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GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives pursuant to the mandate given to it by the Governing Council in paragraph (g) (iv) of its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997

Contents

	<u>Page</u>
1. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.....	4
2. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	5
3. Convention for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants	6
4. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	7
5. Coral reefs	8
6. Biosafety	9
7. Support to Africa	10
8. Trade and environment.....	11
9. Atmosphere	12

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(a)	The Climate Agenda and The World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme	12
(b)	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.....	14
(c)	Global Climate Observing System	14
(d)	Programmatic support to atmosphere-related conventions	15
10.	[Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories]	16
11.	Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme	17
12.	Implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration	18
13.	Further improvement of the strategic framework on environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation	19
14.	The Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century	20
15.	Policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building	21
16.	Preparation of the draft guidelines on compliance with international environmental agreements and on effective national environmental enforcement and international cooperation and coordination in combating environmental crime	21
17.	Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment	22
18.	Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific region.....	23
19.	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility	23
20.	Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242.....	24
21.	The Environment Fund budgets: Proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003.....	26
22.	Administrative and other budgetary matters	30
(a)	Stable, adequate and predictable funding of the United Nations Environment Programme	30
(b)	Management of trusts funds and counterpart contributions	31
23.	Mercure satellite communications system.....	34
24.	Further development and strengthening of regional seas programmes: promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements	35
25.	The implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan	41

26. The role of civil society41

27. Mercury assessment42

1. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa ^{1/}

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/10 of 5 February 1999,

Recognizing that land degradation is a major problem for many countries, particularly those in Africa,

Recalling also the United Nations Secretary-General's report A/54/2000 and its chapter C "Defending the Soil",

Recalling the experience of the United Nations Environment Programme in developing desertification assessments and databases, in research initiatives and cooperative studies with the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment of the International Council of Scientific Unions, and through the numerous joint programmes and studies on desertification with various centres of excellence including those of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research and with other United Nations organizations,

1. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to assist countries affected by land degradation, strengthen cooperation and collaboration with other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and other organizations in the field of land degradation, develop and implement land-degradation projects as they relate to the focal areas of the Global Environment Facility, and to assist Governments in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;
2. Welcomes also the increasing collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the International Council of Research on Agro-Forestry and other relevant Nairobi based agencies in addressing the environmental aspects of land degradation;
3. Further welcomes the intergovernmental dialogue being conducted within the framework of the regional ministerial conferences on the environment relating to land degradation and its impacts on the environment;
4. Also welcomes the efforts being taken by the United Nations Environment Programme to review and analyse its role in land use management, including soil protection, in conformity with the functional approaches approved by the Governing Council at its twentieth session;

^{1/} The representative of Algeria proposed the following paragraph at the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 24 January 2001:

"Welcomes the decision of the Global Environment Facility Council as adopted in November 2000 requesting the Chief Executive Officer to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the Facility in assisting countries, especially those in Africa, in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification taking into account the third replenishment, and in this regard stresses the need to enhance the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility in assisting African countries to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification at regional and subregional levels as well as at national level when appropriate based on its demonstrated comparative advantage as well as its unique relation to the African continent."

5. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the capability of the United Nations Environment Programme to respond to global land issues in order to fulfil the mandate of Task Manager for Agenda 21 ^{2/} chapter 12 (and other related chapters), and to support the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, in particular its Committee on Science and Technology in the assessment and monitoring of desertification and the enhancement of the scientific and technological knowledge base on land degradation;

6. Requests the Executive Director to further strengthen the functional integration of land resource management and soil conservation policy of the United Nations Environment Programme as outlined in its land policy review;

7. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen its collaboration with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme with a view to enhancing the Global Environment Facility assistance to countries for activities related to land degradation; in view of the interlinkages between land degradation and the focal areas of the Global Environment Facility;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to strengthen collaboration with relevant United Nations organizations and agencies and other organizations concerned with assistance to countries for mitigating land degradation and for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification;

9. Further requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with other bodies, particularly the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Global Mechanism under the Convention and the other implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations, to continue to assist countries affected by land degradation, in the development of a pipeline of land-degradation projects for financing by the Global Environment Facility and other relevant financial mechanisms.

2. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 A of 7 February 1997, SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998 and 20/22 of 4 February 1999,

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in overseeing the implementation of the interim prior informed consent procedure and in preparing for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Concerned about the slow progress in ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention,

1. Calls upon States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with a view, as underscored in the Priorities of Action beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its third session, to its entry into force as soon as possible, preferably by the Forum at its fourth session in 2003. All efforts should be made to ensure that the necessary procedures are put into place so that countries can successfully implement the Convention in a prompt manner;

^{2/} Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), Vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2. Also calls upon States and regional economic integration organizations to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the United Nations Environment Programme in order to support the interim arrangements and the operation of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of Parties takes place, and to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the further work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the progress in implementing the interim prior informed consent procedure and in preparing for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the present decision.

3. Convention for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/32 of 25 May 1995, 19/13 C of 7 February 1997 and 20/24 of 4 February 1999 on persistent organic pollutants,

Noting with appreciation that through the "POPs Club" funding effort, Governments and other actors in a position to so provided the necessary financial resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutant as called upon in paragraph 17 of Governing Council decision 19/13C,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of a legally binding instrument (UNEP/GC.21/2),

1. Welcomes the completion of the negotiations of the convention for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants ^{3/} which was accomplished before the end of the year 2000 as requested in paragraph 12 of its decision 19/13C;

2. Calls on Governments and regional economic integration organizations to adopt and thereafter sign the Convention at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to be held in Stockholm from 22 to 23 May 2001;

3. Encourages countries to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible, preferably by 2004, as underscored in the Priorities of Action beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its third session;

4. Authorizes the participation of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Program in an interim secretariat and in a secretariat to the Convention, if so decided by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Convention provided that such arrangements are satisfactory to the Executive Director and that costs are met through extrabudgetary resources;

5. Invites the Executive Director to take actions to facilitate voluntary implementation of the Convention prior to its entry into force if such action is called for by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Convention;

^{3/} For the text of the convention as agreed by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants at its fifth session, see UNEP/POPS/INC.5/7.

6. Appeals to Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide sufficient financial resources necessary for implementation of interim arrangements for the Convention prior to its first Conference of the Parties;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue taking actions as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 19/13 C, including the immediate actions identified in paragraph 13 of that decision, provided that costs are met through extrabudgetary resources;

8. Encourages Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and in-kind contributions for supporting implementation of the immediate actions as called for in paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/13 C;

9. Invites the Executive Director to take action to ensure that the use of the Global Environment Facility as the interim financial mechanisms gets off to a positive start.

4. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on implementation of the Global Programme of Action contained in document UNEP/GC.21/2 and INF/9,

Recognizing the important implications of not addressing land-based activities with respect to human health, poverty alleviation and food security,

Expressing its serious concern that the economic costs to society are enormous and are escalating by the slow action taken to control land-based activities,

Expressing further its concern that the productive capacity and ecological services of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters, are increasingly degraded mainly by pollution from sewage, nutrients, sediment mobilisation and by physical alteration and destruction of habitats,

Further recognizing the need to mainstream the objectives of the Global Programme of Action into appropriate programmes and activities at the local, national, regional and global levels,

Further recognizing that the Global Programme of Action cannot be effectively implemented without taking appropriate actions at the level of river basins draining into coastal zones,

Recalling its decision 19/14 A of 7 February 1997 to strengthen the regional seas programme as a main mechanism to facilitate implementation of the Global Programme of Action,

Expressing its further concern by the discrepancy between the current and desirable level of participation by United Nations agencies and programmes and international financing institutions in activities related to implementation of the Global Programme of Action,

1. Requests the Executive Director to organize the first intergovernmental review meeting on the status of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in November 2001 with participation of Governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, international and regional financing institutions, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, paying due attention to the use of innovative financial mechanisms for implementing the Global Programme of Action and to promote the involvement of Governments, the private sector, international financial institutions and the civic society in addressing this issue;

2. Notes with appreciation the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in giving new momentum to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, in particular in the preparations for the first intergovernmental review meeting on the progress in implementing the Programme of Action, the development of the clearing-house mechanism and work in addressing sewage as a major land-based pollutant;
3. Urges Governments to strengthen their efforts in implementing the Global Programme of Action and actively contribute to the first intergovernmental review meeting on implementation of the Programme of Action;
4. Urges Governments to ensure that relevant United Nations agencies and organizations incorporate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in their work programmes;
5. Urges Governments to involve international financing institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, through promoting partnerships, in efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action;
6. Notes with appreciation the proactive role of the Global Environment Facility in facilitating the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and encourage it to continue supporting relevant projects;
7. Urges United Nations agencies and programmes to accord high priority to projects to implement the Global Programme of Action;
8. Urges international financing institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the regional development banks, to accord high priority to projects to implement the Global Programme of Action;
9. Requests the Executive Director to pay due attention in the work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to activities aimed at addressing the negative effects of sewage, physical alteration and destruction of habitats, nutrients and sediment mobilisation on the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment;
10. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on activities of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action at its twenty-second session;
11. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Global Programme of Action.

5. Coral reefs

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/33 of 26 May 1995, 19/15 of 7 February 1997 and 20/21 of 4 February 1999,

Noting with apprehension the extensive evidence that coral reef ecosystems continue to be damaged or severely degraded as the result of both direct human activities and global climate change as witnessed by the increased global incidence of episodes of "coral bleaching" since its twentieth session,

1. Welcomes the Executive Director's circulation of the renewed call to action statement of the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium;

2. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in the United Nations Environment Programme coral reef related activities, including its coordinating role in the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative and the International Coral Reef Action Network, the establishment of a new United Nations Environment Programme Coral Reef Unit, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme ongoing collaboration with relevant partners on coral reefs related activities;

3. Supports the United Nations Environment Programme's continued participation and existing cooperation in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network to implement the global coral reef monitoring network to support conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems, especially in light of the recently released report which presents the prospect that 60 per cent of the world's coral reefs could be lost by 2030;

4. Underscores the need to strengthen the role of the regional seas conventions and action plans as implementing and coordinating mechanisms for the action phase of the International Coral Reef Action Network;

5. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate action to ensure that each of the regional seas programmes prepare regional or subregional programmes, in the area of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs;

6. Requests the Executive Director to increase existing collaborative efforts between the United Nations Environment Programme's ongoing coral-related activities and multilateral environmental conventions, especially with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

7. Requests the Executive Director to further increase fund raising efforts to support coral reef related activities and to explore new potential funding mechanisms in designing relevant coral reef projects;

8. Requests the Executive Director to submit the progress report on the protection of coral reefs to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

6. Biosafety

The Governing Council,

Recalling that a number of delegates commended the outcome of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project and progress made by participating countries in identifying and prioritizing the requirements for biosafety capacity-building during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nairobi from 15 to 26 May 2000,

Also recalling that many countries expressed their desire to participate in a similar but expanded programme that would cater for development of National Biosafety Frameworks, expressed during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the Global Environment Facility lunchtime workshop on the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project and the ministerial round table on capacity-building in developing countries to facilitate the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

1. Notes with appreciation the successful completion of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project implemented by national executing agencies of 18 Global Environment Facility-eligible countries through the auspices of the

United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with the Information Resource for the Release of Organisms into the Environment and other institutions;

2. Commends the Global Environment Facility and welcomes its approval of the follow-up United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Development of National Biosafety Frameworks Project by up to 100 Global Environment Facility-eligible developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. Congratulates the 18 countries that participated in the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Pilot Enabling Activity Project for their exemplary execution of the national component of the pilot Project, and invites the Global Environment Facility to provide further financial support to these countries and other countries for the implementation of national biosafety frameworks (or similar policy administrative, legislative biosafety frameworks) they have developed in preparation for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and for the first phase of biosafety clearing house;

4. Compliments countries that have already ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as well as those countries that have signed the Protocol, noting the subsequent need for its ratification, and encourages countries that have not yet signed to do so followed by ratification thereof;

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue mobilizing resources, including through the Global Environment Facility, for support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for capacity-building initiatives in the field of biosafety that would facilitate effective implementation of their national biosafety frameworks in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and consistent with the obligations of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity under Article 8(g) of the Convention, taking into account the United Nations Environment Programme International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology;

6. Invites the Global Environment Facility to initiate capacity building in transport, storage and handling of living modified organisms;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to mobilize resources, support as appropriate, the establishment and/or further strengthening of subregional and regional biosafety risk-assessment capabilities in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant organizations;

8. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

7. Support to Africa ^{4/}

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/27 of 5 February 1999 on Support to Africa,

^{4/} Additional paragraphs proposed by the African Group in its submission to the secretariat on 22 January 2001 are as follows:

"Stressing the importance of a coherent and timely implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa at all levels, including the general provisions and obligations of affected and developed countries,

"Calls upon all Governments, particularly developed countries and the donor community, to enhance their financial support to the Global Mechanism to enable it to promote the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa."

Noting recent state-of-the-environment reports, such as the Global Environment Outlook Report of the United Nations Environment Programme on the escalating and emerging environmental problems in Africa,

Also concerned about the increasing number of emerging and crisis situations in the world, particularly in Africa as a result of global environmental changes with adverse social, cultural and economic effects,

Welcoming the commendable efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of Governing Council decision 20/27 on Support to Africa;

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support the implementation of Governing Council decision 20/27 on Support to Africa, particularly, within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as well as other African regional and subregional organizations;
2. Also requests the Executive Director to assist African countries in the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in order to ensure Africa's perspectives are incorporated in the inputs and outputs of the Summit;
3. Further requests the Executive Director to support actions that would enhance the implementation of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the 1981 Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, the 1985 Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and the 1991 Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Waste within Africa

8. Trade and environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 2 of Agenda 21, its decision 20/29 of 4 February 1999 and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Taking note with appreciation the actions taken by the Executive Director in the field of trade and environment, including the ongoing collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.21/2),

1. Reiterates as a general framework the need for balanced and integrated approach to trade and environmental policies in pursuit of sustainable development;
2. Stresses that the environmental perspective should be taken into account in both the design and the assessment of macro-economic policy-making, as well as practices of government and multilateral lending and credit institutions such as export credit agencies, as highlighted in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;
3. Requests the Executive Director to further strengthen the secretariat in order for it to assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to enhance their capacities to develop and implement policies designed to integrate environmental considerations into macro-economic policies, including trade policies. Such assistance should be geared to reflect the socio-economic and development priorities as well as needs and capacities of individual countries;

4. Supports the Executive Director in the pursuit of further actions related to trade and environment, in close cooperation with the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the following:

(a) To examine the environmental effects of trade with a view to improving understanding thereon;

(b) To examine the effectiveness of market-based incentives in achieving the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements, including those agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides the secretariat;

(c) To examine the relationship between trade measures in multilateral environmental agreements and international trade policy, with a view to ensuring that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive;

5. Requests also the Executive Director to further promote the development and application of environmental impact assessment, environmental valuation, natural resource accounting and economic instruments in connection with the United Nations Environment Programme technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition as well as the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;

6. Requests the Executive Director to further the collaboration with the private sector, in particular the financial service sector, with a view to enhancing their contribution to sustainable development activities and programmes through the integration of environmental considerations into the internal and external operations of financial services institutions;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continuously consult and brief Governments on its work on trade and environment and report to the next session of the Governing Council on its activities in this area.

9. Atmosphere

A. The Climate Agenda and The World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 16/41 IV of 31 May 1991 on the World Climate Programme as well as 17/24 C of 21 May 1993 and 18/20 A of 26 May 1995 on the Climate Agenda,

Noting resolution 52/200 of 20 December 2000 of the General Assembly on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon,

Having regard for the need for early warning and preparedness measures to respond to climate related disasters such as droughts and floods and forest fires,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of climate especially in the implementation of Thrust 3 of the Climate Agenda on “Studies of Climate Impacts Assessment and Response Strategies to Reduce vulnerability” and the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme,

Noting the collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, the National Centre for Atmospheric Research, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations University, in the implementation of the project “Reducing the Impacts Environmental Emergencies through Early Warning and Preparedness: The case of El Niño Southern Oscillation” funded by the United Nations Foundation for International Partnership,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director and requests that the United Nations Environment Programme continues to carry out activities related to Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies in partnership with the other agencies collaborating in the Climate Agenda;
2. Commends the exemplary collaboration exhibited in the implementation of the United Nations Foundation for International Partnership funded El Niño projects;
3. Requests the Executive Director to enhance the composition of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the World Climate Impact and Response Strategies Programme taking into consideration the need to have on board expertise relevant to the new and emerging issues in the field of climate impacts and adaptation assessments and response strategies to reduce vulnerability;
4. Urges all Governments to strengthen or establish national climate programmes that would address inter alia integrated assessment of climate impacts and response strategies;
5. Urges Governments in a position to do so:
 - (a) To cooperate in building the technical and scientific capacity of developing countries in order to encourage their full partnership in the Climate Agenda;
 - (b) To provide additional resources to international organizations involved in the implementation of the Climate Agenda for the purpose of effective implementation of the Agenda and management of the programme through the Inter-agency Committee on the Climate Agenda;
 - (c) To address adverse impacts of response measures based on article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and article 3, paragraph 14 of the Kyoto Protocol;
6. Urges relevant international organizations to continue to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme within the integrating framework of the Climate Agenda, in furthering the objectives of the Agenda.

B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/24 A of 21 May 1993,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and report of its Chair,

Noting with satisfaction the excellent scientific support that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has given to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through its comprehensive assessment reports and at their request special reports and other technical papers,

Recognizing the value of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessments in addressing broader policy issues related to environment and sustainable development,

Noting further that the Global Environment Facility has approved an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change project initiative: Assessment of impacts and adaptation to climate change in multiple regions and sectors,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Executive Director and the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
2. Requests the Executive Director jointly with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to continue the arrangements to support the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and to ensure the participation of experts from all regions from as many countries as possible and facilitate and encourage effective participation of experts from developing countries in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessments;
3. Requests the panel to continue to update the assessments of available information on the science, impacts, response options, and technical aspects of the socio-economics of climate change and related methodologies for use and application by parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other interested entities;
4. Requests the Executive Director to actively disseminate the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third Assessment Report when it is published with a view to raising awareness among the youth and policy makers on the issue of climate change and the choice of policy options available to respond to climate change;
5. Urges Governments to continue to support the activities of the Panel and to contribute to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund;
6. Also requests the Panel to report, through its Chair, to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the progress of its activities.

C. Global Climate Observing System

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 16/41 (iv) of 31 May 1991 on the World Climate Programme, and in particular paragraph (iv) 2 (e) on the creation of the Global Climate Observing System,

Noting decision 5/CP 5 of 4 November 1999 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on research and systematic observation,

Recognizing the critical significance of observations in climate change detection and therefore its significance in determining the timing and location of climate change impacts,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support, within available resources the activities of the joint planning office of the Global Climate Observing System in facilitating the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the activities of the Global Climate Observing System;

2. Urges Governments to address deficiencies in the climate observing networks and invites them in consultation with the Global Climate Observing System secretariat to bring forward any capacity-building needs to the attention of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as called for in paragraph 6 of decision 5/CP.5 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

D. Programmatic support to atmosphere-related conventions

The Governing Council,

Recalling Governing Council decisions concerning programmatic support to the multilateral environmental conventions in the field of atmosphere, including decisions 15/30 of 25 May 1989 and 16/40 of 31 May 1991 concerning the protection of the ozone layer, decision 18/20 of 26 May 1995 concerning climate change and decision 20/18 of 4 February 1999, concerning environmental conventions,

Considering the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Environment Programme's programmatic support to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,

Noting in particular the United Nations Environment Programme activities in support of: the Global Climate Observing System, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Climate Agenda which in part supports the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Welcoming the programmatic activities undertaken in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol,

Cognizant of the need to enhance synergies and interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and the functions of the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Environmental Conventions in addressing such interlinkages and synergies,

Noting further the United Nations Environment Programme activities on the clearing-house function related to information on ozone layer and its depletion, and activities related to phasing-out of ozone depleting substances, institutional strengthening in developing countries and the strengthening and management of regional networks under the OzonAction programme,

Cognizant of the fact that recent scientific observations of the ozone layer over the South and North Poles seem to suggest that the expected improvement trend in the state of the ozone layer is not materializing,

1. Urges the Executive Director, within available resources, to continue programmatic activities in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, in particular to encourage the exploitation of synergies between these instruments;

2. Calls upon the Executive Director to continue to liaise with relevant United Nations agencies, and international organizations with a view to addressing the issue of systematic observations and assessment of the ozone layer.

10. Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the status of the preparation of a report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

Requests the Executive Director to prepare the report as soon as practicable and submit it to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.]

11. Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 D of 7 February 1997, SS.V/4 of 22 May 1998, 20/25 of 5 February and SS.VI/2 of 31 May 2000,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on water issues related to Governing Council decisions 20/25 and SS.VI/2;
2. Accepts in its present form the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme as contained in document UNEP/GC.21/2/Add.1 which enhances the focus of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the environmental aspects of sustainable development and integrated management of water in accordance with national needs and subject to Governments' requests;
3. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for the measures taken to implement Governing Council decisions 20/25 and SS.VI/2;
4. Also expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for the progress reports submitted to the Committee for Permanent Representatives, respectively on: the Global International Waters Assessment; the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; the regional seas conventions and the water activities of the International Environmental Technology Centre;
5. Further expresses its appreciation for the establishment of an expert group on exchange of information on best practices in the freshwater management;
6. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, and taking into account national priorities, should place a high priority on the identification of expertise and knowledge available in countries relating to the environmental aspects of water quality, the establishment of partnerships between those countries and countries in need of that expertise and knowledge and the promotion of intergovernmental collaboration upon requests of the Governments concerned;
7. Requests the Executive Director to enhance, through the International Environmental Technology Centre, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for water management, with due attention to the use of local technologies, the identification and analysis of the costs, effectiveness and strengths and limitations of alternative technologies, and awareness-raising initiatives on technology development and transfer in the water sector;
8. Also requests the Executive Director to intensify collaborative activities with Governments, upon request, as well as with other organizations and agencies in furtherance of the implementation of the water policy and strategy;
9. Also requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures for the continued implementation of the water policy and strategy, consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the priorities outlined in Governing Council decisions at its respective sessions and in line with the relevant chapters of Agenda 21;
10. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure the review of the water policy and strategy at the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2003;
11. Also requests the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water, arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in line with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and the

outcome of the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21, and to propose policy options to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

12. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of water, takes into account the work carried out by other United Nations agencies and international organizations as well as by national Governments to avoid duplication;

13. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-second session, on the progress in the implementation of the present decision and in related environmental issues.

12. Implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as the embodiment of a strong and vibrant international consensus on major environmental challenges faced in the twenty-first century and as a holistic strategy to address them,

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

Noting General Assembly resolution 55/200 of 20 December 2000 by which the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as one of the contributions to the Millennium Summit and to the preparation of the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as well as the environment-related aspects of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and conscious of the responsibilities of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environment authority,

Stressing that the Malmö Ministerial Declaration constitutes a significant contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Highlighting the need to close the gap between the commitments made and action taken in relation to sustainable development as identified by the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Conscious that the root causes of global environmental degradation are embedded in social and economic problems such as pervasive poverty, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, inequity in distribution of wealth and the debt burden,

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

1. Stresses its commitment to comprehensive implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;
2. Urges Governments to translate the commitments made in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration into concrete action at the national, regional and global levels;
3. Encourages the civil society, the private sector and other major groups to actively contribute to the full implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration;
4. Decides to transmit, through the President of the Governing Council, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as well as the present decision to other intergovernmental bodies and conferences in the United

Nations system, including international financial institutions and invite these bodies and conferences to promote its implementation;

5. 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 to promote its implementation;

6. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider the integration of the commitments contained in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration into its work, especially in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

7. Requests the Executive Director to take further steps in the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration as it relates to the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, including coordination within the United Nations system through, inter alia, the Environmental Management Group;

8. Requests the Executive Director to monitor the implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration and to report thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives as well as to the Governing Council at its next session.

13. Further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation

The Governing Council,

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

Recalling that the Malmö Ministerial Declaration underscored increasing environmental emergencies as one of the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century,

Noting with satisfaction in the implementation of its decision 20/8 of 5 February 1999 to date,

Acknowledging the value that the assessment and early warning, preparedness, response and mitigation have in ultimately preventing and reducing the impact of environmental emergencies,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.21/3/Add.1),

1. Supports the Strategic Framework on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Assessment, Response and Mitigation and its implementation within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Encourages the Executive Director to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat in environmental emergencies within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Endorses the constructive contribution by UNEP under the coordination of the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance United Nations' ability to assist countries, particularly developing countries, affected by environmental emergencies;

4. Requests the Executive Director to enhance the long-term strategic cooperation with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs through the joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit;

5. Invites Governments and relevant United Nations agencies and bodies, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme in its efforts to provide assistance to countries, particularly developing countries, in responding to and prevention of and reduction of environmental emergencies;

6. Calls on Governments to develop and strengthen national legal and institutional arrangements for environmental emergency management, so as to enable Governments to respond to environmental emergencies in an effective manner;

7. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies;

8. Requests the Executive Director to bring forward an analysis of the causes and long-term environmental effects of emergencies it has worked on and the possible policy implications for national governments and the international community for consideration of the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

14. The Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/3 of 3 February 1999,

Recalling the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of the environment as reflected in the Nairobi Declaration, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in resolution S-19/2,

Having considered the outcome of the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law to Prepare a Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 October 2000;

1. Takes note with appreciation of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, as described in document UNEP/Env.Law/4/3, in implementing the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s;

2. Adopts the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century, as set out in annex I to the report of the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law to Prepare a Programme of Work for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (UNEP/Env.Law/4/4), as the broad strategy for the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental law for the first decade of the twenty-first century;

3. Requests the Executive Director to implement the Programme, within available resources, through the programmes of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and in close collaboration with States, conferences of the parties and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, other international organizations, non-State actors and persons;

4. Decides to review the implementation of the Programme not later than at its regular session in 2005.

15. Policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/6 of 5 February 1999,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building (UNEP/GC.21/4 and INF/15),

1. Takes note with appreciation of the action taken by the Executive Director to provide policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building, particularly with regard to support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
2. Expresses its gratitude to the donors for their support and contribution to the activities on policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building;
3. Requests the Executive Director to further strengthen its activities in providing technical, legal and policy advice to Governments and regional and subregional institutions dealing with environmental matters;
4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to undertake appropriate actions designed to improve public access to information on environmental matters and environmental policy instruments and to promote the development of relevant skills and capacity of the key stakeholders and partners;
5. Urges Governments to take steps to enhance access to environmental information held by public authorities and to encourage participation by all relevant sectors of society in the decision-making process in environmental matters, in accordance with relevant legislation or arrangements, bearing in mind the crucial role which it plays in institution-building for environmental protection and sustainable development;
6. Further urges Governments to take measures to establish, where appropriate, at the national and regional levels, judicial and/or administrative procedures for legal redress and remedy for actions effecting the environment that may be unlawful or infringe on rights under the law.

16. Preparation of the draft guidelines on compliance with international environmental agreements and on effective national environmental enforcement and international cooperation and coordination in combating environmental crime

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Deeply concerned that, despite many successful international and regional environmental agreements, and some progress have been achieved, environmental damage caused by illegal traffic on endangered species and dangerous and harmful substances and products is growing,

Reaffirming the importance of speedy implementation of the political and legal commitments entered into by the international community,

Convinced that urgent and renewed efforts are required to be undertaken by all countries and relevant organizations and operational agencies concerned such as the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in combating environmental crime and other environmental violations,

1. Requests the Executive Director to develop as a priority issue in 2001, in support of ongoing developments of compliance regimes within the framework of international agreements and in consultation with Governments and relevant international organizations and operational agencies such as the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, draft guidelines on compliance and on effective national environmental enforcement and international cooperation and coordination in combating environmental crime;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to take into account the opportunity raised by the fact that an important element of those draft guidelines could be a stronger role of the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization in the international cooperation and coordination in combating environmental crime and that this stronger role could be called "Green Interpol" or "Green Customs";

3. Finally requests the Executive Director to submit those draft guidelines to the Governing Council for its consideration at its seventh special session in 2002.

17. Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.21/4 and INF/16),

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

1. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the report and related status table, on its behalf, together with comments made by delegations thereon, especially on the need for institutional capacity building, as well as further information which the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme might receive by 31 May 2001, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX);

2. Urges States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to do so expeditiously and thereafter to proceed with their implementation;

3. Calls also on States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme with information on new conventions and protocols in the field of the environment as well as information on any changes to the status of the existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

18. Establishment of a regional seas programme for the Central-East Pacific region

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 E of 7 February 1997 and 20/20 of 4 February 1999,

Bearing in mind that the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities calls on States to pursue more active participation in the negotiating processes for regional instruments, including accession or ratification, as appropriate, of regional seas agreements,

Endorsing the action taken thus far in facilitating the establishment of a regional seas programme for the Central-East Pacific region, including the results of the first meeting of high-level government-designated experts of the proposed Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme held in Panama City from 5 to 8 September 2000,

Noting with appreciation progress achieved at the Panama meeting in the negotiation of a convention for the protection and sustainable development of the Central-East Pacific,

Noting with satisfaction the decision of the Governments at the Panama meeting to commence a preparatory process in the region that will contribute to the 2001 Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

1. Invites the Governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama to continue with their efforts to negotiate and adopt a convention and action plan for the protection and sustainable development of the Central-East Pacific;
2. Calls for close cooperation between the proposed Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme, the South-East Pacific Action Plan and the Caribbean Action Plan;
3. Welcomes the offer of the Central American Commission on Maritime Transportation to host, with the support of the Government of Nicaragua, the second meeting of high-level, government-designated experts of the proposed Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme in Managua in the early part of 2001;
4. Requests the Executive Director to invite multilateral funding institutions, including the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the Inter-American Development Bank to future meetings of the Central-East Pacific Regional Seas Programme;
5. Requests the Executive Director, within the context of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, to assist the Governments of the Central-East Pacific in furthering the negotiations of a regional agreement for the protection and sustainable development of the Central-East Pacific;
6. Requests the Executive director to submit a report on the progress in this matter to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

19. Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility (GC21/4 and INF/4),

1. Welcomes the significant progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility as evidenced by the unprecedented

growth of its portfolio, the large number of participating countries as well as the quality and strategic focus of its activities;

2. Welcomes also the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility and its programme of work adopted by the Governing Council at its twentieth session (GC.20/7) and endorsed by the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its thirteenth meeting, held in Washington DC, 5-7 May 1999 and at which appreciation was expressed for the quality of the United Nations Environment Programme document and the United Nations Environment Programme commended for the comprehensive process of consultations that it had followed in preparing the report;

3. Further welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Strategic Partnership initiative and in particular the activities related to the clearing-house mechanism for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and stresses the importance of its prompt establishment;

4. Notes with appreciation the decision adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Dakar from 19 to 21 October 2000, expressing its gratitude to the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Coordination Office for the increasing attention being accorded to the priorities of the region and in particular on issues related to water and desertification;

5. Reiterates the importance attached to the tripartite agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank which constitutes the foundation of the Global Environment Facility as well as the need to enhance inter-agency collaboration;

6. Welcomes the expanded participation of regional development banks as executing agencies of the Global Environment Facility and in particular the measures taken by the Executive Director in promoting such collaboration in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility;

7. Further welcomes the steps taken by donors for a substantial and timely replenishment for the third phase of the Global Environment Facility as well as the measures taken by the Executive Director for the third reconstitution of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility;

8. Requests the Executive Director to keep Governments informed on further progress achieved in enhancing the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility.

20. Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/32 of 4 April 1997 and 20/17 of 5 February 1999 as well as General Assembly resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/162 of 14 December 2000, 55/198 of 20 December 2000, 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and 55/200 of 20 December 2000,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 55/200 by which the General Assembly, inter alia, underscored the need for sufficient financial resources, on a stable and predictable basis, to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular with a view to ensuring its strong involvement in the preparatory process for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

(a) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme, including governance aspects of General Assembly resolution 53/242

1. Resolves to continue strengthening the role of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum as the policy organ of the United Nations Environment Programme, the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves an authoritative advocate for the global environment;
2. Invites the regional ministerial environment forums to provide the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum with their respective views on policy issues in the field of the environment, and to consider the outcome of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, thereby ensuring interaction between the two;
3. Decides, subject to the availability of an offer from a host country, to hold its sessions in alternate years in the United Nations regions, where possible, on a rotational basis, in keeping with the spirit of its decision 20/17;
4. Calls upon Governments in a position to do so to provide financial resources to facilitate participation of environment ministers from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
5. [To insert a paragraph on the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials];
6. Decides, while appreciating the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, that the Committee shall hold its regular meetings [4][5][6] times a year, in addition to extraordinary meetings as required, and that proceedings of the Committee shall be conducted in all the official languages of the Governing Council following the installation of full interpretation services in Nairobi;

(b) Implementation of the other aspects of General Assembly resolution 53/242

7. Welcomes the recent commencement of the work of the Environmental Management Group of the United Nations;
8. Invites the Environmental Management Group to publish a benchmark report on progress in its work at a regular interval to be agreed upon by the Group;
9. Urges the Secretary-General to take measures to secure adequate human and financial resources required for the proper functioning of the secretariat of the Environmental Management Group;
10. Further invites Governments in a position to do so to contribute in support of the functioning of the Environmental Management Group and its secretariat;
11. Reconfirms the authority of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote the integration of the environmental aspects of sustainable development into the work of the United Nations system and emphasizes the importance of practical and efficient execution of this authority;
12. Invites, in this context, the Executive Director to approach relevant United Nations organizations [and international financial institutions] with the proposal to make a joint review of their roles in the environment area, aiming at identifying and analysing the need for strengthened coordination and cooperation, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;
13. Encourages the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in areas of mutual interest through, inter alia, joint projects and complementary programme of action;

14. Requests the Executive Director to continue efforts to enhance policy coherence and synergy among international legal instruments related to environment and sustainable development at both inter-agency and intergovernmental levels;

15. Urges the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 2002-2003, in accordance with current budgetary practices and to consider ways of lending support to the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, especially in view of preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

16. Calls upon the Executive Director to promote further international action to enhance synergy between the programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental conventions including streamlining of reporting, capacity-building and other actions aimed at the implementation of Agenda 21;

17. Encourages the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions to involve, as appropriate, the Environmental Management Group in enhancing complementarities among them, keeping in view the status of convention secretariats and the autonomous nature of the conferences of the parties;

18. Supports the enhancement that has taken place of the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, including in securing the objectives of multilateral environmental conventions eligible for Global Environment Facility funding;

19. [Supports the initiatives of the Executive Director to contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact initiated by the Secretary-General focusing in particular on its environmental dimension];

20. Encourages the Executive Director to take further steps to engage the private sector in addressing environmental challenges through, inter alia, the promotion of environmental reporting, voluntary codes of conduct, cleaner production and transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

21. [Notes with appreciation the establishment of the Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations Unit within the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Executive Director to designate the regional focal point for civil society and non-governmental organizations in each region];

22. (Add paragraphs on the basis of paragraphs 9, 11 and 14 of General Assembly resolution 53/242);

23. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the implementation of the present decision.

21. The Environment Fund budgets: Proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2002-2003, as contained in document UNEP/GC.21/6, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNEP/GC.21/6/Add.1),

1. Approves the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003;

2. Approves appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of \$119.9 million for the purposes indicated below:

2002-2003 Biennial programme and support budget
(Thousands of US dollars)

<u>Programme of work</u>	
Environmental assessment and early warning	23 000.0
Environmental policy development and law	13 925.0
Environmental policy implementation	8 000.0
Technology, industry and economics	21 350.0
Regional cooperation and representation	21 025.0
Environmental conventions	6 975.0
Communications and public information	5 725.0
Total programme of work	100 000.0
Fund programme reserve	5 000.0
<u>Support budget</u>	14 876.3
<u>Grand total</u>	<u>119 876.3</u>

3. Reconfirms the authority of the Executive Director to reallocate resources between programmes up to a maximum of 20 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources are reallocated;

4. Urges the Executive Director to further increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003;

5. Authorizes the Executive Director to adjust on a pro rata basis the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

6. Requests the Executive Director to keep Member States specifically informed, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis and the Governing Council at its regular and special sessions, of reallocations of the appropriations or adjustments of the allocation;

7. Notes that the proposed 2002-2003 budget has been formulated in line with the harmonized budget format developed by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Children's Fund, and that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions have been fully taken into account;

8. Endorses the formats of the budget and programme of work presented for the biennium 2002-2003, including the harmonized budget and programme of work presenting overall strategies, performance indicators, regulatory mandate, objectives, outputs and partners of each subprogramme, and requests the Executive Director to apply this format, or refinements thereof, in the presentation of future biennial budgets and programmes of work in line with any other instructions;

9. Welcomes the extensive consultations between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing the draft budget and programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 and requests the Executive Director to regularize such consultations for the preparation of each biennial budget and programme of work;

10. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the Environment Fund at a higher level in the biennium 2000-2001 and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations

Environment Programme, in cash and/or in kind, in order to permit the full implementation of the programme;

11. Expresses growing concern over the shrinking number of countries that made pledges in 2000;
12. Recognizes the pressing need to broaden the base of contributions to include all Members of the United Nations, especially countries that have developed a greater capacity to pay;
13. Urges all Governments to make efforts to pay their contributions prior to the year to which the contributions relate or, at the latest, at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;
14. Urges all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate, and if possible, two years in advance;
15. Approves the recommendation by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.21/6, para. 39) that the outstanding pledges in 1995-1996 not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;
16. Approves the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2002-2003 as set out in the Executive Director's report;
17. Notes that the proposed appropriation of Environment Fund resources in the biennium 2002-2003 in the amount of \$14.87 million for the biennial support budget is conditional on an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi and/or the United Nations Environment Programme in the biennium 2002-2003;
18. Notes with concern that the present level of funding from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme is not sufficient to provide for the core functions of the Programme, as stipulated in section II, paragraph 3 of resolution 2997 (XXVII) of the General Assembly.
19. Appeals to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session to consider positively a substantial increase in the regular budget allocation to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2002-2003;
20. Requests the Executive Director to provide financial details of work programmes to Member States in accordance with article VI of the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, if so requested;
21. Further to article VI of the general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, requests the Executive Director to make available to Member States, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work. This information shall be structured according to the programme of work;
22. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that ear-marked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, apart from those for which the United Nations Environment Programme merely acts as a treasurer, fund activities that are in line with the programme of work;
23. Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding \$20 million for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2004-2005;
24. Requests the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 2004-2005 a programme of work consisting of Fund programme activities with a cost of \$120.0 million;

25. Requests the Executive Director to submit a finalized draft budget and work programme for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

Annex

Estimated distribution of Environment Fund resources by subprogramme objective⁵

22. Administrative and other budgetary matters

A. Stable, adequate and predictable funding of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, both of which emphasized, inter alia, the need to broaden the financial basis of the United Nations Environment Programme and make it more predictable in order for the United Nations Environment Programme to undertake its mandate effectively,

Concerned that the total financial resources for the implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme have not increased over the last three years, and the annual contributions to the Environment Fund have decreased from about \$47.5 million in 1998 to \$44.0 million in 1999 and to an estimated \$41.3 million in 2000,

Concerned further that the support from the United Nations regular budget has not increased in the implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments that have increased their contributions to the Environment Fund, trust funds and counterpart contributions since 1998,

1. Approves the strategy on resource mobilization for the United Nations Environment Programme, as contained in the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.21/7/Add.1);
2. Requests the Executive Director to implement the strategy, and keep Governments informed of the progress in its implementation;
3. Reiterates the need to broaden the donor basis contributing to stable, adequate and predictable funding of the United Nations Environment Programme;
4. Calls upon Governments as well as other relevant parties to provide stable and predictable financial and other resources to the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the strategy on resource mobilization for the United Nations Environment Programme.

⁵ The contents of the annex will be inserted on the basis of a document to be issued separately.

A. Management of trusts funds and counterpart contributionsThe Governing Council,

1. Notes and approves the following trust funds established since the twentieth session of the Governing Council:

(a) General trust funds:

- (i) General Trust Fund for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, established in 2000 with an expiry date of 31 December 2002;
- (ii) General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltics and North Seas Agreement, established in 2001 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;
- (iii) General Trust Fund for the Clean-up of Environmental Hotspots following the Kosovo Conflicts and Preparation of Guidelines on Assessment and Remedial Measures for Post-conflict Environmental Damages, established in 2000 with an expiry date of 31 March 2003;
- (iv) General Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Balkans Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements, established in 1999 with an expiry date of 31 December 1999;
- (v) General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the European Bats Agreement, established in 2001 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;
- (vi) General Trust Fund for Implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, established in 1999 with no fixed expiry date;
- (vii) General Trust Fund in Support of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Cooperative Enforcement Operations directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, established in 1999 with an expiry date of 31 December 2000.

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

- (i) Technical Cooperation Trust fund for the Provision of a Senior Professional Officer to the United Nations Environment Programme (financed by the Government of Canada and other donors), established in 2000 with an expiry date of 31 March 2002;
- (ii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Global Environment Facility Fee-based System of Funding Projects Implementation, established in 1999 with no fixed expiry date;
- (iii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Support to the Global International Waters Project (financed by the Government of the United States of America), established in 1999 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;
- (iv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Strategic Partnership, established in 1999 with no fixed expiry date;

- (v) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme-United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Capacity-building Task Force on Activities on Trade, Environment and Development which was established in 2000 with no fixed expiry date.

2. Also notes and approves the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

(b) General trust funds:

- (i) General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2002;
- (ii) General Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Balkans Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements, through 31 December 2000;
- (iii) General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2002;
- (iv) General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2002;
- (v) Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, through 31 December 2002;
- (vi) Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, through 31 December 2002.

3. Approves the extensions of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

(b) General trust funds:

- (i) General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, through 31 December 2004;
- (ii) General Trust Fund for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, through 31 December 2004;
- (iii) General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2004;
- (iv) General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2004;
- (v) General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2004;
- (vi) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, through 31 December 2003;
- (vii) Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, through 31 December 2004;

- (viii) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, through 31 December 2003;
 - (ix) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, through 31 December 2003;
 - (x) Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, through 31 December 2003;
 - (xi) General Trust Fund in Support of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, through 31 December 2003;
 - (xii) Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, through 31 December 2003;
 - (xiii) Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, through 31 December 2004;
 - (xiv) General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, through 31 December 2003;
 - (xv) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of West and Central African Region, through 31 December 2003.
- (c) Technical cooperation trust funds :
- (i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen the Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2003;
 - (ii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland), through 31 December 2003;
 - (iii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2003;
 - (iv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the United Nations Environment Programme's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility, through 30 June 2003;
 - (v) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (Financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 2003;
 - (vi) INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States of America), through 31 December 2003.

4. Notes and approves the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications:

- (b) General trust funds:
- (i) General Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Balkans Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements.
- (c) Technical cooperation trust funds:
- (i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and the Pacific (NETLLAP) (financed by the Government of Denmark);
- (ii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Material Management (financed by the Government of Sweden);
- (iii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Government of Australia).

23. Mercure satellite communications system

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 17/38 of 21 May 1993, 18/47 of 25 May 1995, 19/30 of 7 February 1997 and 20/30 of 4 February 1999,

Noting with satisfaction the successes achieved by the Mercure satellite communications system since its establishment in 1994, particularly in strengthening the facilities of the United Nations in Nairobi through innovative services such as cost-effective internet and video-conferencing fully compatible with the rest of the United Nations system,

Noting that the Mercure facilities for internet, videoconferencing, electronic mail, and internet fax and telephony are in daily use by the United Nations bodies and agencies at the United Nations Office at Nairobi,

Noting with appreciation the work of the UNEPnet Implementation Centre in Norway to ensure the reliable day-to-day operation of UNEPnet/Mercure in support of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting also the operational integration of Mercure with the United Nations network to provide demonstrated mutual backup systems for the entire United Nations bodies and agencies at the United Nations Office at Nairobi,

1. Expresses once again its gratitude to the Government of Norway for its generous contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme to establish and maintain the UNEPnet Implementation Centre in Arendal, Norway, as well as to Austria, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their technical and financial contributions to the Mercure project;
2. Reiterates its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for its commitment and willingness, as the host Government, to ensure an advanced telecommunication capability for the United Nations Environment Programme;
3. Notes the management review, cost benefit analysis and plan for future action regarding the UNEPnet/Mercure system;

4. Welcomes the action taken by the Executive Director to implement voice telephony through Mercure and to provide this service on a cost-recovery basis to the United Nations bodies and agencies in Nairobi;
 5. Requests the Executive Director to implement the action plan presented in the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.21/7/Add.2) to address the strategic information and communication technology requirements of the United Nations Environment Programme in close collaboration with major stakeholders, while ensuring the continuity of services currently provided through UNEPnet/Mercure to the United Nations Environment Programme and to other United Nations bodies and agencies in Nairobi through close operational relationship with the United Nations Office at Nairobi;
 6. Authorizes the Executive Director to make direct donation of the Mercure ground station facilities implemented at partner sites in Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger and Viet Nam, effective as of the end of 2001, and requests the Executive Director to invite them to continue participation in Mercure on a cost-sharing basis;
 7. Requests the Executive Director to further the collaboration with the Government of Norway and other interested donor countries to continue the activities of the UNEPnet Implementation Centre, especially the development of national capacity in environmental information servicing in those Mercure partner countries utilizing UNEPnet/Mercure;
 8. Requests the Executive Director to invite the other United Nations bodies and agencies at the United Nations Office at Nairobi to utilize Mercure on a cost-sharing basis;
 9. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session on the implementation of the action plan for information and communications technologies.
24. Further development and strengthening of regional seas programmes: promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 20/19 A of 5 February 1999 and 19/14 B of 7 February 1997,

Recalling also that paragraph 74 (b) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities, adopted at Washington, D.C. on 3 November 1995, requests the United Nations Environment Programme, in its capacity as secretariat, to revitalize the Regional Seas Programme to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional level,

Noting the importance that the Global Meetings of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans have taken as a consultative mechanism for the vitalization of regional seas programmes, including the strengthening of partnerships with international organizations dedicated to marine and coastal issues and the establishment of programmatic linkages with global environmental conventions and related agreements,

Having considered the outcome of the Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, held in Monaco from 6 to 10 November 2000, described in document UNEP/GC.21/INF.14,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the representatives of the secretariats of regional seas conventions and action plans and global environmental conventions and related international agreements for their participation and their contributions to the successful outcome of the Third Global Meeting;

2. Expresses also its appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Association, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Conservation Union and the Advisory Committee for the Protection of the Sea for their contributions to the meeting;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to use global meetings of regional seas conventions and action plans as a primary consultative mechanism for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the further strengthening of regional seas programmes and for building synergies and collaboration among environmental agreements;

4. Requests the Executive Director to invite as the secretariat of the regional seas programme the representatives of the shipping industry, the chemical industry and the tourism industry be invited to the Fourth Global Meeting to discuss possible roles and collaboration in support of regional seas programmes.

(a) The continued vitalization of regional seas programmes

Having considered the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in support of regional seas conventions and action plans, described in documents UNEP/GC.21/INF/6 and UNEP/GC.21/INF/14,

Taking note with appreciation the action taken by the Executive Director to support the revitalization of regional seas programmes through the provision of strategic programmatic support and the facilitation of collaborative arrangements with global environmental conventions and related agreements;

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to give priority to the vitalization of the regional seas conventions and action plans as its central mechanism for implementation of its activities relevant to chapter 17 of Agenda 21, taking into account the recommendations of the Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, focusing on priority issues such as land-based sources of pollution, integrated coastal areas management, coral reefs and the development or revision of regional seas conventions and protocols;

2. Requests the Executive Director to support the preparation of a strategic approach to financing regional seas programmes and to assist them in the mobilization of resources, taking into account the wide range of funding sources available, including, but not limited to, the Global Environmental Facility, bilateral and multilateral donors, private industry and non-governmental organizations;

3. Recognizes the rejuvenation seen recently in the Caribbean Environment Programme and encourages the Executive Director to find sufficient funding to finance its activities and continued growth, as well as that of similarly well managed and under-funded regional seas programmes;

(b) Horizontal cooperation among regional seas conventions and action plans

Recognizing the value of the sharing of experiences and information exchange among regional seas programmes,

Recognizing also the important technical assistance and advisory services that can be provided by the more experienced and developed regional seas programmes to those that are less developed,

Welcoming the twinning arrangements between the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme as the secretariat of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention), signed in Malmö, Sweden on 30 May 2000, and between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding for closer cooperation between the Red Sea and

Gulf of Aden Environment Programme and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and United Nations Environment Programme (May 2000),

1. Requests the Executive Director to support the implementation of these twinning arrangements and to continue to facilitate the negotiation of new arrangements for horizontal cooperation among regional seas programmes;

2. Urges the Governments that are Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region to support the on-going negotiation of a twinning arrangement.

(c) Collaboration with global environmental conventions and related international agreements

Recalling its decision 20/18 B of 4 February 1999 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions, decision 20/28 of 4 February 1999 on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs and decision 20/19 B of 4 February 1999 on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Considering decision V/3 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in May 2000 on joint programming of Convention on Biological Diversity and the regional seas conventions and action plans,

Taking into account the Strategic Action Plan adopted by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in April 2000, which calls for closer collaboration with regional seas programmes,

1. Welcomes the action taken by the Executive Director in promoting synergies among regional seas conventions and action plans, including new twinning arrangements, and with global environmental conventions and related agreements;

2. Welcomes the cooperation of the regional seas conventions and action plans in the regional preparatory process for the first intergovernmental review meeting on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Montreal, November 2001), including the preparation of the one-day session on the regional seas programmes at such a meeting;

3. Emphasizes that municipal wastewater, as appropriate, is a priority of the regional seas programmes in preparing their work programmes on land-based sources of pollution, as well as the need to address:

(a) Tourism, as appropriate, as a major economic activity linked to, among others, sewage and physical alteration and destruction of habitats;

(b) Agriculture and its effects on the coastal and marine environment, including eutrophication and pesticides reaching the ocean;

4. Welcomes the reinitiation of collaboration between the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the regional seas programmes, including the work of the Convention's regional training centres, and the offer of the Basel Secretariat to assist regional seas conventions in the development of protocols on transboundary movement of hazardous wastes;

5. Invites the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the convention on persistent organic pollutants and the regional seas programmes to work closely together in the implementation of capacity building and information exchange activities for assisting countries in meeting their obligations under the two chemicals-related conventions;

6. Invites the regional seas programmes, the Rotterdam Convention and the convention on persistent organic pollutants to collaborate on mutually supportive activities, such as the development and application of harmonized customs codes;

7. Requests the Executive Director to prepare an inventory of the work in chemicals undertaken by the regional seas programmes as an information base for collaborating on mutually supportive activities with the Rotterdam Convention and the convention on persistent organic pollutants;

8. Encourages the Convention on Biological Diversity and the regional seas programmes to further their collaboration in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including (a) the elaboration of modalities for cooperation and (b) a commitment to identify common elements between the respective regional activities and the marine and coastal programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to harmonizing work plans, bearing in mind that one issue common to all regional seas programmes and the Convention on Biological Diversity is the application of the ecosystem approach to their programmes of work;

9. Requests the Executive Director to support cooperative initiatives aimed at the harmonization of work plans of the regional seas conventions and the Convention on Biological Diversity and, where appropriate, to support the development of harmonized national reporting consistent with the guidelines approved by the respective Conference of the Parties;

10. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate cooperative arrangements between the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the regional seas programmes, including regional dialogue on problematic issues of common concern and through the facilitation of information to regional seas programmes on activities to be undertaken by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora within their respective regions;

11. Invites the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals to involve the relevant regional seas programmes at an early stage in developing and implementing regional agreements related to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals affecting marine species such as sea turtles, albatrosses, sharks, whales and marine mammals;

12. Requests the Executive Director to continue with the restructuring of the United Nations Environment Programme Marine Mammal Action Plan through a greater coordinated effort among the regional seas programmes, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant partner organizations, including the World Conservation Union.

(d) Partnerships with international organizations

Taking into account that the Seventh Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development in April 1999 proposed a United Nations consultative process on oceans to provide an integrated review of economic, social, environment and legal dimensions of developments affecting oceans and seas and that this consultative process was subsequently established by the United Nations General Assembly in its decision 54/33 of 24 November 1999,

Bearing in mind that, following the first meeting of the consultative process from 30 May to 2 June 2000, the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session adopted resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 calling for strengthening regional cooperation in specific areas, including fisheries management organizations and

arrangements, integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas and capacity building, among others, and, in paragraph 42, for more effective collaboration and coordination between the relevant parts of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations as a whole,

Recognizing that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, of which the United Nations Environment Programme is a member, is promoting enhanced inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system of activities aimed at implementing chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans proposing renewed cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Maritime Organization and International Atomic Energy Agency in supporting the implementation of the regional seas programmes,

1. Requests the Executive Director to promote a more active involvement of the regional seas conventions and action plans in the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea and in the regional and subregional preparatory activities being organized for the 2002 review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in their follow-up;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to follow up on the endorsement of the Third Global Meeting of the joint United Nations Environment Programme/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations paper entitled “Ecosystem-based Management of Fisheries: Opportunities and Challenges for Coordination between Marine Regional Fisheries Bodies and Regional Seas Conventions”, including support to the following actions for enhancing cooperation:^{6/}

(a) The formalization of the observer status of the regional seas conventions and action plans at the meetings of the governing bodies of regional fisheries bodies and their technical subsidiary organs, and vice versa;

(b) Exchange data and information available at the levels of and regional seas conventions and action plans that may be of mutual interest;

(c) The organization of joint technical meetings on subjects of mutual interest;

(d) The design and implementation of joint programmes between and regional seas conventions and action plans, taking fully into account the respective mandates, objectives and scope of the regional seas programmes;

^{6/} Following the Third Global Meeting, the paper was revised and will be presented to the forthcoming meeting of regional fisheries bodies organized by FAO in February 2001 for consideration and endorsement.

3. Welcomes the joint United Nations Environment Programme/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiative on enhanced cooperation between and regional seas conventions and action plans on issues relevant to ecosystem-based management of fisheries as a considerable contribution towards the implementation of global conventions and programmes, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as well as the 2001 Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Ecosystem (Reykjavik, Iceland, 24-28 September 2001);

4. Requests the Executive Director to support the establishment of a joint International Maritime Organization/United Nations Environment Programme forum on emergency response to marine pollution with a view to exchange experiences and to discuss issues of common concern among the regional seas conventions and action plans;

5. Requests the Executive Director to follow up on the recommendation that United Nations Environment Programme work closely with the Coastal Global Ocean Observing System, directed by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, through a cooperative arrangement to ensure that the scientific and technical needs of regional seas programmes are fully taken into account in the development, management and implementation of the Coastal Global Ocean Observing System in particular, as well as the overall work of the Global Ocean Observing System, including the need to implement supportive capacity building activities in regional seas programmes as required;

6. Invites the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, through its Global Ocean Observing System programme, given the complimentary scientific work that it is undertaking, to participate in the United Nations Environment Programme/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiative on the ecosystem-based management of fisheries;

7. Requests the Executive Director, within available resources, to work with the Marine Environment Studies the Laboratory of International Atomic Energy Agency in supporting marine pollution sampling, monitoring and assessment activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are member States of regional seas programmes.

8. Requests the Executive Director to continue strengthening partnerships with the members of the Administrative Commission on Coordination Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas in support of the implementation of regional seas programmes, including relevant programmes such as the Global International Water Assessment and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

25. The implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/19 A of 5 February 1999, in which the Governing Council stressed the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the regional seas programme as the central mechanism for implementation of its activities relevant to chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Taking into account the resolutions of the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Intergovernmental Meetings of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region concerning the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Unit for the Action Plan,

Mindful of the programme of work adopted at the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (Inch'on, the Republic of Korea, 29-30 March 2000), and the decision of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting (Tokyo, 5-6 December 2000) in its resolution 1 to incorporate into the Action Plan a priority programme element on land-based sources of pollution, including participation in the preparatory process leading to the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources of Pollution,

1. Welcomes the decision of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting to establish a Regional Coordinating Unit for the Action Plan to be administered by the United Nations Environment Programme and co-hosted by Toyama, Japan and Pusan, the Republic of Korea;
2. Notes with satisfaction progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan's programme of work, including the establishment of a priority project on land-based sources of pollution, including participation in the preparatory process leading to the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources of Pollution;
3. Notes with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan;
4. Requests the Executive Director to establish the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Regional Coordinating Unit as a United Nations Environment Programme-administered secretariat of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan;
5. Further requests the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with Japan and the Republic of Korea for the host country agreements for co-hosting a single Regional Coordinating Unit in the terms agreed to by the member States at the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting and in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.
6. Approves the extension of the duration of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Trust Fund through 2003.

26. The role of civil society

The Governing Council,

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

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and General Assembly resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000 concerning the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

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

Further recalling the rules of procedure of the Governing 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 bodies”,

Stressing paragraph 14 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme with respect to civil society,

Aiming at further developing the relationship between civil society and the United Nations Environment Programme and its governing bodies,

1. Requests the Executive Director to further the consultative process with Governments and, as appropriate, other entities on ways and means to enhance the engagement of civil society in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Executive Director to submit, before the end of 2001, a report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the outcome of these consultations for its consideration and subsequently to submit the report to the Governing Council at its seventh special session in 2002;

2. Decides to include an agenda item entitled “Strengthening the role of civil society in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme” in the provisional agenda of the seventh special session of the Governing Council.

27. Mercury assessment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director regarding the work of the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals Unit in the past biennium,

Noting with appreciation the accomplishment of the Executive Director in the chemical management area,

Recalling the Barrow Declaration on the occasion of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, in which the Council noted that releases of mercury have harmful effects on human health and may damage ecosystems of environmental and economic importance, and called upon the United Nations Environment Programme to initiate a global assessment of mercury,

Recognizing that mercury cycles globally,

Invites the Executive Director to undertake a global assessment of mercury, in coordination with the relevant multilateral entities to be presented to the Governing Council at its session in 2003, which will include the following elements:

- (a) To summarize existing information including recent authoritative review on the chemistry, including transformation and methylation processes, toxicology, and impacts of mercury on human health and the environment;
- (b) To compile and summarize existing information concerning the natural and anthropogenic sources of mercury globally;
- (c) To consolidate and analyse existing information regarding relevant environmental long-range transport and deposition mechanisms and pathways on a global scale;
- (d) To examine and describe current production and use patterns of mercury as a global commodity;
- (e) To compile and summarize information about prevention and control technologies and practices, and associated costs and effectiveness, that could reduce and/or eliminate releases of mercury, including the use of suitable substitutes, where applicable;
- (f) To describe ongoing actions and compile information about future plans in countries for controlling releases, and limiting use and exposures, including waste management practices;
- (g) To outline options for addressing the global aspects of mercury, including opportunities for international coordination and ways to enhance risk communication;
- (h) To provide, for elements (a) through (f), a summary description of scientific and technical information needs and data gaps.
