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Environment Programme**



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GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

POLICY ISSUES: EMERGING POLICY ISSUES

**OUTCOME OF THE FIRST GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM/SIXTH
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**POLICY RESPONSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME TO TACKLE
EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The Malmö Ministerial Declaration pointed out the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century, as well as the ways in which the international community should address those challenges. This report presents the status of the implementation of the Declaration, in particular by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), thereby highlighting emerging policy issues.

* UNEP/GC.21/1.

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Suggested action by the Governing Council

A. Implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration

The Governing Council may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Recalling also the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing the need to close the gap between the commitments made in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and the action required for its implementation,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director concerning the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration (UNEP/GC.21/3),

1. Reaffirms its full commitment to the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;
2. Emphasizes the importance of integration between policies addressing the eradication of poverty and policies addressing the root causes of global environmental degradation;
3. Urges Governments to translate the commitments made in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration into concrete action at the national, regional and global levels;
4. Encourages civil society, the private sector and other major groups to contribute actively to the full implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;
5. Underscores that the Malmö Ministerial Declaration constitutes a significant milestone in the process which will culminate in 2002 in the ten-year review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;
6. Decides to transmit the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as well as the present decision, through the President of the Council, to other intergovernmental bodies and conferences in the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, with a view to promoting the translation of the commitments into policy and action by those bodies and organizations;
7. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as well as the present decision to all relevant United Nations bodies, programmes and agencies;
8. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to integrate the consideration of the commitments contained in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration into its work, especially at its ninth and tenth sessions;
9. Invites the Executive Director to take further steps in the implementation of those aspects of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration that fall within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, including coordination within the United Nations system, inter alia through the Environmental Management Group;
10. Requests the Executive Director to monitor the implementation of the whole range of commitments and actions contained in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and compile relevant information for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as well as the Council at its twenty-second session.

B. The role of civil society

The Governing Council may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in particular its section IV, paragraph 5, as well as chapter 28 of Agenda 21,

Also recalling its decision 18/4 of 26 May 1995, in which it called for the development of a policy framework and appropriate mechanisms for working with non-governmental organizations, and the fact that the United Nations Environment Programme subsequently adopted a policy concerning non-governmental organizations and other major groups, issued on 30 October 1996,

Further recalling the rules of procedure of the Council, in particular rule 69, which allows “International non-governmental organizations having an interest in the field of the environment ... to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs”,

Stressing paragraph 14 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Taking note with appreciation the work of the United Nations Environment Programme with respect to non-governmental organizations and civil society,

Aiming at further developing the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations Environment Programme and its governing bodies,

1. Requests the Executive Director to initiate a consultative process with Governments on ways and means to enhance the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme;
2. Also requests the Executive Director to submit a report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the outcome of those consultations before the end of 2001;
3. Requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives, upon receipt of the report of the Executive Director requested in paragraph 2 above, to develop a draft proposal for submission to the Council at its special session in 2002;
4. Decides that the consultations between the Executive Director and Governments, as well as the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in this matter, shall be guided by the following principles:
 - (a) The Governing Council and its subsidiary bodies are intergovernmental, and this status shall not be changed or undermined;
 - (b) Non-governmental organizations have a crucial role to play in the work of the United Nations, including the United Nations Environment Programme, as recognized in article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations;
 - (c) The Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council highlighted the need to strengthen the interaction between civil society and the private sector on the one hand and Governments and the Environment Programme on the other;

(d) The present rules of procedure of the Governing Council that regulate the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Council date back to 1974. The adequacy of these provisions, especially the criteria for accreditation, should be analysed in the context of the desire to enhance the involvement of such organizations;

(e) Since the Governing Council is not a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council and is not obliged to follow the rules of procedure of that body, the current practices and procedures of the Economic and Social Council adopted in its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations may constitute an interesting model also for the Environment Programme;

(f) The practices relating to the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as in other United Nations bodies and agencies, may also constitute interesting examples for the Environment Programme;

(g) The Committee of Permanent Representatives, being an inter-sessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council, may also benefit from interaction with non-governmental organizations;

(h) The relationship between non-governmental organizations and the Governing Council and its subsidiary bodies must be supplemented by a highly developed relationship between such organizations and the secretariat of the Programme between sessions. The Programme's policy on non-governmental organizations and major groups should be reviewed;

5. Decides to include an agenda item entitled "Strengthening of the role of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme" in the provisional agenda of its seventh special session;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its seventh special session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

Introduction

1. In the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the Governing Council at its sixth special session in decision SS.VI/1, the Council recognized the growing trends of environmental degradation that threaten the sustainability of the planet, despite the commitment of the international community to halt them. Underscoring an alarming discrepancy between commitments and action, it emphasized that goals and targets agreed by the international community in relation to sustainable development must be implemented in a timely fashion. The prevailing challenges appear to be: to ensure that actions are taken to implement the political and legal commitments entered into by the international community in a timely manner; and to ensure that the results of such actions reverse the present trend of environmental degradation.
2. The Declaration stressed the need to address the root causes of global environmental degradation embedded in social and economic problems such as pervasive poverty, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, inequity in distribution of wealth and the debt burden. This will require the participation of Governments, as well as all other relevant actors, nationally and internationally, in addressing the sources of problems in achieving environmental protection and sustainable development.
3. The Declaration underlined that success in combating environmental degradation is dependent on the full participation of all actors in society. This might lead to a system where all sectors of society become mutually accountable, with clear responsibilities in combating environmental degradation. This in turn might raise the issue of how best each sector could make its voice heard in the decision-making procedures in environmental and environment-related matters.
4. The challenges and opportunities articulated in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration are being actively addressed by UNEP to turn them into concrete action. UNEP is intensifying its action to fill the gap between the commitment and the action entered into by the international community. Its functional approach is being strengthened further to convert fragmented sectoral policy responses into more coherent integrated policy responses in order to effectively address multifaceted environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The sections below present highlights of the recent activities undertaken by UNEP in the areas underscored by the Declaration as being associated with the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century.

I. IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

5. UNEP continues to undertake actions regarding the critical environmental issues highlighted in the Declaration. Environmental assessment and early warning functions are continuously carried out and strengthened to provide a scientific basis for decision-making. The ongoing Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process and UNEP's contribution to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment represent this aspect at the global level.

A. Environmental indicators

6. There is a need to make an assessment of increasing human vulnerability due to environmental changes, and to develop vulnerability indices based on transparent and sound methodologies. A review of international work in the area of vulnerability assessment and indices has been completed by UNEP. A general approach to environmental vulnerability assessment also has been developed. Work continues towards the development of a human vulnerability index based on environmental changes. This concept will be implemented in the "Outlook" chapter of the third edition of the Global Environment Outlook report. Its objective is to demonstrate the impact of environmental changes and the consequent increasing vulnerability of the health of humankind, economic loss, poverty, loss of natural heritage, loss of intellectual property rights, conflict, extreme occurrences and climate change. Efforts are being made to emphasize the need for sound integrated environmental management. A review of international work in the area of vulnerability assessment and indices has already been completed. A general approach to increasing vulnerability due to environmental changes has been developed.

B. Access to environmental and environment-related information

7. From policy development to enforcement, transforming commitment into action requires reliable information in environmental and environment-related matters. In partnership with governmental and other organizations, UNEP often provides a wide range of services encompassing scientific, technical, legal and other information in the field of the environment. To ensure that the actions of all sectors of society are more environmentally sound, such information should be readily available on demand. The need to make use of new information technology, underscored in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, is being addressed by UNEP. Owing to the current differences among countries in access to publicly available information, however, consideration may need to be given to ways and means of increasing the accessibility of environmental and environment-related information in all countries for all the stakeholders concerned. UNEP's existing information delivery systems, such as the reformed Infoterra (see UNEP/GC.21/2) and various clearing-house mechanisms and databases, should be fully utilized to that end.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

8. Environmental law has been one of the priority areas of UNEP since its inception. Building on its long-term strategic environmental law programme (the Montevideo Programme), UNEP has been the driving force at the global level for the development of global and regional multilateral conventions and related instruments for over two decades. Most recently, the negotiation of a convention for implementing international action on persistent organic pollutants, initiated by the Governing Council in decision 19/13 C, was concluded in Johannesburg in December 2000. UNEP has provided legal technical assistance to a large number of developing countries to develop their national environmental legislation and related institutions to build expertise in this area.

9. A new strategic Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III) has been developed in pursuance of Governing Council decision 20/3. A meeting of senior government officials in Nairobi in October 2000 finalized the draft Programme, which is now before the Council for adoption (UNEP/GC.21/INF/3, attachment). It will guide UNEP in further strengthening its activities in the progressive development of environmental law and addressing major environmental threats. Among new and emerging environmental issues, particular emphasis will be placed on the effective implementation of and compliance with environmental law at the national and international levels, including aspects of enforcement and liability. Studies on legal responses to new and emerging environmental challenges will also be carried out within the framework of the new programme.

10. Subject to the availability of resources, UNEP will continue assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop national environmental legislation and enhance their expertise in environmental law, with a view in particular to the effective implementation of and compliance with international environmental agreements. Such assistance will include developing draft laws and training government personnel in response to requests received from Governments. Legislative guidance materials will be further developed and awareness-raising and training workshops on relevant subjects will be held in cooperation with partner Governments and organizations.

11. The promotion of a wider appreciation of environmental law through the dissemination of information, training and awareness-raising will continue to be an important element of UNEP's activities. Through the further development of the UNEP/World Conservation Union (IUCN) Joint Environmental Law Information Service (ECOLEX), opportunities provided by new information technology are to be seized in order to ensure prompt and enhanced access to information on international and national environmental law.

12. The need for enhanced coordination among multilateral environmental conventions, as well as programmatic support to such conventions, is being actively addressed by UNEP (see UNEP/GC.21/4). The Environmental Management Group is expected to address coordination, linkages and complementarities among multilateral environmental conventions and the programmes of the United Nations system.

III. INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS INTO ECONOMIC POLICIES

A. Coordination within the United Nations system

13. In pursuance of Council decision 20/12, UNEP regularly consults with partner organizations within the United Nations system and coordinates activities with them in specific areas of common interest. Overall coordination of activities is facilitated through the Environmental Management Group.

B. Globalization, macroeconomic policy-making and export credit agencies

14. Since the late 1980s, UNEP has been engaged in the integration of environmental considerations into macroeconomic and in particular trade policy. The incorporation of environmental perspectives in the design and assessment of macroeconomic policy-making, as well as in the practices of export credit agencies, is increasingly becoming an important, but also controversial, issue in which UNEP has recently begun to play a role. It is a logical extension of UNEP's Financial Services Initiative, which is aimed at promoting the integration of environmental considerations into the provision of financial services by the private sector.

15. UNEP's objectives in this area are: to develop and improve capacities of countries in the application of macroeconomic instruments, including assessment methodologies, incentive tools (i.e., environmental impact assessment, valuation of environmental and natural resources, natural resource accounting and other economic instruments) and mutually supportive trade and environment policies; and to develop, in the light of the extension of UNEP's Financial Services Initiative, a programme to ensure the incorporation of environmental considerations into public finance through export credit agencies. UNEP is undertaking country case studies on environmental and natural resource accounting and the design and application of economic instruments to achieve environmental objectives.

16. Regarding trade and environment issues, UNEP is undertaking country projects assessing the environmental impacts of trade liberalization. A joint UNEP-United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Capacity-building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development has been established, which will promote a dialogue and policy formulation process to enhance the mutual supportiveness of environmental conventions and World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. Another development is a UNEP Reference Manual on Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies. UNEP is working with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to integrate environmental considerations in OECD decision-making. It also provides information on the environmental screening of projects and the benefits of such screening, in close cooperation with its partners in the Financial Services Initiative.

17. The output of these aforementioned activities includes: the publication of compendiums of case studies on economic instruments for environmental management and environmental valuation; six country case studies on the design and application of economic instruments; and an updated UNEP Environmental Impact Assessment Training Resource Manual, which will include approaches to integrated assessment combining economic and social appraisal with environmental assessments. Regarding trade and the environment, UNEP will prepare six country case studies, organize eight international and regional seminars and provide recommendations on the potential synergies and conflicts between environmental conventions and WTO.

C. Life cycle economy

18. The life cycle approach to environmental management is increasingly being applied in many countries, mainly developed ones. However, the methodologies and technologies for achieving sustainable production and consumption need to be further developed and applied. Developing countries and economies in transition stand to benefit substantially from this concept. It will therefore be important, taking into

account the evaluation of these principles at the 2002 Earth Summit, to make these methodologies and technologies more accessible to all countries.

19. The objectives of UNEP in this field are: to improve worldwide awareness and understanding of cleaner and safer production issues and to promote the use of related management tools and technologies leading to efficient use of natural resources and pollution prevention; to support and catalyse national and regional cleaner production centres; to expand the network of government and industry experts to provide ongoing input and advice; to raise the awareness of international organizations, governments, industry, business, public bodies and civil society of the need for more sustainable consumption patterns to minimize resource depletion and pollution, to take advantage of creating new markets; and to enhance the capabilities of governments, industry and other organizations to make policy decisions and to take other actions at all levels.

20. UNEP held the first Cleaner Production Round Table for Africa and the first Workshop on Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption in Nairobi in August 2000. A special meeting on Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption was part of the sixth International High-level Seminar on Cleaner Production held in Montreal in October 2000. Since the launching of its Life Cycle Economy initiative, UNEP has promoted this approach through many events, including the Natural Resources Summit held in Berlin in May 2000, the World Expo 2000 in Hannover in June 2000 and an expert meeting of product services systems held in Paris in June 2000. UNEP signed a letter of intent with the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in May 2000, with the aim of promoting the application of life cycle assessment.

21. UNEP commenced work on life cycle management for minerals and metals, and two regional workshops in Asia and Africa were held to explore the use of environmental technology assessment in the minerals and metals sector. A workshop on voluntary initiatives to increase the environmental engagement of the private sector was held in Paris in September 2000, and annual consultative meetings with industrial associations will be held to discuss topics such as the life cycle economy and preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in 2002.

22. The output of UNEP's activities in this field includes an increased number of national and regional initiatives, such as seminars, workshops and round tables to create awareness, catalyse local dialogues and build local expertise; electronic information systems and databases to exchange information on the life cycle economy, cleaner and safer production and sustainable consumption; and publications such as meeting reports, updated versions of publications and methodologies relevant to life cycle management.

IV. PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY

A. The “polluter pays” principle

23. There is a need to further develop policies to promote the application of the “polluter pays” principle at all levels of policy-making in all regions. UNEP will further promote the application of the principle through the use of economic instruments at all levels – national, regional and global – with a special focus on developing countries and countries with economies in transition. To this end, actions are being carried out to build capabilities on the design and use of economic instruments. Country studies are to be developed with national institutions through stakeholder processes. Dialogue on energy subsidy reform and sustainable development will be initiated and advanced. Actions are also being carried out to assess the impact of energy subsidies and their reform and to create national and international dialogue to initiate such reform focusing on sectors such as agriculture and fisheries.

B. The Global Compact

24. UNEP is expanding its efforts to promote greater environmental stewardship in the private sector. This includes its involvement in the creation of new voluntary initiatives, strengthening guidance on sustainable reporting and playing an active role as one of United Nations three key agencies involved in efforts to apply the

principles underlying the Secretary-General's Global Compact initiative between the United Nations and business on human rights, labour standards and environmental protection. The environmental consciousness of citizens is being promoted through UNEP public information activities and programmes. A side event entitled "The Global Compact in practice" will take place during the twenty-first session of the Council in order to facilitate dialogue on its environmental dimensions.

V. ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

25. The critically important role of civil society in addressing environmental issues was emphasized by the Malmö Ministerial Declaration. In accordance with the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on environment and human settlements, UNEP established its Civil Society and NGOs Unit in the year 2000 to strengthen its partnerships with major groups. Cooperation has been strengthened between UNEP and the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, which provides information, advice and opportunities for strengthening consultation between UNEP and non-governmental organizations.

26. UNEP will strengthen its cooperation with non-governmental and civil society organizations by mainstreaming civil society involvement into its activities. UNEP also will promote the broad participation of these organizations in environmental decision-making, and especially the preparations for the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development. A process has been under way within UNEP to review and revise its current policy on non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, including women's organizations. The new policy to be developed through this process will strengthen the partnership between UNEP and civil society, including closer working relationships with non-governmental organizations, UNEP's National Committees and UNEP-Infoterra partners in countries. The gender component will be highlighted in this connection.

27. Throughout the year 2000, UNEP undertook consultations and dialogue with development institutions, scientific and policy research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector on ways and means of building synergy between environmental policies and social and economic development policies. UNEP also held consultations with the representatives of non-governmental organizations and other institutions in the field of environmental research, environmental law, environmental management and trade unions, with a view to strengthening partnerships in achieving environmental goals.

28. To facilitate interaction with civil society on environmental matters through parliamentarians, UNEP and the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment concluded a memorandum of understanding in November 2000.

29. Through its regional offices, UNEP has intensified its efforts to enhance interaction with non-governmental organizations in various regions. Partnerships with major African non-governmental organizations have been strengthened, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of efforts for achieving environmental protection and sustainable development in Africa. To this end, periodic consultations in Nairobi are envisaged.

30. In order to facilitate dialogue with non-governmental organizations, UNEP organized a series of partnership meetings and panel discussions. Such meetings included those organized during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

31. UNEP held a forum for non-governmental organizations in conjunction with the sixth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Malmö, Sweden in May 2000. The forum, which brought together 45 national and international non-governmental organizations, provided the Council with input reflecting its deliberations. A similar forum will be held in Nairobi in February 2001 in conjunction with the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

32. UNEP will support the input of non-governmental organizations to the process leading up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, *inter alia* through regional forums of non-governmental organizations on regional reviews of Agenda 21 from the environmental perspective. Plans are also being made for various activities involving civil society during the United Nations year of Dialogue among Civilizations in 2001.

VI. THE NEW ETHICS CONCERNING RESPECT FOR NATURE

A. Respect for nature

33. The United Nations Millennium Declaration emphasizes that certain fundamental values are essential to international relations in the twenty-first century; these include freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. Under "respect for nature", the Declaration provides that:

"Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants."

34. The challenge remains in translating this value into concrete actions to reverse the trend of environmental degradation. As pointed out in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, civil society provides a powerful agent for promoting shared environmental purposes and values. A key in transforming the commitments into action, therefore, might be found in the empowerment of the main actors in civil society, including their active contribution to the decision-making process in environmental matters.

B. Cultural and traditional practices and globalization

35. There is an urgent need to include local traditional and cultural points of view during the ongoing globalization process, particularly in global environmental norms and policies, including those expected to emerge from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. Success in combating environmental degradation depends on respect for ethical and spiritual values, cultural diversity and the protection of indigenous knowledge. Civil society and non-governmental organizations play an important role in bringing this perspective to these global activities and developments.

36. UNEP will play an active role in ensuring that local, traditional and cultural points of view are reflected in policy dialogue and forums, especially in the field of biodiversity and land use. Such contributions will be made during the process leading to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. UNEP will support non-governmental and civil society organizations in promoting this issue, especially at the global level. Ways will be sought to make better use of the existing knowledge within UNEP on this subject.

VII. PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

A. Environmental emergencies

37. Both the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and the United Nations Millennium Declaration highlighted environmental emergencies among the most critical environmental problems. UNEP's response to environmental emergencies is being strengthened, and a more comprehensive approach has been developed to prevent and mitigate their impacts. A strategy document has been submitted to the Governing Council for consideration (UNEP/GC.21/3/Add.1).

B. Urbanization and mega-cities

38. The accelerating trend of urbanization and the development of mega-cities need to be addressed urgently by the international community. Sustainable management of the urban environment is a key element in checking the escalation of the urban crisis. UNEP's approach is based on building partnerships with other organizations active in this area, such as United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat), the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, with the requirements of the beneficiaries as the main motivation for action.

39. Other ways of dealing with this issue are: to support the review and development of urban environmental policies; to promote the use of policy instruments that have yielded good results; to promote the adoption of environmentally sound technologies for urban environmental management; to build capacities in order to enable stakeholders to be involved in urban environmental policy-making; and to support demonstration projects and best practices, particularly in Africa.

40. UNEP is working together with UNCHS (Habitat) on issues of common interest and concern, and is organizing international meetings and workshops on urban environmental issues, including those dealing with urban air quality, urban water management and energy use in Africa. International workshops were jointly organized recently on urban air quality management (Cairo, May 2000 and Salt Lake City, June 2000), urban water management in Africa and energy in Africa. International workshops and meetings held recently or planned for the near future include: an international meeting of the Urban Environment Forum together with UNCHS (Habitat), (Cape Town, September 2000), a regional workshop on environmental management systems (Curitiba, Brazil, March or April 2001), and an international seminar on trenchless technologies (Cairo, February 2001). UNEP will provide input for the UNCHS (Habitat) Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance as an ongoing activity until February 2001.

41. Reports and handbooks on urban environmental issues are to be prepared on the subject of urbanization. The following reports and publications have been completed or are planned: a paper on environmentally sound technologies for urban air quality management to reduce greenhouse gases (2001); a report on urban population/environment/urbanization linkages (in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund) (December 2000); a handbook with a tool kit on urban air quality management (in collaboration with UNCHS (Habitat) (September 2000), and a handbook on trenchless technologies (2001). Support is being provided to the UNCHS (Habitat)/UNEP Water for African Cities project.

C. Other programme areas

42. UNEP, in collaboration with relevant partners where appropriate, has been actively addressing other environmental threats identified in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, including the problems associated with hazardous chemicals, land-based sources of marine pollution, climate change, biological resources and desertification. Information on UNEP's recent activities in these areas can be found in document UNEP/GC.21/2.

VIII. 10-YEAR REVIEW OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

43. As the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, UNEP will take a leading role in the global process to review the environmental dimensions of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and will make an active contribution to the 2002 review. Further information on this subject can be found in document UNEP/GC.21/4.
