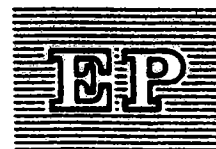




# United Nations Environment Programme



Distr.  
GENERAL



UNEP/GC.13/3/Add.4  
2 April 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL  
Thirteenth session  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

## INTRODUCTORY REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Addendum

#### RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORLD INDUSTRY CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT, AND THE GLOBAL MEETING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The present document contains: the 15 major recommendations adopted by the World Industry Conference on Environmental Management (WICEM) held at Versailles, France, from 14 to 16 November 1984, the conclusions and recommendations adopted unanimously by the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Environment, held at Nairobi from 26 November to 1 December 1984, and the main recommendations of relevance to UNEP adopted by the Global Meeting of Non-Governmental Organizations on Environment and Development, held at Nairobi from 4 to 8 February 1985.

A. MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD INDUSTRY CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

1. Greater industry participation in environmental management insofar as international policies are concerned can be fostered through the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the United Nations Environment Programme, with whatever modifications may be required to their existing structures and procedures. There is also an important role to play in this process for more specialized organizations including trade, labour and non-governmental associations.

2. The information base that industry and Governments require to address environmental questions must be clearly defined. International organizations and trade associations are logical candidates to serve as delivery mechanisms for information at the national, regional and world-wide levels. UNEP should continue its clearing-house functions in establishing links between developed and developing countries, particularly to ensure access to technological information and data bases. ICC should co-operate in this effort.

3. Developing countries need additional financial help to obtain the necessary technical know-how for environmental management, and to protect scarce resources valued by the global community.

4. Industry associations as well as individual industrial enterprises should be urged to continue and expand from within their organizations the support and expert staff required for policy contributions and technological assistance to world-wide environmental efforts. This should include training and professional advice for the benefit of developing countries upon their request and taking into account regional requirements.

5. Mechanisms should be established to improve co-operation between industry and government on environmental management issues. For this purpose, ICC should convene a small group of chief executive officers which should be representative both of geographical areas and industrial sectors. These representatives, from different regions, will serve as advisers and not as final policy representatives for all industry.

The Executive Director of UNEP is requested to initiate discussions between high-level, geographically balanced UNEP governmental representatives and the ICC group, and, where deemed necessary, with other organizations. The overall objective will be consultation over the effective implementation of mutually agreed environmental programmes and discussion of proposals for action. This process does not exclude other groups from communication with UNEP or Governments on environmental issues.

6. Case-studies on companies' experience in environmental management in both North and South should be prepared under the auspices of UNEP and industrial associations and be widely disseminated.

7. Mechanisms must be found for bridging the gap between large industrial corporations' environmental expertise and that of medium and small corporations.
8. As a matter of principle, the use of the best appropriate technical means should be aimed at in all projects of development, co-operation and investment.
9. Multinational companies should be urged to participate in local environmental protection efforts and, when necessary, take the lead in raising the level of awareness and sophistication in dealing with these problems.
10. The establishment of international environmental impact principles and guidelines should be accelerated to allow early international agreement that provides the basis for sound co-operation between countries.
11. There is also a need for some form of world-wide environmental protection goals. Ideally such goals should reflect local conditions, while seeking to avoid distortions of competition.
12. Mismanagement of toxic and hazardous wastes poses a serious threat to public health. Special efforts are needed to control the safe handling of such wastes.
13. To encourage more innovative and cost-effective approaches by industry, the national environmental regulatory framework should be improved through (a) more systematic and early consultations with industry and other social partners; (b) the setting of clear environmental control objectives; (c) better emphasis on the use of appropriate economic instruments (incentives and disincentives); (d) simplifying existing mechanisms without reducing efficiency; (e) setting reasonable time-limits within which procedures should be completed; and (f) stimulating different forms of self-regulation.
14. To strengthen the anticipatory and preventive approach to environmental management within industry, each line manager from the chief executive down should also think of him or herself as an environmental manager. Clear accountability for environmental performance should accompany managerial responsibility in each case.
15. To improve relations on environmental matters with local and more broadly based communities and to establish a climate of confidence, industry should be encouraged to supply information to the public and labour force on a continuing, objective basis on the impacts of the companies' activities on the environment.

B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE  
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT

I. CHANGES IN THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS  
AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR ACTION

Conclusions

1. During the past decade, national and international perceptions of environmental issues have changed. The importance of the environment is now recognized universally. Mounting concern over food supplies has been aggravated by severe drought in Africa. The pressure of population on limited resources of productive land, the problems of expanding cities in the developing world, the deepening poverty in many countries and concern over pollution on a continental or even global scale have combined to bring environmental issues to the forefront of attention.

2. The perception of environmental priorities naturally varies from one country to another because national circumstances vary. In many developed countries there has been successful action against the pollution of air and water, to restore land damaged by past industrial developments and to conserve natural areas. These successes demonstrate that environmental problems can be solved. But optimism must be tempered with caution. Effective action has yet to be taken against newly recognized, widespread pollution like that causing acide rain. And the capacity of the developing countries to prevent environmental damage is inadequate because of their severe shortage of resources. Poverty remains the greatest polluter in such countries.

3. The need is to adopt a precautionary approach, incorporating environmental protection into the development process. This will be essential if the doubling of world population, which unfortunately appears inevitable in the next half century, is to be accompanied by improvement in the quality of life. But a favourable outcome depends on the transfer of modern, environmentally benign technology to developing countries. Increased aid and good co-operation will be essential if they are to achieve development without destruction. And the timing is crucial, for the longer action is deferred the more costly it is likely to be and the greater the irreversible damage that will be sustained in the mean time.

4. Against this background, action at both national and international levels is essential and urgent.

Recommendations for national action

5. Since policies to restore and conserve the environment must be based on adequate scientific knowledge, parliamentarians should urge their Governments to compile national environmental resource inventories defining present conditions and potential sustainable use. Governments should promote environmental research and establish adequate national monitoring systems so as to record changes in their environment and to assess the impact of their policies.

6. Parliaments and Governments in those countries transferring technology and goods to developing countries by aid or trade should ensure that those concerned provide full information about their likely environmental impact, and measures to ensure environmentally compatible development should be given high priority by both the donors and the recipients of aid.

7. Parliaments should urge their Governments to (a) ensure that environmental considerations are taken properly into account in national economic planning, and (b) avoid risks to long-term sustainable production in pursuit of short-term economic gains. Developing countries should be assisted in this policy by trading partners, aid donors and international financial institutions.

8. Parliamentarians should also urge their Governments to establish a well-defined focus for environmental issues at a high level within their policy-making and administrative system. The influence of such a focal point should pervade the whole Government, so that all departments take proper account of environmental issues. It should state the case for adequate provision of money and other resources to support environmental needs, domestically and internationally. Parliamentarians should give special backing to these national environmental activities and establish an effective dialogue with the members of such focal points.

9. Parliaments should press their Governments and industries to promote the development of low-waste and non-waste technology, improved equipment for pollution control and consumption policies that favour the conservation of natural resources and the protection of the environment.

10. Effective national action to develop or conserve the resources of the environment depends on communication with local communities and the provision of appropriate education and training. Parliamentarians can play an especially valuable role in promoting this communication.

#### Recommendations for international action

11. Parliamentarians should see to it that their Governments:

(a) Engage in discussion of environmental issues with other nations. This dialogue, and the practical co-operation to which it should give rise, are important among both developed and developing countries, for all have relevant perceptions and experiences to exchange;

(b) Co-operate in international programmes of scientific research, through both intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(c) Actively promote the international exchange of technological information, so that knowledge of the means of achieving development without environmental damage, and of abating existing pollution, is diffused world-wide as rapidly as possible;

(d) Co-operate more effectively as donors in providing aid to developing countries, without which many major environmental problems cannot be solved. Recipients of bilateral aid should consider a co-ordinated approach to their donors so that the different components of assistance reinforce one another. Appropriate use must be made of the many multilateral aid agencies and of brokering facilities like the clearing-house of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

12. Parliamentarians should urge their Governments to foster regional co-operation to address environmental problems shared by groups of countries - for example to use international rivers rationally and to maintain the quality of their waters, or to deal with air pollution that spreads across frontiers.

13. While international agreements in the form of conventions and action plans are valuable, that value depends upon their effective implementation. Many Governments have still to ratify conventions on environmental subjects promoted by UNEP and other international agencies, and this action should be called for by parliaments without delay. After ratification parliamentarians must ensure that the legislative and other actions required for the implementation of these conventions are taken by their Governments.

14. There is evidence that the current economic relations are not operating in a manner calculated to sustain the world's environmental resources, and short-term market pressures may be acting to jeopardize the future. Parliamentarians should promote governmental co-operation in studies and analyses that will eliminate dangers of this kind.

15. Parliamentarians have a responsibility to ensure that their Governments co-operate to make intergovernmental organizations more effective and, in particular, give stronger support to the work of UNEP, while recognizing that the effectiveness of such organizations depends on strong national action to implement their conclusions and proposals.

16. The future of the world's environment depends on the maintenance of peace, and especially on the avoidance of the catastrophe of nuclear war. Excessive expenditure on arms is wasting scarce resources and making it more difficult for countries to achieve sustainable development. Parliamentarians should insist that their Governments work together for the peaceful settlement of disputes, for negotiated disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and for progressive reductions in the unacceptable levels of resources consumed by the development, production and trading of arms and the redirection of the funds thus released to the benefit of the environment.

## II. WORLD-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, ATMOSPHERE AND OCEANS

### Conclusions

17. The state of the biosphere is a cause of legitimate concern on many scales, from the local to the global. Possible climatic change caused by carbon dioxide and other gaseous forms of air pollution, risks to the ozone layer, acid rain, pollution of the world ocean and the devastating consequences of nuclear war are especial subjects of such concern. Despite

many national and international measures, the state of the environment in many regions of the world continues to deteriorate. If this trend is to be reversed, the effective implementation of international environmental programmes is essential, and in turn demands appropriate and active work at the national level.

18. Reliable assessments of possible climatic changes are needed in order to evaluate their potential adverse impacts on the economic situation in a number of regions of the world, and so plan effective adjustments in human activities.

19. Although there has been some progress in improving the state of regional seas (Baltic, Mediterranean) as a result of the work carried out under the aegis of UNEP or within the framework of international conventions, the state of the world's oceans - which provide essential resources for life in many countries - causes legitimate concern.

20. Acid rains and other forms of atmospheric pollution threaten to cause serious ecological consequences in both developed and developing countries, as do various toxic and radioactive substances which enter the environment and hazardous substances (including low-quality pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals) dispersed through trade and aid. As one response to these issues, the prospects for less polluting energy sources need consideration: some controversy surrounds the further development of nuclear energy because of the difficulties involved in the disposal of radioactive wastes on land and at sea.

21. Nuclear war would have catastrophic consequences for the climate of the planet, its ozone layer and the global biosphere. But wars on any scale, military preparations and military activities all pose a serious threat to the environment. The only way to eliminate the danger is through the prevention of war, the reduction and cessation of the arms race, and especially the destruction of nuclear weapons. That would in turn allow the necessary resources to be released to solve global environmental problems.

#### Recommendations for national and international action

The Conference recommends that:

22. (a) Parliaments and Governments should promote the development of the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) operated by UNEP, whose objective is the recording and assessment of the changing state of the world environment. UNEP and other international organizations involved should be especially active in developing GEMS, bringing it to the level of a global ecological service,

(b) All the National Groups of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) whose countries are member States of the International Maritime Organization should make a sustained effort with their parliaments and Governments so that, if they have not already done so, their countries become parties to the international instruments relating to the prevention of marine pollution, especially by oil.

23. (a) The National Groups of Europe, Canada and the United States of America should, if they have not already done so, take action with their parliaments and governments in order to:

- (i) Apply the recommendations adopted in October 1979 in Geneva by the IPU Symposium on Transboundary Air and Water Pollution in Europe;
- (ii) Urgently take appropriate legislative and policy measures to implement the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution adopted in Geneva in November 1979, and the decisions of the Executive Body of the Convention;
- (iii) Reduce emissions or transboundary fluxes of sulphur dioxide, as stipulated by the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, and, in an effort to achieve the goal proposed by a group of 18 countries at the 1984 Munich Conference on Acid Rain, to decrease those emissions or transboundary fluxes by 30 per cent by 1993. Such a percentage should be considered as a minimum target;

(b) IPU should take appropriate steps to reinforce its programme for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution in support to the Mediterranean Action Plan developed by UNEP, and in particular:

- (i) The IPU National Groups of the Mediterranean countries should apply the recommendations adopted in 1982 in Palma de Mallorca by the IPU Special Committee for the Study of the Means to Control the Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, especially by taking steps to accelerate the ratification of the protocols to the Barcelona Convention and promoting the rapid taking of legislative and other measures for their implementation;
- (ii) IPU should study the possibility of convening a session of the Special Committee in 1986;

(c) Parliaments should urge their Governments to support the regional seas programme of UNEP and to increase their national activities aimed at preserving the quality of regional and inland seas;

(d) International organizations (UNEP, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the World Meteorological Organization, IMO, etc.) should pay special attention to the present state of the world ocean. They should promote the organization of an integrated global ocean monitoring system, making it part of GEMS;

(e) International organizations, primarily WMO and UNEP, should intensify their activities, including research, in the framework of the World Climate Programme, aiming at producing as early as possible an assessment of the likely future climatic changes and their impact as a basis for planning to achieve economic goals in different countries, especially in the field of agriculture, and develop alternative recommendations for action in this respect;



(f) International organizations and Governments should step up support to research and development into the global problems of the biosphere, elaborating and actually taking concrete measures for solving those problems, both from the standpoint of science and technology and as regards organization. These measures should include devising low-waste and non-waste technological processes, as well as reducing toxic emissions into the biosphere, especially into seas and oceans;

(g) Governments should take effective measures to control the practice of exporting substances whose use is prohibited or limited in the countries that produce them;

(h) The relevant United Nations and other international organizations should promote research and development for, and the broader use of new, renewable and less polluting or non-polluting sources of energy, such as hydro, solar, wind and geothermal;

(i) International organizations (UNEP, WMO, etc.) should broaden research into the state of the ozone layer, and Governments should be urged to adopt as soon as possible an international convention on the protection of the ozone layer;

(j) The International Atomic Energy Agency, together with IMO and UNEP and in association with the Commission of the London Convention on dumping, should urgently analyse the problem of environmental protection in the development of the nuclear power industry, especially in view of the problems created by the disposal of nuclear waste on land and at sea;

(k) Governments and international organizations should promote the holding of international scientific conferences and symposia dealing with global problems of the biosphere;

(l) As weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, pose a major threat to the environment, serious consideration must be given by UNEP, WMO, the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations to the environmental implications of the arms race in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/188 J of 20 December 1983.

### III. DEFORESTATION, DESERTIFICATION AND SOIL LOSS

#### Conclusions concerning deforestation

24. The ecological roles of forests in soil conservation, protection of catchment basins, local and regional hydrological processes and other biosphere phenomena, including climate, need to be conserved. Environmental consequences of destruction of forests have local, regional and global dimensions.

25. Although certain aspects of the photochemical reactions and chemical transformations of pollutants in the atmosphere and the physiological pathways of their actions on plant life may need further studies, yet there is enough evidence to show their deleterious effect on plant life, especially forests in temperate regions. Widespread damage of forests in Europe and North America is evident.

26. The target for a 30 per cent reduction of emissions or transboundary fluxes of sulphur dioxide by 1993 pledged by a number of countries is welcomed. There is no excuse for delayed action. Delay is likely to compound the problem. Action needs to be initiated immediately by all countries concerned, applying technical means for pollution control already available.

27. Sustained development and utilization of natural resources, including forests, are long-term undertakings. The pressures of urgent needs and the foreign debt situation in less developed countries do not allow for these long-term considerations. Additional resources (aid or subsidies) are often needed to enable communities to adopt means of sustained utilization.

28. Socio-political systems prevalent in many developing countries do not seem to provide for long-term sustained development of natural resources, including forests and woodlands in the tropics. Political leaders play an important role in mobilizing public participation in conservation programmes.

29. There is need for more effective programmes of information exchange that would make available to rural communities technological information on alternative sources of energy that may reduce the demand for fuelwood, and on more efficient use of fuelwood and charcoal.

30. The boreal forests of the northern temperate regions play an important role in climatic balance and are ecologically vulnerable. Future development of their timber and land resources needs to take their ecological conditions into full consideration.

#### Conclusions concerning desertification and soil loss

31. Accelerated soil erosion and other aspects of degradation of farmlands under excessive human pressure (e.g. shortening of periods of fallow) result in loss of productivity of land. Overgrazing is equally damaging. This ecological deterioration of productive land systems is not confined to arid and semi-arid regions where they are widespread, but is also evident in sub-humid territories.

32. The loss of prime agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses (e.g. urbanization) is a world-wide process. It shows that in many instances national land use policies need to be made more effective.

33. Projects for combating desertification and for reclaiming desertified lands need to be subsidized. Mechanisms available - under the aegis of UNEP - for mobilizing additional resources for the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification include the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, the United Nations Special Account for the implementation of the Plan of Action, and the clearing-house. These provide some funds, but they fall far short of the sum required for the achievement of objectives set in the Plan of Action.

34. Regional co-operation is a valuable means for implementing programmes for monitoring and for combating desertification. Strained political relationships among neighbouring countries often impede the effective implementation of technically feasible programmes: monitoring of desertification, establishing green belts, development of resources of regional aquifers, etc.

35. There is a need to promote and assist the development of indigenous scientific and technological capabilities that would enable countries prone to hazards of desertification and soil loss to take full advantage of available scientific and technological knowledge.

36. Several countries provide - in co-operation with United Nations bodies including UNEP - courses of training in ecosystem management, sand dune stabilization, combating desertification, management of irrigated farmland in arid regions, etc. These are most welcome and need to be expanded and organized within a framework of a global programme, assisted by UNEP providing a list of specific needs.

37. Modern technologies, including remote sensing from satellites, provide useful means for monitoring ecological changes in natural systems (including deforestation, desertification and soil loss) and for surveying natural resources (including ground-water resources, soil and vegetation cover).

#### Recommendations for national action

38. Parliaments should urge their Governments to:

(a) Adopt firm commitments and policies for the reduction of emissions of pollutants liable to cause damage to forests, crops and other ecological systems;

(b) Encourage effective programmes of information exchange so as to provide rural communities with technological information on more efficient use of fuelwood and charcoal and alternative sources of energy that may replace fuelwood and so reduce pressure on vulnerable ecosystems;

(c) Give priority to the development of national programmes to regulate forest conversions, ensure sustained forest uses and encourage reforestation, especially with appropriate indigenous species;

(d) Give priority in developing countries to strengthening, through financial and other means, of indigenous scientific and technological capabilities in areas of natural resources studies, monitoring and development and programmes of research, training and education that aim at:

- (i) Filling gaps in scientific knowledge;
- (ii) Training technicians needed for management of natural resources;
- (iii) Increasing awareness and mobilizing public participation in resource management;

- (e) Give priority in countries prone to desertification to:
  - (i) Establishing national machinery for combating desertification,
  - (ii) Establishing national plans for combating desertification,
  - (iii) Devoting particular attention in their development plans to projects aiming at combating desertification and reclaiming desertified lands,
  - (iv) Providing support to rural communities in desertification-prone areas.

(Guidelines for these actions are included in the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification).

#### Recommendations for international action

39. Parliaments should urge their Governments to:

(a) Consider favourably the recommendations contained in the studies requested by the General Assembly on additional financial resources for implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and submitted to it during 1980-1982, so as to enable the Assembly to take a final decision on the subject,

(b) Collaborate in implementing regional programmes for monitoring and combating desertification and for development of shared resources,

(c) Urge UNEP to co-operate with the appropriate United Nations and other international agencies in the development of an international collaborative programme of research on the enhancement of water resources available for agriculture, including work on:

- (i) Desalination of water,
- (ii) More effective use of ground-water resources, avoiding irreversible depletion or contamination,
- (iii) Development and conservation of surface water resources,
- (iv) Artificial seeding of clouds,
- (v) Utilization of brackish or salt waters in irrigation of soils not otherwise cultivable, using salt-tolerant species, including new forms developed by genetic engineering and biotechnology,
- (vi) Improving longer-term weather forecasting that will assist rural communities to plan their farming practices and minimize the hazards of recurrent drought,

(d) Co-operate in regional programmes to apply remote sensing, including satellite techniques, in order to monitor environmental change.

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#### IV. CONSERVATION OF LIVING RESOURCES AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

##### Conclusions

40. The loss of tropical forest through deforestation, the damage to other forests from acid rain and other pollutants, the spread of deserts into previously productive land and the direct exploitation of certain species have brought the threat of a reduction in the biological diversity of the planet and the loss of a wide range of living resources vital to human well-being and survival. This necessitates increased efforts to safeguard ecosystems, natural communities, species and genetic varieties of animals, plants and micro-organisms.
41. The spread of agricultural practices emphasizing the use of new high-yield varieties of domestic plants and recently developed breeds of domestic animals threatens the loss of much of the genetic variety in domestic species and their wild relatives. This genetic diversity has in the past proved essential and will become even more essential for the development of resistance to diseases and insects and the improvement of yields and other varietal characteristics important to agriculture through plant and animal breeding and genetic manipulation.
42. Conservation of biological diversity is made particularly difficult because the greatest numbers of the world species and biotic communities are to be found in those countries least able to afford the measures needed for their protection and management.
43. There is a strong need for improved and increased monitoring of the status of species and natural communities, although GEMS has made a good start in this direction.
44. Although seed banks and other facilities for the storage and preservation of plant and animal genetic material have been developed, particularly during the past decade, they are still inadequate to safeguard genetic resources, particularly of those species that must be conserved in the natural environments to which they are adapted.
45. Systems of natural reserves and other protected areas have been established but are still not adequate to protect the full range of biological diversity. These areas are also extremely vulnerable to the effects of land use practices outside their boundaries.
46. The World Conservation Strategy, which has been widely approved by Governments, provides a framework within which priorities may be determined for conservation action and the resources of Governments mobilized. To become effective it must first be translated in the form of national conservation strategies.
47. It has been noted that many Governments have either not ratified or have not implemented the many conventions intended to provide protection for living resources, and have failed fully to support the international programmes intended to accomplish effective conservation.

Recommendations for national action

48. The Conference recommends that parliaments should urge their Governments to give priority to conservation of the biosphere and its component ecosystems and, in particular:

(a) Prepare and put into action national conservation strategies, for which the World Conservation Strategy, prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, UNEP and the World Wildlife Fund, with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and UNESCO, should provide an overall framework;

(b) Give particular attention, within the framework of a national conservation strategy, to the establishment and maintenance of a system of protected areas suitable for conserving the natural biological diversity of each country;

(c) Establish special protected areas in which the conservation of genetic varieties of domestic species and their wild relatives would be given priority;

(d) Maintain and expand the existing system of seed banks and other gene storage facilities to protect genetic varieties (taking advantage of the supporting role of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources and FAO in this endeavour);

(e) Develop and put into practice national land use policies that would enable long-term plans for the sustainable use of forests, rangelands and farmlands to be adopted, curtail the loss of prime agricultural land and enable legislative instruments on private and public land ownership, tenure and management to be enacted;

(f) Control the use of certain essentially non-renewable forest types, particularly in the humid tropics and boreal regions of the world, so as to retain sufficient areas of the existing forests to maintain ecological balance;

(g) Remove the existing and growing pressure on natural forests and protect water catchment areas and reservoirs, by providing alternative sources of fuel for local people, expanding programmes of agroforestry, afforestation, reforestation and fuel plantations and seeking international assistance where necessary.

Recommendations for international action

49. Although many international conventions and programmes exist which could result in effective protection of living resources, the ratification and implementation of these conventions is lagging, and the provision of financial support for programmes falls far behind the levels needed for effective action. Parliamentarians should urge their Governments to give high priority to the ratification, implementation and support of these existing conventions and programmes.

50. Recognizing the importance of the tropical region of the Earth for the survival of millions of species of plants, animals and micro-organisms, and also the economic difficulties faced by the countries of this region, UNEP and other appropriate international agencies are requested to give particular attention to finding a more equitable distribution of costs and benefits associated with the protection and use of genetic resources.

V. DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT DESTRUCTION, WITH EMPHASIS ON  
PROBLEMS FACING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Conclusions

51. Development is seen as a necessary process to increase standards of living and improve the quality of life, to provide food, shelter and employment to growing populations and to reduce and eradicate poverty, which is the major cause of environmental degradation. Although there are symptoms of disequilibrium between man and nature in some parts of the world, due to under development or to ill-conceived development activities, there is no inherent contradiction between environmental protection and enhancement and socio-economic development. There is agreement that attainment of environmental and developmental goals need not be contradictory, and indeed growing experience shows that the goals are mutually supportive.

52. In the choice of patterns of development, those which use natural resources prudently and have less adverse impacts on the environment are to be preferred, since such forms of development can be sustained. Decisions should not be made on the basis of purely economic criteria, but take broader societal benefits into account.

53. Sustainable development requires:

- Peace and security, as acts of war are the most destructive to the human environment, and a nuclear war would be catastrophic;
- An integrated approach to environment, development, resources and population;
- A consideration of environmental impact at the earliest stages of the development process;
- A co-operative rather than a confrontational approach;
- Public participation;
- Appropriate institutional mechanisms.

54. Prevention has been shown to be less costly than cure. Preventive measures need to be integrated at the design and planning phases, so that benefits will be maximized.

55. Developing countries also need technical and financial assistance to implement sustainable development policies. In allocating such assistance, greater emphasis should be accorded to environmental considerations which will protect the natural wealth and patrimony of a country.

Recommendations for national action

Parliaments should urge their Governments to:

56. Develop national conservation strategies, with the participation of all appropriate sectors of the community. The World Conservation Strategy could be used as an example for adaptation to reflect national and local conditions.

57. Promulgate appropriate policies and environmental legislation which will support and promote preventive actions.

58. Provide the necessary mechanisms to ensure popular participation in environmental protection and natural resource conservation activities. In this regard, the representatives of the people have a key role to play.

59. Streamline administrative and institutional machinery to speed up the incorporation of environmental protection measures in development projects and their implementation and enforcement.

60. Develop and use simplified but effective environmental assessment methods which will facilitate the adoption of environmentally sound processes.

61. Provide incentives to promote application of low-waste and non-waste technologies in manufacturing processes, recycling of residues, and utilization of residues as feedstocks for other manufacturing processes.

62. Promote environmental awareness, education and training programmes within the framework of human resource development.

Recommendations for international action

Parliamentarians should urge their Governments to:

63. Exert maximum efforts to promote peace and security as well as prevent acts of war.

64. Support and participate in existing international and regional programmes of technical co-operation, research, training and education, and exchange of information in the field of environmental management and human resource development.

65. Contribute to the establishment by UNEP of environmental assessment guiding principles for development activities which will have transboundary impacts.

66. Participate in the establishment of an international code for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for development.



67. Promote international co-operation for the safe handling of hazardous wastes and toxic substances.

#### VI. LEGISLATION AND INCENTIVES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

##### Conclusions

68. The effective and expeditious involvement of parliamentarians in the field of the environment is essential.

69. Legislation plays an essential part in environmental protection. Without a sense of environmental ethics within society and effective instruments for implementation, legislation is doomed to failure. Weak and unrealistic laws run the risk of doing more harm than good. Environmental legislation must reflect a spirit of peace and justice within nations and on the international level.

70. Parliaments have the right and the duty to monitor and control the implementation of environmental laws, for example, through commissions of enquiry and with the assistance of citizens' associations and experts. Citizen groups can also perform a valuable role in informing parliaments on environmental concerns.

71. Parliaments should urge the executive branch and citizen groups to foster the education of the public and the information of citizens through formal education and the media concerning the values of protecting and enhancing the environment.

##### Recommendations for national action

The Conference recommends that:

72. Legislation should provide more opportunities for public participation in the management of the environment, through the establishment of boards and collective organs and public hearings on matters of general environmental interest. Furthermore, efforts should be exerted to ensure that concerned individuals or citizens' groups should enjoy the legal right to bring cases before the courts in the event of damage or threat to the environment.

73. Environmental laws should grant the competent governmental authorities the right, in order to ensure effective enforcement of that legislation, to obtain information on activities which are of potential danger to the environment, and to monitor those activities.

74. Legislation should define the obligations of the authorities to provide information to citizens and associations concerning activities damaging or potentially damaging to the environment.

75. Legislation should require an environmental impact study to be conducted on major development projects.

76. Legislation can contribute effectively to improvement of the environment by providing incentives to non-polluting enterprises and enterprises which undertake to eliminate pollution.

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77. Parliaments should pay particular attention to the need for agencies dealing with environmental problems to possess the specialized staff and necessary financial resources; the governmental bodies responsible for environmental matters should contribute fully to national economic planning.

78. Parliaments should promote legislation facilitating the transfer of modern technology required for effective environmental management under normal conditions of international trade and without administrative limitations.

79. Parliaments should promote and expedite the ratification and implementation of international instruments concerning environmental protection.

80. The protection and enhancement of the environment should be recognized as a constitutional objective.

81. The constitution should facilitate access to the courts for citizens in defence of the environment.

#### Recommendations for international action

The Conference recommends that:

82. UNEP, in co-operation with IPU, should provide parliaments on a regular basis with information on environmental issues and legislation.

83. Governments should be provided, through the appropriate United Nations and other international organizations, with scientific information and guidelines for the development of emission standards and environmental quality levels.

84. International organizations and Governments should institute ways of monitoring progress made after the ratification of international juridical instruments by the participating nations.

### VII. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### Recommendations

The Conference

85. Supports the work of the United Nations Environment Programme which brings together and integrates the environmental activities of all the United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations operating in the environmental field, and appeals to them to intensify their efforts, particularly in the least favoured countries,

86. Noting that this expansion of effort is not practicable at present because of severe resource limitations, appeals to all parliaments, and through them to their Governments, to increase the level of support given to these international environmental organizations as a means of promoting the development that is essential to the human future while at the same time sustaining the productivity and health of the environment.

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## VIII. FOLLOW-UP MEASURES

Recommendations

## The Conference

87. Recommends that all parliaments and Governments review their legislation, policies, programmes and administrative arrangements in the light of the recommendations made above, so as to ensure that:

(a) Their national environmental resources, on which the future prosperity and quality of life of their people depends, are sustained, managed and developed according to the conditions and needs prevailing in their respective countries;

(b) The environment of other States and areas beyond national jurisdiction is not adversely affected by national activities;

88. Recommends that each national parliament consider holding a one-day meeting annually at its own convenience to discuss environmental concerns;

89. Recommends that the National Groups of the Inter-Parliamentary Union should:

(a) Bring the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference to the attention of their respective parliaments and Governments and promote their implementation;

(b) Give wide publicity to the findings of the Conference through information media and national environmental groups;

(c) Encourage the establishment of parliamentary committees on environment and facilitate contacts between their parliaments and the representatives of UNEP and other international organizations concerned with environment to facilitate the progressive implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

(d) Inform the secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union of the steps taken and the results obtained so that it may in turn transmit this information to the other National Groups and to UNEP;

90. Recommends that national delegations to sessions of the UNEP Governing Council include parliamentarians in future;

91. Requests IPU to consider convening regional meetings on pressing environmental issues;

92. Recommends that IPU in co-operation with UNEP should convene a meeting in 1986 composed of members of 25 National Groups to survey progress made in implementing the above recommendations on the basis of national reports, and to inform all the National Groups of IPU of the results obtained;

93. Requests the Executive Director of UNEP to bring the conclusions and recommendations of this Conference to the attention of the Governing Council of UNEP at its next session in May 1985.

C. MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GLOBAL MEETING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF UNEP

1. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL SOUTH - SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

(a) Promoting development aid which builds sustainable rural economies through:

- (i) Helping small farmers keep their land;
- (ii) Settling the landless;
- (iii) Encouraging subsistence and traditional crops;
- (iv) Appropriate infrastructure;

(b) Promoting tree planting which is purposeful (crop or conservation) and appropriate (intercropping of slow- and fast-growing species, etc.);

(c) Conducting research on traditional and sustainable methods of agriculture to provide alternative models (e.g. home gardens, zero grazing, agroforestry);

(d) Promoting education using culturally appropriate tools and training of educators from within the communities concerned.

2. GENETIC RESOURCES, PESTICIDES AND WORKERS' HEALTH

(a) Co-operating to preserve and develop genetic diversity in conjunction with farmers and supporting appropriate forms of village-level conservation and utilization;

(b) Monitoring transnational corporations (the genetic supply industry), particularly in relation to new biotechnology;

(c) Supporting and joining the Seeds Action Network (SAN) to be established in Rome in March 1985;

(d) Paying more attention to information and education activities about storage, transportation and disposal of pesticides;

(e) Promoting or carrying out research on possible alternatives to pesticides - biological control of pests, integrated pest management, traditional field practices, etc.;

(f) Working to prohibit the export of pesticides banned in the North to the South, and to prohibit the dumping of such products in the South;

(g) Supporting and joining the Pesticide Action Network (PAN);

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(h) Supporting and joining Health Action International (HAI),

(i) Working to develop co-operation between SAN, PAN, and HAI.

### 3. AFFORESTATION, ENERGY, SOIL CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

(a) Working to give voice and leverage to rural women within local communities so that their food gathering, water and firewood collection directly relates to land use management,

(b) Helping to link energy saving, tree-planting and conservation activities to income-generating rural cottage industries,

(c) Gathering practical information on indigenous tree species, their uses and management,

(d) Helping to explore and promote models of youth participation in community forestry projects,

(e) Giving special attention to arid and semi-arid woodlands and savannahs for sustainable use by pastoralists in research and development programmes,

(f) Providing information and critical appraisal of imported "appropriate technology" strategies and helping to make sure that the technologies are linked to local needs.

### 4. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE URBAN SOUTH

Preparing educational materials aimed at popular sectors working with specialists at the regional and national levels.

### 5. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH

(a) Establishing information systems to inform southern NGOs about economic and technological trends in the Northern countries and to inform northern NGOs about similar trends in the South,

(b) Working to broaden the base of citizens' organizations working on sustainable development in the North by including womens' organizations, trade unions, churches, etc.,

(c) Lobbying at the summer 1985 OECD summit in favour of sustainable development.

### 6. NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

(a) Building the North-South dimensions of PAN and SAN,

(b) Extending the network on fertilizers,

- (c) Promoting regional food banks and better distribution systems,
- (d) Promoting establishment of a common fund to stabilize international markets for food commodities,
- (e) Fighting the reallocation of Northern arms production in the South.

#### 7. PEACE AND CULTURE

- (a) Denouncing the testing of nuclear devices and the dumping of nuclear wastes anywhere in the South,
- (b) Lobbying against the cultural and physical pollution of the South by the North.

#### 8. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, BIOTECHNOLOGY, SEEDS, AGROFORESTRY AND PESTICIDES

Promoting appropriate and participatory education and popular mobilization methodologies.

#### 9. ENERGY, NUCLEAR POWER AND MILITARIZATION

- (a) Lobbying at the NPT\* review conference in September (and in national capitals in advance) for a comprehensive test ban treaty,
- (b) Lobbying at the London Dumping Convention to oppose nuclear waste dumping and recycling,
- (c) Disseminating information on the effects of militarization on the environment and the development process.

#### 10. HAZARDS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE IMPACT OF LARGE DAMS

- (a) Hazards of industrialization
  - (i) Establishing the "NO MORE BHOPALS" network,
  - (ii) Carrying out research and information exchange on dangerous chemicals and the impacts of industry,
  - (iii) Undertaking an NGO AUDIT on the role of international agencies that are to protect us, such as WHO, FAO, UNEP, etc.,

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\* Editor's note: NPT - Non-proliferation treaty; the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed in London, Moscow and Washington on 1 July 1968 (General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex).

(b) Impact of large dams

- (i) There be more research on the alternatives to large dams;
- (ii) An NGO audit on the role of international agencies financing such projects to ensure that adequate consideration is given to environmental aspects and community concerns;
- (iii) NGOs assist in the mobilization of communities affected by such projects to better protect their rights and interests;
- (iv) To make an inventory of NGOs working on these issues and promote the exchange of information on alternatives and community action.

11. AFFORESTATION AND DESERTIFICATION

- (a) Campaigning for land use reforms and improved land tenure systems to promote afforestation, and for the incorporation of environmental concerns in the development plans for marginal areas;
- (b) Calling for clear guidelines of donor agencies in order to improve NGO access to funds;
- (c) Assisting local NGOs to attend the World Forestry Congress in Mexico in June-July 1985.

12. NETWORKING AND ORGANIZATION

- (a) Developing and implementing advisory services for NGOs on techniques and functions of networking with special attention to reinforcement of administrative capacities of grass-roots NGOs;
- (b) Seeking and providing funding to increase the capacity and performance of third world NGOs and networks.

13. RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

- (a) Building rosters of scientists and other experts who are willing to contribute to NGO efforts in the areas of environment and development;
- (b) Developing and implementing workshops to improve NGO approaches to education and attitudinal change, including seminars on use of media and popular education techniques.

14. FIELD-LEVEL PROJECTS AND CO-ORDINATION

- (a) Lobbying for changes in assistance policies, including a call for a shift from project approaches to programme approaches;
- (b) Developing and circulating case-studies of NGO field experience;
- (c) Circulating information on resources available, funding agencies, guidelines, areas of interest, etc.

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15. MULTILATERAL AID

Lobbying to reform aid policy and practice in favour of rigorous environmental appraisal procedures, involvement of target groups in planning of projects, etc.

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