative drew attention to the concern of the member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) regarding the dumping of hazardous wastes in Africa and called upon UNEP to assist in obtaining the international community's acceptance of an eventual total ban on transboundary movement of hazardous wastes. Research on cheaper and safe waste disposal technology should be carried out and information from States circulated by the secretariat to developing countries.

485. One representative expressed his Government's intention to support and participate in the work on trade in potentially toxic chemicals. He also noted the importance of the work of the Environmental Law and Machinery Unit in the area of industry and environment and industrial accidents.

486. One representative stated that any guidelines and/or principles prepared under UNEP auspices and adopted by the Governing Council should operate for some time before a decision was taken on the development of binding legal instruments based on these guidelines and/or principles. She said that it was more important to implement existing guidelines than to prepare new conventions.

487. Some representatives stressed the urgent need to seek ways to provide technical assistance to developing countries to strengthen their national legislation and institutional arrangements in the field of the environment.

488. Several representatives expressed the view that a global convention on environmental impact assessment would be premature. These delegations supported the development of regional agreements on environmental impact assessment. They also maintained that the time was not ripe for a convention on industrial accidents.

489. Some representatives drew attention to the limited resources of the Environmental Law and Machinery Unit, considering its work programme. The representative of Finland expressed her Government's willingness to support new posts in the Unit, pointing out the need for further financial support and suggesting that a part of her Government's increased contribution to the Environment Fund might be allocated to the Unit.

490. The Assistant Executive Director urged representatives to give clear guidance on the Unit's future work.

## L. Programme 12: Environmental awareness

### 1. Subprogramme 12.1: environmental education and training

491. The Assistant Executive Director introduced the subprogramme on environmental education and training by describing how the joint UNESCO-UNEP International Environmental Education Programme, among other things, would embark upon a revision of the teaching materials issued during the past 13 years, the development of prototype curricula in environmental education and the decentralization of some training activities. Governments would be encouraged and assisted to produce national strategies for environmental education and training for the 1990s. UNEP would revise its long-established course in post-graduate environmental management at Dresden and expand this service to key groups from Governments of developing countries by seeking additional training fellowships and starting a new long-term training course elsewhere. Efforts to train employers and industrial managers in environmental management would continue through co-operation with ILO. A new thrust would provide environmental education for journalists. The Assistant Executive Director also noted that a trust fund had been established by States in the Latin American and the Caribbean region to support UNEP's environmental training network. He expressed the hope that other regions would do likewise.

492. All representatives who spoke expressed full support for the work of UNEP in the field of education and training, stressing its importance for the future. There was general support, too, for the close collaboration between UNESCO and UNEP in the field of environmental education.

493. One representative expressed the hope that the new training project for environmental managers and engineers from the Asia/Pacific region being carried out jointly by Finland, the USSR, UNIDO and UNEP would serve as a model for such training in other regions.

494. One representative called for UNEP support in the training of health professionals in work-related diseases and hazards.

495. One representative called for more training programmes for journalists similar to the training course for communicators from the countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) supported by Finland.

496. One representative stressed the need to raise the level of funding for environmental education. Links between UNESCO and UNEP regional offices that had been developed in the Latin American region should also be strengthened in other regions.

497. The observer for UNESCO called upon Governments to develop national strategies for environmental education and training for the 1990s based on the Moscow Strategy produced by UNESCO and UNEP in 1987. He expressed his organization's appreciation for UNEP co-operation in environmental education. Announcing that the UNESCO General Conference would be asked to consider a significant increase in the contribution of UNESCO for the next biennium, he also expressed the hope that UNEP would raise the current level of funding for this programme and that the two bodies would strengthen their co-operation in environmental education and training. UNESCO welcomed the expansion of long-term post-graduate training in environmental management.

498. The observer for ILO noted with satisfaction the close collaboration his organization enjoyed with UNEP in training aimed at employers' organizations and stressed the need for continued collaboration between ILO, UNEP and UNESCO in such activities.

499. The Assistant Executive Director stated that environmental education and training were extremely important fields and that UNEP was pleased with its present collaboration with UNESCO. Although they had initially encountered difficulties in implementing their joint education programme, it was now well established and received support from Governments world wide. In respect of environmental training, the Assistant Executive Director said that, through the forum of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters, activities were now better co-ordinated to train as many specialists as possible in various environmental fields.

## 2. Subprogramme 12.2: public information

500. In his introductory remarks, the Assistant Executive Director noted that the reassessment and restructuring of the responsibilities, functions, strategies and human resources of the public information arm of UNEP had continued along the lines of earlier Governing Council decisions. Evolving communication technologies and the growing world-wide concern about environmental matters had been key elements in this reassessment and restructuring. He added that UNEP would give greater emphasis to the needs of the groups it wished to reach, adapting materials to local requirements, and encouraging influential mass and special-interest media to devote more space and time to environmental issues. The regional offices, co-operating with institutions in developing countries, would launch specific information campaigns to raise environmental awareness at the grass-roots level. He noted further that, in public information activities concerning the environment, there should be better co-ordination and communication with the rest of the United Nations system, with the regions and with Governments.

501. A number of representatives stressed the importance of increasing public environmental awareness. One expressed the hope that the reorganization of the Information and Public Awareness Branch would significantly enhance environmental awareness, suggesting that greater use be made of national committees to spread environmental information.

502. One representative said there was a need to distinguish between passive and active public awareness; passive awareness came after a problem occurred, while active awareness led to understanding what was going to happen. He noted that little had been done to increase active environmental awareness, possibly because the issues were complicated, and he proposed that more consideration be given to ways to heighten such awareness.

503. One representative said an informed public would urge and press decision makers to take appropriate steps. This view was echoed by another representative, who observed that individuals' awareness and attitudes were essential to acceptance of the legislators' proposal.

504. Yet another representative noted with appreciation the attention given by UNEP to public awareness, noting that its lack was a serious handicap in the conservation of natural resources, particularly in his country. He added that

scarcity of financial and technical resources imposed serious constraints on reaching such important audiences as school children, farmers, women, and outreach groups and he stressed the need for more environmental training of journalists in developing countries.

505. Another representative proposed that projects be established at the national and international levels to increase public awareness.

506. The observer for UNESCO said his organization would continue to strengthen public information activities within its environmental programme.

507. The representative of the secretariat noted that the Executive Director had approved a reorganization, and that each programme unit of UNEP would now be serviced by a designated focal point in the Information and Public Affairs Branch that would ensure that its information activities are properly planned and co-ordinated. The Branch would be responsible for setting standards and for carrying out information and public affairs policy with greater efficiency and economy and a higher output, thus promoting a stronger image of UNEP.

#### M. Programme 13: Regional and technical co-operation

508. Pointing out the significant increase in the budget for this subprogramme and its larger appropriation at national level, the Assistant Executive Director explained that this was intended to ensure that as many countries as possible would benefit from UNEP experience in this area. He underlined that the assistance was offered essentially as a catalyst, and priority was being given to strengthening the capacity of developing countries to tackle serious environmental problems themselves. In this context, he invited donors to contribute to projects in developing countries through the UNEP clearing-house and other mechanisms.

509. One representative expressed appreciation for the current level of co-operation in the field of environment in West Asia, as well as the hope that this would be further strengthened through greater support of United Nations programmes.

510. The Assistant Executive Director observed that UNEP was increasing its support for developing countries in planning and introducing environmental management measures.

#### N. Action by the Committee of the Whole

511. Upon completing its consideration of agenda item 8, the Committee adopted its report on its deliberations under the item (UNEP/GC.15/L.21 and Add.1) and approved a number of decisions for adoption by the Council (UNEP/GC.15/L.22 and Add.1 and 2 and Corr.1 and Add.3). The action taken by the Council is reported in chapter II above.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

512. In considering agenda item 3, at its 8th and 9th plenary meetings of the session, on 18 and 19 May, the Governing Council, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Nyagah (Kenya), had before it a summary of the documentation submitted under the item (UNEP/GC.15/10), chapters V and VI of the 1987 annual report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/3), chapter V of the 1988 annual report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.15/4), the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1988-1989 (UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.1 and Corr.1), the proposed budget for programme and programme support costs of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1990-1991 (UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.2 and Corr.1), the report of the Executive Director on the management of the Environment Fund in 1988-1989 and the proposed use of resources in 1990-1993 (UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.3 and Supplement 1), the reports of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds (UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.4 and Supplement 1), and on additional sources of funding (UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.5 and Corr.1), the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1988-1989 and the proposed budget for programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1990-1991 (UNEP/GC.15/L.2), and a note by the Executive Director on the financial reports and audited accounts of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1986-1987 ended 31 December 1987 (UNEP/GC.15/L.4).

513. In introducing the item, the Acting Assistant Executive Director, Office of the Environment Fund and Administration, said that the first matter to be settled by the Council was the level of appropriation that could be afforded for Fund programme activities and the Fund programme reserve for the biennium 1990-1991. That sum would provide the basis for the apportionment for the Fund programme activities which the Committee of the Whole would recommend to the Plenary. Secondly, the Council was being asked by the Executive Director to provide him with guidance on the size of the programme he should plan for the 1992-1993 biennium. Thirdly, the Council was requested to extend a number of existing trust funds and to establish four new ones. Fourthly, the Council was asked to reconfirm the appropriation for programme and programme support costs (PPSC) for 1988-1989 and to consider and approve a PPSC budget for the biennium 1990-1991. Finally, the Council was requested to note and approve the financial report and audited accounts of the Fund for 1986 and 1987, to consider the Executive Director's report on additional sources of funding and to review the staffing of the secretariat and its organization.

#### A. Environment Fund

514. The Acting Assistant Executive Director drew the attention of the Council to the recent upward trend in contributions to the Environmental Fund. In 1988, contributions had reached an unprecedented level of nearly \$35 million and the prospect was that they might possibly reach a level close to \$40 million in 1989. However, he expressed concern about the decline over recent years in the number of States contributing to the Fund and stressed that the Executive Director regarded contributions by developing countries as important, even if they were sometimes small. He pointed out that the continuing decline in the real value of contributions since 1979 was very disappointing. On behalf of the Executive

Director, he thanked those Governments who paid contributions early in the year, thereby facilitating the management of the Fund and the implementation of the programme.

515. The Acting Assistant Executive Director said that the Executive Director proposed to write off contributions outstanding for 1984 and 1985 on 31 December 1989.

516. The Council endorsed the Executive Director's proposed appropriation level of \$68 million for Fund programme activities in 1990-1991, consisting of a core programme of \$60 million and supplementary activities of \$8 million; and endorsed a level of \$4 million for the Fund programme reserve in 1990-1991. The Council requested the Vice-President of the Council presiding at the meeting to address a letter to the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to that effect.

517. The Council endorsed the Executive Director's proposal that he should plan for 1992-1993 on the basis of \$180 million for Fund programme activities, made up of a core programme of \$150 million and a supplementary programme of \$30 million. However, two representatives, while recognizing the desirability of achieving the targeted levels for contributions in that biennium, questioned the feasibility of achieving \$100 million by 1992 rather than 1995, as had been proposed earlier.

518. The Acting Assistant Executive Director then introduced the performance report on the PPSC budget for the biennium 1988-1989 (UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.1 and Corr.1). He pointed out that the Executive Director proposed that there should be no change in the level of appropriation approved by the Governing Council at its fourteenth session, \$25,846,300, which he therefore asked the Governing Council to reconfirm. He wished, however, to request approval of some relatively small changes in its allocation among the objects of expenditure.

519. He informed the Council that the actual expenditure finally recorded for 1988 was \$11.24 million, compared with the estimate of \$11.76 million given in the document. Savings had been achieved through measures taken by the Executive Director to contain costs, mainly by freezing posts and delaying recruitment, and also as the result of favourable currency fluctuations.

520. He pointed out that adverse factors were anticipated during 1989: inflation had been higher than assumed when the budget was drawn up and, in addition, there was need to fill vacant posts if UNEP was to respond to Governments' requests for strengthened actions. Consequently, those savings were likely to be wiped out and that had led the Executive Director to request the Council to reconfirm the original appropriation. However, the secretariat would continue to seek savings in implementing the budget, as it had done in previous years.

521. Three representatives said that they appreciated the efforts of the Executive Director to contain PPSC expenditure within 33 per cent of total contributions and supported his proposal to reconfirm the appropriation of \$25,846,300, with the changes in allocation among objects of expenditure suggested. One representative, however, advocated that the PPSC performance report and its proposed budget for the following biennium should be consolidated into a single document, which should be streamlined, especially with regard to the tables presented therein.

522. Introducing the proposed PPSC budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.2 and Corr.1), the Acting Assistant Executive Director drew

attention to the fact that the Executive Director was seeking the approval of the Council to fill up to 90 per cent of the approved posts at the Professional level and above, and to transfer certain activities hitherto financed by the PPSC budget to the budget for Fund programme activities. He pointed out, however, that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had reservations about those transfers.

523. One representative drew attention to the view of the Advisory Committee that those activities properly belonged to the PPSC budget, where they could be scrutinized and monitored. Another representative, while supporting the Executive Director's proposal to fill more posts, pointed out that support costs were not reduced by merely transferring them. Shifting expenditure from one budget line to another would amount only to an accounting adjustment.

524. The Acting Executive Director explained that the line between programme and support costs was particularly difficult to draw in the case of programme activity centres. He asked why the Desertification Control Programme Activity Centre should be seen as support costs, while the costs of all other Programme Activity Centres were accepted as project costs. The Executive Director did not accept the argument of the Advisory Committee and, in order to be consistent and to treat all Program Activity Centres in the same way, he wished to maintain his original recommendation. The Council accepted that argument.

525. Two other representatives, while supporting the Executive Director's proposed budget for 1990-1991 in the amount of \$29,087,000, said that the Environmental Law and Machinery Unit should be further strengthened in view of its increasing importance. One representative recommended that the conferences and Governing Council Service should also be strengthened.

#### B. Administrative and other financial matters

526. The Acting Assistant Executive Director introduced the audited accounts of the Fund for the biennium 1986-1987 and outlined the recommendations of the Board of Auditors. The latter had recommended in connection with the Revolving Fund (information) that costs should be properly matched against corresponding revenues (UNEP/GC.15/L.4, para.2). He emphasized that it was difficult to make an accurate judgement on future income from publications at the time when decisions on expenditure had to be made, but considered that UNEP was becoming more skilled in matching costs against revenues. On balance, the Executive Director was inclined to retain the Revolving Fund, since it enabled UNEP to consolidate revenues from all publications into one single fund.

#### C. Management of trust funds

527. In introducing the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds (UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.4 and Supplement 1), the Acting Assistant Executive Director drew the attention of the Council to the recommendations to extend a number of existing trust funds and to establish four new ones.

528. One representative expressed the view that it might be useful for the secretariat to provide periodically a situation report on trust fund activities, covering both financial status and activities, in order to determine their relevance to the priorities established by the Council.

529. The Acting Assistant Executive Director pointed out in reply that the activities of the trust funds were regularly reviewed at the meetings of the relevant intergovernmental bodies. He stated that the secretariat was willing to include a more comprehensive report in the next Annual Report of the Executive Director.

530. One representative sought an assurance that the Environment Fund would not be used to cover shortfalls in funding due to delays in receipt of contributions. He cautioned against entering into forward commitments for which funds had not yet been received.

531. The Acting Assistant Executive Director assured the Council that the management of trust funds had always been in conformity with established financial procedures and would continue to be so. The sole exception occurred when it had been necessary for the Executive Director, in the exercise of his discretion, to authorize an advance from Environment Fund resources to the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. He had done so in the firm conviction that Governments would not have wanted that secretariat to collapse. The recovery of the sum so advanced was in progress and the attention of the States concerned had been drawn to the need for timely payment of their contributions.

#### D. Additional sources of funding

532. In introducing the report of the Executive Director on additional sources of funding (UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.5 and Corr.1), the Acting Assistant Executive Director highlighted the fact that cash contributions to technical co-operation trust funds totalled some \$4.4 million in 1988, over and above the contributions to the Environment Fund. Of that amount, one quarter consisted of the costs of government-funded staff, who were of crucial importance in strengthening the capacity of UNEP to carry out its mandate.

533. Several representatives commended the Executive Director for his fund-raising efforts, but requested him to ensure that all fund-raising activities should ultimately be self-financing and should be carried out within the priorities established by the Council. The Acting Assistant Executive Director assured the Council that fund-raising activities would continue to be self-financing, with the exception of the costs of the clearing-house.

534. Several representatives commended the Executive Director's success in promoting the establishment of national committees as a mechanism for establishing and maintaining contacts to further the attainment of the fund-raising goals of UNEP. They encouraged the Executive Director to continue his negotiations for the establishment of the maximum practicable number of such committees.

535. The Governing Council then proceeded to consider and adopt a number of decisions on the Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report (decisions 15/42, 15/43, 15/44, 15/45 and 15/46). Comments made at the time of their adoption are to be found in chapter II above.



## CHAPTER VIII

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

536. The Council considered agenda item 10 at the 14th plenary meeting of the session, on 26 May. It had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the date and place of the sixteenth regular session of the Council, together with a proposed provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/GC.15/L.31). The proposal was adopted and the provisional agenda approved without change. The text of the decision appears in annex I to the present report.

## CHAPTER IX

### OTHER MATTERS

537. Under agenda item 11, the Council had before it a note by the Executive Director on the provision of language services for the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP (UNEP/GC.15/11) and a draft decision on the subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.15/L.8).

538. At the 12th plenary meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Council considered and adopted a decision on the above subject (decision 15/12), the text of which is included in annex I to the present report. Comments made at the time of adoption are reflected in chapter II above.

## CHAPTER X

### ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

539. The present report was adopted at the 14th plenary meeting of the session on 26 May 1989.

540. At the time of adoption, the representative of the Philippines, speaking with reference to chapter IV, paragraph 253, of the present report, said that algal bloom had been evident in her country since the late 1970s and appeared two or three times a year. The outbreaks had not only caused many deaths, but had largely deprived a predominantly fish-eating population of an important source of protein. Her Government therefore requested technical and financial assistance under the East Asian Seas Action Plan to enable it to combat the menace.

541. The representative of Brazil, speaking with reference to chapter VI, paragraph 380, said that any mandate for the Executive Director to concentrate on any specific issues must necessarily derive from decisions by Governments and not from interpretations by members of the UNEP staff.

542. Replying to the representative of Brazil, the Executive Director said that UNEP staff members did not interpret decisions by Governments. The Executive Director was, however, entitled to nominate staff members to represent his understanding of how a decision should be implemented. If Governments did not agree with his understanding, the decision concerned must be clarified.

## CHAPTER XI

### CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

543. At the 14th meeting of the session, on 26 May 1989, after the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the fifteenth session of the Council closed.

#### Notes

1/ The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 98th plenary meeting of the forty-first session of the General Assembly, on 5 December 1986, and the 35th plenary meeting of the forty-third session, held on 24 October 1988 (decisions 41/310 and 43/308).

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/42/25 and Corr.1), chap. I and ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/43/25) annex.

3/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/42/25 and Corr.1), annex.

4/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/44/8), annex I.

5/ Ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/43/25), annex.

## ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its fifteenth session

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
15/1	Strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme	25 May 1989	101
15/2	Implementation of resolutions and decisions of direct relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions and by the Economic and Social Council at its sessions in 1987 and 1988	26 May 1989	108
15/3	United Nations conference on environment and development	25 May 1989	115
15/4	Special session of the Governing Council in 1990	26 May 1989	119
15/5	Contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the preparation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade	25 May 1989	120
15/6	Economic crisis, foreign debt and the environment	25 May 1989	121
15/7	Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment	25 May 1989	122
15/8	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories	25 May 1989	123
15/9	International co-operation for the protection of mankind and the environment against the devastating effects of chemical and other weapons of mass destruction	25 May 1989	124
15/10	A United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance	25 May 1989	125
15/11	Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination	23 May 1989	126

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
15/12	Provision of language facilities for meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives	25 May 1989	127
15/13	State-of-the-environment reports		128
	A. The 1988, 1989 and 1990 state-of-the-environment reports and future reports on the state of the environment	23 May 1989	128
	B. Emerging environmental issues	23 May 1989	130
	C. Implementation of Governing Council decisions related to the annual state-of-the-environment reports	23 May 1989	131
15/14	The clearing-house function	25 May 1989	131
15/15	The regional office system	25 May 1989	133
15/16	Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean	25 May 1989	135
15/17	Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean	25 May 1989	138
15/18	Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	25 May 1989	139
15/19	Preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in Western Asia	25 May 1989	140
15/20	Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1990-1991	25 May 1989	140
15/21	The system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995	25 May 1989	141
15/22	Report of the Secretary-General on the effects on the environment of the dumping of nuclear wastes	25 May 1989	142

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
15/23	Desertification		143
	A. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	25 May 1989	143
	B. Financing and other measures in support of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	25 May 1989	145
	C. Implementation in the Sudano-Sanelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	25 May 1989	146
	D. Transmission to the General Assembly of the report of the Executive Director and of a Draft resolution on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	25 May 1989	147
15/24	Sustainable agriculture	25 May 1989	150
15/25	Oil pollution of the Red Sea	25 May 1989	151
15/26	Plan of action for the surveillance, ecological assessment and clearance of war-related pollution, objects and wrecks in the sea Area of the Kuwait Action Plan region	25 May 1989	152
15/27	Precautionary approach to marine pollution, including waste-dumping at sea	25 May 1989	152
15/28	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals	25 May 1989	153
15/29	List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance	25 May 1989	156
15/30	Environmentally safe management of chemicals, in particular those that are banned and severely restricted, in international trade	25 May 1989	156
15/31	International legal instruments in the field of the environment	25 May 1989	158
15/32	Shared natural resources and legal aspects of offshore mining and drilling	25 May 1989	159

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
15/33	Progress in the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes	25 May 1989	160
15/34	Preparation of an international legal instrument on the biological diversity of the planet	25 May 1989	161
15/35	Progress in the protection of the ozone layer	25 May 1989	163
15/36	Global climate change	25 May 1989	164
15/37	Promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology	25 May 1989	168
15/38	Harmonisation of environmental measurements	25 May 1989	169
15/39	Industrial accidents	25 May 1989	170
15/40	INFOTERRA: the International Environmental Information System	25 May 1989	170
15/41	Environmental impact assessment	25 May 1989	171
15/42	Additional sources of funding	19 May 1989	171
15/43	Trust funds	19 May 1989	173
15/44	The Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1986-1987 ended 31 December 1987	19 May 1989	175
15/45	Programme and programme support costs	18 May 1989	176
15/46	Management of the Environment Fund in the biennium 1988-1989 and use of resources in the period 1990-1993	22 May 1989	178

Other decision

Provisional agenda, date and place of the sixteenth regular session of the Governing Council	179
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15/1. Strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 on institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation, by which the United Nations Environment Programme was established,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/184 of 11 December 1987 on international co-operation in the field of the environment, particularly paragraph 18, in which the Assembly requested that the essential catalytic and co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme be further developed,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, in which, inter alia, the Assembly stressed the essential role of the United Nations Environment Programme within the United Nations system in catalysing environmentally sound and sustainable development,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987, by which it welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,

Having noted the annual reports of the Executive Director for the years 1987 and 1988 1/ as well as the proposals of the Executive Director as put forward in his introductory report to the Governing Council at its fifteenth session, 2/

Bearing in mind the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 3/ and the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995, 4/ both of which were approved by the Governing Council at its first special session in March 1988,

Recalling also its decision SS/I/1 of 18 March 1988, on programme policy and implementation, particularly its paragraph 1, in which the Governing Council resolved to exercise fully the role expected of it,

Aware that the additional tasks that the United Nations Environment Programme is being asked to undertake cannot be carried out without substantial increases in the voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund,

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1/ UNEP/GC.15/3 and 4.

2/ UNEP/GC.15/5 and Corr.1 and 2 and Supplement 1.

3/ UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1.

4/ UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.2.

Having approved for the biennium 1990-1991 an appropriation of \$68 million for Fund programme activities 5/ and \$29,087,000 for programme and programme support costs, 6/

Having regard to the 'ntroductory report of the Executive Director, in which he enumerated the additional tasks facing the Programme over the next two years and set them out as a supplementary programme, 7/

I. The catalytic and co-ordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. Reaffirms the essential role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the central catalysing, co-ordinating and stimulating body in the field of the environment within the United Nations system;

2. Stresses the urgent need for further developing and strengthening the essential role of the United Nations Environment Programme;

II. The role of the Governing Council

1. Stresses the need to make the Governing Council a more effective and efficient mechanism in order that it can, in accordance with section I, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), inter alia:

(a) Promote international co-operation in the field of the environment and recommend policies to this end;

(b) Provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(c) Keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;

(d) Promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information;

(e) Maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects;

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5/ Decision 15/46 of 22 May 1989, para. 7.

6/ Decision 15/45 of 18 May 1989, para. 4.

7/ UNEP/GC.15/5/Supplement 1, annex.

2. Decides to restructure the organization of its regular sessions along the following lines:

(a) The first week of the session should be devoted to work in two sessional committees, namely, a committee on the programme and a committee on the Fund, finance and administrative questions;

(b) The second week of the session should be devoted to discussion in plenary, at the ministerial or equivalent level, of major policy issues;

3. Takes note of the Executive Director's proposal that the Governing Council should establish, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, a standing committee equally representing all geographical groups;

4. Recognizes that such a standing committee could express at the highest possible level to other programmes and organizations in the United Nations system the views of the Governing Council in order, inter alia, to promote environmentally sound and sustainable development, and report back to the Council;

5. Decides, on an experimental basis, to mandate the Bureau of its fifteenth session to meet with the bureaux of the counterpart organs of the specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations to develop more positive and collaborative relationships;

6. Invites the Executive Director, in the light of experience gained and in consultation with Governments, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to develop and put forward specific proposals for a standing committee, including its membership, functions and financial implications, for consideration by the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session;

### III. UNEP national committees

1. Welcomes the establishment by a number of countries of UNEP national committees in response to the Governing Council decision 13/33, paragraph 2 (f), of 23 May 1985;

2. Urges all Governments to encourage the establishment of such committees in their countries;

3. Requests the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the establishment of such committees and to ensure the flow of information and views between them and the United Nations Environment Programme;

### IV. Areas of concentration

1. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme should focus its efforts and calls upon the international community to concentrate on a selected number of areas, which are not listed in any particular order of priority, namely:

(a) Protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change and global warming, depletion of the ozone layer, and transboundary air pollution;

- (b) Protection of the quality of fresh-water resources;
- (c) Protection of ocean and coastal areas and resources;
- (d) Protection of land resources by combating deforestation and desertification;
- (e) Conservation of biological diversity;
- (f) Environmentally sound management of biotechnology;
- (g) Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals;
- (h) Protection of human health conditions and quality of life, especially the living and working environment of poor people, from degradation of the environment;

2. Further decides that, within the above areas of concentration, the United Nations Environment Programme should give special attention to activities related to all the following issues, which are not listed in any order of priority:

- (a) Combating climate change;
- (b) Combating the depletion of the ozone layer;
- (c) Management of shared fresh-water resources;
- (d) Control of pollution in regional seas and proper management of their coastal areas;
- (e) Halting desertification and deforestation;
- (f) Conservation of biological diversity within a broad socio-economic context;
- (g) Minimization of hazardous wastes, through the development of low- and non-waste technologies and the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and potentially toxic chemicals;

#### V. Fund target for 1992

1. Agrees to set a target of \$100 million for contributions to the Environment Fund by the year 1992;

2. Calls upon all Governments to increase their contributions to the Fund by at least 35 per cent per annum from the 1 January 1989 level to enable the target of \$100 million to be met by 1992;

**VI. Supplementary programme of Environment Fund activities  
for the biennium 1990-1991**

1. **Confirms** that the programme of activities approved by the Council within the appropriation for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1990-1991 does not cover all the urgent environmental activities that the Council wishes the Programme to undertake in the next biennium and that the additional tasks enumerated by the Executive Director in his supplementary programme are important and should therefore be implemented as soon as additional resources are available;
2. **Notes** that a number of countries have already indicated their intention to increase their contributions during that biennium;
3. **Approves** for the supplementary programme proposed by the Executive Director an appropriation of \$35 million, which shall be regarded as a supplementary appropriation for Fund programme activities as presented in the annex to this decision and shall become effective only as and when contributions become available to the Fund above the level required to finance the whole of the programme of activities within the previously approved appropriation of \$68 million;
4. **Requests** the Executive Director to consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the implementation of the supplementary programme as and when the additional resources become progressively available;
5. **Authorizes** the Executive Director gradually to fill the frozen posts approved by the Council within the programme and programme support costs budget, as and when resources become available during the biennium 1990-1991;
6. **Approves** a supplementary appropriation for programme and programme support costs of \$3.17 million to be used by the Executive Director during the biennium 1990-1991 only as and when he is in a position to fill some or all of the posts approved by the Council within the programme and programme support costs budget.

**12th meeting**  
**25 May 1989**

ANNEX

Supplementary programme of environment fund activities  
for the biennium 1990-1991

	<u>Millions of United States dollars</u>
1. Studies on the implications of climate changes and rising sea level in coastal areas	2
2. Analysis of the relationship between changes in forests and climate; and preparation of proposals for action	1
3. Support for the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	1
4. Regional meetings to facilitate the exchange of information on ozone depletion, on substitutes for ozone-depleting substances, on alternative processes of manufacture and use of such substances and on related economic aspects, as well as to facilitate the transfer of relevant technology to developing countries	1
5. Development of additional action plans for the management of the shared water resources of river basins, lake basins and underground aquifers	2
6. Preparation of new action plans for seas not yet covered by the regional seas programme (north-west Pacific, Black Sea) and strengthening of existing action plans that need further support ( <u>inter alia</u> , South Asian Seas, East African region)	2
7. Reinforcement of the assessment and mapping of desertification. Preparation of a report giving a global assessment of the status of, and trends in, desertification foreseen for 1992	1

Millions of  
United States  
dollars

8. Preparation, in co-operation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Nature Resources, of a draft convention on the conservation of biological diversity in natural ecosystems. Development of strategies and plans for the provision, upon request, of scientific, technical and technological information and assistance to countries to combat deforestation, in order to facilitate the implementation of national strategies and plans for the conservation of forest ecosystems and the genetic resources they contain 1
9. UNEP contribution to the cost of the interim secretariat of the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal 2
10. Training workshops related to the Basel Convention and the Cairo Guidelines and Principles for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes 1
11. Strengthening the activities of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, including operating the prior-informed consent procedures contained in the amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade 2
12. Strengthening the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment 2
13. UNEP contribution to the development and implementation of the Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme 2
14. Strengthening the Asian Environmental Programme 2
15. Strengthening of public information activities, including production of exhibits related to the six major environmental problems 2
16. Setting up national and regional nodes of the Global Resource Information Data base in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Africa and in Western Asia 2

17. Provision of assistance to developing countries in assessing their environmental problems and strengthening their environmental institutions. Resources would also be used for the formulation of priority programmes and projects to deal with serious environmental problems in developing countries. The financing of these projects would be obtained through direct bilateral and multilateral efforts by the countries concerned	4
18. Strengthening the regional offices system	3
19. Preparation of the state-of-the-environment report 20 years after Stockholm for the proposed United Nations conference on environment and development envisaged by the General Assembly to be held no later than 1992	1
20. Other activities in preparation for the above-mentioned United Nations conference on environment and development	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>35</u></b>

15/2. Implementation of resolutions and decisions of direct relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions and by the Economic and Social Council at its sessions in 1987 and 1988

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 2 of its decision SS.I/1 of 18 March 1988, by which it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifteenth session an item entitled "Follow-up of the relevant resolutions of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the General Assembly",

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987, on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, respectively,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on implementation of resolutions and decisions of direct relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions and by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular sessions of 1987 and 1988, 8/

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8/ UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.1 and Corr.1.



Having also considered the note by the Executive Director on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, 9/ as well as the material for the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, annexed to that note,

1. Notes with satisfaction the action taken by the Executive Director in implementation of, and follow-up to, the resolutions and decisions of direct relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions and by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular sessions of 1987 and 1988;

2. Requests the Executive Director to arrange for the views and suggestions of the Council, as contained in annex I to the present decision, to be incorporated in the draft report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 and to transmit that report, as so amended, to the Secretary-General for submission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

3. Invites the attention of the General Assembly to the understanding of the Governing Council with regard to the concept of "sustainable development", as contained in annex II to the present decision and as also contained in paragraph 13 of the above-mentioned comments of the Governing Council on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 to be incorporated in the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue pursuing the full implementation and follow-up to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

14th meeting  
26 May 1989

#### ANNEX I

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186, on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and 42/187, on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

A. Views expressed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on efforts towards sustainable and environmentally sound development

1. The Governing Council notes that at the forty-third session of the General Assembly and at its own fifteenth session a number of representatives of Governments reported on follow-up activities under way in their countries as a response to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 on, respectively, the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. The Governing Council further notes

that, as of 24 March 1989, 22 Governments and the Commission of the European Communities had responded to the request of the Executive Director for information. Hence, a full picture has not emerged because of the complexity of the task and shortage of time. The Governing Council is confident that Governments have been and continue to be responsive to the two resolutions and hopes that further progress towards implementing sustainable and environmentally sound development will be achieved.

2. The replies received by the Executive Director show that, in addition to emerging environmental problems, Governments consider that they are confronted with many long-standing environmental issues with which they must deal. On the basis of the information provided, the Governing Council notes that response to the resolutions, as well as more effective efforts to address environmental problems, whether new or long-standing, involves a preventive approach which addresses the sources of environmental degradation and matters of overall national policy. Existing strategies and programmes and existing mechanisms for their implementation should be reviewed and modified as appropriate, in a situation where the perceptions and priorities concerning environmental issues vary from country to country. The Governing Council nevertheless believes that Governments should endeavour to make the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 a matter of continuing concern.

3. The Governing Council notes with appreciation the action already taken by most of the governing bodies of the organizations, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system which met during the reporting period and thus were able to respond. Others have indicated their plans to do so in the coming months. The Governing Council also notes that a number of Governments, at a high level, have worked to put into effect the recommendations contained in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond (see General Assembly resolution 42/186, annex) and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. <sup>10/</sup> Furthermore, a number of non-governmental organizations have worked to put into effect the concept of sustainable development at local, national and international levels.

4. The Governing Council commends the governing bodies of the organizations, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system concerned for the efforts they have made and on the results achieved in implementing General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187. As was to be expected, each of those governing bodies has interpreted these resolutions in the light of its particular mandate, and the Governing Council views this outcome as a genuine contribution to incorporating environmental considerations in the wide range of development activities carried out by the United Nations system and thus as a genuine effort towards the attainment of environmentally sound and sustainable development. It is important to note that the governing bodies not only identified priority environmental areas of particular concern to themselves but also established new priorities or adjusted existing priorities, particularly in their medium-term plans and in their programme budgets for the period 1990-1991. It is particularly valuable that, within some United Nations organs, new projects have been identified for the practical implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable development. The Secretary-General's report indicates, however, that further activities are still needed to implement these resolutions.

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<sup>10/</sup> See A/42/427, annex.

5. The Governing Council notes the decision of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to strengthen co-operation among the organizations of the United Nations system so that they may assist member States more effectively. In this connection, the Governing Council welcomes the decision of the Administrative Committee to establish an ad hoc task force at the executive head level under the authority of the Secretary-General to assist United Nations system preparations for a United Nations conference on environment and development. The Governing Council welcomes the initiative taken by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and its endorsement by the Administrative Committee, to test and apply knowledge available within the United Nations system for the incorporation of environmental considerations into national development planning and policy formulation. It also welcomes the decision of the Administrative Committee, which envisages the convening of a joint meeting of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) and the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters on the question of the approaches to be followed by the system's organizations with regard to environmental guidelines and their application to the operational aspects of the system. The Governing Council considers that such guidelines should lead to compatible policies within the United Nations system, including its financial institutions. It also welcomes the work undertaken to develop proposals for environmental accounting within the framework of the System of National Accounts.

6. The activities of the organizations, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system, as reflected in the reports of their governing bodies, cover a wide range of activities in support of environmentally sound and sustainable development, and the Governing Council notes particularly the new elements which have been referred to in those reports. One such new element is the recognition of the need for environmental action by the system's financial institutions. The Governing Council expresses the hope that this will bring about closer co-operation by and with the donor community in the pursuit of environmentally sound and sustainable development at all levels. In this co-operation, attention should also be given to emerging environmental problems, particularly those which are of global concern.

7. The Governing Council shares the view of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that climatic change and global warming, the loss of biological diversity and the threats posed by hazardous wastes and their disposal figure predominantly among emerging problems. The Council appreciates the actions initiated by a number of organizations concerning these problems and the emphasis placed on the elaboration of legal instruments and institutional arrangements to cope with them. In addition to regional or global efforts, the implementation of the legal instruments will require that Governments take specific actions at the national level. The Governing Council believes that the United Nations system should assist Governments to take the relevant actions and should support their efforts, where necessary, through technical co-operation activities.

8. New problems notwithstanding, the Governing Council stresses the need for the organizations, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system to remain vigilant in their efforts to make progress towards the resolution of long-standing problems that remain critical to environmentally sound and sustainable development - the protection of forest ecosystems, the prevention of soil erosion, including desertification, the improvement of human settlements and environmental health, the provision of drinking water and sanitation, and the protection of the marine environment, among others. The Governing Council notes that many of the

organizations, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system have, for a considerable period of time, carried out programmes in support of environmentally sound and stable development. Among these are the Man and the Biosphere programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The Council considers that such work must be continued and expanded as required. Nevertheless, much work is still to be done and continued activities are necessary to further the development and implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable development. It should be pointed out that, in their further efforts to promote environmentally sound and sustainable development, the United Nations organs should benefit from the many recommendations on various sectors of economic and social activities contained in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

9. Nevertheless, the Governing Council is aware that emerging environmental problems and the new dimensions, as well as the magnitude of long-standing problems, require additional resources to be put at the disposal of the organizations concerned, in particular for projects in developing countries. The Council appeals to each United Nations organization, body and programme and to their governing bodies, as well as to all member States and to multilateral and bilateral donors, to make such resources available as a matter of urgency.

10. The Governing Council notes in the reports from the governing bodies that energy and transport issues, despite their great importance for an environmentally sound and sustainable development, have received relatively little attention in the reports from the governing bodies of United Nations organs. The reason might be the lack of United Nations bodies with an integrated responsibility for those two fields of policy.

11. The Governing Council emphasizes that, in the further work of the United Nations organs in the promotion of an environmentally sound and sustainable development, special regard should be given to the need to take decisive steps in this direction well in advance of the forthcoming United Nations conference on environment and development.

**B. Suggestions made by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on long-term strategies and new environmental concerns**

12. The Governing Council notes that there are many different interpretations of the concept of sustainable development and no single path to its realization.

13. The Governing Council believes that sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and does not imply in any way encroachment upon national sovereignty. The Governing Council considers that the achievement of sustainable development involves co-operation within and across national boundaries. It implies progress towards national and international equity, including assistance to developing countries in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives. It implies, further, the existence of a supportive international economic environment that would result in sustained economic growth and development in all countries, particularly in developing

countries, which is of major importance for sound management of the environment. It also implies the maintenance, rational use and enhancement of the natural resource base that underpins ecological resilience and economic growth. Sustainable development further implies incorporation of environmental concerns and considerations in development planning and policies, and does not represent a new form of conditionality in aid or development financing.

14. The Governing Council is fully conscious that countries themselves are and must be the principal actors in reorienting their development so as to make it sustainable. Environmentally sound and sustainable development is of great importance to all countries, industrialized or developing, whatever their stage of development. The industrialized countries command the resources needed to make the necessary adjustments, and some of their economic activities do indeed make substantial impact on the environment, not only nationally, but beyond their frontiers. Even in the case of developing countries, by far the greater proportion of resources for development comes from the countries themselves. For developing countries, although maintaining the natural resource base for the needs of future generations is, of course, of great importance, the needs of the present generation weigh critically in the balance. Actions induced by poverty and the need to survive erode the resource base and thus generate more poverty, in a spiral of desperation. In all countries, development and environment issues are locked in mutual interaction. New environmental issues today confront the international community - yet many long-standing environmental concerns remain and, indeed, take on greater magnitude.

15. Governments, as well as the organizations, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system, have endeavoured to take a pragmatic approach, adapted to their specific requirements. The Governing Council notes with appreciation that, in so doing, they are introducing environmental considerations into an increasing number of programmes and projects and have, in addition, made the meeting of environmental requirements the vital component of their policies and actions directed towards the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 on, respectively, the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. The Governing Council thus appreciates that these two resolutions have already changed the climate in which decisions are made at the national and international levels, affecting the policies and actions of all countries. However, a continuous effort is needed to enhance and accelerate the implementation of Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 at the national level.

16. In addition to the existence of political will to make development sufficient - and sufficiently durable - there is a need to develop and spread the knowledge of methods for doing so and to generate the resources that will be required.

17. The replies of Governments to requests for information on the implementation of resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 show that, while political will today may be greater than in the past, no Government can say with certitude that it has attained environmentally sound development or, indeed, has available the methodology to do so. Hence, great importance must now be attached to developing ways of incorporating the environmental dimension in development planning and policies. The desire of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to experiment in a few countries, at their request and with their participation, is laudable. The methodologies must involve better ways of managing the interaction within countries

among those responsible for specific development activities in particular sectors, those responsible for responding to environmental concerns and those who have the responsibility for overall planning and for taking decisions that determine the directions of the economy. National accounts must include accounting for environmental resources, not just financial resources.

18. As noted earlier, efforts must continue on a range of issues that are now seen as critical to achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development, such efforts being adjusted in the light of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and to take account, as appropriate, of the concepts and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

19. An additional dimension of complexity arises as new environmental concerns, such as global warming, have to be addressed, with the risks or uncertainties of as yet unknown magnitude to be taken into account. As an example, the Governing Council considers that climate change would have such widespread consequences that few, if any, development activities would be unaffected, whether in industry, agriculture, forestry or any other sector. Some activities might have to be increased, and others reduced. Actions in any of these sectors, moreover, affect the others significantly, creating an intricate web of interactions which, if not understood or not taken sufficiently into account, may add further to the overall problem. Thus, the prospect of climate change will increase the factor of uncertainty in development planning in all sectors and in forecasting development benefits.

20. The international community needs to focus on a certain number of key issues that exert leverage for accelerating the achievement of environmentally sound and sustainable development in order to respond to the concerns of the world community and to provide opportunities for successful action, whether at the global level, regionally or nationally. Such issues are atmospheric and climatic problems (essentially, combating climate change, combating the depletion of the ozone layer, acid rain); management of fresh water resources; control of marine pollution in regional seas and proper management of coastal areas; halting desertification and deforestation; conservation of biological diversity within a broad socio-economic context; and minimization of hazardous wastes, through development of low- and non-waste technologies and environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and potentially toxic chemicals. At the same time, the preventive approach to environmental problems requires overall review and appropriate changes in national policies in various economic and social sectors.

21. The Governing Council is aware that, while all countries support the desire to see these issues addressed and also share a sense of the global importance of several of these problems, perceptions stemming from national circumstances may lead individual countries to attach differing priorities to different issues. The nature of the issues may also preclude uniform approaches, as some require regional, others global approaches, but all ultimately require countries to act. The Governing Council stresses the need for formal agreements by Governments on specific commitments for co-operative efforts to deal with global or regional issues, but stresses equally the need for the additional resources many countries will require so as to play their part, balancing in their national development approaches and priorities the requirements resulting from the need and addressing different concerns. The international community has yet to address the issue of the costs of environmentally sound development. Such development, which should be

more economical in the long term and sounder for those countries practising it, as well as better for the global community, may well be more expensive in the short term. Thus, for those whose concern must be survival in the near future, the only horizon available to them, the costs may be prohibitive. The Governing Council believes that the international community must not only commit itself generally to the proposition that such additional resources are needed, but must specifically identify their possible sources. It is anticipated that a range of these issues will be among those addressed at a United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992. The recommendations contained in the Environment Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development should be duly taken into account in the preparatory process for this conference.

## ANNEX II

### Statement by the Governing Council on sustainable development

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and does not imply in any way encroachment upon national sovereignty. The Governing Council considers that the achievement of sustainable development involves co-operation within and across national boundaries. It implies progress towards national and international equity, including assistance to developing countries in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives. It implies, further, the existence of a supportive international economic environment that would result in sustained economic growth and development in all countries, particularly in developing countries, which is of major importance for sound management of the environment. It also implies the maintenance, rational use and enhancement of the natural resource base that underpins ecological resilience and economic growth. Sustainable development further implies incorporation of environmental concerns and considerations in development planning and policies, and does not represent a new form of conditionality in aid or development financing.

### 15/3. United Nations conference on environment and development

#### The Governing Council,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988, in which it decided to consider at its forty-fourth session the question of the convening, no later than 1992, of a United Nations conference on environment and development, with a view to taking an appropriate decision on the exact scope, title, venue and date of such a conference and on the modalities and financial implications of holding the conference,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 43/196, invited the Governing Council to consider the documents referred to in paragraphs 2 to 4 of that resolution and, on the basis of that consideration, to submit to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, its views on the matters referred to in the resolution, in particular its views on the objectives, content and scope of the conference,

Decides to recommend that the General Assembly, when taking a decision on the exact scope, title, venue and date of a United Nations conference on environment and development, to be held no later than 1992, and on the modalities and financial implications of holding the conference, should consider the elements annexed to the present decision.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

#### ANNEX

Elements to be considered for inclusion in a resolution of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session of the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development no later than 1992

##### A. Preambular elements

Recalling its resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988, by which it decided to consider at its forty-fourth session the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development no later than 1992, with a view to taking an appropriate decision on the exact scope, title, venue and date of such a conference and on the modalities and financial implications of holding the conference,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the conference, submitting the views of Governments and of appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

##### B. Operative elements

1. Decides to convene a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of two weeks' duration and at the highest level of participation, to coincide, if possible, with World Environment Day, 5 June 1992;
2. Affirms that the preamble of its resolution 43/196 broadly sets out the scope and general objectives for the Conference;
3. Notes in this context the importance of exploring the best ways and means of promoting sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries through preventive measures at the sources of environmental and natural resources degradation, taking into account the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development;
4. Affirms also that the following environmental issues, which are not listed in any particular order of priority, are among those of major concern in maintaining the quality of the earth's environment and especially for achieving an environmentally sound and sustainable development in all countries:
  - (a) Protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change and global warming, depletion of the ozone layer, and transboundary air pollution;



- (b) Protection of the quality of fresh-water resources;
- (c) Protection of ocean and coastal areas and resources;
- (d) Protection of land resources by combating deforestation and desertification;
- (e) Conservation of biological diversity;
- (f) Environmentally sound management of biotechnology;
- (g) Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals;
- (h) Protection of human health conditions and quality of life, especially the living and working environment of poor people, from degradation of the environment;

5. Decides that the Conference should:

- (a) Examine the state of the environment twenty years after the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, including reviewing actions taken by all countries and intergovernmental organizations to protect and enhance the environment and how environmental concerns have been incorporated in economic and social policies and planning;
- (b) Identify strategies to be co-ordinated, as appropriate, regionally and globally for national and international action, with a view to arriving at formal agreements by Governments on specific commitments for defined activities to deal with major environmental issues in the economic and social development processes and within a particular timeframe;
- (c) Define guidelines to protect the environment through preventive action at the sources by, inter alia, incorporating environmental concerns in the economic and social development processes, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries;
- (d) Identify ways and means to further development of and provision of information on environmentally sound technologies and environmental management, to facilitate access to and transfer of such information and technologies, in particular to developing countries, without excessive costs, and to assist the development by those countries of their own technologies;
- (e) Promote an open and timely exchange of information on national environmental policies, situations and accidents;
- (f) Assess the capacity of the United Nations system to monitor environmental threats and deal with environmental emergencies and make recommendations for improvement;
- (g) Recommend measures to the relevant international organizations to promote a supportive international economic environment through specific commitments by Governments that would result in sustained and environmentally sound development and economic growth in all countries, with a view to combating poverty and improving the quality of life;

(h) Promote the development or strengthening of appropriate institutions at the national, regional and global level to address environmental matters in the context of economic and social development processes;

(i) Promote environmental education, especially of the younger generation;

(j) Specify the respective responsibilities of, and support to be given by, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system for the implementation of the conclusions of the Conference;

(k) Quantify financial requirements for the successful implementation of Conference decisions and recommendations, and identify possible sources, including innovative ones, in the international community for additional resources as may be required;

6. Decides that the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, with its own rules of procedure, should be the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, open on a basis of equality to all States Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

7. Further decides that the first session of the Preparatory Committee should be held in June 1990 and that the Committee should hold three more sessions at venues to be decided by the Committee;

8. Decides that the Preparatory Committee at its first session shall elect its Bureau, consisting of a Chairman, eight Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, with due regard to equitable geographical representation;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to set up immediately a separate, independent and adequate Conference secretariat at Geneva and to appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference to head that secretariat;

10. Invites all States to take an active part in the preparations for the Conference and to establish broad-based national preparatory processes with active popular participation and to submit national reports articulating their views on, and commitments in regard to, the areas and issues to be considered by the Conference, including their perception of national priorities and needs and their expectations of regional and global institutions;

11. Recommends that the Secretary-General of the Conference should put forward suggested guidelines to enable States to adopt a common approach in their preparations and reporting;

12. Decides to establish a voluntary fund at the disposal of the Secretary-General of the Conference, for the purpose of supporting developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, to participate effectively in the Conference and in its preparatory process and invites Governments to contribute to this fund;

13. Invites the scientific community, industry and trade unions to take an active part in the Conference and its preparations;

14. Requests, in view of the important role of non-governmental organizations in promoting popular participation and raising environmental awareness, that non-governmental organizations concerned be systematically involved in the planning and programming of the Conference;

15. Invites the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as relevant intergovernmental organizations, to contribute fully to the Conference and its preparation, including through the provision of expert advice and the secondment of staff;

16. Stresses the importance of holding of regional conferences on environment and development and urges the regional commissions of the United Nations to ascertain that the results of these conferences are introduced into the preparatory process for the 1992 Conference and to participate actively in that process.

#### 15/4. Special session of the Governing Council in 1990

##### The Governing Council,

Noting the increasing number of major environmental issues requiring policy guidance from the Governing Council,

Taking into account the decision of the Governing Council, 11/ yet to be considered by the General Assembly, that the preparatory committee for the 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development should be the Governing Council - open on a basis of equality to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Considering that various rapidly evolving environmental issues need further policy elaboration and decision-making by the Governing Council, well before its sixteenth regular session, in 1991,

Considering also that a special session of the Governing Council for policy elaboration and decision-making could usefully be held in conjunction with the first meeting of the preparatory committee in 1990,

1. Decides to hold a three-day special session of the Governing Council in 1990, immediately preceding, and at the same location as the first meeting of the preparatory committee for the 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development;

2. Further decides that this special session to be held in conjunction with the first meeting of the preparatory committee shall deal with the elaboration of, and the process of making and implementing decisions on, priority environmental issues, in particular ways and means of enhancing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme within the United Nations system in addressing those issues, on the understanding that regular programme and budget matters will be discussed at the sixteenth regular session of the Governing Council in 1991;

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11/ Decision 15/3 of 25 May 1989, annex, sect. B, para. 6.

3. Approves the provisional agenda for that session, as annexed to the present decision.

14th meeting  
26 May 1989

ANNEX

Provisional agenda for a special session of the  
Governing Council in 1990

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Priority evolving environmental issues.
4. Other business.
5. Adoption of the report.
6. Closure of the session.

15/5. Contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the preparation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, by which the General Assembly adopted the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond as a broad framework to guide national action and international co-operation on policies and programmes aimed at achieving environmentally sound development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987, in which the Assembly welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 10/

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly decided to consider at its forty-fourth session the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development, no later than 1992,

Bearing in mind its decision SS.I/1 of 18 March 1988, on programme policy and implementation, by which the Governing Council emphasized its view that sustainable and environmentally sound development should be one of the main objectives of the new international development strategy,

Further recalling paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 43/182 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly invited the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to include in their agendas, during 1989,

items regarding their contributions to the preparation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly that sustainable and environmentally sound development should become a central guiding principle in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade;

2. Invites the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, established by the General Assembly in paragraph 1 of its resolution 43/182, to recognize, in view of the global character of some major environmental problems, the common interest of all countries in pursuing policies aimed at the sustainable and environmentally sound development of all countries through equitable and sustainable use of global resources and to reflect this fully in the international development strategy under preparation;

3. Further invites the Ad Hoc Committee to reaffirm, in the context of the international development strategy, that the critical objectives for environment and development policies that follow from the need for sustainable and environmentally sound development must include creating a healthy, clean and safe environment, reviving growth and improving its quality, remedying the problems of poverty and the satisfaction of human needs through raising the standard of living and the quality of life, addressing the issues of population and of conserving and enhancing the resource base, reorienting technology and managing risk, and merging environment and economics in decision-making;

4. Reminds the Ad Hoc Committee that the implementation of an international development strategy would require that a supportive international economic environment be established and nurtured;

5. Calls on the Executive Director to contribute fully and actively to the preparatory process for the strategy by providing all appropriate inputs in this respect and to keep the Governing Council and its Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of developments.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/6. Economic crisis, foreign debt and the environment

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind that improvement in social and economic conditions is essential to promote the protection of the environment in developing countries,

Expressing its deep concern that the deterioration of the economic situation of developing countries, exacerbated by the debt crisis, which in some cases necessitated adjustment policies, has contributed to a significant and dangerous diminution in the capacity of those countries to protect and preserve the environment,

**Noting** that it is essential to reverse the current process of negative transfer of resources, by which developing countries have become net exporters of capital to developed countries,

**Acknowledging** the international efforts to address debt issues,

**Decides** to bring to the attention of Governments, multilateral organizations, and governmental and non-governmental financial institutions the urgent need to change positively the existing conditions of treatment of the foreign debt of developing countries, in order to strengthen their capacity to address the critical environmental issues fundamental to development and protection of the environment.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

**15/7. Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment**

**The Governing Council,**

**Recalling** chapter II, paragraph 36, of the Executive Director's 1987 Annual Report, 12/ and chapter II, paragraph 29, of the Executive Director's 1988 Annual Report, 13/

**Recalling also** the note dated 18 May 1987 from the Chairman of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment addressed to the Executive Director on co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, 14/

**Taking into account** the increasing environmental relevance of the Arab Declaration on the Environment, which was adopted by the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, meeting at Tunis in October 1988,

1. **Requests** the Executive Director to provide, within the framework of regional co-operation and within available resources, technical and financial assistance to the priority programmes in the work plan of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, particularly to the following three programmes:

(a) Desertification control and expansion of the area suitable for cultivation in the Arab world;

(b) The control of industrial pollution;

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12/ UNEP/GC.15/3.

13/ UNEP/GC.15/4.

14/ UNEP/GC.15/Inf.7.

(c) Environmental education and awareness;

2. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate actions to support the technical secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, upon request and within available resources, through the provision of the necessary technical advice, particularly in the initial years of the Council's activities.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/8. The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

The Governing Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the guidelines and principles of the international environmental law, particularly the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972, 15/ and the World Charter for Nature adopted by the General Assembly in 1982, 16/

Emphasizing its decision 14/11 of 18 June 1987, on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, 17/

1. Emphasizes its concern over the practices of the Israeli authorities, which include the confiscation of land and water resources, the demolition of houses and forcible eviction of the Arab population, the establishment of new settlements in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the felling of trees over large areas and the use of health-impairing gases with hazardous environmental impacts for the Palestinian and other Arab populations, as well as for agricultural production and the socio-economic conditions in those territories;

2. Emphasizes also the fact that the sources of concern referred to in paragraph 1 above could not be monitored by one consultant alone, visiting the occupied territories in January 1989 as a private tourist more than one and a half years after the adoption of Council decision 14/11, and who, as stated in

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15/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

16/ General Assembly resolution 37/7 of 28 October 1982, annex.

17/ UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.2.

paragraph 2 of the report of the Executive Director, could not have access to information nor be able to corroborate it;

3. Expresses its regret for Israel's lack of co-operation by its failure to admit the consultant into the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories to carry out his mission in his capacity as consultant from the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Notes that the report of the Executive Director does not include any reference to the environmental situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in their occupied homeland or in the Syrian and Lebanese territories occupied by Israel, as requested in Council decision 14/11;

5. Considers that the report of the Executive Director is inadequate and that it must be updated and the information it contains corroborated, which requires the formation of a group of consultants specialized in environmental problems, with a mandate to prepare a comprehensive report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, making use of relevant data and information from sources provided by the population of those territories, as well as by the States and regional and international organizations concerned;

6. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session a comprehensive report based on the findings reached by the group formed in accordance with paragraph 5 above.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/9. International co-operation for the protection of mankind and the environment against the devastating effects of chemical and other weapons of mass destruction

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/184 and 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on international co-operation in the field of the environment and on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, respectively,

Reiterating the importance of a sound environment for the quality of human life and the process of development,

Noting paragraph 5 of its decision 14/9 B of 18 June 1987, in which it called upon all Governments to refrain from using chemical and other weapons of mass destruction that cause considerable threats to people and the environment,

Convinced that the use of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, could bring about far-reaching, even irreversible, changes in the global environment,

Aware that threats to the environment often have a transboundary impact and that, because of their urgent nature, averting them requires strengthened



international co-operative action, inter alia, by assessing and providing early warning to the world community of serious environmental threats within the framework of Earthwatch,

1. Expresses its deep concern at the devastating effects of chemical weapons on mankind and the environment;

2. Recognizes the need for international scientific and technical co-operation in order to protect mankind and the environment from the devastating effects of chemical and other weapons of mass destruction;

3. Requests the Executive Director to prepare a comprehensive report on the devastating effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment, as well as ways and means of strengthening international co-operation in this regard, for submission to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/10. A United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance

The Governing Council,

Aware of the importance of promoting international co-operation in environmental emergencies,

Bearing in mind the growing need to employ the most effective methods to deal with such emergencies,

Noting with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987 on an international decade for natural disaster reduction,

Taking into account the relevant information capacities of the United Nations Environment Programme and other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system,

Also taking into account the proposals and views expressed at the fifteenth session of the Governing Council,

Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To invite Governments, as well as United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and competent regional organizations, to express their views regarding the need for, and the possible objectives, scope and functions of, a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance;

(b) To assess the possible contribution to such a centre of existing activities under the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (such as the Global Environmental Monitoring System, INFOTERRA, the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals and the Industry and Environment Office), the World Meteorological Organization's Global Telecommunications System, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the International Maritime Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as other relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies;

(c) To assess, as a result of the consultations and the assessment referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above, the advisability of establishing such a centre and the financial implications, if any;

(d) To inform the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session of the preliminary results of the above-mentioned consultation and assessment;

(e) To report on this matter to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/11. Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/2 and 14/4 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to continue to report to the Council on an annual basis,

Noting the increasing importance of co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system on matters relating to the environment,

Having considered the 1987 and 1988 reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on co-ordination in the field of the environment and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 18/

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for its 1987 and 1988 reports on co-ordination in the field of the environment;

2. Welcomes the agreement of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to examine the appropriate modalities for strengthening co-ordination among the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of environment 19/ and, to this end, recommends that the Committee should take into account, inter alia, the recommendations contained in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond 20/ and previous recommendations of the Governing Council relating to co-ordination;

3. Takes note of the attention paid by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the issues of climate change, hazardous wastes and biological diversity; 21/

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18/ UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.2 and 3.

19/ UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.3, para. 11.

20/ General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, annex.

21/ UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.3, paras. 14-22.

4. Takes note also of the report of the Committee on the issue of sustainable and environmentally sound development, 22/ called for by the General Assembly in its resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987;

5. Notes the intention of the members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to contribute to the development of the proposed new international development strategy, 23/ bearing in mind the view of the first special session of the Governing Council that sustainable and environmentally sound development should be one of the main objectives of the proposed new strategy.

11th meeting  
23 May 1989

15/12. Provision of language facilities for meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

The Governing Council,

Stressing General Assembly resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, by which the Assembly, inter alia, requested United Nations bodies and the Secretary-General to ensure respect for equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Recalling the note by the Executive Director on the provision of language services for the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, 24/ in particular the views of the Governments on possible alternatives, 25/ the views expressed by Governments at the forty-second session of the General Assembly, and the decisions of the Second Committee and the Fifth Committee at the forty-second session of the General Assembly, 26/

Also recalling its decisions 11/2 of 23 May 1983 and 13/2 of 23 May 1985,

Further recalling its decision 14/4 of 18 June 1987, in particular paragraph 3 thereof,

Aware that article 1 of rule 63 of the Governing Council's rules of procedure states that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official and working languages of the Governing Council and that speeches made in any of these languages shall be interpreted into other languages of the Governing Council,

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22/ Ibid., paras. 5-11.

23/ Ibid., para. 6.

24/ UNEP/GC.15/11.

25/ Ibid., paras. 13-15.

26/ Ibid., annex.

Also aware that article 3 of rule 62 of the Governing Council's rules of procedure states that the rules of procedure of subsidiary organs shall be those of the Governing Council, as appropriate, subject to such modifications as the Governing Council may decide upon in the light of proposals by the subsidiary organs concerned,

Decides to recognize the requirements for full language services for meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to provide them as soon as funding for the costs of these services can be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/13. State-of-the-environment reports

A. The 1988, 1989 and 1990 state-of-the-environment reports and future reports on the state of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 13/9 D of 24 May 1985, in which it decided, inter alia, that future state-of-the-environment reports should alternate in successive years between a report on economic and social aspects of the environment and a report on environmental data and assessment,

Also recalling its decision 14/9 B of 18 June 1987, in which it decided, inter alia, that the topic for the state-of-the-environment report for 1988 should be the public and environment and that the 1989 state-of-the-environment report should be an update of the 1987 report on the state of the world environment, but with more in-depth treatment of specific subject and/or geographical areas,

Further recalling its decision SS.I/2 of 18 March 1988, in which it, inter alia, decided that the topic of the state-of-the-environment report for 1990 should be "Children and the environment", and requested the Executive Director to submit a detailed outline of the report to the Council at its fifteenth session so that delegations might comment upon it,

Recalling also its decision 12/3 C of 28 May 1984, in which it decided, inter alia, that a comprehensive report on the state of the environment should be prepared every ten years,

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's 1988 state-of-the-environment report on the public and environment, 27/ and of his report on the state of the world environment for 1989; 28/

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27/ UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.1.

28/ UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.2.

2. Takes note also of the outline of the 1990 state-of-the-environment report on children and the environment, submitted by the Executive Director; 29/

3. Draws the attention of all Governments and all relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the salient findings of the 1988 and 1989 state-of-the-environment reports;

4. Calls to the attention of all Governments that the goal of protecting our environment cannot be attained without public participation, involvement or environmental groups and improvement of information to the public by mass media;

5. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To accord high priority, within available resources in the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, to activities related to increasing public participation to enhancing the role and active participation of women in environmental protection and to supporting global, regional, national and local training programmes on environmental awareness directed at media personnel;

(b) With regard to his 1989 state-of-the-environment report, to continue to accord high priority within the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to activities related to:

(i) The control of global emissions of substances that deplete the ozone layer;

(ii) Possible climate change and the limitation of emissions of greenhouse gases;

(iii) The management of hazardous wastes;

6. Also requests the Executive Director to proceed, in consultation with the United Nations Children's Fund, with the preparation for submission to the Council at its sixteenth regular session of the 1990 state-of-the-environment report, on children and the environment, in accordance with the outline presented to the Council at its present session, with the addition of sections on: female children; drugs and smoking; and institutional structures for enhancing children's environment;

7. Further requests the Executive Director:

(a) To continue to produce, in odd years, reports on the state of the environment, along the lines of the 1989 report;

(b) To prepare, for presentation to the United Nations conference on environment and development planned for 1992, a brief analytical report on changes in the state of the world environment since 1972;

(c) To prepare, in compliance with Governing Council decision 12/3 C, a comprehensive report on the state of the environment, covering the decade since the Council's session of a special character, held at Nairobi in 1982, for submission to the Council at its seventeenth regular session, in 1993.

11th meeting  
23 May 1989

B. Emerging environmental issues.

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 12/3 B of 28 May 1984, in which it requested the Executive Director to update the list of emerging environmental issues for each session of the Governing Council,

Recalling also its decision 14/9 C of 18 June 1987, in which it decided on the following two emerging environmental issues for more detailed elaboration in the Executive Director's report on the state of the environment for 1989: health risks from diesel vehicles and acid fog,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues 30/ as well as of the reservations made by various delegations, and reflected in the proceedings of the Council at its present session. 31/ with regard to paragraph 38 of its section II C, referring to Antarctica;

2. Draws the attention of all Governments to the Executive Director's report on emerging environmental issues;

3. Requests the Executive Director to provide to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session, within his report on emerging environmental issues, a detailed elaboration of the issue of new technologies and a brief description of the following issues: (a) municipal waste; (b) plastics; and (c) the ecological situation in the Arctic.

11th meeting  
23 May 1989

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30/ UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.3.

31/ UNEP/GC.15/12, chap. IV, paras. 12-13.

**C. Implementation of Governing Council decisions related to the annual state-of-the-environment reports**

**The Governing Council**

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Executive Director on activities undertaken since the eleventh session of the Council to implement the Council's decisions related to the annual state-of-the-environment reports; 32/
2. **Requests** the Executive Director to report to the Council, as appropriate, on the follow-up and implementation of decisions related to the annual state-of-the-environment reports.

**11th meeting**  
**23 May 1989**

15/14. **The clearing-house function**

**The Governing Council,**

**Recalling** that, in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, the clearing-house function was established to respond to the growing needs of developing countries for technical and financial assistance in order to progress towards environmentally sound and sustainable development,

**Recalling further** paragraph 9 of its decision 14/6 of 17 June 1987, by which it requested the Executive Director to arrange for an external evaluation of the clearing-house mechanism to be conducted and for the results to be presented to the Governing Council at its fifteenth session,

**Having considered** the report of the Executive Director on the results of the external evaluation of the clearing-house mechanism, 33/

**Aware** that, in paragraph 14 of its resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for additional financial resources from donor countries and organizations to assist developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives,

**Noting** that, in paragraph 15 of the same resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for developed countries and appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen technical co-operation with the developing countries to enable them to develop and enhance their capacity for identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives,

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32/ UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.5.

33/ UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Supplement 1.

Noting also that a strong focus on environmental issues has developed within the international community in recent years, thus creating a new platform for the United Nations Environment Programme to play a strengthened role in this field,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the results of the external evaluation of the clearing-house mechanism carried out in accordance with decision 14/6;

2. Invites the Executive Director to take the results of the evaluation into account in his management of the clearing-house function;

3. Notes that, in accordance with the results of the evaluation, the United Nations Environment Programme should be entrusted with a much more vigorous role to strengthen the capacity of developing countries in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development;

4. Reaffirms that this function is an essential aspect of the co-ordinating and catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the discharge of which the Programme should make full use of the technical and administrative capacity existing in the United Nations system, including that within the Programme itself, and, in accordance with the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, 20/ should focus, in particular, on activities that enable developing countries:

(a) To establish and strengthen their policies, institutions and professional capacity to integrate environmental considerations in their development policies and planning;

(b) To formulate and initiate programmes and activities for dealing with their most serious environmental problems;

(c) To formulate and participate in action plans for the common management of ecosystems and critical environmental problems at the national, regional and global levels;

5. Stresses that the United Nations Environment Programme can and should play an active role in helping to provide and mobilize the assistance needed by developing countries, inter alia, by studying ways and means of increasing the volume of such assistance;

6. Expresses concern that the United Nations Environment Programme has not yet attracted sufficient additional resources to play a significant role in this respect;

7. Reiterates its call to Governments and other donors to consider favourably requests presented by the Programme for resources additional to the contributions to the Environment Fund in order to finance efforts aimed at strengthening the capacity of developing countries, as well as direct requests from developing countries for support to activities conceived with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme or designed to enable the country to participate actively in its programmes;



8. Requests the Executive Director to give serious consideration to revising the terminology with regard to the clearing-house function in order to make it clearer and better understood;

9. Also requests the Executive Director to continue his efforts to obtain additional resources, including staff seconded by Governments at their expense, to manage and implement clearing-house activities;

10. Invites the Executive Director to ensure that the clearing-house activities of the United Nations Environment Programme are made more widely known, on a regular basis, to all sources of development assistance;

11. Further requests the Executive Director to study and implement organizational arrangements that will make the United Nations Environment Programme more efficient in assisting developing countries and to clarify the respective responsibilities of its various departments and units and strengthen the execution of the clearing-house function.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/15. The regional office system

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 8 of its decision 14/35 of 16 June 1987, by which it requested the Executive Director to review the expenditure on regional and liaison offices with a view of bringing down the cost of those offices charged to programme and programme support costs,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the regional office system of the United Nations Environment Programme, 34/

Noting the memorandum of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to the Governing Council, 35/

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the regional office system, which is in accordance with the opinion of the Council that the system should be strengthened in the 1990s by making it more efficient;

2. Welcomes the Executive Director's intention:

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34/ UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.3.

35/ Report of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on the work of its third session, Nairobi, 10-12 May 1989 (UNEP/AMCEN.3/2), annex V.

(a) To strengthen relationships between the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant offices of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the regional development banks in order to enhance immediate and sustainable development;

(b) To develop closer working relationships with the United Nations regional commissions;

(c) To improve the management and administration of the regional offices;

3. Approves the proposal of the Executive Director to reduce the charges to the programme and programme support costs budget by 11.4 per cent by increasing the proportion of the cost of the existing regional offices charged as Fund programme activities by approximately 24 per cent during the biennium 1990-1991; 36/

4. Requests the Executive Director to consult with the Governments concerned about the establishment of subregional offices as soon as financial resources become available, taking into account that Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean should each be served by one office with subregional offices as appropriate;

5. Notes the intention of the Executive Director to establish a regional relations unit at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters to serve the needs of the regional offices; 37/

6. Requests the Executive Director to continue, within available resources and through the Regional Office for Africa, his support to the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation, 38/ in accordance with the priorities and decisions reached by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, contained in annex I to its report on its third session, 35/ and as stipulated in the above-mentioned memorandum;

7. Invites:

(a) The governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the regional development banks to support the development of stronger relationships among the relevant field offices of these organizations in order to enhance immediate and sustainable development;

(b) The regional economic and social commissions to play a more active role in the activities of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

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36/ UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.3, para. 12.

37/ Ibid., para. 6 (b).

38/ Report of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Cairo, 16-18 December 1985 (UNEP/AEC.I/2), annex I, resolution 1/1, sect. I.

15/16. Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Governing Council,

Taking into consideration that the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Brasilia, on 30 and 31 March 1989, approved the Declaration of Brasilia at the end of its deliberations, 39/

Emphasizing the principle that each State has the sovereign right to administer freely its natural resources,

Noting that the Latin American and Caribbean countries, in the application of that principle, recognize as a common concern of the highest priority the urgent need to find a balance between socio-economic development and the protection and conservation of the environment, through a proper utilization of natural resources and control of the environmental impacts,

Considering that the Declaration of Brasilia constitutes a valuable blueprint for international co-operation,

1. Notes with interest the Declaration of Brasilia on the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, annexed to the present decision;
2. Requests the Executive Director to transmit this Declaration to Governments and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and to inform other interested entities of it;
3. Invites Governments, international multilateral credit organizations and non-governmental organizations to consider taking into account the Declaration of Brasilia as a frame of reference for international co-operation with developing countries.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

ANNEX

The Ministers of State in charge of environmental management and the representatives of the countries participating in the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Brasilia, on 30 and 31 March 1989, decided to conclude their deliberations with the following:

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39/ See Final Report of the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/LAC-IG.VI/6), pp. (i)-(iv).

Declaration of Brasilia adopted on 31 March 1989

1. The Latin American and Caribbean countries recognize that the urgent need to find a balance between socio-economic development and environmental protection and conservation through sound management of natural resources and control of environmental impacts is a common concern of the highest priority to the countries of the region. This recognition expresses the inextricable relationship between environmental concerns and socio-economic development, as well as the obligation to ensure the rational use of resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

2. The Ministers reaffirmed the principle that each State has the sovereign right to freely manage its natural resources. This principle does not exclude, but rather underlines the need for international co-operation at the regional, subregional and global levels. The Ministers also emphasized that the solution to the external debt problem and the establishment of a just and equitable new international economic order are imperative conditions to strengthen democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to promote security and peace in the region, as well as sustainable economic and social development, which is the only possible alternative for the rational utilization of our natural resources to satisfy the needs of our peoples.

3. The improvement of social and economic conditions is the essential factor in preventing environmental degradation in our countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean, as in the rest of the third world, underdevelopment and environmental degradation are elements within a vicious circle that condemns millions of people to a quality of life below levels of human dignity.

4. The Ministers therefore resolve to intensify efforts to foster greater understanding in their respective countries of the proper relationship between economic development planning and environmental problems and concerns, and to consolidate and improve their countries' capacities for effective environmental planning and management. However, the Ministers are of the view that present levels of economic development and rates of growth severely limit the possibility of readily achieving the objectives of sound environmental management and conservation.

5. Moreover, this situation has been exacerbated by the present heavy indebtedness of Latin America and the Caribbean to the financial community of the industrialized countries. The debt crisis and the adjustment policies derived from it have impaired conditions for economic, social and environmental development. The debt cannot be paid under present conditions not even by increasing the hunger and poverty of our peoples, nor by creating more underdevelopment and the ensuing degradation of our environment. It is obvious that present conditions for managing the external debt must be changed and that the current negative transfer of resources, which has transformed developing countries into capital exporters to the industrialized world, must be immediately reversed.

6. The measures adopted by the countries in the region are important, but still insufficient to achieve a just, stable and lasting solution to the debt problem. Such a solution will only be possible through a change in terms and modalities in dealing with the external debt and through "co-responsibility", which creditors will have to assume so as to solve the problems of indebtedness and its consequences on a joint basis.

7. International financing agencies should, through specific institutional facilities, ensure availability of sufficient additional resources, on concessional terms, to fund environmental protection projects in developing countries. In the allocation of resources for that purpose, no conditions should be imposed that would, in effect, result in a reduction of resources available for environmental protection.

8. In the light of the foregoing considerations, the Ministers call upon the industrialized nations, and particularly those that share our concern for effective environmental management, to increase substantially the level of their financial and technical contributions to developing countries and their effective support to the United Nations Environment Programme.

9. In this regard, it is of paramount importance that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean be assisted, if they so request, in the establishment of essential capability to conduct scientific research, to efficiently manage their natural systems, and to strengthen national processes for environmentally sound decision-making.

10. Furthermore, international co-operation for environmental protection should include free access to scientific information and the transfer - at cost - to developing countries of non-polluting technologies and of those intended for environmental conservation. Access to new environmental technologies cannot be subject to purely commercial interests. Likewise, international organizations should aid the countries in the region to improve their monitoring systems and enhance their capability to enforce the international standards for environmental protection to which these countries have subscribed.

11. In this respect, greater efforts must be made to increase the systems of protected natural areas in the region and to cease practices that are highly deleterious to the environment, such as the indiscriminate and/or illegal transport and disposal of hazardous and toxic wastes and materials, and dumping in the ocean of such wastes, which places coastal areas in the whole region, and especially the island States of the Caribbean, in jeopardy.

12. The serious environmental problems the world is facing today derive mainly from industrialization models and patterns of consumption and waste adopted in the industrialized countries, which gave rise to the accelerated deterioration of the planet's natural resources and the ever-increasing introduction of pollutants into the biosphere. The Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean are committed to a course of action capable of avoiding the recurrence in our countries of the errors of that pattern of development and its consequences, and urge industrialized countries to assume their full responsibility commensurate with their financial and technical resources for reversing the environmental degradation process.

13. The countries that have nuclear weapons and other weapons for mass destruction should immediately cease all tests and experiments with these weapons and actively promote their elimination. Only in this manner will it be possible to guarantee protection of the environment against the risk of contamination and ecological destruction. Resources made available therefrom should be channelled into promoting economic and social development, following the dispositions emanating from the different forums of the United Nations system.

14. Therefore, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in addition to their internal efforts to design and implement national plans for the protection and conservation of the environment, are committed to strengthening their co-operation in this area and to requesting technical and financial co-operation from extra-regional countries and international organizations. The Ministers of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries are convinced that the global solution for our endangered Earth entails an unprecedented level of co-operation between industrial and developing countries for the benefit of future generations.

15/17. Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 14/21 of 18 June 1987,

Taking into consideration the decisions of the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Brasilia on 30 and 31 March 1989, 40/

Recognizing the need to intensify regional and subregional co-operation for the conservation and protection of the environment,

Welcoming the decision of the Governments in the region to formulate an Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 41/

Recognizing the interest of the Governments of the region in maintaining the continuity of the plans and programmes now being carried out, in particular the Environmental Training Network project 42/ and its co-ordination unit,

1. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To support within available resources the plans and programmes already being implemented in the region, in accordance with Council decision 14/21 and the decisions adopted by the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) To initiate, in consultation with the Governments of the region, the formulation of an Action Plan for the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) To accord priority to allocating resources in the budget for the Environmental Training Network project, in the terms proposed at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting in Brasilia; 43/

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40/ Ibid., annex IV.

41/ Ibid., decision 4.

42/ FP/CP/3102-86-02 (2676).

43/ See UNEP/LAC-IG.VI/6, annex IV, appendix, decision 8.

2. Urges the Executive Director to initiate, as soon as possible, the programmes selected for priority at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting. 44/

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/18. Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987 on co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting with satisfaction the second joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 45/

Recognizing the need for continued and increased co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), with a view to promoting and achieving environmentally sound human settlements development,

Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to continue and increase co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), particularly with respect to the application of Environmental Guidelines for Settlements Planning and Management in selected metropolitan areas and, inter alia, the special needs of the coastal human settlements likely to be affected by global climate change.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

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44/ See UNEP/LAC-IG.VI/6, annex IV, decision 1 and appendix.

45/ UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.1.

15/19. Preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in Western Asia

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, entitled "Contribution of the United Nations system to the preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in Western Asia", 46/

Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and of the comments by the Executive Director thereon. 47/

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/20. Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1990-1991

The Governing Council

1. Commends the organizations of the United Nations system for their contributions to the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 48/ and calls upon them to co-operate fully with the Executive Director in the implementation of this programme;

2. Approves the revised strategies for subprogrammes 1.2 (Climate and climate change), 2.1 (Water resources and fresh-water ecosystems), and 12.2 (Public information);

3. Approves the programme strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for subprogrammes 13.1 (Technical and regional co-operation) and 13.2 (Support to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office);

4. Approves the programme budget for 1990-1991 and the activities contained therein;

5. Urges the Executive Director to implement the programme activities on the basis of the priorities indicated in the programme budget.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

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46/ JIU/REP/88/5.

47/ UNEP/GC.15/L.1.

48/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.1.



15/21. The system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995

The Governing Council,

Reiterating its conviction expressed in its decision SS.I/3 of 18 March 1988 that system-wide medium-term environment programmes should particularly take into account the statements contained in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, that environmental issues are closely intertwined with development policies and practices, that consequently environmental goals and actions need to be defined in relation to development objectives and policies and that, although it is important to tackle immediate environmental problems, anticipatory and preventive policies are the most effective and economical in achieving environmentally sound development, 49/

Recalling paragraph 4 of its decision SS.I/3, in which it decided on a revision of the system-wide medium-term environmental programme for the period 1990-1995 3/ to be presented at its sixteenth session, with a view, inter alia, to reflecting more closely the structure and recommendations of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, and the report of the World Commission on the Environment and Development, 10/ which was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987,

Recalling also paragraph 8 of its decision SS.I/3, in which it decided to recommend to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that it should arrange for an evaluation of the first system-wide medium-term environment programme (1984-1989) for submission to the Council at its sixteenth session in the light of the preparatory work for a revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995,

Having noted General Assembly resolution 43/196 of 20 December 1988 on a United Nations conference on environment and development,

Emphasizing the importance of thorough preparations for such a conference and the additional work-load this will impose on the United Nations system,

Taking into account that the environment programmes of the United Nations system can be further developed without a formal revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995,

Decides:

(a) That, while the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 need not be subject to a formal revision at the present time, its development and implementation should continue in the course of ongoing joint programming, resulting, inter alia, in the forthcoming biennial environment programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations,

49/ General Assembly resolution 42/186, annex, paras. 3 (e) and (f).

bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, reflecting more closely the structure and recommendations of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and taking into account the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development so as to orientate the programmes, inter alia, towards an anticipatory and preventive approach;

(b) That no further evaluation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1984-1989 is needed;

(c) That the mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 should be carried out in accordance with paragraph 411 of the approved text of that programme;

(d) That, at its seventeenth regular session, it will provide the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination with its views as policy guidance for the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1996-2001.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/22. Report of the Secretary-General on the effects on the environment of the dumping of nuclear wastes

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effects on the environment of the dumping of nuclear wastes 50/ and transmits it to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

2. Takes note of the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to elaborate an internationally agreed code of practice for international transactions involving nuclear wastes; 51/

3. Requests the Executive Director to participate fully in the preparation of the code of practice.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

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50/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.6, annex.

51/ Ibid., sect. 7.

15/23. Desertification

A. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/169 and 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 35/73 of 5 December 1980, 37/147 of 17 December and 37/218 of 20 December 1982, 38/160 of 9 December 1983, 39/168 A of 17 December 1984, 40/198 A of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 and 42/189 A of 11 December 1987,

Recalling also its decision 9/22 A and B of 26 May 1981, section VII of decision 10/14 of 31 May 1982, section VII of its decision 11/7 of 24 May 1983, and decisions 12/10 of 28 May 1984 and 14/15 A of 18 June 1987,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1987 and 1988 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 52/

Having also considered those parts of the 1987 and 1988 reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination dealing with the co-ordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 53/

Convinced that combating desertification at the national level involves integrated measures that require nation-wide mobilization of institutional, human and financial resources,

Noting with great concern that desertification remains unabated with its menacing impacts on food-producing capacity, and international efforts to halt its spread as envisaged by the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification endorsed by the General Assembly in 1977 remain inadequate, particularly as a result of the insufficiency of financial resources,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1987 and 1988 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

2. Invites Governments of countries prone to desertification to consider according priority in their national development programmes to anti-desertification activities, such as:

(a) Preparing a national programme to combat desertification within the framework of national plans for development of natural resources and rehabilitation of impaired ecosystems;

(b) Ensuring that the national programme to combat desertification is ecologically sound, technically feasible and socially acceptable;

52/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.4.

53/ UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.2, paras. 26-32, and UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.3, paras. 23-27.

(c) Appropriating, within the resources available for implementation of national plans for development, resources needed for the implementation of the programme for combating desertification;

(d) Establishing, or strengthening, if they already exist, centrally placed national machineries capable of mobilizing national institutional resources needed for implementation of the national programme for combating desertification and of monitoring progress in executing related activities;

3. Also invites donor Governments, intergovernmental bodies, including aid agencies and non-governmental organizations, to accord high priority in their bilateral and multilateral assistance activities to national programmes for combating desertification and for the rehabilitation of degraded land resources and to take into account the promotion of long-term ecological and social rehabilitation programmes in areas prone to desertification;

4. Commends the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification for its positive role in ensuring that activities related to arid lands and desertification are included within the programmes of its member organizations;

5. Requests that the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification implement the following measures to enhance its work:

(a) Include in the agenda of its regular meetings, reporting on activities of member organizations relevant to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, a review of the activities of other structures concerned with implementation of the Plan of Action, such as the Consultative Group for Desertification Control and regional bodies, such as the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development and the Dakar Ministerial Conference on Desertification and review the overall status of the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(b) Institute, as a permanent feature of its functioning, that its ad hoc meetings be devoted to thematic joint programming;

(c) Undertake joint inter-agency action to mobilize technical and financial resources to assist national activities to develop and implement national programmes to combat desertification;

(d) Collaborate with the Inter-Agency Working Group of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with special reference to the work of African Deserts and Arid Lands Committee;

6. Requests the Executive Director to assist, within available financial resources, countries prone to desertification, at their request, in developing programmes for combating desertification within their development plans;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to include in the proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1990-1991 48/ activities on pastoral nomadism, under subprogramme 3 (Arid lands and desertification) with a view to assisting two or three countries in Asia and Africa to implement pilot projects to provide environmental support for pastoral nomads, demonstrating the efficiency of nomadism as an ecologically sound way of life for

the utilization of marginal resources and to invite other United Nations agencies and donor countries to support the activities on pastoral nomadism;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to arrange for an external evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification to be conducted and for the results to be presented well in time for the proposed United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992, but not later than the sixteenth regular session of the Governing Council.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

B. Financing and other measures in support of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 36/191 of 17 December 1981, 37/220 of 20 December 1982 and 42/189 C of 11 December 1987,

Recalling also its decisions 13/30 A of 23 May 1985 and 14/15 D of 18 June 1987,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Special Account to finance the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and additional ways and means of financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 54/

1. Recommends to the General Assembly that the United Nations Special Account to finance the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification should be abolished;

2. Recommends that the Consultative Group for Desertification Control should hold sessions every two years (in even-numbered years starting from 1990), to review the status of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to exchange information on scientific research in this field, on national programmes and on the implementation of the Plan of Action and to advise on further action against desertification;

3. Invites the international community to pledge voluntary contributions to local, national and regional mechanisms for financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

4. Further invites the international community to create the necessary economic and financial conditions that would enable countries prone to desertification to appropriate part of their resources to combat desertification.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

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54/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.4, chap. I.

**C. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification**

**The Governing Council,**

**Recalling** General Assembly resolutions 32/170 of 19 December 1977, 33/88 of 15 December 1978, 34/187 of 18 December 1979, 35/72 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982, 38/164 of 19 December 1983, 39/168 B and 39/206 of 17 December 1984, 40/198 B of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 and 42/189 B of 11 December 1987,

**Recalling also** its decisions 13/30 B of 23 May 1985 and 14/15 B of 18 June 1987,

**Having considered** the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1987 and 1988 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and, in particular, the chapter on the implementation of the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region, 55/

1. **Commends** the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office on the steps it has taken, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, towards the implementation of the Plan of Action in twenty-two countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;
2. **Requests** the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to take into consideration in its future actions the recommendations contained in paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 15/23 A on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
3. **Authorizes** the Executive Director to continue support to the Office as a joint venture with the United Nations Development Programme;
4. **Invites** the Executive Director and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to intensify efforts to mobilize resources for continued assistance to the countries served by the Office in combating desertification.

**12th meeting**  
**25 May 1989**

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55/ Ibid., chap. V.

D. Transmission to the General Assembly of the report of the Executive Director and of a draft resolution on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council

1. Authorizes the Executive Director to submit his report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 52/ including a review of efforts undertaken in respect of the Special Account and additional means and measures for financing the Plan of Action, ways and means of enhancing the efficiency of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, measures to enhance the work of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification, as well as on the implementation of the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region, on behalf of the Governing Council, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

2. Decides to recommend the draft resolution annexed to the present decision to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

ANNEX

Draft resolution for the consideration of the General Assembly

Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and its resolutions 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 36/191 of 17 December 1981, 37/220 of 20 December 1982, 38/163 of 19 December 1983, 39/217 of 18 December 1984, 40/198 of 17 December 1985 and 42/189 of 11 December 1987 dealing with the implementation and financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Recognizing that combating desertification at the national level:

(a) Involves integrated measures that aim at halting further degradation and at enhancing rehabilitation of food-producing systems;

(b) Is a multi-sectoral national endeavour that requires nation-wide mobilization of institutional, manpower and financial resources;

(c) Needs to be an integral part of the national development planning process with its share of financial appropriation clearly defined;

Recognizing further that actions for combating desertification are not necessarily economically competitive with other development projects and that, to be effective, they require substantial subsidies and should be long term in their nature,

Noting with great concern that desertification with its menacing impacts on the world food-producing capacity, remains unabated, and that the international efforts to halt its spread, particularly financial resources, remain far from adequate to those envisaged by the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification endorsed by the General Assembly in 1977,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation and financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Having considered also the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, as well as Governing Council decisions 15/23 A to D of 25 May 1989 on desertification,

1. Invites Governments of countries prone to desertification to accord priority within national development endeavours to activities related to combating desertification, including rehabilitation of degraded lands and dealing with drought-related activities along the following lines:

(a) To prepare a national programme to combat desertification within the framework of national plans for the development of natural resources and the rehabilitation of impaired ecosystems;

(b) To ensure that the national programme for combating desertification is ecologically sound, technically feasible and socially acceptable;

(c) To appropriate, within the resources available for implementation of national plans for development, resources needed for the implementation of the programmes for combating desertification;

(d) To establish, or strengthen, if they already exist, centrally placed national machineries capable of mobilizing national institutional resources needed for implementation of the national programme for combating desertification and of monitoring progress in executing related activities;

(e) To set up - as appropriate in the fiscal system adopted - national special accounts for desertification control that would keep records of national funds, aid resources and other international resources (loans, etc.) allotted to programmes of combating desertification;

(f) To devise means for co-ordinating bilateral and multilateral aid and technical assistance resources that would support the national programme for combating desertification, such as sections within roundtables for national development programmes;

2. Commends the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification for the positive developments in its role as a mechanism for ensuring that activities related to arid lands and desertification set forth in the system-wide medium-term environment programme are included within the programmes of member organizations for implementation in the field;

3. Takes note on the recommendation of the Governing Council that the United Nations Special Account to finance the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification should be abolished;



4. Resolves that the Consultative Group on Desertification Control will, in even numbered years, starting in 1990, hold its sessions every two years, review the status of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, exchange information on scientific research in this field, on national programmes and on the implementation of the Plan of Action, and advise on future actions against desertification;

5. Calls upon the members of the donor community:

(a) To accord priority in their bilateral aid to national programmes for combating desertification and rehabilitation of degraded land resources;

(b) To adapt conditions of aid programmes to the timeframe needed for long-term ecological and social rehabilitation programmes in areas prone to desertification;

(c) To consider favourably voluntary contributions to local, national and regional mechanisms (special accounts, etc.) for financing the implementation of programmes for combating desertification;

6. Commends the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office on the steps it has taken on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, towards the implementation of the Plan of Action in twenty-two countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

7. Welcomes the orientation of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office towards the concept of sustained and sustainable development by addressing, in a holistic manner, natural resource management/preservation and issues of environment and ecology, as well as the emphasis being placed by the Office on the integration of desertification control activities in national development plans;

8. Expresses satisfaction at the active involvement of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation and of its efforts to involve non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

9. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to review the terms of their co-operation in respect of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office joint venture so as to consolidate the achievements realized so far by the Office and to intensify efforts to mobilize resources for continued assistance to the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in combating desertification.

15/24. Sustainable agriculture

The Governing Council,

Having regard to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 10/ which notes, inter alia, that current development policies tend not to promote sustainable agriculture,

Aware of the growing concern of the international community about the ecological unsustainability of agricultural systems in both developed and developing countries, as reflected in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, which notes that insufficient attention to the environmental impact of agricultural policies and practices has been causing great environmental damage, such as: soil degradation, deforestation and desertification; loss of land productivity, soil and water pollution and hazards to human health caused by excessive use of agricultural chemicals; salinization due to inappropriate irrigation; and, genetic erosion and increased vulnerability of crops to diseases and pests due in part to the use of high-yielding varieties, 56/

Desiring to contribute to the achievement of food security without resource depletion or environmental degradation through the internalization of environmental considerations in sectoral policies and programmes, as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/186,

Considering the urgent need for better co-ordination of agricultural and environmental policies at national and international levels and for more effective integration of environmental concerns in the policies and programmes of all international agencies involved in agricultural development,

Taking note of the report of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development 57/ and the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the European region on integration of agricultural and environmental policies,

Aware also of the need to increase agricultural production in order to overcome present food shortages that seriously affect developing countries,

Bearing in mind the co-ordinating and catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the achievement of sustainable development, as reiterated by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/186,

1. Recommends that a joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and United Nations Environment Programme meeting on sustainable agriculture should be convened within the framework of the preparation of the proposed 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development, with a view to:

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56/ General Assembly resolution 42/186, annex, sect. II B, para 10.

57/ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Agricultural and Environmental Policies: Opportunities for Integration (Paris, 1989).

(a) Reviewing the mechanism for integrating agricultural production and environmental policies worldwide;

(b) Elaborating a world strategy for sustainable agriculture to guide agricultural policies at national and international levels, in order to ensure that such policies encourage farmers to adopt practices that are ecologically sustainable and that lead, inter alia, to improving the quality of life of rural people;

(c) Formulating recommendations for practical action that might be taken by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other international organizations concerned within the context of their ongoing activities to promote sustainable agriculture;

2. Requests the Executive Director to forward the present decision forthwith to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, so that the above recommendation may be given due consideration by the Governing Council and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at their forthcoming sessions.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/25. Oil pollution of the Red Sea

The Governing Council,

Taking into consideration the frequency and magnitude of accidental pollution by oil and other harmful substances in regional seas,

Aware of the sensitive and fragile nature of the ecological system in these partially isolated seas and their vulnerability to pollution by such substances,

Expressing the urgent need for closer interregional co-operation between the various regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Emphasizing the need to take immediate measures to combat pollution by oil and other harmful substances and the need to mobilize resources beyond those available in the affected region,

1. Requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures in co-operation with the International Maritime Organization and relevant regional organizations to prepare an inventory of available equipment and expertise for combating, surveying and containing pollution, as well as for shore clean-up, in cases of pollution by oil and other harmful substances, which could be made available for immediate response in any affected regional sea;

2. Also requests that regional or subregional arrangements should be developed where such arrangements do not already exist for the purpose mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present decision so as to facilitate immediate response on either a reciprocal or a payment basis;

3. Further requests Governments participating in the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, where appropriate in co-operation with the International Maritime Organization, to facilitate the preparation of the inventory mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present decision and to develop customs procedures that will allow the effective mobility of the above-mentioned equipment.

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15/26. Plan of action for the surveillance, ecological assessment and clearance of war-related pollution, objects and wrecks in the sea area of the Kuwait Action Plan region

The Governing Council,

Aware of the cease-fire achieved through the United Nations in the Kuwait Action Plan region,

Noting the effects of the States members of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, to implement a plan of action to survey and carry out environmental impact assessment and clearance of wrecks and other objects affecting navigation, fishing and the marine environment,

Requests the Executive Director to provide, in co-operation with the International Maritime Organization and within the available resources, assistance to the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the implementation of the plan of action.

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25 May 1989

15/27. Precautionary approach to marine pollution, including waste-dumping at sea

The Governing Council,

Aware of the threat to the marine environment from a variety of polluting sources,

Aware of the need to protect marine biological diversity,

Recognizing that waiting for scientific proof regarding the impact of pollutants discharged into the marine environment may result in irreversible damage to the marine environment and in human suffering,

Also aware that policies allowing uncontrolled discharges of pollutants continue to pose unknown risks,

Taking note of global conventions such as the 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its Protocol of 1978, and the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary

Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and regional conventions, such as the 1972 Oslo Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft, the 1974 Paris Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources, the conventions adopted in connection with the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other relevant conventions,

Noting that the Second International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea, held in London from 24 to 25 November 1987, adopted the "principle of precautionary action" 58/ and that some other Governments have adopted and begun to implement preventive policies for the safety of human health and the environment,

1. Recommends that all Governments adopt the "principle of precautionary action" as the basis of their policy with regard to the prevention and elimination of marine pollution;

2. Urges all Governments eligible to do so, but that have not yet done so, to become contracting parties to all relevant conventions;

3. Further urges the international community to work actively towards the complete elimination of the practice of dumping of pollutants liable to endanger the marine environment.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/28. International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 14/19 of 17 June 1987 on the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, 59/

Noting the recommendation in the report that the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals should support developing countries in establishing national registers of potentially toxic chemicals, 60/

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58/ Second International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea, London, 24-25 November 1987, Ministerial Declaration, sect. XVI, para. 1.

59/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2/Supplement 1, paras. 1-10.

60/ Ibid., para. 9.

Noting the need to ensure close co-operation among the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, the Industry and Environment Office, and the Interim Secretariat of the Basel Convention for the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, in particular to make the best use of available resources,

1. Takes note of the information on the short-term and long-term financial position of the Register provided by the Executive Director in his report;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue to give high priority to the work of the Register through full and flexible utilization of:

(a) The resources of the Fund;

(b) Additional sources of income, and also through co-ordination with other related budget subprogrammes;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to solicit extrabudgetary resources from Governments in the form of counterpart contributions to cover the resource needs of the Register and prepare package programmes for the different activities;

4. Invites the Executive Director to submit such programmes to potential donors for financing;

5. Approves the revised objectives and strategies of the Register, to reflect accurately its expanded responsibilities, as contained in the annex to the present decision;

6. Invites the Executive Director to strengthen the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, within available resources and extrabudgetary resources, in accordance with its new mandate to assist developing countries at their request in the field of legal and institutional arrangements for the management of chemicals at the national level and to organize training activities.

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#### ANNEX

### Revised objectives and strategies of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals

#### A. Objectives

1. To facilitate access to existing data on the production, distribution, release and disposal of chemicals, and their effects on man and his environment, and thereby contribute to a more efficient use of national and international resources available for the evaluation of the effects of the chemicals and their control.

2. On the basis of information in the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC), to identify the important gaps in existing knowledge on the effects of chemicals, and call attention to the need for research to fill those gaps.

3. To identify, or help identify, potential hazards from chemicals and wastes, and to improve the awareness of such hazards.

4. To provide information about national, regional and global policies, regulatory measures and standards and recommendations for the control of potentially toxic chemicals.

5. To facilitate the implementation of policies necessary for the exchange of information on chemicals in international trade.

#### B. Strategies

1. Rendering the IRPTC Programme Activity Centre capable of handling data and answering questions.

2. Involving correspondents designated at the national, regional and sectoral levels in the operations of IRPTC.

3. Building a network of participating data systems, which may make their files available to the IRPTC Programme Activity Centre for incorporation in its central data files, or may respond directly to user's queries.

4. Developing and continuously updating computerized central data files.

5. Publishing selected information on chemicals.

6. Assisting with the strengthening of legal and institutional arrangements for the management of chemicals at the national level.

7. Developing for use within IRPTC and at the national level and amending, when necessary, procedures and programmes needed to make the London Guidelines effective.

8. Co-ordinating the reporting and information exchange under the London Guidelines among participating Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

9. Reviewing and periodically reporting progress and problems related to the implementation of the London Guidelines.

10. Promoting the use of outputs from IRPTC activities.

11. Organizing training activities.

15/29. List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance

The Governing Council

Notes the progress report of the Executive Director on the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance. 61/

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15/30. Environmentally safe management of chemicals, in particular those that are banned and severely restricted, in international trade

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 85 (V) of 25 May 1977, in which it urged Governments to take steps to ensure that potentially harmful chemicals, in whatever form or commodity, which are unacceptable for domestic purposes in the exporting country, are not permitted to be exported without the knowledge and consent of appropriate authorities in the importing country,

Further recalling its decision 14/27 of 17 June 1987, by which the Council adopted the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, which constitute an important step towards the full implementation of decision 85 (V), and requested the Executive Director to convene an ad hoc working group of experts with a view to:

- (a) Developing modalities of prior informed consent and other approaches which could usefully supplement the modalities of the London Guidelines;
- (b) Recommending measures for incorporating the principle of prior informed consent into the Guidelines;
- (c) Reporting on its findings to the Council at its fifteenth session.

1. Takes note with appreciation that, in accordance with decision 14/27, the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Prior Informed Consent and Other Modalities to Supplement the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade has completed its work as requested;

2. Notes that the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations are both developing prior informed consent procedures, which should be developed in a complementary fashion and should not duplicate each other;



3. Notes also that the prior informed consent procedure being developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the context of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is expected to be fully compatible with that in the amended London Guidelines, both procedurally and with respect to health and environmental protection, and is expected to be approved prior to full implementation of the prior informed consent procedure as contained in the amended London Guidelines;

4. Further notes that the increased workload for the United Nations Environment Programme as the amended London Guidelines are implemented would imply the need for additional resources;

5. Adopts the amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade; 62/

6. Recommends that the Expert Group to be established pursuant to annex II, paragraph 2, of the amended London Guidelines keep the issue of acutely hazardous pesticide formulations under continuing review after completion of its initial task as outlined in annex II, with a view to formulating any recommendations for additional action in this regard as may be appropriate to the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts when it is reconvened by the Executive Director to monitor the implementation of the London Guidelines;

7. Recommends that the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations develop an information exchange system to ensure that designated national authorities of importing and exporting countries have a single contact point for obtaining information and communicating decisions on chemicals subject to the prior informed consent procedure;

8. Recommends that the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations share the operational responsibility for the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and jointly manage and implement common elements, including the selection of chemicals to be included in the prior informed consent procedure, preparation of prior informed consent decision guidance documents, mechanisms for information-sharing, and creation of data bases;

9. Expresses its understanding that the sharing of operational responsibilities referred to above is without prejudice to the scope of the Guidelines as defined in paragraph 1 (a) of the Guidelines;

10. Calls upon the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to adopt procedures equally protective for man and the environment for pesticides subject to the prior informed consent procedure;

11. Requests the Executive Director to reconvene the Ad Hoc Working Group with a view to:

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62/ Ibid., appendix.

(a) Monitoring, as appropriate and within available resources, the implementation of the amended London Guidelines, with particular attention to the prior informed consent procedure and the technical assistance provisions of part III of the Guidelines;

(b) Reviewing other activities related to the production and use of chemicals in States, specifically including the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on integrated pest management and in implementing the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in conjunction with industry on chemical management and safety issues, and the experience of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on information exchange, chemicals control and developing and implementing conventions or agreements on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes;

(c) On the basis of such monitoring and review, preparing a report on any further steps which should be taken to supplement the amended London Guidelines, including the possible further need for a convention, for submission to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session:

12. Urges Governments to take the necessary steps for the early implementation of the London Guidelines.

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15/31. International legal instruments  
in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling that the "Register of international treaties and other agreements in the field of the environment", 63/ which is updated every two years, provides a comprehensive source of information on the status of and parties to one hundred and forty international legal instruments,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 64/ which reports on:

(a) Eighteen multilateral legal instruments that entered into force between May 1986 and January 1989, and on one that will do so in June 1989;

(b) Ten multilateral legal instruments that were adopted between May 1987 and November 1988;

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63/ UNEP/GC.15/Inf.2.

64/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.5.

(c) The many Governments that became parties to various multilateral legal instruments in whole or in part up to December 1988;

(d) Governments that reported their intentions to take actions with regard to multilateral legal instruments;

2. Requests the Executive Director to transmit his report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, as requested in General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975;

3. Calls upon States and regional intergovernmental organizations in a position to do so, and that have not already done so, to sign, ratify, approve, accede to or accept and implement, multilateral legal instruments in the field of the environment.

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15/32. Shared natural resources and legal aspects of offshore mining and drilling

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director, 65/ on shared natural resources and legal aspects of offshore mining and drilling,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Calls upon Governments and international organizations to take further action to implement the principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States 66/ and the conclusions of the study of the legal aspects concerning the environment related to offshore mining and drilling within the limits of national jurisdiction. 67/

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65/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2 and Corr.1, paras. 1-9.

66/ UNEP/GC.6/17, annex.

67/ UNEP/GC.9/5/Add.5, annex III.

15/33. Progress in the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes

The Governing Council.

Taking note of the completion of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts with a Mandate to Prepare a Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, 68/

Also taking note with satisfaction of the successful conclusion of the negotiations at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, held at Basel from 20 to 22 March 1989, and the adoption of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 69/

Further noting that the Basel Convention establishes a secretariat with the mandate inter alia, to receive and convey information from and to Parties on sources of technical assistance and training, available technical and scientific know-how, sources of advice and expertise, and availability of resources, with a view to assisting them, upon request, in such areas as the handling of the notification system of the Convention, the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, environmentally sound technologies relating to hazardous wastes and other wastes, such as low- and non-waste technology, the assessment of disposal capabilities and sites, the monitoring of hazardous wastes and other wastes, and emergency responses, 70/

Welcoming the Declaration of Basel, of 22 March 1989, in which thirty-six signatories of the Convention, inter alia, agreed that they would not permit imports or exports of wastes to countries lacking the legal, administrative and technical capacity to manage and dispose of wastes in an environmentally sound manner and emphasized the importance of assisting in developing adequate facilities aimed at the final disposal of wastes in those countries,

1. Requests the Executive Director to assist, within available resources, in the implementation of the Basel Convention for the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the resolutions of the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes;

2. Calls upon Governments that are in a position to do so to sign and ratify the Convention, which, together with the development and application of appropriate technologies and, where relevant, protocols, would ultimately reduce to a minimum the production, as well as transboundary movements, of hazardous wastes, so that it enters into force as soon as possible;

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68/ See the report of the Executive Director on the progress in the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.7), paras. 2 and 3.

69/ Ibid., para. 1.

70/ UNEP/IG/80/3. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, article 16.

3. Calls upon all Governments to consider voluntary contributions towards the general operating costs of the interim secretariat to assist in bringing the Convention into force and implementing its provisions;

4. Requests the Executive Director to develop programmes within the framework of the interim secretariat, with a view to assisting developing countries, at their request, in the fields enumerated in the Convention;

5. Invites the Executive Director to submit such programmes to potential donors for financing;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to ensure close co-operation between the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals and the interim secretariat in order to avoid duplication and make best use of available resources.

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15/34. Preparation of an international legal instrument on the biological diversity of the planet

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on rationalization of international conventions on biological diversity, 71/

Bearing in mind that, as stated in the note by the Executive Director on rationalization of international conventions on biological diversity, submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity at its first session, biological diversity encompasses all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are part, 72/

Recognizing the need to conserve biological diversity on earth by, inter alia, the implementation of existing legal instruments and agreements in a co-ordinated and effective way and the adoption of a further appropriate international legal instrument, possibly in the form of a framework convention,

Recognizing that, for environmental, ethical, social, economic and technical reasons, the conservation and utilization of biological diversity is more than ever essential for environmentally sound and sustainable development, and continued functioning of the biosphere and human survival,

Aware of the establishment of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and of the ongoing work of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources regarding draft articles for possible inclusion in the proposed international legal instrument on the biological diversity of the planet,

71/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2 and Corr.1, paras. 22-26.

72/ UNEP/Bio. Div.1/2, para. 3.

Agreeing that the full implications of the new biotechnologies should be taken into account in any international legal instrument on the conservation of the biological diversity of the planet,

1. Notes with appreciation the actions taken by the Executive Director pursuant to Governing Council decision 14/26 of 17 June 1987;

2. Agrees that the impoverishment of biological diversity and the consequent loss of natural resources of great potential economic value is a problem with global dimensions that calls for sustained multilateral co-operation towards its solution;

3. Urges the Executive Director to continue to support, within available resources, actions to promote effective co-operation in the implementation of existing international instruments and agreements in this field;

4. Notes that the economic dimension, including, inter alia, the question of adequate machinery for financial transfers from those who benefit from the exploitation of biological diversity, including through the use of genetic resources in biotechnology development, to the owners and managers of biological resources, and appropriate measures to facilitate the transfer of technical means of utilizing biological diversity for human benefit, will need to be properly considered in the negotiations of any future legal instrument for the conservation of biological diversity;

5. Requests the Executive Director to convene, within available resources, in close co-operation with other appropriate international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Board on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, additional working sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity to consider the technical content within a broad socio-economic context of a suitable new international legal instrument and other measures that might be adopted for the conservation of the biological diversity of the planet;

6. Authorizes the Executive Director, on the basis of the final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, to convene, in consultation with Governments and within available resources, an ad hoc working group of legal and technical experts with a mandate to negotiate an international legal instrument for the conservation of the biological diversity of the planet;

7. Calls upon Governments that are in a position to do so to provide the necessary financial and technical resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the ad hoc working groups and, in particular, the full and effective participation of the developing countries;

8. Requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to expedite the work of the ad hoc working groups as a matter of urgency with the aim of having the proposed new international legal instrument ready for adoption as soon as possible;

9. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the subject at the first session of the preparatory committee for the 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development, provided it is established by the General Assembly, and to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/35. Progress in the protection of the ozone layer

The Governing Council

1. Notes with satisfaction the entry into force of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, on 22 September 1988, and of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, on 1 January 1989;
2. Urges all countries that have not yet done so to become parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol;
3. Notes with appreciation that at the London Conference on Saving the Ozone Layer, which met from 5 to 7 March 1989, a considerable number of countries announced that they would shortly become parties or would seriously consider doing so;
4. Welcomes with satisfaction the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention 73/ and the first meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, 74/ held at Helsinki, at the kind invitation of the Government of Finland, from 26 to 28 April and from 2 to 5 May 1989, respectively, in particular the request by the parties for the need to tighten the control measures of the Montreal Protocol, the need to add other substances to be controlled under the Montreal Protocol and the designation of the United Nations Environment Programme as the secretariat of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol;
5. Notes with appreciation the offer by the Government of Finland to make available approximately 8.6 million markkaa to facilitate activities of the developing countries within the scope of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol;
6. Welcomes the proposal by the Norwegian Government to set aside 0.1 per cent of its gross national income or 600 million Norwegian kroner a year towards an international climate fund, provided other industrialized countries do likewise;

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73/ See report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/OzL.Conv.1/5).

74/ See report of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on the work of their first meeting (UNEP/OzL.Pro.1/5).

7. Notes the Helsinki Declaration on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, of 2 May 1989 75/ by all eighty-one countries and the European Communities present at Helsinki, in which these Governments invited all countries to become parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, and agreed to phase out the production and consumption of chlorofluorocarbons controlled by the Protocol as soon as possible, but not later than the year 2000, taking due account of the special situation of developing countries, to phase out the halons and reduce other ozone-depleting substances as soon as feasible, to commit means and resources to accelerate the development of environmentally acceptable substitute chemicals, and to facilitate the access of developing countries to the relevant information, research results and training, as well as to develop appropriate funding mechanisms to facilitate the transfer of technologies;

8. Emphasizes that the Montreal Protocol, as amended from time to time, is the legal instrument available to its Parties, by which the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances are to be controlled;

9. Requests the Executive Director to support activities as approved by the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol until the establishment of the Trust Fund and the permanent secretariat.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/36. Global climate change

The Governing Council.

Recalling its decision 14/20 of 18 June 1987 on global climate change,

Recognizing that, while further scientific studies are important, the knowledge and awareness of global climate change and its possible consequences are developing rapidly,

Emphasizing that the scientific participation of developing countries and, therefore, the development of their intellectual resources is essential to understanding of the state of the atmosphere and climate change for the world as a whole,

Emphasizing further the importance of discussing the whole range of climate-related measures on a broad international basis,

Recognizing also the expressions of readiness on the part of a growing number of States to act decisively to protect the global climate,

Conscious of General Assembly resolution 43/53 of 6 December 1988, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", which recognized that climate change is a common concern of mankind and determined that necessary and timely action should be taken to deal with climate change within a

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75/ UNEP/OzL.Pro.1/5, appendix I.



global framework, and requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to utilize the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to initiate that action,

Noting that the Heads of State or of Government of States members of the European Communities, meeting at Rhodes in December 1988, underlined the need for an effective international response to global environment problems such as climate change,

Noting the report of the International Meeting of Legal and Policy Experts on the Protection of the Atmosphere, held at Ottawa in February 1989, in which an international convention or conventions with appropriate protocols was recommended as a means to ensure rapid international action to protect the atmosphere and limit the rate of climate change, 76/

Recalling the Chairman's message from the London Conference on Saving the Ozone Layer, which met from 5 to 7 March 1989 and was attended by one hundred and twenty-three countries, noted inter alia that action to protect the ozone layer will at the same time reduce the impact of global warming, poses particularly serious threats to certain low-lying developing countries, 77/

Noting that representatives of twenty-four States at the highest political level adopted at The Hague, on 11 March 1989, a declaration on the threats to the atmosphere, particularly the warming of the atmosphere and the deterioration of the ozone layer,

Noting the initiatives of the Governments of the Netherlands and of Norway with regard to the establishment of a world climate fund and their willingness to contribute to such a fund,

Also noting the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on financial measures to implement strategies to respond to climate change,

Encouraging Governments and relevant international organizations to further the development of international funding mechanisms, not excluding a possible climate fund, for additional assistance, in particular to developing countries, for the implementation of national and international policies to protect the environment from climate change,

Noting further the Declaration by eighty-one countries and the European Communities at Helsinki on 2 May 1989, 78/ in which they, mindful that some ozone-depleting substances are powerful greenhouse gases leading to global warming, agree to phase out the production and the consumption of chlorofluorocarbons

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76/ See Protection of the Atmosphere: International Meeting of Legal and Policy Experts, 20-22 February 1989, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Statement of the Meeting of Legal and Policy Experts; introduction.

77/ UNEP/OzL.Pro.1/5, para. 11.

78/ Ibid., appendix I.

controlled by the Montreal Protocol as soon as possible, but not later than the year 2000, taking due account of the special situation of developing countries,

Emphasizing that the Montreal Protocol, as amended from time to time, is the legal instrument available to its Parties by which the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances are to be controlled,

Emphasizing that, within the perspective of protection of the atmosphere, new measures to counteract global warming are required,

1. Notes with satisfaction the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme upon appropriate decisions by the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme as an ad hoc intergovernmental working group;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in full collaboration with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to consult with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with respect to the determination of its internal organization and procedures, its budget and means of financing such budget;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to give strong support to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

4. Urges all States Members of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support fully and participate actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

5. Urges the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take the necessary steps to ensure the scientific and policy participation of developing countries in its work and recommends the international community to provide assistance in this respect;

6. Notes the agreement within the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as reflected in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 43/53, that its work include the following main tasks, each to be accomplished by a Working Group:

- (a) Assessment of available scientific information on climate change;
- (b) Assessment of environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate change;
- (c) The formulation of response strategies; 79/

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79/ Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on its first session (World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme, World Climate Programme Publications Series, No. IPCC-1/TD-No. 267) paras. 3.2 and 3.3.

7. Further notes the intention of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to adopt an interim report not later than October 1990; 80/

8. Notes the agreement of the Response Strategies Working Group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at a meeting held at Geneva from 10 May to 12 May 1989, that its workplan includes the identification and evaluation of a range of measures to implement response strategies, namely, legal measures, including the elements of a possible future framework convention on climate change, technological measures, financial measures, economic measures and educational measures;

9. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to begin preparations for negotiations on a framework convention on climate, taking into account the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as the outcome of recent and forthcoming international meetings on the subject;

10. Recommends that such negotiations should be initiated as soon as possible immediately after the adoption of the interim report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

11. Recommends that Governments and competent regional integration economic organizations consider, while awaiting the outcome of the negotiations, the range of possible options for averting the potentially damaging impacts of climate change, for removing the causes of the phenomenon, and for developing programmes for implementing those more appropriate to national needs, including, inter alia, to:

(a) Accede to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, if they have not yet done so, and comply with its regulatory measures with the utmost speed, adopting and applying, where possible, more stringent controls than those specified in the Protocol in the shortest possible time, with an ultimate objective of, as far as possible, completely eliminating the emission of the controlled substances to better protect the ozone layer and the global climate from change, consistent with the Helsinki Declaration on the Protection of the Ozone Layer;

(b) Combat deforestation and accelerate reforestation and afforestation programmes to provide a natural bank for atmospheric carbon in terrestrial ecosystems;

(c) Promote programmes to improve energy efficiency and energy conservation in both the supply and use sectors of national economies, setting goals and objectives as appropriate;

(d) Adopt in industrialized countries strategies for actions, including use of regulations and technologies as appropriate, designed to control, stabilize and reduce national emissions of greenhouse gases through more efficient use of energy in both the production and consumption sectors of national economies, setting goals

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80/ Ibid., paras. 3.12 and 4.3.

and objectives as appropriate, with, as a first step, the goal of stabilization of emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and the development of energy sources that do not emit greenhouse gases that threaten global climate;

(e) Adopt in developing countries similar strategies for actions which, while not impeding the impetus of their development, make optimal use of energy production and consumption systems that are safe, affordable and efficient and that minimize emissions of greenhouse gases, which threaten global climate;

(f) Identify and possibly strengthen relevant existing international legal instruments having a bearing on global climate change;

12. Recommends the institution of programmes and measures of assistance, including technology transfer, that will make it possible for developing countries to avoid risk to global climate;

13. Recommends that Governments, taking note of the need for scientific knowledge of global, regional and local climates and their impacts, continue and, wherever possible, increase their activities in support of the World Climate Programme and International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, including the monitoring of atmospheric composition and climate conditions, and further recommends that the international community support efforts by developing countries to participate in these scientific activities.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/37. Promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology

The Governing Council,

Having considered the results of the Executive Director's consultations with Governments, pursuant to paragraph 4 of its decision 14/16 of 18 June 1987 on promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology, 81/

1. Urges the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its catalytic role to promote, with Governments, industry, research organizations and other relevant institutions, the establishment of a network that will allow such information sharing;

2. Invites Governments to find both bilateral and multilateral arrangements for providing financial support for exports of environmental protection technology, taking into account, in particular, the needs of developing countries;

3. Also invites Governments to promote actively the holding of symposia, exhibitions and training courses in support of a more effective dissemination of information about available environmental protection technology and about the know-how required for its appropriate use;

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81/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2/Supplement 1, paras. 12-21.

4. Reconfirms on a continuing basis the recommendations contained in its decision 14/16, particularly its paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 5, in which:

(a) Governments were encouraged to promote the commercial exchange and transfer of environmental protection technology, and direct industrial contacts in the field of environmental protection technology;

(b) Governments and intergovernmental trade organizations were urged to review terms of trade in pollution control technology with the objective of identifying and minimizing trade barriers;

(c) Governments were encouraged to share public research and demonstration results and information on non-proprietary environmental protection technology;

(d) Specialized agencies and other members of the United Nations system dealing with technology transfer issues, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional economic commissions, were invited to promote the transfer of environmental protection technology.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/38. Harmonization of environmental measurements

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements, 82/

1. Notes the establishment at Munich, Federal Republic of Germany, of a project financed by voluntary contributions from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to deal with the harmonization of environmental measurements; 83/

2. Requests the Executive Director to follow-up on contacts with interested countries to seek support for the project;

3. Appeals to Governments and international organizations to assist the project to fulfil its objectives by, inter alia, providing financial resources and seconding staff;

4. Calls upon Governments and international organizations to participate in the project;

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82/ UNEP/CG.15/9/Add.2 and Corr.1, paras. 18-21.

83/ Ibid., para. 21.

5. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session on the status of the project.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/39. Industrial accidents

The Governing Council

1. Notes with satisfaction the activities undertaken by the Executive Director in the field of industrial accidents; 84/

2. Calls upon Governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and world industry to support the APELL (awareness and preparedness for industrial accidents at the local level) process;

3. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To set up a network of organizations and experts to facilitate the exchange of information and technology for the prevention of industrial accidents and to provide assistance in the case of emergencies;

(b) To report thereon to the Council at its sixteenth regular session.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/40. INFOTERRA: the International Environmental Information System

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the World Conference on Environmental Information Exchange in the 1990s (INFOTERRA 3) and progress made by INFOTERRA; 85/

2. Calls upon Governments to make full use of the services provided by INFOTERRA and to strengthen their INFOTERRA national focal points, as appropriate;

3. Requests the Executive Director to consider possibilities of strengthening INFOTERRA, taking into account the recommendations of the World

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84/ See UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2/Supplement 3 and Corr.1, paras. 20-22.

85/ Ibid., paras. 1-5.

Conference on Environmental Information Exchange in the 1990s (INFOTERRA 3) referred to in the above-mentioned report of the Executive Director; 86/

4. Requests the Executive Director to provide technical and operational assistance to developing countries, within available resources, to afford them more effective participation in the international exchange of environmental information and experience.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/41. Environmental impact assessment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on environmental impact assessment, 87/

Reaffirming that environmental impact assessment is a valuable means of promoting the integration of environmental issues into planning and programme implementation and thereby helps to identify potential adverse impacts and the additional resources required to avoid them,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;
2. Calls upon Governments to intensify the use of the Goals and Principles of Environmental Impact Assessment; 88/
3. Authorizes the Executive Director to continue to seek the views of Governments and relevant international organizations on modes of further development in this field.

12th meeting  
25 May 1989

15/42. Additional sources of funding

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 14/33 of 16 June 1987,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on additional sources of funding, 89/

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86/ Ibid., para. 4.

87/ UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2 and Corr.1, paras. 10-17.

88/ UNEP/GC.14/17, annex III.

89/ UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.5 and Corr.1.

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments, intergovernmental organizations and regional banks that have provided funds for staff appointments in the United Nations Environment Programme and for trust fund activities or have made counterpart contributions to other projects included in the programme,

Aware of the need to take special care that Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations be fully respected with respect to staff appointments, including those financed by Governments, non-governmental organizations and private corporations,

Noting with appreciation the contributions, both in cash and in kind, to the environment programme made by non-governmental organizations and private corporations,

1. Requests Governments to continue and increase their support in the form of funds for the employment in the United Nations Environment Programme of additional staff, both Junior Professional Officers and senior staff, including staff from developing countries;
2. Also requests Governments to increase their financial support to specific activities within the programme provided that this increase is not at the expense of maintaining or increasing contributions to the Environment Fund;
3. Urges intergovernmental organizations, regional banks, non-governmental organizations and private corporations to increase their financial support to activities within the approved programme;
4. Requests the Executive Director to continue his efforts to secure additional support from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, regional banks, non-governmental organizations and private corporations, whether for additional staff or in the form of counterpart contributions to specific projects or contributions in kind, in accordance with the priorities established by the Governing Council;
5. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure that all fund-raising activities are ultimately self-financed and will have no financial or other implications for the regular budget or the Environment Fund, except to the extent that posts in the Clearing-house Unit may be financed from the Environment Fund;
6. Further requests the Executive Director to continue his efforts to establish the maximum practicable number of the United Nations Environment Programme national committees;
7. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session.

9th meeting  
19 May 1989



The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds, 90/

1. Takes note of the report on the management of trust funds;
2. Expresses its appreciation to Governments for their contributions to the various trust funds;
3. Urges Governments to pay their contributions to the trust funds in a timely manner and, where possible, before the beginning of the year to which such contributions relate;
4. Approves, subject to confirmation by the Governments concerned and the approval of the Secretary-General, the extension of general trust funds, as follows:
  - (a) Regional Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - until 30 June 1991;
  - (b) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme - until 31 December 1991;
  - (c) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region - until 31 December 1991;
5. Approves, subject to the approval of the Secretary-General, the extension of general trust funds, as follows:
  - (a) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas - until 31 December 1991;
  - (b) Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution - until 31 December 1991;
  - (c) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region - until 31 December 1991;
6. Approves, subject to the approval of the Secretary-General, the establishment of new general trust funds as follows:

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90/ UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.4 and Supplement 1.

(a) Trust Fund for Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, effective 1 July 1989 until 31 December 1991, as decided at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean; 91/

(b) Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, effective 1 October 1989 until 31 March 1993;

(c) Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, effective 1 October 1989 until 31 March 1993;

(d) Trust Fund for the Conference on the Global Environment and Human Response toward Sustainable Development, effective 1 March 1989 until 28 February 1990;

7. Approves, on a contingency basis, subject to the confirmation by the Governments concerned and the Secretary-General, the establishment of the following general trust fund:

Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - for two years, effective on the first day of the month after the Convention comes into force;

8. Notes with approval the extension by the Executive Director, under authority delegated to him by the Secretary-General, of technical co-operation trust funds, as follows:

(a) Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Promote Technical Co-operation and Assistance in Industrial Environmental and Raw Material Management, financed by the Government of Sweden - until 31 December 1991;

(b) Technical Assistance Trust Fund for an Integrated Pilot Project on Environmental Management and Protection of Andean Ecosystems (Cajamarca, Peru), financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany - until 31 December 1989;

(c) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Support the Clearing-house Mechanism through Provision of Consultancies on Strategies for Dealing with Serious Environment Problems, financed by the Government of Norway - until 31 December 1988;

(d) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries, financed by the Government of Finland - 31 December 1989;

(e) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, financed by the Government of Finland - 31 December 1989;

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91/ See decision of the Meeting of High-Level Governmental Experts on Regional Co-operation in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Brasilia, 27-29 March 1989), which were adopted by the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/LAC-IG.VI/6, annex IV, appendix), decision 8.

(f) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for Control of Environmental Health Hazards and Promotion of Chemical Safety, financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany - until 31 December 1989;

9. Notes with approval the establishment by the Executive Director, under authority delegated to him by the Secretary-General, of technical co-operation trust funds, as follows:

(a) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers, financed by the Government of Sweden, without a specific expiry date;

(b) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers, financed by the Government of the Netherlands, without a specific expiry date;

(c) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers, financed by the Government of Finland, without a specific expiry date;

(d) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to the UNEP Global Resource Information Database - until 31 December 1991;

(e) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery, financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany - until 31 December 1990;

(f) Technical Co-operation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP to Assist in the Development and Implementation of Policy Response Options related to Climate Change, financed by the Government of the Netherlands - until 30 June 1991.

9th meeting  
19 May 1989

15/44. The Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1986-1987 ended 31 December 1987

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/216 of 21 December 1988, in which the Assembly, inter alia, accepted the financial reports and audited financial statements and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors, endorsed the comments and observations of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as contained in their respective reports, and requested the executive heads of the organizations and programmes concerned to take remedial action without delay within their competence in response to the comments and observations of the Board of Auditors and Advisory Committee and to report thereon to their governing bodies,

1. Takes note of the comments of the Executive Director on the report of the Board of Auditors as set forth in its report 92/ and on the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as set out in his note; 93/

2. Takes note also of the financial report and accounts of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1986-1987 ended 31 December 1987;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session on the actions taken in response to the observations of the Advisory Committee 94/ relating to the United Nations Environment Programme.

9th meeting  
19 May 1989

15/45. Programme and programme support costs

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 6 of its decision 14/35 of 16 June 1987, by which it approved an appropriation of \$25,846,300 for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1988-1989,

Having considered the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1988-1989, 95/ which reviews the implementation of the budget as at 31 December 1988, and the related comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 96/

Having also considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed budget for the programme and programme support costs of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1990-1991 97/ and the related support of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 98/

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92/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 5 F (A/43/5/Add.6), chap. II.

93/ UNEP/GC.15/L.4, para. 2.

94/ A/43/674, and Corr.1, para. 59.

95/ UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.1 and Corr.1.

96/ UNEP/GC.15/L.2, paras. 3-11.

97/ UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.2 and Corr.1.

98/ UNEP/GC.15/L.2, paras. 12-24.

1. Takes note of the performance report of the Executive Director on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1988-1989 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. Notes that the Executive Director was able to contain the programme and programme support costs in 1988 within the yardstick established in paragraph 2 of Council decision 12/19 of 28 May 1984 of 33 per cent of estimated contributions and that he will endeavour to do so in 1989;

3. Reconfirms the appropriation of \$25,846,300 previously authorized for 1988-1989 with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director; 99/

4. Further approves an appropriation of \$29,087,000 for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991 with the expenditure pattern by programme and object of expenditure proposed in those estimates; 99/

5. Approves for the biennium 1990-1991:

(a) The deployment of the D-2 post of Director for Special Assignments and Assistant to the Executive Director under the environment programme to the Office of the Executive Director;

(b) The deployment of one D-1 post together with one Local-level support staff post from the environment programme to the Office of the Executive Director;

6. Approves the Executive Director's proposals to transfer the costs of the Desertification Control Programme Activity Centre, the four Regional Advisers and their four Local-level support staff, together with the institutional grant in aid of the staffing of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, from the programme and programme support costs budget to the budget for Fund programme activities; 100/

7. Requests the Executive Director to administer the appropriation for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991 with the utmost economy and restraint consistent with the effective implementation of the environment programme, bearing in mind the availability of resources;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session on the implementation of the programme and programme support costs budget during the first year of the biennium 1990-1991.

8th meeting  
18 May 1989

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99/ UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.2 and Corr.1, tables 4 and 6.

100/ Ibid., paras. 18 (a) and (b).

15/46. Management of the Environment Fund in the biennium 1988-1989 and use of resources in the period 1990-1993

The Governing Council,

Having considered the annual reports of the Executive Director for 1987 and 1988, 101/ as well as his report on the management of the Environment Fund in 1988-1989 and the proposed use of resources in 1990-1993, 102/

1. Expresses appreciation to Governments that have contributed or pledged to contribute to the Fund at a higher level in 1988 and 1989, and to those Governments that have indicated financial support to the Fund at a higher level in subsequent years;

2. Appeals to Governments that have not yet pledged a contribution to the Fund for 1989 to do so as soon as possible and at a higher level than their contribution in 1988;

3. Agrees with the Economic and Social Council that it is essential to increase the resources of the Fund substantially;

4. Further appeals to all Governments where possible, to pledge contributions for the biennium 1992-1993 at an increasing rate in order to provide the Executive Director with a firm basis on which to plan future programmes;

5. Expresses appreciation to the Governments that paid their contributions for 1988 and 1989 early in those years;

6. Urges all Governments to pay their contributions either before the end of the year preceding that to which their contributions relate or as near as possible to the beginning of the year to which they relate;

7. Approves an appropriation of \$68 million for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1990-1991;

8. Decides to apportion the appropriation for Fund programme activities in that biennium as follows:

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101/ UNEP/GC.15/3 and 4.

102/ UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.3 and Supplement 1.

<u>Programme/budget line</u>	<u>1990-1991</u> (Thousands of United States dollars)	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Atmosphere	2 700	4.0
2. Water	3 400	5.0
3. Terrestrial ecosystems	11 900	17.5
4. Oceans	7 000	10.3
5. Lithosphere	600	0.9
6. Human settlements and environment	1 300	1.9
7. Human health and welfare	1 500	2.2
8. Energy, industry and transportation	4 300	6.3
9. Peace, security and the environment	400	0.6
10. Environmental assessment	14 800	21.8
11. Environmental management measures	3 900	5.7
12. Environmental awareness	9 000	13.2
13. Technical and regional co-operation	<u>7 200</u>	<u>10.6</u>
TOTAL	<u>68 000</u>	<u>100.0</u>

9. Approves an appropriation of \$4 million to the Fund programme reserve for the biennium 1990-1991;

10. Requests the Executive Director to allocate funds for Fund programme activities in 1990-1991 so that core activities approved by the Governing Council may be afforded first priority in implementation;

11. Reconfirms the Executive Director's authority to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by 20 per cent, within the overall appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1990-1991;

12. Emphasizes again the need to maintain the liquidity of the Fund at all times;

13. Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding \$16 million for Fund programme activities in 1992-1993.

10th meeting  
22 May 1989

#### Other decision

#### Provisional agenda, date and place of the sixteenth regular session of the Governing Council

1. At the 14th plenary meeting of the session, on 26 May 1989, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules procedure, to hold its sixteenth regular session from 20 to 31 May 1991 at Nairobi.

2. The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations would be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 19 May 1991, the day before the opening of the session.

3. The Council approved the following provisional agenda for the session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session.
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Executive Director's reports.
5. State-of-the-environment reports.
6. Co-ordination questions:
  - (a) Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
  - (b) Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;
7. Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.
8. The Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters.
9. Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventeenth session of the Council.
10. Other business.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the session.



## ANNEX II

### List of documents before the Governing Council at its fifteenth session

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC.15/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.15/1/Add.1 and Corr.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.15/2	Executive Director's reports: summary and suggested action by the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.15/3	1987 Annual Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.15/4	1988 Annual Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.15/5 and Corr.1 and 2	Introductory report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Supplement 1	Results of the external evaluation of the clearing-house
UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.2	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories
UNEP/GC.15/5/Add.3	UNEP's regional office system
UNEP/GC.15/6	Follow-up of the relevant resolutions of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the General Assembly: summary and suggested action by the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Supplement 1	Implementation of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council at its 1987 and 1988 sessions of direct relevance to UNEP
UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.2	Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and 42/187 on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development
UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.3 and Supplements 1-12	Reporting by the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187
UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.4	Question of the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC.15/7	State of the environment reports: summary and suggested action by the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.1	The public and environment: the state of the environment 1988
UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.2	1989, the state of the world environment
UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.3	Emerging environmental issues
UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.4	Outline of the 1990 state-of-the-environment report "Children and the Environment"
UNEP/GC.15/7/Add.5	State-of-the-environment reports: implementation of Governing Council decisions
UNEP/GC.15/8	Co-ordination questions: summary and suggested action by the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.1	Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.2	Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.3	1988 report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Governing Council at its fifteenth session
UNEP/GC.15/8/Add.4	Guidelines for the revision of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995
UNEP/GC.15/9	Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification: summary and suggested action by the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.1	Proposed programme budget of UNEP for the biennium 1990-1991
UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.2 and Corr.1 and Supplements 1 and 2 and 3 and Corr.1	Programme matters requiring policy guidance from the Council
UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.3	Progress in the protection of the ozone layer
UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.4	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1987-1988

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.5	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.6	Secretary-General's report on the effects on the environment of the dumping of nuclear wastes
UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.7	Progress in the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes
UNEP/GC.15/10	The Environment Fund administrative and other financial matters: summary and suggested action by the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.1 and Corr.1	Performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1988-1989
UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.2 and Corr.1	Proposed budget for programme and programme support costs of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1990-1991
UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.3 and Supplement 1	The management of the Environment Fund in 1988-1989 and the proposed use of resources in 1990-1993
UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.4 and Supplement 1	Management of trust funds
UNEP/GC.15/10/Add.5 and Corr.1	Additional sources of funding
UNEP/GC.15/11	Provision of language services for the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP
UNEP/GC.15/Inf.1	Report on the state of preparedness of documents for the fifteenth session
UNEP/GC.15/Inf.2	Register of international treaties and other agreements in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.15/Inf.3	Relationship between UNEP targets to be reached by 1995 and the approved UNEP medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995
UNEP/GC.15/Inf.4	Memoranda of understanding concerning co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other agencies of the United Nations system

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC.15/Inf.5	Possible responses to climate change: executive summary of a report to the United Nations Environment Programme by the Beijer Institute
UNEP/GC.15/Inf.6/Rev.2	Final list of participants
UNEP/GC.15/Inf.7	Note dated 18 May 1989 from the Chairman of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment addressed to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC.15/L.1	Joint Inspection Unit: contribution of the United Nations system to the preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in Western Asia
UNEP/GC.15/L.2	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1988-1989 and the proposed budget for programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1990-1991
UNEP/GC.15/L.3	Letter dated 10 May 1989 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil and Venezuela and the Chargé d'affaires of Colombia to the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.15/L.4	Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1986-1987 ended 31 December 1987
UNEP/GC.15/L.5	Trust funds: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.6	State-of-the-environment reports: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.7	Additional sources of funding: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.8	Provision of language facilities to meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/GC.15/L.9	Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1986-1987 ended 31 December 1987: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.10	Implementation of resolutions and decisions of direct relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions and by the Economic and Social Council at its 1987 and 1988 sessions: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.11	Desertification: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.12	Programme matters requiring policy guidance from the Governing Council: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.13	Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.14	System-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.15	The programme and programme support costs: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.16	The regional office system: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.17	Programme matters: international legal instruments in the field of the environment: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.15/L.18	Joint Inspection Unit: contribution of the United Nations system to the preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in Western Asia: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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