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Policy issues: State of the environment

**STATE OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

Review of the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme:
Key policy issues and policy options

The present document has been prepared in pursuance of Governing Council decision 21/11 of 9 February 2001 on the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

* UNEP/GC.22/1.

I. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL DECISION 21/11

1. The international context, as it has evolved since the twenty-first session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2001, has provided additional impetus as well as compelling reasons for the strengthening of the water policy and strategy. The twenty-first session of the UNEP Governing Council, at which the Council endorsed the water policy and strategy, also marked the second meeting of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which is primarily concerned with promoting policy coherence in the environmental field. The Forum produced the Malmö Ministerial Declaration 2000, which highlighted the environmental threats and the water crisis confronting humanity.

2. A major theme for the second meeting of the Forum was the strengthening and streamlining of international environmental governance. Its decisions facilitated the review of institutional weaknesses and future needs and options for international environmental governance. The multilateral environmental agreements and global programmes, such as the regional seas conventions and the Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, were accorded special attention. The policy issues, including those relevant to the environmental aspects of water, were central to the review of the state of international environmental governance. The international environmental governance report underpinned discussions at the third meeting of the Forum and the seventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in February 2002, which was also presented with a progress report on the implementation of the water policy and strategy. That meeting also considered the Executive Director's report, containing a significant section on water, on the UNEP contributions to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2002.

3. The water policy provided strategic direction to participation by UNEP in the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, notably the comprehensive assessment of chapters 17 and 18 of Agenda 21, relating to freshwater and the coastal and marine environment. All over the globe, UNEP supported a series of subregional and regional preparatory meetings to identify accomplishments, shortcomings and emerging issues relating to chapters 17 and 18 of Agenda 21. These meetings have played a key role in crystallizing the views of Governments, civil society and the private sector on the role of UNEP in addressing the environmental aspects of water.

4. Detailed information on progress in implementing the water policy and strategy of UNEP, covering such areas as the assessment of global water resources, the management of global water resources and coordination, partnerships and mobilizing actions, is provided in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/21. The outcome of the review of the water policy and strategy of UNEP will form the basis for specific recommendations regarding implementation of support measures.

II. REVIEW OF THE WATER POLICY AND STRATEGY OF UNEP: KEY ISSUES AND POLICY OPTIONS

A. Background

5. In its decision 21/11, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water arising from the activities undertaken by UNEP in line with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP, 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. This document first outlines the key issues and policy options identified and then considers options from a UNEP perspective for strengthening the implementation of the water policy and strategy.

B. Key issues and policy options

1. Overview

6. The key issues and policy options relating to water have been agreed to on an evolving basis in intergovernmental processes predating Agenda 21, which provides the most pertinent point of departure for our review. Chapters 17 and 18 covered ocean and freshwater issues respectively, with sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the 1997 review of the five years since the Earth Summit at Rio, the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the World Summit itself providing clear direction on issues and policy options to address these subjects. Other processes, notably the papers on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB) and the First and Second World Water Forums, have also provided clear guidance on key issues and policy options. The review of the Global Programme of Action and the World Commission on Dams have also provided clear indications on issues and policy options. Detailed information on these intergovernmental processes may be found in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/21.

7. The general evolution of issues and policy options reflects the growing recognition that the environmentally sustainable management of water resources is the key to sustainable development, including poverty reduction, and that integrated environmental, social and economic approaches are necessary to achieve environmentally sustainable water management.

8. Despite the widespread agreement on what needs to be done, the action taken has fallen far short of what is really necessary to address the water crisis. Thus, the single most important key issue is the need to address implementation constraints.

2. Highlights of the proposed options

9. The following policy options may be identified, in the light of the activities undertaken by UNEP in the implementation of Agenda 21, regional and international initiatives on water, the comprehensive review of the ten-year implementation of major water initiatives and the outcomes of the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development.

10. There is clear agreement on the key issues and the policy options needed to address them. It is acknowledged that there are differences of opinion on the relative emphasis on different policy options, but these differences pose no obstacle to the urgent adoption of more effective action. The overall key issue is, as indicated above, the failure adequately to implement the necessary action, so that the water crisis is threatening to become an environmental, social and economic catastrophe in many parts of the world, and this will directly halt progress towards sustainable development and poverty reduction.

11. UNEP cannot focus on all the key issues or attempt to assist countries implement all the priority policy options. The outcome of the above-listed processes does, however, provide clear guidance for UNEP priority actions in water, with the 2004-2005 reflecting areas where UNEP can make a valuable contribution.

12. The water-related activities mounted by UNEP will include the following:

(a) Implementing and refining the UNEP water policy and strategy in the light of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including by developing policies, guidelines, economic instruments, legal tools and participatory management approaches for integrated water resource management that link environmental goals and sustainable development;

(b) Assessing freshwater vulnerability, including groundwater, at a global and regional level by providing substantive inputs to initiatives such as the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) and the World Water Assessment Programme,

(c) Assessing the sustainability of water resource use, including fresh and marine waters, at a regional and global level through the establishment of GIWA for the continuous investigation of the status of vulnerable waterbodies and the social and economic causes of their degradation, including the failure to implement necessary remedial and mitigatory actions;

(d) Providing early warning of emerging threats to aquatic ecosystems by further strengthening GIWA;

(e) Organizing multi-stakeholder processes to promote dialogue on sustainable water resource management, through the Dams and Development Project (DDP), based on the findings of the report of the independent World Commission on Dams and the strengthened involvement of stakeholders in dams issues;

(f) Supporting the development and implementation of intergovernmental strategies and policies for protecting, conserving, and valuing aquatic biological diversity;

(g) Minimizing the degradation of water resources and supplies by promoting a holistic approach to sanitation issues that includes the provision of wastewater treatment and the adoption of cleaner production processes;

(h) Collaborating with other United Nations agencies and partners to promote environmentally sustainable ways of increasing water supplies, including developing and disseminating innovative financing mechanisms and environmentally sound technologies for reducing water demand and increasing supply;

(i) Supporting the further implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in part by supporting the development of national, subregional, and regional programmes of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities;

(j) Integrating Global Programme of Action activities with the further development and implementation of the UNEP regional seas programme;

(k) Working with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and other partners to promote sustainable wastewater treatment in coastal areas as a contribution to achieving the World Summit target on sanitation in an environmentally sensitive way;

(l) Encouraging the adoption and global implementation of the strategic action plan and associated guidelines on municipal wastewater, jointly developed by UNEP, WHO, UN-HABITAT and WSSCC, by advocating innovative approaches to the institutional set-up, regulations, financing, the promotion of low-cost environmentally sound technologies, and the initiation of replicable pilot projects;

(m) Contributing to efforts to establish a regular process for reporting on and assessing the state of the marine environment, as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit;

(n) Encouraging implementation of the UNEP integrated coastal area and river basin management guidelines through demonstration projects in major basins and associated coastal areas;

(o) Developing and implementing guidelines to address other pressures effecting coastal areas, including physical alteration and destruction of habitats, and nutrient overloads;

(p) Making use of the global network of regional seas conventions and action plans as a platform for the implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy as it relates to the coastal and marine environment, in full cooperation with the UNEP regional offices.

C. Key points in the review

13. A number of important conclusions can be drawn from the key policy issues identified in the implementation of the water policy and strategy, as well as from the implications of recent water-related developments, particularly those analysed in this document. These conclusions may be summarized as follows:

(a) The review of the water policy and strategy must bear in mind the question of institutional coherence. It is the undisputed view of the entire international community that the role and functions of UNEP must be strengthened as the environmental voice of the international community;

(b) In May 2002 UNEP produced the third report in its Global Environment Outlook series, GEO-3. The report identified a wide spectrum of existing and emerging water issues that need to be addressed if the world is to achieve sustainable development. Many of these issues were the subject of Governing Council decisions in 2001, prominent among which were decisions to promote regional and intergovernmental dialogue on water, strengthening the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, improving the strategic framework of the GIWA programme and facilitating regional cooperation on the transfer of environmentally-sound technology;

(c) In terms of the implementation of policy options to address the environmental aspects of key water problems, the issue of how to strengthen delivery by UNEP must be carefully considered, particularly with regard to freshwater issues and also in line with the international community's calls to strengthen the environmental voice of UNEP. The twenty-second session of the UNEP Governing Council provides an ideal opportunity for the strengthening the freshwater component of the water policy and strategy. There are compelling reasons for this, including previous Governing Council discussions on the matter;

(d) Agenda 21 requires UNEP to increase the scope and depth of its programme, taking into account the developmental aspects of environmental questions, reinforcing its catalytic and coordinating role and supporting Governments, development agencies and other bodies in the integration of environmental aspects into their development policies and programmes;

(e) In its decision SS.V/4 of 22 May 1998, the Governing Council recalled that chapter 18 of Agenda 21, which addresses the state of the world's freshwater resources, calls for action at different levels for the sustainable development of freshwater resources;

(f) By its decision 6/1 of 1 May 1998, the Commission on Sustainable Development called upon UNEP to play a vital role in the environmental aspects of the sustainable development of freshwater. The importance of financing the environmental aspects of freshwater resources programmes and projects, in the spirit of Agenda 21 and taking into account section D of decision 6/1, has been recognized by the Governing Council;

(g) As emphasized in chapter 38 of Agenda 21, and reconfirmed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP has a primary role, within the United Nations system, in the area of policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment. Within this role it has a major responsibility to facilitate the integration of the environmental aspects of social and economic development into policy discussions involving freshwater issues. This facilitation role led to the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Water;

(h) There are compelling reasons for consolidating the water assessment activities, building on the progress made and taking into account the implications of recent developments. The building blocks for such consolidation may include: GIWA, the new Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) water quality programme, groundwater vulnerability assessments, the global marine environment assessment and the assessment of land-based activities. The millennium development goals and the Plan of Implementation

of the World Summit on Sustainable Development provide the basis for new types of assessments, focusing on such areas as sanitation, water situations in an increasingly urbanizing world and others. The GEO process can also contribute significantly to water-related policy assessments;

(i) Some of the most important work carried out by UNEP is in the area of environmental assessment, in particular, in developing a better understanding of the state of freshwater resources at global, regional and subregional levels, and in identifying and facilitating effective corrective actions. The major assessment activities performed by UNEP include the identification and analysis of changes and trends in the state of water quality and quantity on a global, regional and subregional basis; of sources and impacts of land-based activities and pollutants; and of the associated social and economic driving factors;

(j) The outcomes of the intergovernmental review on the Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities provide strategic direction for the further implementation of the programme. The intergovernmental review also adopted a number of recommendations which should be fully incorporated in the water policy and strategy. The plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development accords a high degree of attention to issues which are being addressed by the Global Programme of Action;

(k) The revitalization of the regional seas programme has yielded dividends and greater efforts should be made to consolidate the process. Promoting synergies and closer collaboration with the various stakeholders should be accorded priority attention;

(l) The freshwater component of the water policy and strategy should be significantly enhanced and strengthened. It is vital that a framework for action be integrated in the water policy and strategy. More detailed information on this matter may be found in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/35. UNEP has consulted widely among Governments and there is a clear consensus that improved delivery by UNEP is a high priority, with such delivery targeted at providing practical policy guidance in comprehensive, user-friendly packages on how to achieve environmentally sustainable water use consistent with the overriding priority of poverty reduction. This consensus is consistent with internationally agreed priorities and the overall mandate of UNEP;

(m) In its review the Council may wish to consider, among other issues, the following:

(i) The nature of substantive objectives that it is prepared to support to ensure a greatly enhanced water policy and strategy;

(ii) How UNEP should relate to the new and emerging aspects of relevance to the freshwater, coastal and marine environment;

(iii) How to act on the critical water issues identified by the Council in its report to the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the contribution by UNEP to the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as the implications arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(n) There is a need to increase the resources and capacities essential to the effective implementation of the water policy and strategy. UNEP water-related activities have evolved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and have become better focused and integrated in response to the needs of countries, institutions and people. The speed, intensity and efficacy with which tasks entrusted to UNEP can be carried out are determined by a number of factors, including human and financial resources. There is a considerable disparity between, on the one hand, the immense tasks involved in implementing the UNEP water assessment activities, the Global Programme of Action, the regional seas programme and freshwater activities, responding to the requests of Governments, performing the role entrusted to UNEP by the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development and following up on the outcomes of regional and international and intergovernmental meetings on water and, on the other, the resources made available. At its nineteenth session, in document in

document UNEP/GC.19/20, the UNEP Governing Council, as part of its preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21, estimated the costs for UNEP to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention, including chapters 17 and 18 respectively touching on freshwater, coastal and marine environment issues.

III. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON THE REVIEW OF THE WATER POLICY AND STRATEGY

The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision along the lines suggested below.

Review of the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme: Key policy issues and policy options

The Governing Council,

Recalling, first, its decisions, adopted at previous sessions, relating to the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the management of the freshwater, coastal and marine environment and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the Malmö Ministerial Declaration; second, decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development regarding the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of chapters 17 and 18 of Agenda 21¹; third, United Nations General Assembly resolutions of relevance to the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in water management; fourth, the millennium development goals; fifth, the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and, sixth, the Secretary-General's initiative on water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity,

A. Assessment of water resources

1. Welcomes the significant contribution of the Government of Canada to the review of the Global Environment Monitoring System water quality programme and calls upon the Executive Director to implement the newly formulated business plan for which the Canadian Government is providing institutional and financial support;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for the efforts made in, first, supporting groundwater vulnerability assessment; second, publishing the Vital Water Graphics and the Atlas of Freshwater Agreements, which represented significant contributions to the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
3. Requests, in the light of the progress made in the implementation of the Global International Waters Assessment project, which it notes with satisfaction, the Executive Director to take the necessary measures for the further strengthening of the project, with a view to establishing a firm basis for a continuing global assessment project;
4. Also requests the Executive Director to work in furtherance of the goals set out in Governing Council decision 21/13 of 9 February 2001, on the global marine assessment, and also welcomes the efforts being made to translate into action the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relating to United Nations system-wide collaboration in this area;
5. Further calls upon the Executive Director to support the strengthening of the continuing groundwater vulnerability assessment.

B. Management of water resources

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

(a) Mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action

The Governing Council,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to contribute to the work of the informal coordinating group on oceans, coasts, and islands formed for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with a view, first, to contributing to work by the Commission on Sustainable Development to monitor the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and, second, to creating synergies among the type two partnerships relating to coastal and marine issues;

2. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to make further contributions to the General Trust Fund in Support of the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and Related Information Exchange and Technical Assistance, and urges the United Nations Environment Programme to mobilize new contributors;

(b) From hilltops to oceans

1. Requests the Executive Director to promote the concept of integrated coastal area and river-basin management and to facilitate, wherever possible, scientific, management and institutional links between freshwater management and coastal and marine management;

2. Urges Governments to improve multi-stakeholder communication and cooperation on freshwater, coastal and ocean issues at local, national and regional levels;

(c) Promoting national action to protect the marine environment

1. Urges Governments to continue strengthening and accelerating their efforts in implementing the Global Programme of Action, as called for in United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, Governing Council decision SS.VII/6 of 15 February 2002 and paragraph 32 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;²

2. Urges Governments to ensure the further implementation of the Global Programme of Action by moving from assessment and planning to action, consistent with the provisions of the Global Programme of Action, through implementing, among other measures, fully resourced, transparent and politically endorsed national programmes that incorporate appropriate public spending programmes; pollution command and control regimes; market and fiscal incentives for industry self-regulation; and capacity-building initiatives;

3. Encourages Governments, wherever possible, to conduct their national activities in support of the objectives of the Global Programme of Action, within a regional framework, considering the efforts of neighbouring Governments and the respective regional seas programmes;

4. Urges Governments to involve international financing institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, through partnerships, in efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action;

(d) Second review of the Global Programme of Action

1. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its next regular session, on preparations for the second Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action in 2006, including offers by Governments to host the intergovernmental review;

2. Calls upon Governments to provide additional resources for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the first Intergovernmental Review meeting on the Global Programme of Action and also for the strengthening of institutional capacities at the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action to enable it to assist Governments in mainstreaming the goals of the programme in existing policy frameworks and in the development of national programmes of actions on land-based activities;

2. Regional seas

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director for the progress made in the revitalization of the regional seas programme and welcomes the outcomes of the Partnership Conference on the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment in the sub-Saharan African region, within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

4. Notes the reference to the regional seas in the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular as it relates to the need to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination;

5. Requests the Executive Director to promote the more extensive use of the global network of regional seas conventions and action plans, in full cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme regional offices, as a platform for, first, the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy as it relates to the coastal and marine environment; second, the implementation of the principles of sustainable development; and, third, the regional implementation of global conventions, programmes and initiatives and to contribute to the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

3. Small island developing States

1. Expresses its appreciation of the contribution made by the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action on Small Island Developing States;

2. Calls on Governments to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with the necessary resources to strengthen its role in the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action, which, in line with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, will take place in 2004 in accordance with the provisions set forth in General Assembly resolution S-22/2 of 28 September 1999;

4. Wastewater (Global Programme of Action and freshwater)

1. Welcomes participation by the United Nations Environment Programme in the Millennium Project task force on water and sanitation set up by the United Nations Secretary-General, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that all developing countries meet the millennium development goals;

2. Recalls Governing Council resolution 1, part III, paragraph 2 (c) of 18 May 1982: decisions 11/7, part five, of 24 May 1983, on water; 12/12 IV of 28 May 1984, on water; 16/39 of 31 May 1991, on freshwater resources; SS.V/4 of 22 May 1998, on freshwater; and 21/11 of 9 February 2001, on the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Requests the Executive Director to develop a strategy paper on the environmental dimensions of water supply and sanitation in the context of integrated water resources management, and to cooperate

with appropriate United Nations organizations and programmes to develop indicators to assess the impact of the provision of improved sanitation on the health and well-being of populations and the environment;

4. Endorses the key principles of the guidance on municipal wastewater management, developed jointly by the Global Programme of Action, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council³, outlining global consensus on innovative approaches in municipal wastewater management, and endorses the further periodic development of checklists and regional annexes, addressing the specific and newly emerging needs of the respective regions;

5. Requests the Executive Director to assess the feasibility of organizing, in cooperation with the partners of the joint municipal wastewater action programme under the Global Programme of Action, namely, the World Health Organization, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and with the Millennium Project task force on water and sanitation, and within the framework of the regional seas programme, regional consultations concerning the development, and thereafter possible implementation, of national and regional wastewater emission targets;

5. Freshwater

1. Endorses the measures proposed for strengthening the freshwater component of the water policy and strategy⁴ and constituting a framework for action in 2003, as well as in the next biennium, 2004-2005;

2. Calls on Governments to strengthen the institutional and financial capacities of the secretariat for the enhanced implementation of the freshwater component of the water policy and strategy;

3. Requests the Executive Director, in view of the significant measures taken to strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the international waters programme of the Global Environment Facility, to take the necessary actions in support of the country interventions in freshwater basin management, specific international waters projects, the Global Programme of Action, the regional seas programme and integrated river-basin and coastal management;

4. Welcomes the key policy issues for the environmental management of water identified by the Executive Director⁵;

6. Water for cities

Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the continuing collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme within the context of the water-for-cities programme, with special focus on Africa;

C. Regional implementation

1. Welcomes the efforts being made to strengthen the regional implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy⁶, including the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Water;

2. Requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures, including the provision, upon request, of technical and legal assistance and of advisory services, to strengthen cooperation on subregional and regional agreements, strategies and initiatives for the environmentally sound management of shared watercourses, water bodies and lakes;

D. Global coordination of World Water Day, the International Year of Freshwater and the Third World Water Forum

1. Welcomes United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000, declaring 2003 the International Year of Freshwater;
2. Welcomes the decision of the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination that the United Nations Environment Programme should perform the role of the United Nations system-wide lead agency for the observance of World Water Day in 2003;
3. Supports the active participation by the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparatory process for the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Japan in March 2003;
4. Requests the Executive Director to take all necessary steps to strengthen the contribution by the United Nations Environment Programme to World Water Day in 2003, the International Year of Freshwater, to be marked in 2003, and the Third World Water Forum, in 2003, to advance the achievement of environmentally sustainable freshwater management as a pillar of sustainable development, including poverty reduction;

E. Means of implementation of the water policy and strategy

1. Recalls the report of the Executive Director⁷ to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the estimated costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement in full those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention;
2. Calls upon Governments to provide additional financial resources to strengthen the human, technical and institutional capacities of the secretariat to implement the responsibilities entrusted to the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations General Assembly, the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Commission on Sustainable Development, World the Summit on Sustainable Development, intergovernmental bodies, regional organizations and individual Governments.

Notes

¹ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. #93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolution, adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

² Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication Sales No. E.03.II.A.1) chap. I resolution 2, annex.

³ UNEP/GC.22/INF/4.

⁴ UNEP/GC.22/2, UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.3 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/35.

⁵ UNEP/GC.22/2, UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.3 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/35.

⁶ UNEP/GC.22/WPS/INF.

⁷ UNEP/GC.19/20.