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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,

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;

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

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| 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
TOTAL	<u>35</u>

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/

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

9/ UNEP/GC.15/6/Add.2.

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. ^{10/} 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.

^{10/} 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;

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;

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

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 organisations 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/

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,

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/

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

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,

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:

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

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:

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/

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

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

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

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.

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25 May 1989

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

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:

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.

12th meeting

25 May 1989

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.

12th meeting

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/

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.

12th meeting
25 May 1989

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/

12th meeting
25 May 1989

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:

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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25 May 1989

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;

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.

12th meeting
25 May 1989

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;

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.

12th meeting
25 May 1989

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;

^{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

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

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/

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

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;

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;

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

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/

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:

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;

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/

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

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:

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	7 200	10.6
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
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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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